

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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 Office Director: Valerie Ripley (office@stjohnsudbury.org)
 Director of Choirs: Benjamin Perry (choirdir@stjohnsudbury.org)
 Organist: Bart Dahlstrom (organist@stjohnsudbury.org)

September 23, 2022

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

September 23	7:30 pm	Knitting/ Crafting Group
September 25	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	5:30 pm	Confirmation
September 26	10:00 am	Seniorcise
September 27	11:00 am	Seniors on the Go Book Group
	7:00 pm	Social Justice Book Discussion
September 28	10:00 am	Seniorcise
September 29	10:30 am	Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Discussion Group on Racism
	5:45 pm	Bell Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
September 30	7:30 pm	Knitting/ Crafting Group
October 2	9:30 am	Worship
		CROP WALK Bake Sale
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	4:30 pm	Blessing of the Animals
	5:30 pm	Confirmation
October 3	10:00 am	Seniorcise
October 4	11:00 am	Seniors on the Go Book Group
October 5	10:00 am	Seniorcise
October 6	10:30 am	Bible Study
	5:45 pm	Bell Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
October 7	7:30 pm	Knitting/ Crafting Group
October 9	9:30 am	Worship
		NO Sunday School
		NO Confirmation



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



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

ENJOYING SUNDAES ON A TUESDAY

Fourteen St. John seniors gathered for ice cream and conversation on September 20th in Heritage Hall. There were several flavors of ice cream and a variety of toppings. Of course the staples of vanilla and chocolate were present along with chocolate chip, mint chocolate chip, and black raspberry, which everyone agreed was the prettiest. Our topping choices included strawberries in juice, homemade hot fudge, chocolate syrup, sprinkles, and walnuts.

We gathered around two tables in Heritage Hall and enjoyed visiting and catching up with each other. Check the newsletters for information on our upcoming activities.



ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR SEPTEMBER 27th AND OCTOBER 4th

Please join us!!!

ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tuesdays, September 27th and October 4th, at 11:00am for a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On October 18th we will discuss "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris.

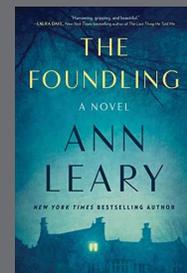
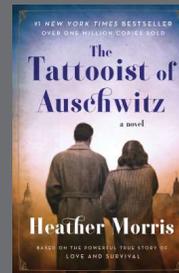
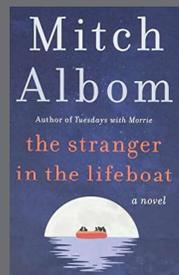
Any questions, contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044.

Next books:

October 18 - "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris

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

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

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



KINDNESS CULTURE: CANCELING NICENESS

Kindness, Not Niceness

The hard truth of love is that it isn't about being nice, but about being kind.

Love's kindness isn't about being nice because it's inherently honest, speaking truth when niceness would demand us to gloss over the truth. It's not nice because it hurts our feelings when our own sinful behavior is brought to light in the accountability of community. As challenging as this is, this is the ethic by which we're called to live.

It's tempting to reduce kindness to being *nice*, and our culture encourages it. I say this fairly often because I believe it bears repeating. I need it as a reminder for my own edification, but also because I believe *we* need this as a principle to live peaceably in community wherever we are at any moment. The seeming paradoxical impact of this idea is that it asserts niceness is unkind.

Niceness is unkind because it's often inherently dishonest, valuing social comfort over honest interaction; small lies over honest dialogue; treating someone well when they're present even if one intends to speak ill of them when they leave. It's *hard* not to be nice because it's so socially rewarded and the truth can be awkward.

Kindness is fully realized God-resembling love.

Love Tells the Truth

Something I've always enjoyed about youth ministry is that youth are accustomed to hearing someone tell them that it isn't kind to treat people poorly. They grumble, but they correct pretty willingly when pushed. With adults it's not so easy. We have a misconception that anything we say is fine, and anyone who offers any correction of our conduct is trampling our right to speak our mind. Or maybe more honestly, we believe we have the right not to be embarrassed by accountability for our words and actions.

