

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 5, 2021

FELLOWSHIP EVENT **TONIGHT**: MARCH 5TH, 7:30 PM

Are you feeling like this cold, isolated winter will never end?
Do you need a little extra joy and warmth for the final push to spring?

You are not alone! Please join us for a **virtual** cocktail-making lesson and conversation. On the menu is the cold-weather favorite, the Hot Toddy, and it's lesser known, non-alcoholic cousin, the Hot Voddy.

Laura Kennedy will lead us through the basic recipes for both, and the endless possibilities of variations on this time-trusted, cold-busting drink. She will also share some of the touted health benefits and the interesting history of the drink.

If you'd like to participate in the drink-making, come prepared with the basic ingredients and your favorite mug. You are also welcome to just cozy up and join in for the conversation!

Basic Ingredients:

Toddy: Whiskey, Rum, or Brandy
(your preference);
lemon wedges, cinnamon stick,
honey, hot water.

Voddy: Hot water or tea,
lemon wedges, cinnamon stick,
whole clove, honey.
(Optional additions may include
apple cider or apple slices,
ground ginger or ginger root,
turmeric)



Visit our YouTube Channel
All of our worship videos
are available to watch at
our YouTube channel.

Find us at:
St John Lutheran Sudbury.



Check us out!
@stjohnsudbury

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

BEYOND OUR SHELF LIFE

Some things can sit there forever on our shelves, and we can be fairly certain that whatever the expiration date was, it's probably still fresh enough. (I'm looking at you, Twinkies.) There are other things, like avocados, that have about a 45 second window of usable time moving from unripe to overripe and decomposing.

Other than Twinkies, food doesn't really fit into this category, but there are some things last forever if we pay them a little attention. I have a carving set that my grandfather gave me when I was a teenager. He made the case for it out of wood, making a spot for the knife, fork, and sharpener to hone the blade before and after use. I've had that set for almost 30 years I guess, and other than a couple stains on the handles teaching me that these knives aren't meant for the dishwasher, I expect I can hand it over in time to my daughter in about the same condition in which I received it.

Relationships are paradoxically like both of these.

If we ignore or treat them improperly, they have a vanishingly brief shelf life. When rot sets in it can be challenging or almost impossible to remove. If we're careful with the people in our lives, our relationships can last a lifetime and bless everyone around them for generations to come. Families tend to not remember people all that well, and all but the most powerful personalities and most engaging family stories don't last longer than a generation or two. In a job setting, perhaps there's a little more longevity for a few because their name is synonymous with the product itself, like Gates, Jobs, Ford, or Mr. Twinkie. Even those are few and far between, relatively.

In our national conversation, there are a lot more names we recall because we learn those names early on. It's interesting to dive deep into someone's life story and see how our assumptions about them are influenced by those who told us the story, and how different that can be than both the historical accounts of their accomplishments and what their contemporaries said about them. Even more interesting is to see what they say about themselves in an autobiography, and compare it to what others think about them and to their legacy. Mostly though, we find that our assumptions about the heroes of history are little more than caricatures that don't even scratch the surface of the complexity of their lived human experience.

Our experience with faith can be like this, too.

Growing up in the Lutheran tradition, I assumed everyone else was essentially the same as our congregation in terms of how they worshiped and how their community interacted. My home congregation was vibrant and active, people were engaged, and we really enjoyed being around each other. I heard from others that their congregation wasn't the same way, and I didn't really understand how fundamentally different congregations could be until I began seminary and was exposed to a lot of them as a supply preacher, and finally served a congregation on internship and then as a pastor. All of these experiences were so different.

It wasn't until I served the synod that I realized something important about congregational life: congregations are like individual people. Each one has their own personality, their own rhythm of life, things they will and won't do or try, things they like and dislike. Even though the individual people in them might be as different as can be, when we get together in a community, something about us shifts into place and we each fill our role in the community. I've seen people who are mentally healthy and flexible project the dysfunction of their congregational system, and people who I may otherwise believe to be nuts operate with a surprising sanity in healthy congregations.

