

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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 Office Director: Valerie Ripley ([office@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:office@stjohnsudbury.org))  
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 Organist: Bart Dahlstrom ([organist@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:organist@stjohnsudbury.org))  
 Sexton: George LaBarge

October 20, 2022

## UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

October 23	9:30 am	-Worship
	10:45 am	-Sunday School
	1:30 pm	-CROP Walk
	5:30 pm	-Confirmation
October 24	10:00 am	-Seniorcise
October 25	11:00 am	-Seniors on the Go Book Group
October 26	10:00 am	-Seniorcise
October 27	10:30 am	-Bible Study
	4:00 pm	-Discussion on Race/ Anti-Racism
	5:45 pm	-Bell Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	-Choir Rehearsal
October 28	7:30 pm	-Knitting/ Crafting Group
October 29	3:00 pm	-Trunk or Treat
October 30	9:30 am	-Worship (Confirmation Sunday)
	10:45 am	-Sunday School
	5:30 pm	-Confirmation
November 1	11:00 am	-Seniors on the Go Book Group
November 2	10:00 am	-Seniorcise
November 3	10:30 am	-Bible Study
	5:45 pm	-Bell Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	-Choir Rehearsal
November 4	7:30 pm	-Knitting Group
November 6	9:30 am	-Worship
	10:45 am	-Sunday School
	5:00 pm	-Vespers



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.



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

St. John Lutheran Church  
 16 Great Rd.  
 Sudbury, Ma 01776  
 978-443-8350  
[www.stjohnsudburyma.org](http://www.stjohnsudburyma.org)

**OCTOBER 27TH AT 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](mailto:jrnielsen@charter.net) or 978-549-3044.

Awareness  
Knowledge  
Action

**ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR  
OCTOBER 25th AND NOVEMBER 1st**

Please join us!!!

ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tuesdays, October 25th and November 1st, at 11:00am for a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

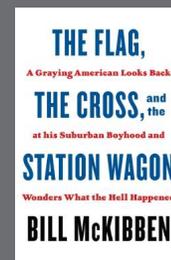
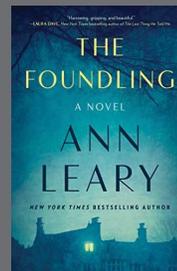
On November 15th we will discuss “The Foundling” by Ann Leary.

Any questions, contact Jan Nielsen at [jrnielsen@charter.net](mailto:jrnielsen@charter.net) or 978-549-3044.

Next books:

November 15 - “The Foundling” by Ann Leary

December 20 - “The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon”  
by Bill McKibben



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:**

Brian Young  
Norma Duane  
Rhonda Tibbetts  
Bill Davis  
Marilyn Kunelius  
Carolyn Sweeney  
Joan LeDuc  
Gus Sullivan  
Joan Western  
Barbara Locke  
Sedona  
George Wolf  
Walter Sarvela

Christopher Miller  
John Duane  
Alexis Marsh  
Janice Potter  
Ann Kirk  
Claudine  
George Stanley  
Wanda Miller  
Mark Sarvela  
Christine Carosella  
Liz Packard  
Royce Fuller  
Lisa Marshall

Charles Miller  
Helen Williams  
Ruth Avery  
Jan Nielsen  
Judy  
Meg Davis  
Ed Holmgren  
Janet Erb  
Pastor Ivan  
Bob  
Martha  
Susanne Fuller  
Bob & Donna May



## PLACE COMPELLING TITLE HERE

Words that are at once spontaneous but practiced; thoughtful, yet not overly serious.

More words that bring the sense of expertise, but not a sense of self-centered pomposity.

Pithy Statement about scripture!

Observational analysis regarding a phrase turned a particular way.

Likely overblown statement about how this changes everything about the way we read this particular passage.

Appropriate analogy of the way faith and life work together to inform a more cohesive whole, steeped in tradition, community, and personal engagement in the Divine Mystery.

Satisfied feeling that the newsletter article is finished.

Ministry continues!