I believe that Jesus' attention and welcome of children speaks to the idea that youth and children have something crucial to teach adults about faith and love.

This challenging relational reality of Jesus' honesty is precisely why people got frustrated with him in the synagogue. Children are *real*, and they offer one hundred percent of themselves to those who will give them the time and attention. When Jesus instructs us to come as little children, I believe part of this message is, "approach your faith with the guileless sincerity and hopeful expectation that children do, and hold nothing back".

Jesus demonstrates appreciation for this honesty throughout his ministry. If you've been around children, you *know* they tend to say whatever crosses their minds! Even so, they understand very clearly it's wrong to be cruel, and even though they may throw a fit, they understand more than we give them credit for why cruel things shouldn't be said.

We, as adults, understand they say it to test boundaries and to see what they can get away with. They do it because understanding limits helps them feel safe. They do it because they're learning their own differentiation despite an existential dependence on the adults around them. Adults often think falsely that, "I can say whatever I want now that I'm grown". We may be free to speak, yet we all bear the accountability for our choices. Part of the reason we take this so hard as adults is that we kid ourselves into thinking that we're so far removed from childhood expectations that they can't apply — at least not to *me*! The truth of it is that we're all God's *children*, so none of us are as far removed from this identity as we might otherwise hope.

Kindness as an Act of Love

If you know me even a little bit better than just shaking hands on the way out of the sanctuary, I feel pretty positive you've heard me apologize for something, often small things, but often big things. I do both in public and in private. *I'm not able to speak kindly at all times either.*

My mouth is faster than my brain, so this is my way of self-correction. It's an attempt to put others' needs for respect ahead of my own desire for comfort just because it feels embarrassing to admit that I've said something inconsiderate or potentially hurtful. I do this because I *know* what it feels like to be on the receiving end of the unkind comments. Once I realize I've put people there by my words or actions, I feel embarrassed, ashamed, and sorry.

So, I say so with an apology.

Kindness to oneself is even more challenging sometimes, and a willingness to be accountable is a large part of how we set ourselves free to do this. It's a way that I engage the fact that to God, I'm a child. I'm a pastor, *and* I'm a member of this community of faith. My personal accountability is something I value more than my reputation as a pastor. This may sound weird, but it's in bearing accountable witness to my own faults, flaws, and weaknesses that I'm able to have any integrity as a child of God or as a pastor.

This is why Jesus' primary command isn't, "Go and be good people!"; rather Jesus instructs us to love God, and as a consequence of this love for God, to love one another. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus demonstrates love is an action and a choice. We witness through the whole of scripture that God makes grace-filled covenants despite the children of Israel being "a stiff-necked people".

Kindness as a Christian Norm

In his letters, St. Paul not only addresses the grace of God through Christ Jesus, but roundly condemns his congregations for lacking hospitality, speaking cruel words, and for infighting among members. Identifying this as a consequence of Sin, he calls these communities to repent. In 1 Corinthians 13, he famously describes God's love to be patient and kind, saying that it bears, believes, and hopes all things for the beloved. Even so, God's love demands our willing response of treating each other with this very same honest concern for other people, the expression of which is kindness.

In his epistle, James calls the tongue a sword and advises great caution for those who accept the mantle of leadership among God's people. James is very honest, so much so that even Martin Luther felt too convicted to fully confront what it inspired in him, calling it the *Epistle of Straw* as a way of tossing it out as works righteousness rather than confronting the parts of himself that are convicted in its pages.

I call kindness a Christian Norm because it's a guiding principle and expectation of living this life together as the Church. It's one of many difficult things Jesus commands us to do, but I believe it's also one of the most transformational characteristics of our tradition.

Today I pray that I can be more childlike than childish. I really hope that works out for me!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Eric Wolf

A Picnic to Remember!

