

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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February 26, 2021

FELLOWSHIP EVENT: MARCH 5TH, 7:30 PM

Are you feeling like this cold, isolated winter will never end?
Do you need a little extra joy and warmth for the final push to spring?

You are not alone! Please join us for a **virtual** cocktail-making lesson and conversation. On the menu is the cold-weather favorite, the Hot Toddy, and it's lesser known, non-alcoholic cousin, the Hot Voddy.

Laura Kennedy will lead us through the basic recipes for both, and the endless possibilities of variations on this time-trusted, cold-busting drink. She will also share some of the touted health benefits and the interesting history of the drink.

If you'd like to participate in the drink-making, come prepared with the basic ingredients and your favorite mug. You are also welcome to just cozy up and join in for the conversation!

Basic Ingredients:

Toddy: Whiskey, Rum, or Brandy
(your preference);
lemon wedges, cinnamon stick,
honey, hot water.

Voddy: Hot water or tea,
lemon wedges, cinnamon stick,
whole clove, honey.
(Optional additions may include
apple cider or apple slices,
ground ginger or ginger root,
turmeric)



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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LESSONS WERE LEARNED

I love that language is not neutral. The words we use and the context in which we use them provides both overt and underlying meanings that change based on our culture, current events, and just about any statistical demographic one can name.

My favorite example of this right now is, “lessons were learned”. I don’t care what you say, if you add “lessons were learned” to the end of it, suddenly there’s a story to be told.

“We baptized someone at church today! Lessons were learned.”

“I went to the grocery store, lessons were learned.”

“I just had the most delicious meal! Lessons were learned.”

This one’s real. We got an ash vacuum for the fireplace and I’ve never owned one before. While cleaning the vacuum after its first use, lessons were most certainly learned.

This could apply to a lot of situations throughout Scripture: “God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of knowledge, lessons were learned”. How about, “Moses declared God’s command to Pharaoh to release the Hebrew people, but Pharaoh refused. Lessons were learned”. Or, “Jonah decided to head somewhere other than Nineveh, and lessons were learned.”

Sometimes these lessons are harmless, but often these lessons are much more costly and complicated.

We’re living in a moment in time when those of us who grew up in and before the 1980’s are still coming to terms with the fact that we grew up with much more overtly “-ist” language and behaviors that may have been culturally acceptable — and even appropriate — despite the fact that they were immoral and wrong. Despite the fact that I work hard to practice attaining greater cultural competency and to deconstruct my own internalized habits that cause harm, I still stumble over the changing cultural norms that are generally accepted already by the younger generations. I hear adults complain that “kids these days” don’t have patience, respect, or understanding of why things are the way they are. Older generations (which includes me more solidly every day) become unwilling to acknowledge that the bad behaviors of the past are bad because the change is uncomfortable, strange, and new.

The trouble isn’t that “kids these days” don’t have the proper reverence for their elders. The “problem” is that they’ve learned the lessons we taught them too well for our comfort, in the same way I experience this discomfort with my own parents from time to time. Our “kids these days” teach us “adults these days” that the “-ist” behaviors and ways of speaking are inappropriate; accountability is important; when we hurt someone, it matters and we need to make it better; if we refuse to be accountable and make amends, there are consequences for this choice.

Though I get the consternation of people who complain that people are too sensitive, when I think it through I realize that the words and phrases we used often that just aren’t acceptable anymore are things I’d find harmful if I hadn’t been born white, cisgender, heterosexual, or male. The consternation is that because the American culture has thankfully moved away from racist jokes and LGBTQIA+phobic epithets used as humor, those of us who grew up in a moment when these things were considered acceptable have to accept the responsibility of censoring ourselves. Because we understand better that our words and behaviors can be physically harmful even if we don’t physically attack someone, we have to do better. Because we know better that the stress of living in structures of oppression affects a person’s physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health in ways that we always suspected, we have to do better. Because we now have understanding provided by decades’ worth of documenting and measuring these effects, we have to do better because we know that dismantling these structures is even more important than treating their symptoms.