*Place Compelling Title Here* is what was intended to begin a journal exercise this morning to limber up the old brain for a day of writing and editing. After writing it, it seemed to fit with a theme in the Gospels of the last few months as we enter into the last four weeks of Sundays after Pentecost and Advent begins.

Beginning with Luke 15 on September 11, we encountered an increasingly challenging set of parables that I addressed in the last newsletter article in some detail. This week we have the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, who both went to the temple to pray (with hilarious results?). On Reformation we'll examine the Gospel story about Zacchaeus, then the Beatitudes, an apocalypse, and on Reign of Christ Sunday (Christ the King) we endure together the crucifixion of Jesus.

Ink will be spilled.

Words will be said.

Feelings will be felt.

And all that before Advent.

I imagine this conversation feels somewhat random, but random kind of feels like the best description for this moment in the world. There are wars and rumors of wars; storms, floods, and disasters intensified by global climatic shift; signs in the stars (from a new telescope, and NASA smashing big money into an asteroid); disease, crop losses, water issues, and so on. In a dramatic scene from one of the great cinematic triumphs of our time, there's a compelling reading of such times in the rising action for the final conflictual climactic act of the film:

**Dr. Peter Venkman:** This city is headed for a disaster of biblical proportions!

**Mayor:** What do you mean, "biblical"?

**Dr. Raymond Stantz:** What he means is Old Testament, Mr. Mayor, real wrath of God type stuff.

**Dr. Peter Venkman:** Exactly.

**Dr. Raymond Stantz:** Fire and brimstone coming down from the skies! Rivers and seas boiling!

**Dr. Egon Spengler:** Forty years of darkness! Earthquakes, volcanoes...

**Winston Zeddemore:** The dead rising from the grave!

**Dr. Peter Venkman:** Human sacrifice, dogs and cats living together... MASS HYSTERIA!

**Mayor:** All right, all right! I get the point!

Of course I'm certain you recognize that this masterpiece is exactly what one might anticipate, *Ghostbusters*. What's so fascinating here is that they spent the entire film capturing ghosts in a growing paranormal threat to the city — and of course, the world. Despite the fact that they'd done this, people still wouldn't believe them when they tried to describe the magnitude of the threat they faced.

This is perhaps *the most absolutely believable* event in all of movie history. It reminds me of *The Parable of the Lazarus and the Rich Man*. They both die, and Lazarus goes to rest in Abraham's bosom while the rich man is subjected to torment for his lack of human compassion for Lazarus who dwelled in poverty and suffered outside his door. We find our characters "in Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side."

*Drama Intensifies:*

**Rich Man:** Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames!

**Abraham:** Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.

Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.

**Rich Man:** Then, father, I beg you to send Lazarus to my father's house! I have five brothers! Let him warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.

**Abraham:** They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.

**Rich Man:** No! Father Abraham, if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

**Abraham:** If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced *even if someone rises from the dead!*

Annnnnnd scene! We end with what I'm certain must be a star wipe.

Literal ghosts literally ghosting all over the literal place wasn't enough for the Mayor, the EPA, and the city to believe these folks who'd been literally catching these literal ghosts all over these literal places!

Despite a million dead, just yesterday, I had what turned out to be a painfully patient interaction with an individual who denies that it's "really all that bad".

What does it *take* to make us believe? What is the (most likely overblown) statement that can turn us on our ears so that we see life in a new way? What do we do with a skepticism that runs so deep that even being confronted with people recently risen from the dead no longer fazes us?

What's so fascinating to me is that after all this in both the Gospel and in *Ghostbusters*, the next act indicates society doesn't really don't change much no matter how significant an event is in its history. At the beginning of *Ghostbusters 2*, Winston explains: "...we conjured up a hundred-foot marshmallow man, blew the top three floors off an uptown high-rise, and ended up getting sued by every city, county, and state

agency in New York”. Being sued into oblivion, they were performing at children’s parties. In the Gospels, Jesus is crucified and is literally resurrected from the literal dead, yet in Acts we hear a lot of the same things we heard in the Gospels about infighting, posturing, and an unwillingness to acknowledge that the movement Jesus began was bigger than their limited understanding of it. It feels disappointing when you put it that way.

