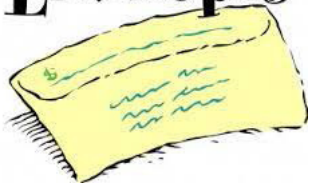


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor: The Rev'd Eric Wolf (pew@stjohnsudbury.org) cell: 803-760-0222
Director of Youth & Family Ministry: Michelle Rose (mrose@stjohnsudbury.org)
Office Director: Valerie Ripley (office@stjohnsudbury.org)
Director of Choirs: Benjamin Perry (choirdir@stjohnsudbury.org)
Organist: Bart Dahlstrom (organist@stjohnsudbury.org)

February 17, 2022

Offering Envelopes



The 2022 Offering Envelopes are available at the church for pick up during office hours and on Sundays in the Narthex. Please let us know if you are unable to pick them up and we will make other arrangements. Thank you.

OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open the following hours:

- Monday:** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm- Michelle
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm- Michelle
- Wednesday:** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm- Valerie, Michelle
(staff meetings will be held from 11:30 - 12:30)
- Thursday:** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm- Valerie, Michelle
- Friday:** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm- Valerie

*Note: The office will be closed on February 21st in observance of Presidents' Day

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

- Sunday:** Worship, Sunday School & Confirmation (when in session)
- Monday:** remote, appointments as needed
- Tuesday:** 10:00am - 2:00 pm for office hours
- Wednesday:** 10:00am - 12:30 pm; home visits as needed
- Thursday:** 10:00am - 2:00 pm office hours



Check us out!
[@stjohnsudbury](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsudbury)



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

Find us at:
St John Lutheran Sudbury.

St. John Lutheran Church
16 Great Rd.
Sudbury, Ma 01776
978-443-8350
www.stjohnsudburyma.org

**FEBRUARY 24TH, 4:00 PM –
ZOOM MEETING TO DISCUSS
RACE, RACISM, AND **
ANTIRACISM.

Our group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 4:00 PM for informal, unstructured discussion about books, ideas, and experiences touching on race, racism, and antiracism.

Please join us!

Any questions, contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044.

Awareness
Knowledge
Action

**ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR
FEBRUARY 22ND AND MARCH 1ST**

Please join us!!!

ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tuesdays, February 22nd and March 1st, at 11:00 AM for a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On March 15th, we will discuss “The Rose Code” by Kate Quinn.

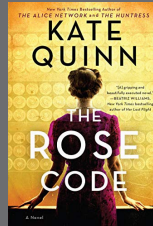
Any questions, contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044.

Next books:

March 15, 2022, “The Rose Code” by Kate Quinn

April 19, 2022, “The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba” by Chanel Cleeton

May 17, 2022, “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Brian Young
Liz Tolbert
Ruth Avery
Wendy
Ann Kirk
Claudine
Gogi Woodward
Pileggo/Paraggio Family (bereavement)

Christopher Miller
Rhonda Tibbetts
Bill Davis
Jan Nielsen
Judy
Meg Davis
George Stanley

Charles Miller
Alexis Marsh
Janice Potter
Marilyn Kunelius
Carolyn Sweeney
Joan LeDuc
Ed Holmgren



IT'S ALL LOVE

The plot of this classic movie delves into the theme of generational division, lasting conflict, and restoration after generations of separation.

By schisms rent asunder, one branch of the family decides that it's time for all of them to be reunited under one defining tradition. They begin wreaking havoc among the other branches of the family. They kidnap leaders, brainwash them, and force their people to submit. They rob these family members of their culture, and enforce their own systems of life and governance upon those who were happy as they were.

We experience this in our own lives, too. The desire for all of us to live in one accord can be healthy and healing.

Other times, as is the case here, it becomes twisted. We often make the mistake of believing that being one people and living in one accord means enforcing a single set of cultural values and activities, forced agreement, and demand that this is the only acceptable way to coexist. It's stunning to see this played out in such stark portrayals of grief, greed, and misplaced desires for shared allegiance.

The narrative of this harrowing tale is driven by music. The heroes of the story discover that the history they knew was wrong. They'd believed their tribe had been betrayed by others. Through meeting another branch of the family, they learn instead that their own family caused the rift all those generations ago by trying to do the exact same thing the antagonist is attempting to do now.

The song that reveals this, It's All Love, tells the story of hope and betrayal, and ends with hope springing and healing that draws them out of their dark times by learning to treasure what makes them different.

Trolls 2: World Tour is a surprisingly deep movie!

Children's stories and movies often portray the most damaging aspects of our culture in ways that are dismissed because they're cute and silly. They also almost always contain commentary on deeper themes that cut across cultural and generational lines. The characters represent different aspects of our own culture.

