

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Pastor: The Rev'd Eric Wolf (pew@stjohnsudbury.org) cell: 803-760-0222*

*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)*

March 26, 2021

## SAVE THE DATE

*All Meeting 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)*

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-11:45 am - Grade 4/5 Sunday School  
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(Heritage Hall, sign-up required)  
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### ZOOM Meeting Login information

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**Meeting ID: 978 443 8350**

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



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our YouTube channel.

Find us at:  
St John Lutheran Sudbury.



Check us out!  
[@stjohnsudbury](#)

St. John Lutheran Church  
16 Great Rd.  
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If you can't fix it with duct tape or chewing gum, it can't be fixed.

This was one of the many sayings that I've heard over the years regarding clever rigs and workarounds to some of the most frustrating problems with cars, building, and a variety of things. A mechanic friend of mine told me that other than basic wrenches, he could guarantee that at least two things would be present in his shop: WD-40 for things that should move but don't, and Loctite for things that shouldn't move but do.

What I love about this approach is that the cleverness of it speaks to that part deep inside me that's always trying to jerry rig parts of my inner life so things will work just enough to get by. Some Loctite for my confidence; some WD-40 for my pride; some chewing gum for my faith in humanity; and probably some duct tape for my mouth would be a good idea from time to time. It seems like so much of life is make do and get through, feeling like "one day I'll finally get it!" only to find that one day takes a lot longer to get here than we ever anticipated.

This will all make sense when I am older,

Someday, I will see that this makes sense.

One day when I'm old and wise,

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That these were all completely normal events!

This is the song sung by Olaf in Frozen II as they enter into the next adventure in this story, and Olaf innocently echoes what we all think when we're children: adults know what to do. Riiight. I don't know that I've ever reached complete comfort with being an adult or with being the one who people come to so things can work, but like most of us, I've learned how to navigate novel situations that make me nervous, frustrated, scared, or upset at least until we get to the other side of them and I can collapse a little.

As we continue our lenten disciplines and the ponderings of the season, one of the first things I encounter is precisely this fear. It's funny to run into it for the first time again, when you've forgotten it and then it pops back up and says, "Hey! I'm still here! Miss me?". No, not really.

I find these spiral paths in a lot of my life experience. I think I've finally put some failing or fear to bed and can move on with my life having conquered it, only to find that it was just laying in wait for the next right time to arise. This is because no matter what I do, how much I improve, what parts of my behavior or lifestyle I change, I'm still the very same person I've always been and will always be. Some days, depending on where I am with myself, this is either liberating or depressing.

It's weird how much this immutability of my core personality surprises me, especially after forty-four years of being me. Moreover, when we think about this from the perspective of faith, we're made in the image of our Creator. Other than God's love, what's one of the most frequent things I hear as a characteristic of God's nature?

God never changes.

God is so constant that things spring into being when God speaks.

For people who believe we're created in the image of God, it's funny how surprising it is when we run into the reflection of our Creator inside our own heads. We're constant, too. For good or for ill, we're pretty much the same as we ever were and ever will be. There are ways this drives me insane, but as I've gotten older, I've gotten better at anticipating this consistency. I know that when something good starts, I get nervous, I worry I don't deserve to be there, and my brain tells me to do things that sabotage myself and fulfill my self-prophecy of doom. I know this about myself, so I start out every new thing by thinking about what I want to see at the end of it, and begin putting together systems and plans that involve others so that I can feel confident that it would be more effort to destroy it than to ride it out.

I know that seems weird to say out loud, but when we confess that we're captive to Sin and cannot free ourselves, this is the very type of thing we're talking about — and this is how we mitigate the effects of Sin in our lives: we establish communities around us that will bear us up when we fail in the same way that we bear others up when they fail. The Kingdom of God is like a community of people who loves and lifts each other up in their times of failure and doubt, making room for each other where it's needed.

This is also part of the image of our Creator. Not only are we composed of the utterly predictably unchanging parts and pieces of our personality, but it's our nature to lift others up, and I'm willing to bet I'm not the only one who almost can't help but help. Time and time again, the people of God fall away and God yanks them back. This is the Divine promise: you'll never fall so far that I can't reach you.

What are the places inside you that are just kind of tacked together with duct tape and chewing gum?

What are the places in your heart that need some WD-40 because they aren't moving like they should, or Loctite because they need to learn to be more stable?

Spend some time considering what it means that God loves you for who you are, even though God already sees the parts of you that need some work.