What surprises me is that this truth feels somehow strangely hopeful, too.

Even though we may never change as a culture in some ways we sincerely wish we would; and even though there’s only so much we can do to circumvent our captivity to Sin from which we cannot free ourselves, we hear the good news that God never changes either. God’s loving grace, forgiving posture, beckoning hand, and desire that we hear the welcoming call of our Creator is an ongoing eternal act of God’s love — which is the impetus for creation itself.

God doesn’t change. Knowing this, we realize that whatever God’s plan might include, it includes this fact about us and takes it into account in God’s Divine Plan.

It all goes on.

Ink will be spilled.

Words will be said.

Feelings will be felt.

I rejoice that I managed to use climatic and climactic in the same paragraph.

I will feel satisfied that my newsletter article is finished.

Ministry will continue.

And together, we will give thanks for the things that bring hope, joy, love, and peace that break in to disrupt our lives in ways both distressing and hopeful.

Thanks be to God.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Eric

## **DIAS Request!**

St. John, through our support of DIAS (Dignity in Asylum), has been supporting refugees in the area for many years. Specifically, we have been helping an Afghan family who has resettled in Concord for almost a year now. The family has some immediate needs we can help with as their extended surrogate church family.

The family needs immediately:

Diapers sizes 1 and 2

Baby wipes

Shoes (used are great as well!) size Girl’s 10 and Boy’s 11

As winter approaches....

Warm clothes and jackets (Girl) 4T and (Boy) 5T

Please contact Johanna Ellis johanna68@gmail.com if you can help or have any questions.



## CONFIRMATION CONNECTION



On Sunday, October 16th, our Youth Ministry Collaborative gathered for our Fall Fest at the Sudbury United Methodist Church. We collected non-perishable items for the Sudbury Food Pantry in support of World Food



Day. And, then, the fun began! We paired off for an Acorn Toss that had acorns flying around the yard before dividing into teams for Capture the Pumpkin. Our teams, the Band-Its and the Rogues, were at a standoff until most Band-Its wound up in jail, and the Rogues were able to grab the Band-Its' pumpkin and hightail it back to their own patch. But during our next activity, everyone found their own mini pumpkin to decorate.

After munching on fall favorites like soft pretzels with cheese sauce, apples and caramel sauce, apple cider, and apple and pumpkin breads, we gathered together to enjoy our fall-themed devotion.



The Youth Ministry Collaborative brings together middle- and high-school aged youth from local churches to enjoy fun and faith with other youth of faith. Our next gathering will be Sunday, November 20th from 5:30-7 PM.

## THE COLD WEATHER IS COMING AND SO IS OUR MITTEN TREE!

Next week St John will have our Mitten Tree out for decorating with all kinds of cold weather items. Please bring mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and warm socks in women's, men's, and kids' sizes. Note: If you are shopping, the Outdoor Church folks who receive our adult-sized stuff prefer gloves—or the peekaboo fingerless mittens.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP



Our study of Old Testament stories continued last Sunday with the Battle of Jericho. As we told the story, we imagined how the Israelites might have felt following the instructions that God gave to Joshua. We built our own walled city and marched around it, playing our shofars (Thank you, Al Miller, for creating paper towel tube shofars for the kids to enjoy!). We imagined that both the Israelites and the people living in Jericho must have been very tired of hearing those horns blowing! And, when the walls of our walled city of Jericho came tumbling down, we considered how amazing that must have been in real life! We talked about the blessing of persistence and how important it is to keep trying.



And, because we love singing and doing all the moves for *Father Abraham* so much, we sang it again!

We ended our time together stuffing Halloween goody bags for the Maynard Backpack Program so that we can present them to Meredith Saven, the program's director, when she is at St John on Sunday.

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## Acolyte Training



All are invited to learn about assisting in worship by lighting and extinguishing our candles. We will provide a handbook, talk through what to do, and practice together.

Sunday, October 23rd  
During Sunday School

Please contact Michelle Rose with any questions at [mrose@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:mrose@stjohnsudbury.org) or 508-320-7245.