When our St John family gathered at Liberty Lodge at Camp Sewataro in Sudbury on September 11th, it was the first time that we have celebrated Rally Day with a picnic in 3 long years!

And what a fun gathering it was! Folks arriving at the camp followed a path of pinwheels set up by Elaine McCann and Jane Miller to find Liberty Lodge. And once the lodge came into sight, there were bubbles galore! We set up the bubble machine and the giant bubble wands, and kids young and old enjoyed creating and catching the beautiful bubbles.

We also painted Kindness Rocks for our St John yard and started assembling our beautiful new Crop Walk banner designed by Emily Smith! Thanks to kids young and old—and dogs too—who provided their painted footprints for the banner.

After singing the Johnny Appleseed prayer led by Pastor Eric, we dug into the delicious sandwiches, salads, chips, and drinks that were spread out on our potluck table. While we munched on desserts, folks of all ages participated in our Congregational Scavenger Hunt to learn more about each other. Winners yelled “God loves me!” into the microphone before



selecting a prize from the prize box. And we learned so much about each other! Liisa and Faith Plante enjoyed the Paul McCartney concert at Fenway Park this summer. Suzanne Steinbach has hiked Mt. Washington, and Nancy Haugsjaa has climbed Mt. Monadnock. Erik Holmgren has visited at least 25 states. Ethan & Aria Holmgren zoomed down a big water slide in South Dakota. Jeannette Jones helped her friend rebuild her kitchen. And William Kennedy speaks Spanish at school. And there were so many other fabulous discoveries!

But what was most fabulous was chatting and laughing and playing together!

So many thanks to the Picnic Team and all who helped make this event a success: Jane & Mike Misslin, Carol Leighton, Suzanne Steinbach, Mark Howell, Elaine McCann, Laura and Jarrod Kennedy, Valerie Ripley, Emily Smith, Bart Dahlstrom, and Al, Jane, & Richie Miller.



RALLY DAY 2022

Sunday School Scoop



Sunday School kicked off on Sunday, September 18th with a look at Noah and God's promise to him. After enjoying our snack outside in the sunshine, we regrouped in Heritage Hall for the sharing of Noah's story using the felt board. We all enjoyed adding Noah, the ark, the animals, and the water to the board! Then we sang lots of verses of *Rise and Shine* with Pastor Eric before heading off to our individual classrooms.

We learned a bit about each other while we created animals and added them to the Noah's Ark displays on each of the bulletin boards.

Next up: Abraham and Sarah!

Confirmation Connection

Our Youth Ministry Collaborative kicked off the Education year with a gathering right here at St John celebrating National Cheeseburger Day! We played lots of fun backyard games like Keep the Balloon Up, sack races, Egg Toss, and three-legged races before settling down to ponder Zack's (Sudbury United Methodist Church's youth director) devotion about cheeseburgers. You laugh? It was a version of 1 Corinthians 12 reimagined as a cheeseburger. And the youth ate it up! Of course, they were hungry because that was right before we dug



into the cheeseburgers and hotdogs grilled by Pastor Eric and yummy—if melty—ice cream cones.



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, October 16th from 5:30-7 PM.

Confirmation begins this Sunday, September 25th with our Family Meeting at 5:30 PM. We are excited to begin our new program and to welcome our new confirmation students!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On October 2 at 4:30pm in the Great Rd side parking lot, Pastor Eric is hosting a Blessing of the Animals event in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi's love for animals and for creation as an expression of God's love. We welcome you to bring your pets of all kinds! You can also bring a picture of a pet if they don't tolerate crowds well. We're looking forward to seeing you and God's beloved animals there!



COME TO MAYNARD FEST ON OCTOBER 1!

Come as a visitor, or come to volunteer!

