

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)

January 5, 2022

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

January 9th	9:30 am - Worship - Livestream*
January 10th	10:00 am - Seniorcise
January 11th	11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group 7:30 pm - Youth and Family Ministry Meeting
January 12th	10:00 am - Seniorcise 6:00 pm - Outreach Ministry Meeting 8:00 pm - New(ish) Parents Group
January 13th	10:30 am - Bible Study 4:00 pm - Discussion Group on Racism/Anti-Racism
January 14th	7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
January 16th	9:30 am - Worship - Livestream*
January 17th	Office Closed
January 18th	11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group 7:00 pm - Social Justice Ministry
January 19th	10:00 am - Seniorcise 7:30 pm - Council Meeting
January 20th	10:30 am - Bible Study
January 21st	7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group

Login information

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



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.

**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 this e-mail.*

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

**JANUARY 13TH, 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.



**ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR JANUARY
11th AND JANUARY 18th**

Please join us!!!

ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tuesdays, January 11th and 18th, at 11:00 AM.

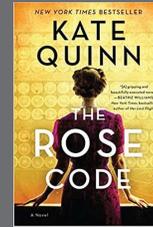
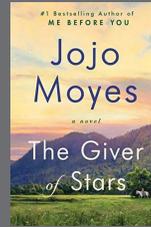
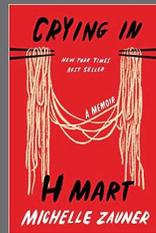
January 11th will be a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On January 18th, we will discuss “Crying in H Mart” by Michelle Zauner.

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

Next books:

January 18, 2022, “Crying in H Mart” by Michelle Zauner
February 15, 2022, “The Giver of Stars” by Jojo Moyes
March 15, 2022, “The Rose Code” by Kate Quinn



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

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Brian Young
Liz Tolbert
Ruth Avery
Janice Potter
Ann Kirk
Claudine
Joan LeDuc
George Stanley

Christopher Miller
Rhonda Tibbetts
Pat Quinn
Wendy
Judy
Liz Arthofer
Gogi Woodward
Ed Holmgren

Charles Miller
Alexis Marsh
Bill Davis
Jan Nielsen
Carolyn Sweeney
Meg Davis
Marilyn Kunelius



CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

On December 19th, our Confirmation students gathered with tweens and teens from the Presbyterian Church and Sudbury United Methodist Church to reengage with the Sudbury Youth Ministry Collaborative. The Collaborative was originally brought together by our own Karen LaCure. This ministry welcomes middle and high school students across many towns and 5 churches to socialize, worship, and serve in a faith community that stretches across other denominations.

To kick things off, a group of 16 youth and youth leaders competed for candy while testing our knowledge of Christmas carols. We got acquainted with each other finding out about favorite Christmas traditions, songs, and foods, and then shared that knowledge with the group while participating in a wacky Yankee Swap in which coveted gifts ranged from a remote control car to a flamingo cup. You just never know what's going to be a hit! We ended with devotions centered on John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." We look forward to bringing this group together again in February.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL 2021 IS A MUST-SEE!

The reviews are in, and congregational members say this year's Christmas Gospel, *The Living Word*, is an enthusiastic and entertaining retelling of the days surrounding Jesus's birth!

The story, deftly narrated by sister and brother team Jill and Max, opens with Mary (played by Aria) being visited by Gabriel (Faith). Following a beautiful solo of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" sung by Emily and accompanied by Lizzie on the piano, the tale follows Mary and Joseph (Ethan) on their trip to Bethlehem and their quest to find a place for Mary to rest and give birth. Later, Gabriel joins with angels Lucy, Jane, and Willoughby to announce Christ's birth to the shepherds (William, Devon) and the congregation. The Gospel ends at the stable with "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" performed by the entire company and joined by the congregation.

Thank you to first-time director Kirsten McLinn, our accompanist Bart Dahlstrom, our song leader Beth Holmgren, and to all the parents who helped make this year's Gospel presentation a success!



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH CAMBRIDGE'S OUTDOOR CHURCH

Submitted by Maddy and Michelle Rose

On a cold December day just 2 days before Christmas, Maddy and I joined members of Sudbury's Presbyterian and Methodist churches and Pastor Steve and Pastor Lisa of Cambridge's Outdoor Church to distribute special Christmas lunches to Cambridge's unhoused population. We arrived at the Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church in Cambridge with vehicles full of 200+ lunches, water bottles, clementines, bananas, muffins, winter apparel, and hand warmers. Our offerings were quickly loaded into 3 wagons, and we ventured up



Mass Ave toward Harvard Square to share our bounty. At the far edge of Cambridge Common, we encountered a joyful mother whose beautiful smile and stories and video of her adorable toddler touched our hearts. We shared bagged lunches of turkey wraps, chips, cookies, and candy canes as well as hats, gloves, socks, and prayers with her and a few of her buddies before heading off in search of other friends. As we navigated the sidewalks, we stopped from time to time to visit and share with other Outdoor Church parishioners. Many folks were looking forward to this Outdoor Church caravan—on Thursday instead of the usual Saturday/Sunday schedule. We made one special visit into a Harvard Square food court to connect with a couple of Harvard Square's chess players. It was too cold to be outdoors playing, and Pastor Lisa was particularly worried about them. We shared lunches and prayed with them before making our way to the Harvard Square T station. Our wagons a little lighter from handing out several lunches, waters, and winter clothing.



We loaded our wagons onto the T and rode to Central Square. The next hour plus we were very busy. Many folks stopped for sandwiches and fruit. They enjoyed "shopping" through the winter clothing wagon filled with wool socks, gloves/mittens, hats, and scarves. Many of our Mitten Tree adult-sized donations were distributed on our trip through Cambridge—12 hats, 7 scarves, and 8 pairs of mittens/gloves! Maddy enjoyed chatting with and serving a gentleman who was so appreciative that he said, "God bless you" for each item she gave him. As we completed our loop in Central Square and returned to the T station, it was fun to see folks chatting with their friends, warmed by their new winter clothing. We served people of many different ages, ethnicities, and abilities of all races and genders. Some had places to live but were food insecure, some chose to live on the streets, some were city workers out doing their jobs on a cold day. But every single person we met walked—or rolled—away knowing that someone cared about them this Christmas. When we returned to the Harvard-Epworth Church after our 3-hour excursion, our wagons were just about empty. We had distributed over 200 turkey or vegetar-

ian wraps, all the fruit and muffins, all the scarves and gloves and hats. 12 bottles of water and a few pairs of socks were all that remained. We filled their bellies and bags on this eve of Christmas Eve, but the folks Maddy and I shared with filled our hearts and continue to be in our prayers.

continued on the next page.

Founded in 2003, the Outdoor Church is an ecumenical Christian church for homeless and street-involved men and women in Cambridge. Each week, through worship services held outdoors and extensive programs of street outreach and pastoral visiting, the Outdoor Church shares a message of hope and unconditional love with those who need to hear it most. Staffed by clergy from different denominations and supported by over 40 local churches and organizations, the Outdoor Church has become a Cambridge institution. The hallmark of the ministry is consistency: worship services and street outreach take place year round, in all seasons and weather.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the **LORD**,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

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 - 12:00 pm; home visits as needed

Thursday: 10:00am - 2:00 pm office hours

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