# IT'S SURPRISING.....



Can you match the personal fact below to the person who owns it? Try and see if you can figure this puzzle out. We will print the answers in our next newsletter.

- Paul Haugsjaa
- Nancy Allison
- Royce Fuller
- Ron Aerni
- Chad Dorsey
- Volunteered at an archaeological dig in Montana.
- Attended a one-room K-8 schoolhouse &, one year was 1 of 5 students in the whole school.
- Skis the black diamond trails.
- Ate a beetle on a train in Thailand.
- Played trombone in high school.

How did you do with last week's puzzle? Are you surprised?

Sophia Dorsey is a knitter.

Luke McLinn could sing *Frosty the Snowman* by the age of 2.

Michelle Rose plays Fantasy Football and has won the league.

Linda Bascom was a flight attendant.

Kirsten McLinn worked on a schooner for the fun of it.

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## LEGO NIGHT

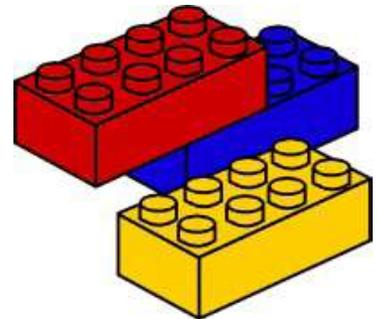
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

5:30-7:30 PM

JOIN US FOR PIZZA AND LEGO FUN!

RSVP to Michelle Rose [mrose@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:mrose@stjohnsudbury.org)

or 508-320-7245





## A Gorgeous Fall Day to Enjoy Creation!

On Sunday, October 16th, members of our St John community hit the trails of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. We started by enjoying our bagged lunches together in the lounge so we had lots of energy for our hike. We stopped at various points along the trail to ponder God's amazing creation, and how, just as nature reclaims and heals scars on the land, God can reclaim and heal our own scars.

We appreciated the beauty of God's beautiful fall day as we listened to the words of Psalm 65:

You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.  
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they should and sing together for joy.

Of course, we had tons of fun too! We raced from bunker to bunker. Some of us (that is, Michelle) learned that this area was used for munitions storage during World War II because it was just out of reach of missiles fired from Boston Harbor. We blew our whistles (from Sunday School), and even managed to see some turtles sunning themselves on logs.

Many thanks to Laura Kennedy for scouting our trail and preparing our trailside devotions!



## Stewardship Program Guest Speaker & Giving Invitation

On **Sunday October 23rd**, Meredith Saven will join us to talk about our Congregation's generous support of the **Maynard Backpack Program** and what it means to the children and families that participate in the program.

On that day, we invite you to bring an item for the Maynard Backpack Program. Choose from the list below or give directly using the Amazon Wish List link below.

- Boxes of cold cereal
- Juice boxes
- Granola bars
- Canned soup
- SpaghettiOs
- Fruit cups / applesauce
- Individual snack items

### Amazon Wish List:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/14V4O9O7ON9VH?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/14V4O9O7ON9VH?ref_=wl_share)

### About the Maynard Backpack Program

The Maynard Backpack Program is a not-for-profit organization that provides weekly food backpack deliveries through the Maynard Public Schools for Maynard, MA children and families.



*Just a Reminder!*

***Please remember to fill out and return your Time and Talent Sheets as well as your pledge cards. Even if you give electronically, it is helpful for the budgeting process, which is happening now. Thank you.***

## **CROP WALK THIS SUNDAY! YOU CAN STILL JOIN AND SUPPORT THE ST JOHN STEP UPS!**

### **How can you help?**

Join the team of walkers on Sunday,  
October 23rd at 2 PM in Concord Center!

We have 12 walkers! But we could use  
more! You can use the link below to become  
a St John Step Up!

### **Donate**

You can donate directly to the Crop Walk using the link below. Or you can write a check payable to St John with Crop Walk noted in the memo section of your check.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/teams?event=concordma>

Help us reach our goal of \$1000 for Crop Walk, which funds 9 local food pantries and food agencies.