Maynard's town celebration, on October 1st, is a day of community fun and interaction. St. John was founded in Maynard in 1894, and many members live there today. If you would like to volunteer to man our table or help prepare, please contact Michelle Rose (mrose@stjohnsudbury.org) or Nancy Allison (nancythewriter7@gmail.com).

We would love to hear from you!



RUBY'S ROAD TRIP



Ruby's summer road trip with her best buddy Conrad has taken her halfway across the country and a lot of places in between. She worked in a couple more stops before summer turned to fall. Ruby shares God's

love everywhere she goes. And as we begin our Stewardship program perhaps we can all follow her lead. Share a smile, spread some joy!

- Enjoying sunshine on earth in a field of sunflowers
- Trying out a new role as a farmhand at Rulfs Orchard in Peru, NY

Fall is still a great time to explore so Ruby may have a few more adventures before the snow hits. Follow Ruby's fun in the newsletter, on the Puppet bulletin board, and on Instagram @puppets-and-the-little-things or #rubysroadtrip #sharinggodslve #puppets (of course, the hashtags will get you a lot more than just our funzel Ruby.)



Later the Master...sent them ahead of him...to every town and place where he intended to go. "The one who listens to you,

listens to me. The one who rejects you, rejects me. And rejecting me is the same as rejecting God, who sent me." Luke 10:1&16

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.

- Sharon Horton
- Earl Baucom
- Jan Nielsen
- Brittany Bascom
- Jeff Fuhrer
- Played ice hockey in high school
- Played Mother Ginger, in a huge dress and a bright red wig, for a regional performance of *The Nutcracker*
- Was once a calf's punching bag
- Used to accompany the St John Junior Choir on the piano
- Was employed as a corn detasseler for their first job

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

Dorene Glynn has been kissed by a camel.

Devon McLinn lived on a sailboat for the first 9 months of his life.

Ellen Baucom worked as a reporter for the local paper reporting real estate transactions and deaths.

Paul Haugsjaa chased parts for a Ford dealership as a first job.

Mike McLinn road tripped across the United States on a motorcycle.



CROP WALK and the St John Step-Ups NEED YOU!

CROP WALK for the Hungry: The 42nd Annual CROP Walk for the Hungry will take place in Concord on **Sunday, October 23**. The 2 ¼ mile Walk kicks off at 2:15 pm from First Parish Church, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA. Participating walkers can enjoy the autumn beauty of some of Concord's most historic country roads, as they walk to raise money for the hungry of local communities and around the world. Come early at 1:30-2:00 pm to register and enjoy music by the Concord Carlisle High School Pep Band.

Local funds raised will be allocated to nine area community supper/pantry hunger programs: Open Table; the Community Supper/Food Pantry in Acton; Mt. Calvary Community Supper in Acton; the Sudbury Community Food Pantry; the Maynard Food Pantry; the Bedford Community Table/Pantry; Loaves and Fishes in Groton; Westminster Community Food Pantry; and also to Gaining Ground. In addition, the CROP Walk funds go to Church World Service for worldwide emergency relief of disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, and for fighting the root causes of hunger through community development programs in 30 underdeveloped countries.

For more details, see the CWS web site: www.cwsglobal.org and the Concord area CROP Walk web site: www.concordcrop.org.

To join our St John Step-Ups team, please contact Michelle Rose at mrose@stjohnsudbury.org or 508-320-7245 or register with our team at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/teams?event=concordma>.

We look forward to building community as we walk together and sharing with our community as we raise money to feed our neighbors.



SUPPORT OUR TEAM!

CROPWALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER
23RD AT 2:15 PM
CONCORD CENTER

CROPWALK BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

DURING COFFEE HOUR

BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE AND
FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR WALKING
TEAM!