We make this assumption about how we interact as individuals about our faith as well, and I learned that my assumption that growing up “Lutheran” meant that I understood what I needed to know about what that means and what it means to be Christian was called into question when I was a young adult, and all my Sunday School faith had long sat on a dusty shelf outliving its shelf life. I needed a new faith, a new conception of God, a new understanding of what it means to be Lutheran and Christian — of what it means to be human.

I learned something that I hold onto during that time, people who are new to the faith need people who have been around awhile to help them learn the stability that comes from lifelong experience, and people who have been in the faith a long time need the authenticity and intensity that comes from finding it new as a teen or adult. People who didn't grow up in the Church often know more about our traditions and the Christian life than those of us who did. I often tell people that my wife is a better Lutheran than I've ever been! Having grown up PenteBaptist, she had to figure out what these Lutherans are all about in a way that I never did.

Good things can last forever with proper care and attention. I pray you find the space to care for what's important this week.

Grace & Peace,
PEW

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours for the next 2 weeks will be condensed. Valerie is out recovering from surgery , expecting to return on March 22. Gracious volunteers are covering the phones weekdays from 9 am -12 pm and will be here if you need to drop off or pick up something. Thank you to Christine Barilone, Kathy Menzel, Mildred Cheung, Dorene Glynn and Maddy LaCure for helping out during this time.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Rachel Florey	Brian	Bill Moldwin
Regina Mueller	Johnny	Wendy
Richard	David Donnelly	Christopher Miller
Brian Young	Trish Sarvela Leiva	Alexis Marsh
Robin Hartford	Brennan McGinnis	Paul Simeone
Pat Quinn	Patricia Jolou	John Duane
Rhonda Tibbetts	Ruth Avery	Jim Hansgate
Charlotte McNeil	Janice Potter	Ron Rakowsky
Isla Rose Kelley	Norma Duane	Pam McKay
June Carins	Dave Weber	Peter Kindem
Steven Greene	Erica Kivimaki	Joan Western
The Stamos Family (bereavement)		Arline Quinn
Jim Gronemeyer	Liz Tolbert	Valerie Ripley



ON-CALL PASTOR

A thank you to the Rev'd Barbara Smith-Moran who will be our "on-call pastor" from March 1 to March 15 available for emergencies at 617-791-7919

MARCH 11TH AT 11:00 AM – ZOOM MEETING TO DISCUSS RACE, RACISM, AND ANTIRACISM.

Our group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 11:00 AM for informal, unstructured discussion about books, ideas, and experiences touching on race, racism, and antiracism.

Please join us.

If you do not receive a ZOOM invitation email prior to the meeting time, please contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044. And, if you need help connecting to the ZOOM meeting, let Jan know; she will help you.

Jan Nielsen
978-549-3044



*All Meetings 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)*

- March 5th - 7:30 pm - 7:30 Virtual Cocktail Hour
- March 7th - 10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation
 - 11:00 am - Pre-K-Gr 3 Sunday School
 - 11:45 am - Grade 4/5 Sunday School
 - 2:00 pm - Bible Study (Previous Thursday am Group)
 - 6:00 pm - Confirmation
- March 8th - 10:00 am - Seniorcise
- March 9th - Seniors on the Go Book Group (Jan's Zoom)
- March 10th - 10:00 am - Seniorcise
 - 6:00 pm Outreach
- March 11th - 11:00 am - Racism/Anti-racism Group (Jan's Zoom)
- March 12th - 10:30 am - Senior Ministry Meeting
 - 7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
- March 14th - 10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation
 - 11:00 am - Pre-K-Gr 3 Sunday School
 - 11:45 am - Grade 4/5 Sunday School
 - 2:00 pm - Bible Study (Previous Thursday am Group)
 - 6:00 pm - Confirmation

ZOOM Meeting Login information

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

Meeting ID: 978 443 8350
(or call in 1-312-626-6799)

ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR MARCH 9TH

Please join us!!!

We will have a ZOOM book club meeting on Tuesday, March 9th at 11:00 AM for just a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On March 16th, we will discuss "Masked Prey" by John Sandford.

