

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor: The Rev'd Eric Wolf (pew@stjohnsudbury.org)
Administrative Assistant: Valerie Ripley (office@stjohnsudbury.org)
Director of Choirs: Benjamin Perry (choirdir@stjohnsudbury.org)
Organist: Bart Dahlstrom (organist@stjohnsudbury.org)
Sexton: Ron Hagopian (haggy0412@msn.com)

December 23, 2020



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS WERE DONATED BY:

Mildred Cheung and Gim Hom
in honor of grandchildren Tae, Zinn, and Eames
Beverly Guild in memory of James Guild
Sheela Hassan in memory of
Razi Hassan, Rohit Jangi, and Ginny Hershberger
The Kennedy family in memory of David Wood
The Kennedy Family in honor of Karen LaCure
The Leighton Family in memory of Ruth Fields
The Leighton Family in memory of Celia Grant
The Leighton Family in memory of Mabel Kruse
The Leighton Family in memory of Ginnie Soderling
Kathy Menzel in memory of Mom and Dad
Kathy Menzel in memory of Karen Krueger
Kathy Menzel in memory of Ken Leighton
Kathy Menzel in memory of Barb Weiblen
Jim and Barbara Smith-Moran in memory of Andy Agrejas
Jim and Barbara Smith-Moran in memory of Berkeley Smith
Larry and Carolyn Sweeney with Joy to the World!
Lois and Tom Toeppner in memory of Ken Leighton
Lois and Tom Toeppner in memory of Barbara Weiblen
Lois and Tom Toeppner in memory of Neil Maurer



Visit our YouTube Channel
All of our worship videos
are available to watch at
our YouTube channel.

Find us at:
St John Lutheran Sudbury.



Check us out!
@stjohnsudbury

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ERIC

This isn't a Christmas song, but this song by the Robbie Seay Band feels all too appropriate as we round out 2020:

*Oh, my God shine Your light on us That we might live
And oh, my God shine Your light on us That we might live*

*I've been holding on, and I've been holding on
All that is inside of me screams to come back home*

*And if you feel lost, if you feel lost — Sing along
And if you feel tired, if you feel tired — Sing along
And if you feel lost and tired, this is your song.*

*I've been broken down, and I've been broken down
But I ain't giving up, Love will come back around*

*And if you feel lost, if you feel lost — Sing along
And if you feel tired, if you feel tired — Sing along
And if you feel lost and tired, This is your song, yeah
If you feel lost and tired, This is your song, yeah, yeah*

*Oh my God shine Your light on us, That we might live
And oh my God shine Your light on us, That we might live.*

These words encapsulate 2020 for me because they reflect hope in moments of deep grief, challenge, change, and disappointment — and not because we're Pollyannaish or naive, but hope because God promises that the Kingdom begins in these places because where God is, creation responds by springing into new life. This is what we have in this time that I've called The Longest Lent Ever, the command to dwell in the dark and know that hope is with us.

We find in the darkness something different than expected. It isn't an image of foreboding evil, but an opportunity: darkness represents in our tradition the time of waiting, preparing, praying, hoping, faithful expectation. Nicodemus came to Jesus by night hoping to see God's light. It's only in the darkness of God's mystery that we recognize both the real power of our fear and of what it feels like when we discover that God's already there. Light and dark aren't opposites, but complements to each other. This is life: joy and sorrow don't come separately, but together; commingling as necessary companions in our lived experience. The miracle of Christmas isn't simply a miracle of seeing Christ in the light, but it's connected to the eschatological joy of knowing that Christ is present in mystery as well and that in this way, we find our welcome in both.

Shine your light and mystery, O Christ and come, knowing that we welcome you wherever we dwell.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Eric

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION VIA ZOOM

10:00 AM
SUNDAYS



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

December 27
No Sunday School
No Confirmation

January 3, 2021
11:00 Am
Family Sunday School

ON-CALL PASTOR

Thank you to the Rev'd Barbara Smith-Moran who will be our "on-call pastor" from December 25th through December 29th. She is available for emergencies at 617-791-7919

If you missed the Intergenerational Sunday School last week, you can still watch the puppet message on our YouTube channel.

The St John Puppets starring in Baby Cowmas



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETNucg8S87E>

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Rachel Florey	Brian	Bill Moldwin
Joe Jackson	Regina Mueller	Johnny
Richard	David Donnelly	Christopher Miller
Brian Young	Trish Sarvela Leiva	Joan LeDuc
Alexis Marsh	Robin Hartford	Brennan McGinnis
Paul Simeone	Pat Quinn	Patricia Jolou
John Duane	Rhonda Tibbetts	Ruth Avery
Jim Hansgate	Charlotte McNeil	Janice Potter
Ron Rakowsky	Isla Rose Kelley	Norma Duane
Pam McKay	June Carins	Dave Weber
Peter Kindem	Steven Greene	



REPRINT OF PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION AND OFFICE HOURS

"My day off will typically be Mondays, with Saturdays as off unless there are needs at the church.

My typical office hours open for appointments Tuesday & Thursday mornings, and Wednesday afternoons. I may be in the office during other hours, but the appointment hours allow me to have flexibility for visits or uninterrupted work. Fridays will be work days, but may be in the office or from my home office.

One concern I know a lot of people have is how to get in touch with the pastor. I offer my cell phone number for the congregation to use to contact me by text or phone call - **(803) 760-0222**. In order to manage my family time and make certain my wife and daughter don't feel like "church widows", I often let calls go to voicemail and return the call when I'm not doing something with the family. I also check my email frequently, and that email address is pew@stjohnsudbury.org.

These two contact methods offer a level of availability that will hopefully let people rest easy knowing they'll be able to reach their pastor in an emergency or in normal times. " - Pastor Eric

DECEMBER 31ST AT 11:00 AM
– ZOOM MEETING TO DISCUSS
RACE, RACISM, AND
ANTIRACISM.

We are meeting every other Thursday at 11:00 AM for informal, unstructured discussion about books, ideas, and experiences touching on race, racism, and antiracism.

Please join us.

If you do not receive a ZOOM invitation email prior to the meeting time, please contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044. And, if you need help connecting to the ZOOM meeting, let Jan know; she will help you.

Jan Nielsen

978-549-3044



Meetings are held via ZOOM unless otherwise noted. Call church office if you are having trouble connecting. (Zoom meeting information below and is the same for MOST church meetings)

December 24th - 12:00 and 8:30 pm - Christmas Eve Outdoor Gospel Service and Candellighting

December 27th - 10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation
No Sunday School
No Confirmation

December 29th - 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group (Jan's Zoom)

December 29th - 7:00 pm - *Dear Church* Discussion Group

December 31st - 11:00 am - Meeting to Discuss Race, Racism, and Antiracism. (Jan's Zoom)

January 3rd, 2021 - 11:00 am - Family Sunday School

ZOOM Meeting Login information

<https://zoom.us/j/9784438350>

Meeting ID: 978 443 8350
(or call in 1-312-626-6799)

ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR DECEMBER 29TH AND JANUARY 5TH

Please join us!!!

We will have ZOOM book club meetings on Tuesday, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 at 11:00 AM for just a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On January 19th, we will discuss "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett.

If you do not receive a ZOOM invitation email prior to the meeting time, please contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044. And, if you need help connecting to the ZOOM meeting, let Jan know; she will help you.

Next books:

January 19, 2021, "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett
February 16, 2021, "When We Left Cuba" by Chanel Cleeton
March 16, 2021, "Masked Prey" by John Sandford