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT MICHELLE ROSE MROSE@STJOHNSUDBURY.ORG





Volunteers Needed

**To decorate your car for our
Trunk or Treat Event**

Oct 29 Saturday 3-5

at

St. John Lutheran Church

**Email: mrose@stjohnsudbury.org
for more details**



MASKS ARE NOW OPTIONAL DURING WORSHIP — WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

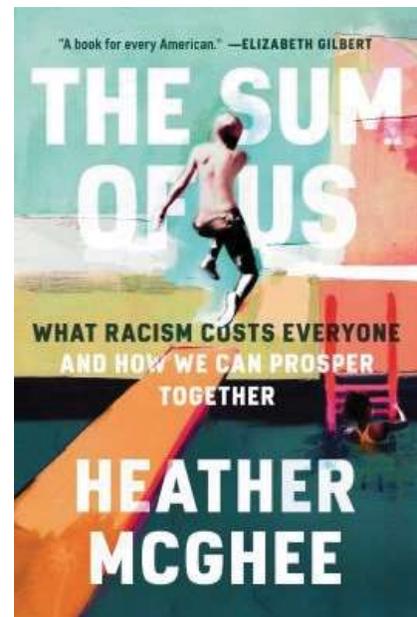
After much deliberation and deep consideration, the Church Council voted to repeal our mask mandate effective immediately. While many of us find this to be a reason to celebrate one of the last barriers to returning to life as we'd like it, it's also the case that this decision will make many nervous. I want to share with you that our council agreed that whether someone chooses to mask or not, that choice is respected and honored.

The Council discerned that the best way to implement this policy is to reserve 25% of the sanctuary for those who would like to continue wearing their masks for whatever reason, cold and flu season among them. In doing so, our goal was to respect each family's ability to determine their own risk tolerance and health concerns as they make this decision for their household.

So know that Mask Optional Worship means that we've worked hard and used all available wisdom and data to find the best way forward that we can currently manage. We're looking forward to seeing your face in worship, with or without a mask!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Eric

***Save the Date:
Social Justice
Book Discussion
The Sum of Us
by Heather McGhee
Tues Sept. 27th
at 7:00pm via Zoom***



Let's Enjoy God's World Together

Grab your hiking boots (or just a comfy pair of walking shoes), caps, and bug spray, and join us for a family-friendly Creation Hike after church and lunch on Sunday, October 16th. Our trail is still to be determined, but it will be nearby and provide an easy hike and opportunity to appreciate God's autumn world. If you would like to join us, please email Michelle Rose at mrose@stjohnsudbury.org so we can make sure you know the details.



Indigenous Peoples' Day Weekend

Sunday, October 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

[The Old North Church 193 Salem Street, Boston](#)

Service of Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Canon Cornelia Eaton, Guest Preacher



Monday, October 10, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. (doors open at 10:30 a.m.)

Registration required. <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=s4blzzbab&oeidk=a07ejc90hz1d16c469f>

[Christ Church 149 Court Street, Plymouth](#)

Symposium, Lunch, and Special Service of Lament and Commitment

Please join the Right Reverend Alan M. Gates, Bishop Diocesan of Massachusetts, the Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan of Massachusetts, the Right Reverend Douglas John Fisher, Bishop Diocesan of Western Massachusetts, special guest the Reverend Canon Cornelia Eaton of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland, and Indigenous leaders from the Commonwealth.

This event is free of charge. To make a donation visit this website: <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1409645>

Designation "Immigration/Multicultural Ministries"



The Rev. Canon Cornelia Eaton served in many lay positions in the Episcopal Church prior to being ordained to the priesthood on February 7, 2015. She is currently the canon to the ordinary for the Episcopal Church in Navajoland. Cornelia is dedicated to serving the beloved people of God and to encouraging the laity to have active roles in the life of the Church, believing that we all live into our baptismal covenant. She enjoys sharing God's love, hope, and grace with all of God's people through Holy Scripture and Navajo spirituality of Hozhó—Peace and Beauty Way. She is a storyteller and a writer of poetry with a particular focus on the Navajo way of life known as lina Biké Hozhó—being in harmony with divine creation through spirituality, culture, tradition, and relationship. She has deep love and appreciation for the outdoors and enjoys mountain biking, fly-fishing, camping, hiking, and tending to her family sheep camp.