As we look at our own culture, our own lives, our own pain, our own generational messes, I encourage us to have the courage to look at them with open eyes and realize together that in Jesus' name, it's all love.

Grace & Peace,
PEW

PASTOR'S CLASS: LIVING FAITH

Last session during the Pastor's class, we discussed the changing times that affect our lives, faith, and comfort. This session we'll discuss the faith practices that bring us life and deepen our faith throughout life's journey. It will be a mix of traditional and less traditional practices, and will also provide space to share our own practices and experiences, as well as ask the nagging questions we have. The remaining classes are Mondays at 8 pm by ZOOM: March 7 & 21; and April 4 & 18. You are welcome to join in at anytime, even if you missed a few!

Ash Wednesday Services with Imposition of Ashes

March 2nd, 2022

Noon

7:30 pm



WOMEN OF ELCA: KNITTING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The Women of the ELCA: a free resource about knitting as a spiritual practice.

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/Knitting.pdf>

(This article is also posted on the Senior Ministry bulletin board.)

Many Christians practice giving up something for Lent. I prefer to ADD something to my spiritual life for Lent whether it is extra Bible reading or devotions or attending mid-week Lenten services or something else.

Another consideration for this Lent would be to add knitting of a prayer shawl, or a scarf, or mittens, or a blanket for Project Linus. For information about Project Linus: <https://www.projectlinus.org/>.

In 2003, we drove my parents to Sugarcreek, Ohio to visit with their Old Amish friends. While there I met Jane, who was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Dover, OH. She introduced me to the Prayer Shawl Ministry at her church. On returning home, I told a friend about prayer shawls and within a week she gifted me with the book, *Knitting Into the Mystery* (available to loan) by Susan Jorgensen and Susan IZard. The concept of the Prayer Shawl ministry was initiated by these two women at the Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. There are 14 references to the word "knit" in the Bible, the most familiar of which is likely from Psalm 139:13 "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb."

I was excited to bring the prayer shawl ministry to St John. Royce Fuller as Senior Ministry Chair, Jayne Tapia as the parish nurse, and Pastor Larry Wolff were equally enthusiastic. In early 2004, the St John Prayer Shawl Ministry was formed. Baptismal shawls were added in 2008.

We enjoy picking the yarn and watching it transform into a garment. It is especially meaningful to choose a yarn for a particular recipient and then to pray for them

as we are knitting. As I knit a baptismal shawl, I think of the symbolism of the shawl serving as a reminder that the newly baptized will be wrapped in the prayers of the church forever. The rhythmic click of the needles and the repetition of stitches is relaxing and

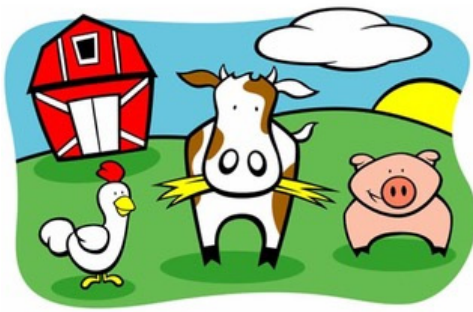
stress-reducing. Indeed, knitting a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice as the simple pattern of 3 knit, 3 purl stitches reminds me of the Trinity and gives me time for reflection, meditation and prayer. People who receive prayer shawls in times of illness or other circumstances where extra prayers are needed are blessed with knowing that the prayers of the church are with them as they wrap the shawl around them. The knitters and crocheters feel a blessing as well.

If you are interested in finding a prayerful way to add something to your spiritual life during Lent, consider making a prayer shawl or a scarf for the mitten tree for December of 2022. Directions for making a prayer shawl are on the Senior Ministry bulletin board in the hallway just outside Michelle's office or you can contact me for the simple instructions.

Fortunately, many have stepped forward to replenish the prayer shawl supply. Currently, Carol Leighton, Jen Leighton, Lauri Berlied (Dale Cali's daughter), and I are the primary knitters. Other knitters in the past have included: Dee LaCure, Dottie Genaro, Amy Kivimki, Jayne Tapia, Marilyn Hicks, Jill Green, Ruth Fields, Mildred Cheung, Inger Rhoads, Madeleine Drop, Jeannette Mauer, Janet Wells (Jeannette's twin), Carol Vogel, and Jan Nielsen. In recent years, Karen LaCure was often the person delivering prayer shawls and Valerie Ripley is usually the person preparing one for gifting or in some cases mailing to those at a distance. Our past and present Pastors and some of the knitters and crocheters have also delivered prayer shawls. A HUGE thank you to all who have made the prayer shawl ministry an active and vibrant ministry for the last 18 years.