Grace & Peace,  
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Patricia Jolou

Ruth Avery

Janice Potter

Norma Duane

Dave Weber

Erica Kivimaki

Liz Tolbert

Bill Moldwin

Wendy

Christopher Miller

Alexis Marsh

Paul Simeone

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Good Friday/Easter  
Make Easter Resurrection Garden

4/4/21

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No Class - Easter  
Easter Egg Hunt  
at 1:00 pm at St. John

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Peter - Do you love me?

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Worship service via YouTube

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- **Communion.** Communion is the highlight of our worship in the Lutheran tradition, and our Easter Communion will be received as we venture out into the world to proclaim that Christ is risen.

*Easter is the moment when cautious hopes and realized joy emerge as the cosmic reality that the risen Savior is among us, renewing and restoring all that is lost and broken by Sin. My hope is that in providing these opportunities, making these preparations, and exercising an abundance of both caution and determination to gather safely, we will see Christ in and among us.*

*As is written by Derek Webb in Take to the World. "May the bread on your tongue leave a trail of crumbs to lead the hungry back to the place that you are from". The place where we all come from is the cross and empty tomb, and may it ever be so that our lives lead the world back to this space with every thought, word, and deed.*

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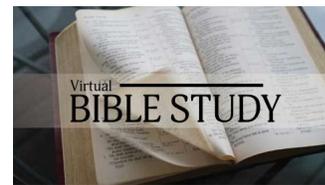


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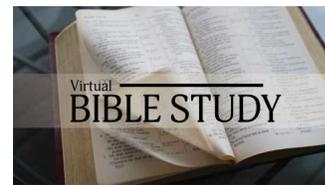


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<https://zoom.us/j/9784438350>

Meeting ID: 978 443 8350

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



Visit our YouTube Channel  
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Find us at:  
St John Lutheran Sudbury.



Check us out!  
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978-443-8350  
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I find these spiral paths in a lot of my life experience. I think I've finally put some failing or fear to bed and can move on with my life having conquered it, only to find that it was just laying in wait for the next right time to arise. This is because no matter what I do, how much I improve, what parts of my behavior or lifestyle I change, I'm still the very same person I've always been and will always be. Some days, depending on where I am with myself, this is either liberating or depressing.

It's weird how much this immutability of my core personality surprises me, especially after forty-four years of being me. Moreover, when we think about this from the perspective of faith, we're made in the image of our Creator. Other than God's love, what's one of the most frequent things I hear as a characteristic of God's nature?

God never changes.

God is so constant that things spring into being when God speaks.

For people who believe we're created in the image of God, it's funny how surprising it is when we run into the reflection of our Creator inside our own heads. We're constant, too. For good or for ill, we're pretty much the same as we ever were and ever will be. There are ways this drives me insane, but as I've gotten older, I've gotten better at anticipating this consistency. I know that when something good starts, I get nervous, I worry I don't deserve to be there, and my brain tells me to do things that sabotage myself and fulfill my self-prophecy of doom. I know this about myself, so I start out every new thing by thinking about what I want to see at the end of it, and begin putting together systems and plans that involve others so that I can feel confident that it would be more effort to destroy it than to ride it out.

I know that seems weird to say out loud, but when we confess that we're captive to Sin and cannot free ourselves, this is the very type of thing we're talking about — and this is how we mitigate the effects of Sin in our lives: we establish communities around us that will bear us up when we fail in the same way that we bear others up when they fail. The Kingdom of God is like a community of people who loves and lifts each other up in their times of failure and doubt, making room for each other where it's needed.

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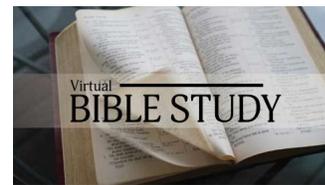


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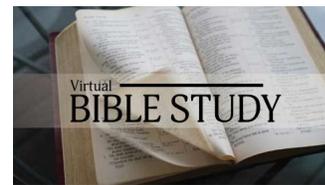


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For people who believe we're created in the image of God, it's funny how surprising it is when we run into the reflection of our Creator inside our own heads. We're constant, too. For good or for ill, we're pretty much the same as we ever were and ever will be. There are ways this drives me insane, but as I've gotten older, I've gotten better at anticipating this consistency. I know that when something good starts, I get nervous, I worry I don't deserve to be there, and my brain tells me to do things that sabotage myself and fulfill my self-prophecy of doom. I know this about myself, so I start out every new thing by thinking about what I want to see at the end of it, and begin putting together systems and plans that involve others so that I can feel confident that it would be more effort to destroy it than to ride it out.