For more information: <https://www.diomass.org/event/2022-indigenous-peoples-day-gathering>



Episcopal Diocese
of Massachusetts

Sponsored by the Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries of the Diocese of Massachusetts, together with the Racial Justice Commission of the Diocese of Massachusetts, the Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and the Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network of the Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts.



COLLECTING DIAPERS SUNDAY SEPT. 25 and OCTOBER 2,

DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK is September 25th to October 2nd. Do you know:

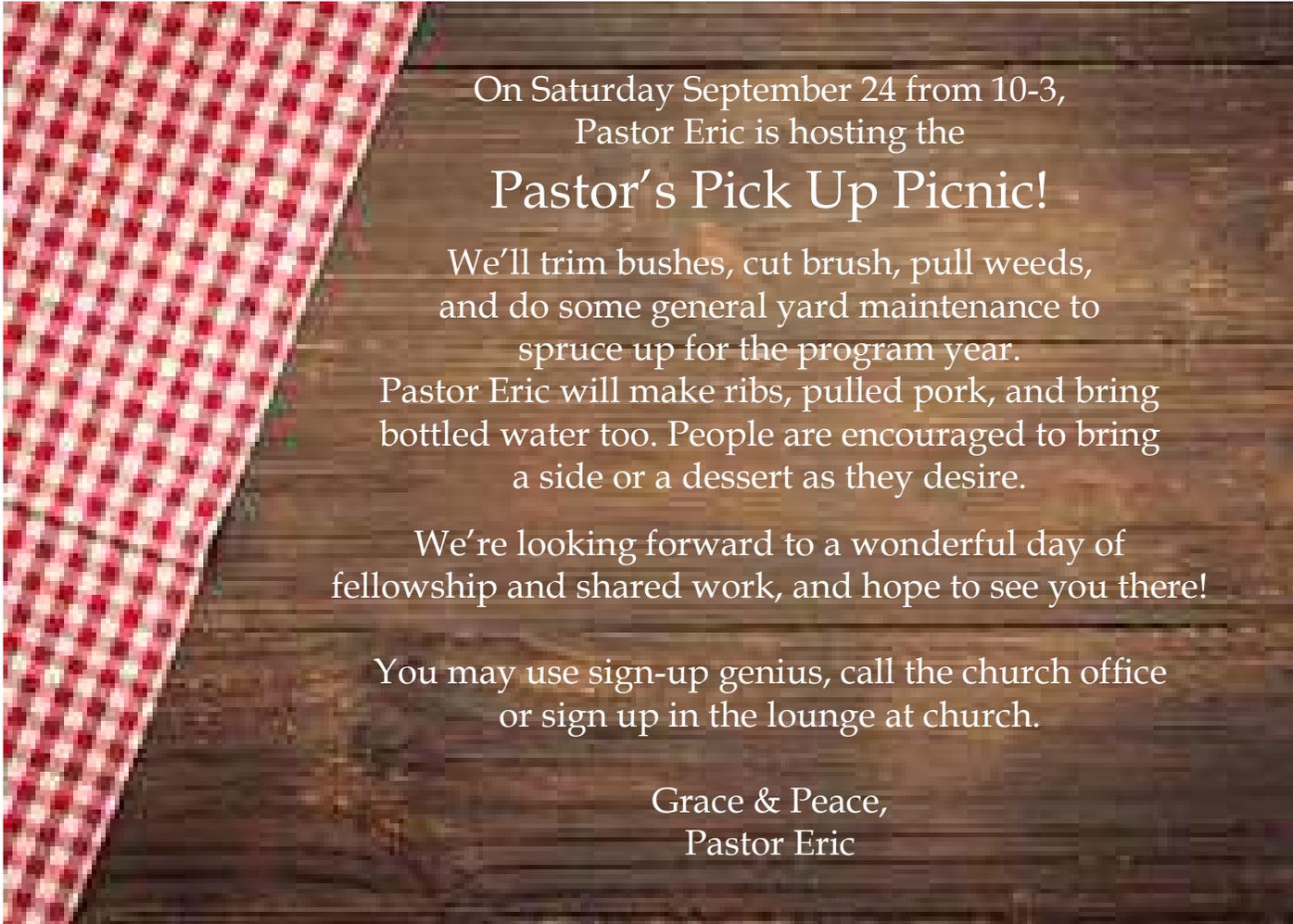
- Many Metrowest families struggle to buy diapers--up to 3,000 families in Natick and Framingham alone.
- A family needs up to \$80 a month for diapers per child—an average of 50 diaper changes per week over 3 years.
- Government programs don't cover the cost of diapers.
- Many parents are forced to re-use diapers or leave their child in a soiled diaper longer than appropriate. This can adversely affect the health and welfare of infants, toddlers and their families.
- Many families have to decide between food, medicine, and clean babies.
- Without diapers, babies cannot attend daycare or early childhood programs.