-Dianne Hultstrom



YOU MADE GOD’S GLOBAL BARNYARD GROW!!

The Puppet Ministry thanks you for supporting God’s Global Barnyard during the month of December!

You helped us purchase:

- 1 flock of chicks
- 2 roosters
- 2 piglets
- 4 goats
- AND a fish farm!

through the ELCA’s Good Gifts program.

CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

In honor of the Olympics, kids and grownups who gathered for the February Sudbury Youth Ministry Collective grabbed brooms and ran up and down our snowy field to compete in Broom Ball. It was the big showdown between Team Australia (aka the Kangaroos!) and Team Sweden. After falling behind 1-0 early in the game, the Kangas rallied to sweep in not just the tying goal, but the winning goal as well!

We also considered a variety of I Believe statements. It was interesting to see how similar our views were on statements of faith even though we have different Protestant backgrounds. In fact, our most divisive statement had nothing to do with faith—I believe that dogs are better than cats.

After warming up with hot chocolate and snacks, we let the snow be our canvas as we painted drawings inspired by our faith statements.

Reminder: no Confirmation this week due to school vacation. We will meet in-person on February 27th.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Our biggest news is that Sunday School is back to in-person learning!

A few hardy souls braved last Sunday’s snowstorm to participate in our first in-person Sunday School class of 2022! Our lesson focused on the disciples—not just the 12, but also some of Jesus’s female disciples too like Mary Magdalene, Susanna, and Joanna. And not just the disciples who walked with Jesus during his life, but US, Jesus’s disciples of today!

Note: we do not have class this week due to school vacation. We look forward to welcoming families back to in-person learning on February 27th when we will share the story of the Four Friends.





SOUPER BOWL OF CARING RAISES OVER \$2000 FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES AND MINISTRIES

While the Los Angeles Rams won this year's Super Bowl, and the Hultstrom, Miller, and Kivimaki families won Soup Dinners, the BIG winners are Cambridge's Outdoor Church and our local food pantries!! The Super Bowl Squares raised over \$1000 and Outreach will match \$1000, so we are sending checks totaling over \$2000 to the Sudbury, Maynard, Acton, and Stow Food Pantries as well as Cambridge's Outdoor Church.

If you have not already done so, please remember to send in or bring your checks payable to St John with Souper Bowl of Caring noted in the memo section.

Special thank yous go to our Soup Dinner chefs: the Adams Family, the Kennedy family, and the Rose family! Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring!!

SLAVERY IN MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts legalized slavery in 1641 and was the first colony to do so. The legislature passed the Massachusetts Body of Liberties and included 98 rules governing rights. Rule 91 stated that slavery was prohibited "... unless it be lawful captives taken in just wars, and such strangers as willingly sell themselves or are sold to us."

The reason for the new law was because of wars with the Native Americans. The colonists wanted to be able to sell their prisoners of war into slavery in the Caribbean Islands. The slave ships would drop off Native Americans and bring back Black slaves. Slaves in the north were primarily for the rich families who then did not have to do much physical labor.

In 1708, there were approximately 550 adult slaves in Massachusetts. By 1754, there were at least 2,720 which was about one percent of the population. Ten percent of the population of Boston (free and slave) was black in 1754. Concord was recorded as having 15 adult slaves in 1754, Sudbury had 14, and Acton had 1. Stow had none and Maynard was part of Sudbury until 1871.

The Revolutionary War began the end of slavery in Massachusetts. Slave owners were compensated if they freed a slave to serve in the Army. Massachusetts passed a law in 1780, stating that "All men are born free and equal and have certain natural, essential, and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness."

Often freed slaves stayed in the household and received room and board for their work. It is unlikely that the children attended school and as adolescents were often indentured until adulthood. The book "Black Walden" describes how some of the former slaves lived in the poor-quality land in Walden Woods and elsewhere with poor nutrition, disease, and subject to prejudice. By the late 19th century, most of the former slaves and their descendants had moved to cities.

Source: Maynard, Massachusetts: A Brief History by The Town of Maynard Sesquicentennial Steering Committee (David Mark)

-Dianne Hultstrom

KU KLUX KLAN IN MAYNARD AND SUDBURY

In the early 1920s, Sudbury Klan membership peaked in our local area. It was targeted at the influx of Southern and Central Europeans and Irish into the area and included Yankee and Scandinavian residents who distrusted Jews and especially the Catholic Church. There was concern about the new immigrants buying farmland and taking control of the town. Members included merchants, farmers, and other citizens. They wanted to protect the 19th century way of life and approved of the KKK stand on Prohibition and the separation of church and state.