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

March 16, 2021, "Masked Prey" by John Sandford
April 20, 2021, "Girl in Translation" by Jean Kwok
May 18, 2021, "A Children's Bible" by Lydia Millet

EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Sunday School

3/7/21	Family Sunday School Salt and Light	11:00 AM	For all Grades
3/14/21	Palm Sunday Lesson	11:00 AM	Prek-3
		11:45 AM	Grades 4-6
3/21/21	Lesson to be determined!		

Confirmation

3/7/21	Saints and Sinners No Family Confirmation
-	Just regular class
3/14/21	The Church
3/21/21	Freedom of a Christian

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY-TEXAS STORM AID

The town of Allen, Texas dropped to -2°F during the second week of February. On February 22, it was 70°F . In that time the entire state of Texas was brought to its knees with massive power, gas, and water shutdowns. A friend of St. John, the Reverend Gordon Illausky of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Allen described the immediate needs around him; vulnerable residents in normal times needing food to make it through the month were impacted with the chaos of COVID, then hit again with brutal weather and infrastructure failure. Food insecurity overlaid with broken pipes created uninhabitable living conditions. Allen averted widespread water pollution but many families were impacted.

Your Outreach Ministry after talking with Gordon, is making a contribution to Allen Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry, supported by Christ the Servant Church and 3 other area churches. AMA Food Pantry is 100% volunteer run, not supported by food banks, and every dollar goes to distressed families. They are open 5 days/week, occupy a low rent building and support about 2,000 families/month. Many of you may remember Rev. Gordon, wife Sue and daughter Heather from the 18 years they were active members of St John. He has been the Pastor at Christ the Servant for 14 years.

Should you wish to support Allen Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry with your personal donation, please make your check payable to St. John Lutheran Church with "Allen Ministerial Alliance Food Panty" in the memo line. We will aggregate all similar donations and send these to Rev. Illausky's church in Allen, TX.

Alternatively, the ELCA is asking us to respond to Texas storms through Lutheran Disaster Relief. Outreach is making a contribution to LDR as well. We encourage you to consider this avenue if you wish to donate through ELCA, making your check payable to St. John Lutheran Church with "ELCA U.S. Severe Storms" in the memo line. We will aggregate all similar donations directly to the ELCA.

Thank you.

KNITTING/SEWING GROUP VIA ZOOM

7:30 PM
FRIDAYS!
NOT MEETING 3/5



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION VIA ZOOM

10:00 AM
SUNDAYS





SAVE THE DATE! *Family Promise Metrowest* is reimagining our annual Walk for the Weekend of May 1 & 2 in your town, and we need you to be a part of the weekend to make it a success.

Family Promise Metrowest depends on you and this fun, annual, friends-and-family event to fund our programs. Because of the outpouring of support from our community last year, *we were able to help change the future for 50 families including 89 children.*

Here are the details:

2021 Walk for Change...Help us change the future of families facing homelessness

- Where:** *Your town (pick your route!)*
When: *May 1 or May 2, 2021 (your choice of day and time!)*
Who: *Your family, friends, club, or congregation (pick your pod!)*
How: *Registration opens March 15*
www.familypromisemetrowest.org

We are hoping that all 50 congregations in our Network will form teams, take lots of photos of everyone walking, and post them on Facebook or Instagram! Visit our website to get some ideas for family-friendly activities leading up to the weekend of May 1 and for your walk.

Also, everyone will need to follow state guidelines for COVID-19 safety at that time (for example, masking and social-distancing).

We need you this year. ***If you can't walk --- no problem!*** Please consider a donation to our Campaign of Change and help us change the future of families facing homelessness.

Another way you can support our mission: Check out our [Raffle for Change](#) for a chance to win the following prizes:

FIRST PLACE: \$2,500 cash prize.

SECOND PLACE: "Refresh Your Room" prize package. This package includes a two-hour consultation with interior designer Susan Burt; a \$300 gift card to Debsan's Decorating Store in Natick; a \$250 gift card to Home Goods/Home Sense; and professional painting services for one room, donated by Dimensions 3D.

THIRD PLACE: "Rejuvenate Your Garden" prize package. This package includes a one-hour consultation with landscape designer Catherine Volic, owner of Sweetgum Horticulture, and a \$500 gift card to purchase plants or landscape supplies.