In 2021, The Diaper Project at A Place To Turn distributed 121,900 diapers to financially stressed families. Let's help provide Metrowest families in financial distress with diapers for their infants and toddlers to keep them clean, dry, and healthy.

You can donate three ways. On Sunday, September 25 and Sunday October 2, please bring a package of diapers to church--sizes 4, 5 and 6 are in high need. Opened packages your child has outgrown are fine. You can also order diapers online and have them delivered to The Diaper Project, c/o Eve Benda, 11 Clemmons St., Southboro, MA 01772. To make a financial contribution, donate on the A Place To Turn website and note in the comment section "Restricted to The Diaper Project" and the name of our church.

Let's help keep babies clean, dry, and healthy!

For further information, contact Eve Benda, Coordinator, Diaper Project at A Place To Turn, 508-872-7125.



On Saturday September 24 from 10-3,
Pastor Eric is hosting the
Pastor's Pick Up Picnic!

We'll trim bushes, cut brush, pull weeds,
and do some general yard maintenance to
spruce up for the program year.
Pastor Eric will make ribs, pulled pork, and bring
bottled water too. People are encouraged to bring
a side or a dessert as they desire.

We're looking forward to a wonderful day of
fellowship and shared work, and hope to see you there!

You may use sign-up genius, call the church office
or sign up in the lounge at church.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Eric

ALTAR GUILD OPPORTUNITIES!

did you know...

There are some fantastic opportunities waiting just for you at St John.
[The Altar Guild](#) is comprised of a team of dedicated volunteers who
show up weekly to prepare our sanctuary for worship.

? Weekly! 🧑‍🤝‍🧑

No one ever shows up every week! We work in teams consisting of 2
people. We are only expected to prepare the sanctuary for worship
once every 6 weeks or so depending on how many teams we have.



? Requirements ?

Anyone can apply...male, female, student with your parent...

? I don't know how to do this ...

No problem! We are blessed to have a dedicated team who would
love to have the opportunity to show you the ropes. The more team
members we have the better.

APPLY HERE!

(please fill out and place in the offering plate)

Name _____
Contact information _____
Instrument _____



did you know...

St John is blessed to have not 1 but 2 renowned musicians in our midst. We have Bart Dahlstrom on our bench (that's how those "in the know" refer to the organ). Ben Perry is our talented choir & hand bell master! You should take advantage of his skills as a member of his team. Not only is Bart a gifted organist but he is also a fabulous accompanist. He has worked with several St John members who play other instruments and you could be next!

? What..you say you don't know what you would do ?

not a problem...Bart has worked with many instrumentals! Violins, Cellos, saxophone, trumpet, oboe, piano....the list goes on and on. Ben has worked with our choirs and offers expert vocal training to those who participate. Participation in the music program is a unique opportunity for you to not only give of yourself to our community but you will receive so much in return - great friendships & unequaled music education.