During 1924 and 1925, meetings were held in East Sudbury on the Libbey farm on Landham Rd and the Smith farm on Woodside Road. A temporary policeman billed the town for attending eight Klan meetings between August 8th and September 24th of 1924 and about as many in the summer of 1925. Soon there were protests from non-KKK members and they began boycotting businesses owned by KKK and challenged them at their rallies.

Things came to a confrontation on August 9, 1925. The chairman of the Selectboard called the Police chief on the morning of August 9th and warned there would be a confrontation at the Libbey Farm that evening. The State Police were called to be present as well.

Approximately 150-200 members of the KKK (from all over Eastern Massachusetts) gathered in their white hoods armed with shotguns, loaded rubber hoses, ammunition belts, and a collection of cudgels in the field behind the barn. Protesters stayed on the roadside. As more protestors arrived, the KKK called for more KKK to come to the scene. As the night wore on, the KKK decided to fire their guns and three protesters were hit. The shots scattered the protestors and brought the State Police into the fray. The police arrested all the Klansmen they could find including ones hiding in the house, the barn and the woods. Charges were dropped as it was impossible to determine who fired the shots. This rally was the beginning of the end for the KKK in

Massachusetts because of the people who came out to protest them.

In, 1982 during the busing riots in South Boston, the KKK briefly reappeared with about 20 or so KKK parading around Boston in full regalia under police protection, A crowd of white and black counter-protesters began taunting the KKK, and police charged in to protect the KKK. Similar debates came again in the far right 2017 "free speech" rally in Boston and the attempted 2018 Proud Boys rally. Both were overpowered by counter protests. Reappearances of the Klan-like ideology are still present in our society.

During the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, minstrel shows with white actors in blackface were still being held in the area and were quite popular.

Sudbury is currently 85% white. Acton, Concord, Maynard, and Stow are 76% white.

SUNDOWN TOWNS

During the 1920s and beyond, Maynard was listed as a Sundown Town along with another dozen towns in Massachusetts. Sundown towns, also known as sunset towns, gray towns, or sundowner towns, are all-white municipalities or neighborhoods in the United States that practice a form of racial segregation by excluding non-whites via some combination of discriminatory local laws, intimidation or violence. There are currently 137 sundown towns in 21 states. There are no longer any sundown towns in New England however they do exist in both NY and NJ.

-Dianne Hultstrom

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

| | |
|---------------|---|
| February 18th | 7:30 pm - Knitting Group |
| February 20th | 9:30 am - Worship (In-person) No Education (school vacation week) No Confirmation (school vacation week) |
| February 21st | Office Closed (President's Day) 10:00 am - Seniorcise (self-led) 8:00 pm - Pastor's Class: Living Faith |
| February 22nd | 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group |
| February 23rd | 10:00 am - Seniorcise |
| February 24th | 10:30 am - Bible Study 4:00 pm - Discussion on Race/ Anti-Racism |
| February 25th | 7:30 pm - Knitting Group |
| February 27th | 9:30 am - Worship (In-person) 10:45 am - Education 6:30 pm - Confirmation |
| February 28th | 10:00 am - Seniorcise |
| March 1st | 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group |
| March 2nd | 10:00 am - Seniorcise 12:00 pm - Ash Wednesday service in chapel 7:30 pm - Ash Wednesday service in Sanctuary |
| March 3rd | 10:30 am - Bible Study |
| March 4th | Knitting/Crafting Group |
| March 6th | 9:30 am - Worship (In-person) 10:45 am - Education 6:30 pm - Confirmation |



Login information
<https://zoom.us/j/9784438350>
Meeting ID: 978 443 8350
(or call in 1-312-626-6799)

**Please pay particular attention to the weekly e-mails, as worship information may change as we make decisions to ensure the safety of our church family and community. There will also be a link for the livestream service in these e-mails.*

NEW DIRECTORY

Do you look at your directory picture and think "my kids are not 5 anymore?"

Do you wonder why you don't receive church e-mails and letters?

Then...It's time to update your directory information!

Here is what to do:

- Send any changes of e-mail addresses, street addresses or phone numbers to office@stjohnsudbury.org and of course an updated photo!!
- Call or mail any changes to Valerie at the church office if you do not use email.
- No digital photo? No problem, you may mail or drop one to the church office. They will be scanned and returned to you.
- Questions? Please feel free to contact the church office.



The deadline for submissions is February 20th. Thanks for your help in keeping your information current.

As always, the on-line directory remains up to date. Please ask Valerie if you need help getting started. There will be printed copies available for pick-up in the church office starting February 23rd.