## **Fall Fling!**

**Come play with the leaves at St. John!  
Bring your rakes and leaf blowers!!**

**Saturday, November 12, 2022  
9:00 am - Noon**

**Drinks and donuts provided.**

## TRUNK OR TREAT NEEDS YOU!

On **Saturday, October 29th from 3-5 PM**, our St John family is hosting Trunk or Treat outside in our parking lot, and we need your help to make this a fun community event!



### What is Trunk or Treat?

Trunk or Treat provides families with an opportunity to trick or treat in a safe, concentrated spot. We will hold the event in our parking lot on the Rt 117 side of the church. Folks will decorate their cars with different themes (please stay away from scary themes) such as CandyLand, Hogwarts and Harry Potter (sorry, folks, the Kennedy family has dibs on this one), Star Wars, Pokemon, Beauty and the Beast, and Paw Patrol. During the trick or treating time, families will trick or treat from trunk to trunk collecting candy and Halloween trinkets.

### What do you need me to do?

Join us! We need lots of cars for the kids to trick or treat between. Decorate your car! Dress up with your theme! Get some candy, and be ready to hand out treats from 3-5 PM on Saturday, October 29th. If decorating isn't your thing, but you would love to hand out candy and treats to kids, contact Michelle Rose at [mrose@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:mrose@stjohnsudbury.org) or 508-320-7245. We will find the best way for you to participate.

### How do I sign up?

Use the Sign Up Genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4ea8af23a3f58-trunk>

**DO IT FOR THE KIDS!!!!**

## ADULT FORUM

Pastor Eric will kick-off Adult Forum on November 6th at 10:55 am. Grab a cup of coffee and head on into the sanctuary. The first topic will be "What does it mean to be part of a congregation". If you have ideas for future topics, or if you would like to host a session, please let Pastor Eric know.

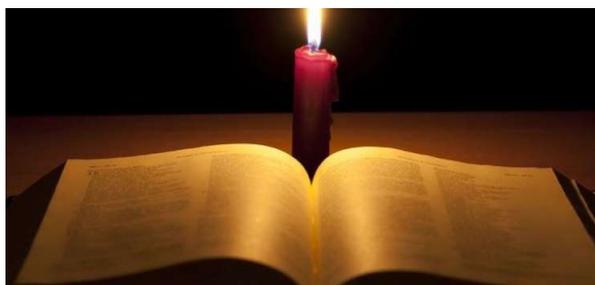


### CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW IN THE NARTHEX!

There is now a sign-up poster there for you to access.

All you have to do is write your name next to the various worship assistant spots. All help is needed: Communion assistants, Greeters and Ushers, Acolytes and readers.

*Please help us out and reserve your place for future dates.*



**Save the Date**  
**November 6th: 5:00 pm**  
**Evening Vespers**  
**Reception Following**

### HELP US SEND LOVE TO OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Each year we send care packages to our college students to give them a boost as they prepare for final exams. Care packages typically include an advent devotional and advent calendar, flat snacks, a packet of hot chocolate, pocket tissues, and a gift card. Please help us ensure there is a gift card for all of our 20+ college

students by providing \$10-\$15 gift cards to places like Starbucks and Dunks. Or, you could write a check to St John with College Care Packages in the memo section and we will gift card shop for you.

Please give gift cards directly to Michelle Rose or slip them under the door of the Youth Office by Sunday, November 13th.

If you have college students in your house, please email current addresses to Michelle Rose at [mrose@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:mrose@stjohnsudbury.org),

**SUDBURY  
DOING  
GOOD**

**FAIR!**

*Saturday,* **NOVEMBER 5**  
*11 am - 2 pm*  
*@ The* **GOODNOW LIBRARY**

- Meet the folks behind Sudbury's Nonprofits, Community Groups, and Town Departments who are "doing good" in every area that impacts our community: social services, the arts, the environment, health, safety, education and more.
- Get the details on their programs, services, membership options, and volunteer opportunities.
- Learn how you can get involved.
- Drop by for a fun, family-friendly afternoon featuring activities, community service opportunities, and giveaways!

*for more info, visit:*  
**sudburyfoundation.org**

*Hosted by the Goodnow Library &  
Sudbury Doing Good, a project  
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