

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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June 11th, 2021

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

- June 13th -9:30 am - Worship at **St. John**  
-10:30 am - Family Sunday School (in-person)  
-11:45 am - Zoom Sunday School  
-6:00 pm - Confirmation via Zoom  
-7:30 pm - **Now What?** (with Pastor Eric)
- June 14th -10:00 am - Seniorcise
- June 15th - 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group  
- 7:00 pm - Social Justice Group
- June 16th -10:00 am - Seniorcise  
-7:30 pm - Council
- June 17th -10:00 am - Bible Study
- June 18th - 7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
- June 20th -9:30 am - Worship at **St. John**  
- 7:30 pm - **The World According to John** (with Pastor Eric)



Login information

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

Meeting ID: 978 443 8350

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

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE 27TH - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

6/13/21 Family Sunday School  
**Caring for God's World**  
10:30 am - In-person  
11:45 am - Zoom

**June 13th is the last day of Sunday School and Confirmation.**  
**Classes will resume in the fall!**

### CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

6/13/21- 6:00 pm - (via Zoom)  
The theme is **Doubt**.



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](http://www.stjohnsudburyma.org)

## ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR JUNE 15th

Please join us!!!

On Tuesday, June 15th at 11:00 AM,  
we will discuss “Girl, Woman, Other”  
by Bernardine Evaristo.

**Please note that we are now using the  
church ZOOM.**

Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 978 443 8350  
Passcode: 8350

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

### Next books:

**June 15, 2021**, “Girl, Woman, Other”  
by Bernardine Evaristo

**July 20, 2021**, “Seven Sisters: Book  
One” by Lucinda Riley

**August 17, 2021**, “Miss Julia Speaks  
Her Mind” by Ann B. Ross

## 30 KITCHEN KITS FOR ACTON’S HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INC.!

This past Sunday there were piles of potholders, dishcloths, paring knives, and spoons covering the tables when confirmation students arrived for their first in-person class in over a year. Under the guidance of Karen LaCure and Valerie Ripley, students filled 30 2-gallon ziplock bags with the kitchen utensils that Household Goods considers essential to every home—that was over 600 items! The kitchen utensil kits are given to each client setting up a new kitchen and include such items as measuring cups and spoons, big spoons, vegetable peelers, and tongs.

Household Goods, Inc. provides a full range of donated furniture and household items, free of charge, to help people in need make a home. Each year, Household Goods furnishes over 2,500 homes with 60,000 pieces of furniture and smaller household items. Many of the people who need Household Goods are recently homeless, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, low income, immigrants, victims of disaster, or are coping with illness or disability. They are referred to Household Goods by one of hundreds of social services agencies in Massachusetts.

Thank you to Outreach and everyone who donated utensils and funds to contribute to our Confirmation service project! Thank you to Valerie Ripley for being our personal shopper for 400+ items! Thank you to Karen and Valerie for leading the kit-making effort! Thank you to Jane and Mike Misslin for delivering the kits to Household Goods, Inc. And thank you to our confirmation students for coming together to help our neighbors!

# PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Rachel Florey

Johnny

David Donnelly

Trish Sarvela Leiva

Paul Simeone

Patricia Jolou

Ruth Avery

Janice Potter

June Carins

Erica Kivimaki

Rev. Angelika Zollfrank

Brian

Wendy

Christopher Miller

Alexis Marsh

Liz Tolbert

John Duane

Jim Hansgate

Ron Rakowsky

Peter Kindem

Bill Davis

Regina Mueller

Richard

Brian Young

Brennan McGinnis

Pat Quinn

Rhonda Tibbetts

Charlotte McNeil

Norma Duane

Steven Greene

Helen Williams



## THOSE PEOPLE

I'm not a "here's my blog" kind of guy. I find it annoying and patronizing for pastors to say "here's my blog!" in official communications in the congregation because it usually is just a means of self-aggrandizement and representative of their sense of self-importance.

So "here's my blog"! My current series, Reflections on Love, can be found at [loveseescolor.com](http://loveseescolor.com).

I began this blog back in 2015 following the martyrdom and murder of the Emanuel 9 with a friend from college with whom I've collaborated some over the years and who is African American. My tongue-in-cheek pen name and social media handle, ericthelutheran, came to be when he and I knew a guy named John, who was Baptist, and who we nicknamed (wait for it) John the Baptist. Though Eric the Lutheran (and now ericthelutheran) began as a joke, I guess I've now officially adopted it through an organic process. I mean, why let John the Baptist and Symeon the New Theologian have all the fun, right?

This collaboration didn't take off like I'd hoped, but I've maintained the blog and web domain over the years as a means of memorializing that moment in time following June 17, 2015 because of how drastically it changed my life.