In considering this, it's important to know that we may live in a time that looks technologically different than the world of the Bible, but we could put modern clothes on them or ancient clothes on us and our sinful desires to keep on doing what we know better than would allow us to fit right in.

The more things change the more they stay the same, and it seems no lessons were learned in the process.

Knowing this, we might understand why Jesus welcomed children, those who are new to faith, those excluded and shunned by the "good people", and those who were outside of his culture altogether. It's easy to recognize the ways people in our own culture don't live into our values as a younger person, but as we acclimate to the prejudicial norms of our age, the work of separating our deeper identity from the culture becomes so challenging as to be impossible. It's sometimes easier to hear the voice of the outsider than it is the hometown voice whose awkward childhood we remember. Though God the Father is the ultimate outsider, Jesus is from Nazareth.

This is the paradox of the Gospel and of humanity: everything old is new and everything new is old; we change, yet we're the same. We progress and fall backwards simultaneously.

And in all this, God loves us. The One who is both an Outsider and Hometownner calls us through the waters of baptism to declare something new, and our children are learning to hear this voice just as surely as they hear ours much more clearly than we know, would hope, or expect. God loves us when we're young and learning. God loves us when we're old and set in our ways.

In Jesus we have a new way of relating to God. In the old covenants that we broke even as God was cutting them with us, we learned that our faithfulness will never be enough. In the covenant sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked by the cross of Christ forever, we see that it relies on God's faithfulness and that this is enough.

Perhaps this story could scandalously read, "God loves us, lessons were learned", and be both eternally right and eternally wrong.

Grace & Peace,
PEW

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Rachel Florey	Brian	Bill Moldwin
Regina Mueller	Johnny	Wendy
Richard	David Donnelly	Christopher Miller
Brian Young	Trish Sarvela Leiva	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	Erica Kivimaki	Joan Western
The Stamos Family (bereavement)		Arline Quinn
Jim Gronemeyer	Liz Tolbert	



ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR MARCH 2nd

Please join us!!!

We will have a ZOOM book club meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd at 11:00 AM for just a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On March 16th, we will discuss "Masked Prey" by John Sandford.

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:

March 16, 2021, "Masked Prey" by John Sandford

April 20, 2021, "Girl in Translation" by Jean Kwok

May 18, 2021, "A Children's Bible" by Lydia Millet



SAVE THE DATE

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

February 26th - 7:30 pm - Knitting

February 28th - 10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation

-11:00 am - Pre-K-Gr 3 Sunday School

-11:45 am - Grade 4/5 Sunday School

-2:00 pm - Bible Study (Previous Thursday am Group)

-3:30 pm - Sudbury Clergy Event

-6:00 pm - Confirmation

March 1st - 10:00 am - Seniorcise

March 2nd - 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group (Jan's Zoom info)

March 3rd - 10:00 am - Seniorcise

March 5th - 7:30 pm - 7:30 Virtual Cocktail Hour

March 7th - 10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation

-11:00 am - Pre-K-Gr 3 Sunday School

-11:45 am - Grade 4/5 Sunday School

-2:00 pm - Bible Study (Previous Thursday am Group)

-6:00 pm - Confirmation

ZOOM Meeting Login information

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

Meeting ID: 978 443 8350

(or call in 1-312-626-6799)

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Our congregation has been asked by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) to participate in a virtual musical performance of the well known hymn "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." This project will feature thousands of Lutheran congregants from around the country singing and playing instruments together. However, the producers are editing the final product so that each individual congregation gets their videos featured on Stanza 3! This is a project for everyone - whether you just want to sing the melody, sing bass 2, or play clarinet.

Here's the link: <https://alcm.org/easter-virtual-hymn/>

Please follow the instructions given on the ALCM website, but in addition, please upload your file (using the naming convention firstname.lastname.voicepart.2) to our St. John choir google drive folder, just to be sure: Contact Ben or Valerie and they will email you the link for your finished submission.

EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Sunday School

2/28/21	Healings	11:00 AM	PreK-Gr 3
		11:45 AM	Gr 4 & 5
3/7/21	Family Sunday School Salt and Light	11:00 AM	For all Grades

Confirmation

2/28/21	Law and Gospel
3/7/21	Saint and Sinner
-	No Family Confirmation Just regular class

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY THROUGH FRAMINGHAM STATE

Enjoy Courses for people age 60+ on Zoom! A partnership between Framingham State University and the Framingham Public Library, Adventures in Lifelong Learning (ALL) provides intellectual and creative engagement for adults aged 60 and over, free of charge (or for a voluntary donation). The program offers short-term weekly classes with the next session meeting on April 6, 13, 20 and 27; online registration starts at 11am on March 8. Join our mailing list, visit our website or email lifelonglearning@framingham.edu to learn more. Adventures in Lifelong Learning courses are free to all participants, thanks to partial funding support from the Older Americans Act as granted by BayPath Elder Services, Inc., and grants from Ashland Cultural Council, Holliston Cultural Council, and Framingham Cultural Council. Because federal funding is being used, we provide participants an opportunity to make a voluntary donation toward the cost of this service. Voluntary donations are put directly into program enhancement, allowing for expansion of services. Whether or not a participant makes a voluntary donation in no way informs or influences this service delivery.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Super Bowl Squares game on February 7th, which we ran to support the worldwide Souper Bowl of Caring initiative! Twenty families joined in the fun—hoping that their squares would match the score at the end of each quarter of the Super Bowl. In the end, we had 3 winning families since the score was the same at the end of the third and fourth quarters. Congratulations to the France, Hultstrom, and LaCure families! And thank you to the Smith, Adams, Scully, and Rose families for cooking up the soup dinner prizes. Of course, the big winners are our local food pantries, who will receive the \$1070 that we raised.

ON-CALL PASTOR

A thank you to the Rev'd Barbara Smith-Moran who will be our "on-call pastor" from March 1 to March 15 available for emergencies at 617-791-7919

I CARE INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACIAL EQUITY: SUN, FEB 28, 2021 AT 3:30PM

Join St. John Lutheran Church and communities of faith in Sudbury for a continued conversation on race, racism, and the call to action for racial justice and equity in our communities. We will discuss how race and racism have impacted members of our community and brainstorm action steps we can take together as communities of faith. Join us on Sunday, February 28th from 3:30pm - 5:00pm via Zoom here:

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

SAFETY TIPS REGARDING TREE WORK IN WINTER: COMPILED BY DAVID VAN CLEAVE

Don't go near a tree that is in contact with utility lines, and don't attempt to remove the tree yourself. Ice is dangerous! Electricity passes through it, people of all ages and physical conditions slip and fall on it, and only trained professionals should use power tools when it's icy.

Don't stand under a snow- and ice-loaded tree, even if you have a hard hat. A lot of emergency room visits are caused by underestimating risk. Let the snow and ice melt naturally and watch from a safe distance.

Don't shake branches to get snow and ice off. Falling snow and particularly falling ice are unpredictable and heavier than you think.

Don't use your hose to melt snow from branches or wash it from your sidewalk. Even a sunny, warm winter day will turn into a freezing winter night, and no one needs more ice underfoot!

What You Can Do.

You can clear ice and snow from small trees and shrubs if you can reach them from the ground. Use a broom to gently knock off snow and ice. If it doesn't come off easily, leave it alone. Please don't whack the branches when they're brittle with the winter cold.

You can clear small, fallen branches from your walkways, and sweep or shovel snow to clear paths to your door.

Rifle shots in the Woods? If you've heard rifle shots in the woods near your house, they may have actually been frost cracks. Use caution!



KNITTING/SEWING GROUP VIA ZOOM

7:30 PM
FRIDAYS!



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION VIA ZOOM

10:00 AM
SUNDAYS