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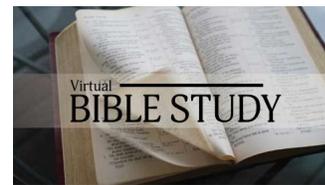


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March 26, 2021

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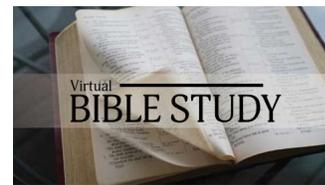


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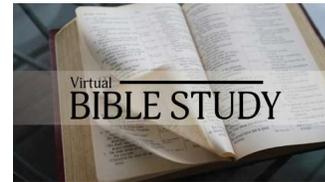


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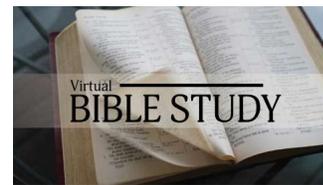


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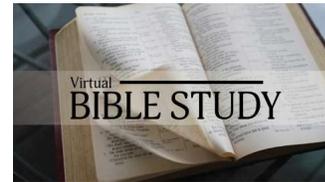


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March 26, 2021

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It's weird how much this immutability of my core personality surprises me, especially after forty-four years of being me. Moreover, when we think about this from the perspective of faith, we're made in the image of our Creator. Other than God's love, what's one of the most frequent things I hear as a characteristic of God's nature?

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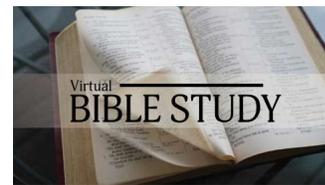


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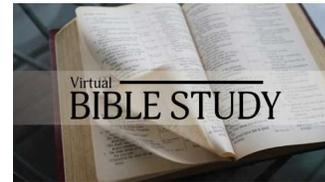


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March 26, 2021

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Check us out!  
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As we continue our lenten disciplines and the ponderings of the season, one of the first things I encounter is precisely this fear. It's funny to run into it for the first time again, when you've forgotten it and then it pops back up and says, "Hey! I'm still here! Miss me?". No, not really.

I find these spiral paths in a lot of my life experience. I think I've finally put some failing or fear to bed and can move on with my life having conquered it, only to find that it was just laying in wait for the next right time to arise. This is because no matter what I do, how much I improve, what parts of my behavior or lifestyle I change, I'm still the very same person I've always been and will always be. Some days, depending on where I am with myself, this is either liberating or depressing.

It's weird how much this immutability of my core personality surprises me, especially after forty-four years of being me. Moreover, when we think about this from the perspective of faith, we're made in the image of our Creator. Other than God's love, what's one of the most frequent things I hear as a characteristic of God's nature?

God never changes.

God is so constant that things spring into being when God speaks.

For people who believe we're created in the image of God, it's funny how surprising it is when we run into the reflection of our Creator inside our own heads. We're constant, too. For good or for ill, we're pretty much the same as we ever were and ever will be. There are ways this drives me insane, but as I've gotten older, I've gotten better at anticipating this consistency. I know that when something good starts, I get nervous, I worry I don't deserve to be there, and my brain tells me to do things that sabotage myself and fulfill my self-prophecy of doom. I know this about myself, so I start out every new thing by thinking about what I want to see at the end of it, and begin putting together systems and plans that involve others so that I can feel confident that it would be more effort to destroy it than to ride it out.

I know that seems weird to say out loud, but when we confess that we're captive to Sin and cannot free ourselves, this is the very type of thing we're talking about — and this is how we mitigate the effects of Sin in our lives: we establish communities around us that will bear us up when we fail in the same way that we bear others up when they fail. The Kingdom of God is like a community of people who loves and lifts each other up in their times of failure and doubt, making room for each other where it's needed.

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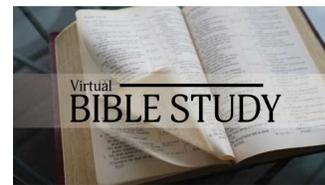


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Make Easter Resurrection Garden

4/4/21

**Easter**

No Class - Easter  
Easter Egg Hunt  
at 1:00 pm at St. John

4/11/21

Peter - Do you love me?

4/18/21

No Class - April Vacation

## UPCOMING CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

3/28/21

The Neighbor  
Family Confirmation

4/4/21

No Class -Easter

4/11/21

Grace

4/18/21

No Class - April break

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

In Sunday school, we have continued to share moments in Jesus's life. We talked about Jesus's ability to heal and how God heals us even today. We moved on to Jesus's request to his disciples that they (and we) be like salt and light: salt to keep the world around us from going bad and light to make sure all those around us see God's love in us. We made starlight cups and salt paintings to help us remember and share God's love.