*Reflections on Love* is a series addressing the problems we face as Christians talking about the LGBTQIA+ community, and will be a mix of narrative theology and straight theology exploring how to apply the rich traditions of the Christian faith to faithfully say that there's no unique sin present in these relationships or identities. What's interesting (to me) is that the deeper I dive into the whole issue of inclusion theologically, the more I realize that our real hurdle isn't a theological one, but a cultural one.

*Those people* are a group I often use as a stand in for whatever issue we're talking about. *Those people* look different, smell different, vote different, live different, aren't from around here, love different, eat different, worship and believe different, exist differently than we're used to in "polite society". Those people are just trying to get us to change everything and can't leave well enough alone because they don't have a sense of humor to get the jokes we tell and the reasons we keep them out.

*Those People* is kind of my litmus test to figure out whether my own feelings about someone or something are fair or unfair. For instance, I have a friend going through a divorce right now and over the time that I've known about it, I've noticed that I get judgey about their situation even though I have no idea what it is. It's really rare for me to feel this way about divorce, and it bugged me. First I confessed it to my bride so we could talk it through and so I could hear out loud what I knew, that I was being ridiculous. Second, I spent some time processing it, replacing their name with *those people*.

"*Those people* are getting divorced and it's making me frustrated because I thought their marriage would last. Well, I guess so did they.

"*Those people* have been together for a long time, and I can't believe they're just throwing away all that time and effort and energy. Well, I bet they can't believe it either, but at some point some couples find themselves at an impasse that they can't resolve together, only apart."

*Those people*, it turns out in this case, wasn't my feelings about my friend at all, rather it was me projecting my own fears and insecurities onto them. We've been married twenty years now, and while I have no legitimate fear or expectation that this will change, of course it's a scary thought that we may one day reach an impasse. It's scary to think about a time when my deepest partnership could become an enmity or ambivalent.

Encountering this divorce with my judgemental heart was me encountering myself and recognizing the ways that I could be a better spouse, and the grief of having to reclassify these people in my mind as separate human beings rather than a single unit.

The problem wasn't them after all, it was me because I hadn't been able to recognize my own issues with their situation. It's not rational, but it's very human.

When I think about my own racism, LGBTQIA+ hatred, anti-Asian, antisemitism, or any of the rest of it, it all boils down to my own unreasonable expectation that the world reorganize to make me more comfortable. I get mad at *those people* because in order to love them — as Jesus commands me to do — I have to see them for who they are and love them where they are. I can't be colorblind or cultureblind or any of the rest of it because to erase those parts of these people is to erase these important parts of their identity.

Love sees color, because color is part of the person we love. When we try to force someone else into our own box, that's not love but control. When we expand our own box so they can occupy their own space in our world, we share with them and with us the love of Jesus.

*Those people.* Who are they for you? What can you do today to transform *them* into *us*?

Grace & Peace, PEW

*While Pastor Angelika was here with us on June 6th, she taught us a prayer during the children's message. Here it is in print so that you may use it at home. -Valerie*

## CHILDREN'S BEDTIME PRAYER

FATHER, WE THANK THEE FOR THE NIGHT,  
AND FOR THE PLEASANT MORNING LIGHT;  
FOR REST AND FOOD AND LOVING CARE,  
AND ALL THAT MAKES THE DAY SO FAIR.

HELP US TO DO THE THINGS WE SHOULD,  
TO BE TO OTHERS KIND AND GOOD;  
IN ALL WE DO, IN WORK OR PLAY,  
TO GROW MORE LOVING EVERY DAY.

- rebecca weston - 1890



**Tim Matjucha** graduated from Lincoln Sudbury High School. He is enrolled in the Criminal Justice Program at Middlesex Community College and is interested in environmental and wildlife protection.



**Alyssa Phillips** graduated from Lincoln-Sudbury High School and will be majoring in Classics and Archaeology at Boston University.

**Alyssa Barilone** graduated from Maynard High School and will be attending Northeastern University in their Explore Program (undeclared major).



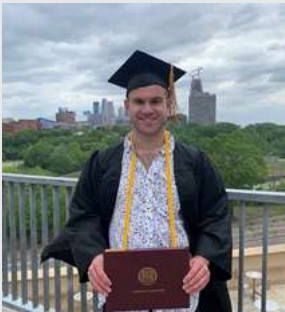
**Collin Heye** graduated from Lincoln-Sudbury High School and will be attending Champlain College to study Cybersecurity.



**Megan Irvin** graduated from Nashoba Regional High School and will be studying Marketing at Bentley University.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ST JOHN'S GRADUATES!



**Mitchell Rose** received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. He majored in Marketing with minors in Spanish, Finance, and Strategy. Mitchell will be a Business Analyst with Boom Lab in Minneapolis.

**Madelyn Rose** graduated from Westford Academy and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh to pursue a double major in Psychology and Political Science.