We then moved on to the week leading up to Jesus's death. We discussed Palm Sunday and created Peat Pot Donkeys. We talked about the Last Supper and made salt dough crosses for keeping or sharing.

This week we will talk about Easter and make Resurrection dish gardens.



## CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation class continues to meet via Zoom. Over the last month, the Confirmation team has discussed such topics as Saint and Sinner, The Church, and Freedom of a Christian. Pastor and the teachers engage the kids not just with the topic at hand, but also by finding out what's been going on with each other over the last week.

When families met with the Pastor Eric and the Confirmation team at the end of January, they noted that the kids were missing the service aspect of Confirmation class. Service projects are much more difficult to do when we cannot meet in-person. However, we were able to work together to assemble Easter baskets for the youngest residents of Florence House, an Ascentria-run home for young mothers in Worcester. St John has been working with Florence House to provide the baskets for at least 15 years, so we are thrilled that we could keep the tradition alive again this year! Thank you to Karen LaCure for delivering the baskets to Florence House!

## HOLY WEEK

### March 28th - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Worship service via YouTube

10:00 am - Zoom Coffee Hour

11:45 am - Zoom Sunday School

### ZOOM Meeting Login information

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

Meeting ID: 978 443 8350

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

### April 1st - Maundy Thursday via Zoom at 7:30 pm

### April 2nd - Good Friday via Zoom at 7:30 pm

## EASTER- APRIL 4

*Easter is coming quickly, and we're eagerly anticipating a resurrection not only of Jesus, but of the opportunity to worship together in person!*

*Like everything has this last the last year, this will look different than most other Easter mornings have. Even so, we're planning five services in total:*

- 7:30 am Sunrise. Outdoor and open to the public.
- 9:00 am in Heritage Hall. Indoor, registration required. (Sign Up Link here.)
- 11:00 am in Heritage Hall. Indoor, registration required. (Sign Up Link here.)
- 1:30 pm. Outdoor and open to the public.
- YouTube Service. Because there are still those for whom it's still too great a risk to gather in person, we will have the service available on YouTube as we always do.

At our two indoor worship services, we've taken the following steps to ensure we're gathering as safely as possible:

- **Sign Up for Attendance.** Attendance requires prior sign up so we can plan the space according to family groups, accessibility needs, and proper spacing. (Call the church office or use the link in the email that was sent on Tuesday.)
- **PPE Provided.** Each person will receive an N95 mask provided at the entrance to the building.
- **Air Purifiers.** We've invested in four strong air purifiers, and will have the doors open in Heritage Hall to provide adequate ventilation.
- **Recorded Music.** We won't have any live music, but we will have special music recorded prepared for the Easter service and presented with high quality sound and visuals. We're excited to see how this goes!
- **Communion.** Communion is the highlight of our worship in the Lutheran tradition, and our Easter Communion will be received as we venture out into the world to proclaim that Christ is risen.

*Easter is the moment when cautious hopes and realized joy emerge as the cosmic reality that the risen Savior is among us, renewing and restoring all that is lost and broken by Sin. My hope is that in providing these opportunities, making these preparations, and exercising an abundance of both caution and determination to gather safely, we will see Christ in and among us.*

*As is written by Derek Webb in Take to the World. "May the bread on your tongue leave a trail of crumbs to lead the hungry back to the place that you are from". The place where we all come from is the cross and empty tomb, and may it ever be so that our lives lead the world back to this space with every thought, word, and deed.*

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Eric

## KNITTING/SEWING GROUP VIA ZOOM

7:30 PM  
FRIDAYS!  
NOT MEETING 4/2

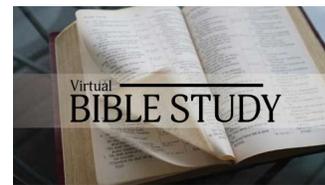


## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION VIA ZOOM

10:00 AM  
SUNDAYS



Senior Ministry is pleased to recognize a special birthday for Gloria (Gogi) Woodward, our most senior lifelong member of St. John, who was born into our congregation 85 years ago this month. Congratulations to Gogi.



### **BIBLE STUDY NEW TIME**

Bible Study has moved back to its previous time. Thursday mornings at 10:00 am.

Contact Ippolit Matjucha if you would like more information.

### **ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR MARCH 30th**

Please join us!!!

We will have a ZOOM book club meeting on Tuesday, March 30th at 11:00 AM for just a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On April 20th, we will discuss "Girl in Translation" by Jean Kwok.

If you do not receive a ZOOM invitation email prior to the meeting time, please contact Jan Nielsen at jrn-ielsen@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:

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

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

June 15, 2021, "Girl, Woman, Other" by Bernardine Evaristo