

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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February 19, 2021

MT. CALVARY COMMUNITY SUPPER - MARCH 24, 2021 - SPONSORED BY ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider volunteering for this wonderful service provided by Mt. Calvary in Acton, MA.

Needed: 4 volunteers (total 6) to pack the meal in disposable containers;
2:45 pm - 4:00 pm.
2 volunteers (total 4) to distribute the meals to guests outside;
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm.

To sign up please email Outreach Committee member Christine Barilone (rbarilone@hotmail.com). Sign up deadline is Sunday, March 14, 2021. If you have questions about the Mt. Calvary Community Supper please email LaNette Sunnquist bsunnquist@msn.com or Jillian Oman jillian.oman@gmail.com

If you are not familiar with Community Supper, they use to have a sit-down meal in their Fellowship Hall. However, now because of Covid, the guests drive through their parking lot and are given their meal, dessert, and other donations through their car window. Everyone is masked, gloved and follows all social distancing guidelines.

When they started this Covid process in March, 2020 they were serving about 80 meals. However, now they are serving almost 200 meals each week! It just shows how much of a need there is in these times of uncertainty. They have not missed a week since the beginning of COVID and have very stringent procedures in place to ensure the safety of the volunteers as well as the clients.



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
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Sudbury, Ma 01776
978-443-8350
www.stjohnsudburyma.org

COMPLICATED LEGACIES

Rush Limbaugh died.

I need to say up front that I don't intend this to be a political piece, rather reflective of the complicated legacy Limbaugh has in my own life. Complicated, because he was an outsized figure during my teenage and young adult years. I listened to him for years when I was more conservative in my thinking, and found him hilarious. To be utterly candid, I still find his Animal Rights Update theme song, Born Free with the sound of artillery shells in the background, one of the funniest radio bits I've heard because I heard it as a young teenager. Perhaps my middle school humor hasn't changed all that much even though my ideology has.

As my own opinions evolved and I moved away from humor that's harmful to people, I grew to dislike the antagonism as entertainment-based political conversation. I stopped listening to his radio show and liked his product less and less. Over the last several years, I've developed a deep distaste for him because his brand of entertainment contributed to the collapse of civil discourse by making enemies of fellow Americans as his formerly humorous tirades became embittered partisan rants. He's not alone in this effort, and though I typically reject the "both sides" arguments because it shifts accountability in ways I dislike, the Republicans certainly cannot claim sole ownership of the rhetorical venom over the last three decades by themselves, even though Conservative talk radio certainly perfected it.

And...

And, he's a human being.

And, Rush Limbaugh is a child of God. If he was a man of faith, and I have no idea, it's safe to assume that he's a lamb of Christ's own flock and a sinner of Christ's own redeeming.

And, if I stand against making opposing viewpoints the enemy, I have to recognize that there are things he's said that have value, even if occasionally or accidentally.

And...

We all leave complicated legacies.

It's Ash Wednesday today.

I confess that I am captive to Sin and cannot free myself. I have sinned against God in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved God with my whole heart, and I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I have done my share of perfecting the art of my own rhetorical venom and perpetuating my own broken ways of thinking that make enemies of people God commands me to love.

I'm contemplating the words I'll say this evening to my wife and not-yet-three-year-old daughter: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" — words that I hope most of you will take the opportunity to say as you use your home ash kit provided to our families.

In the cinematic masterpiece History of the World, Part I by Mel Brooks, I recall there was a man trailing a conquering general on his way to address Caesar repeating, "Remember, thou art mortal. Remember, thou art mortal". This is what I'm contemplating today regarding Limbaugh: his outsized bombastic personality is contained in the same resilient fragility of mortal flesh shared by all living things, seen and unseen, as we all are being created by God.

During Lent this year, my discipline is to learn to love people for who they are.

I will learn to love their smoothness and roughness, their flaws and failings, their woundedness and their pointy edges that wound me. I will learn to love those who love and hate me. I will learn to see God in those who reflect the Gospel and those who reflect what I see that stands in opposition to what I believe. I will love the haters and the lovers.

This is the love of God, a love large enough to love everyone, no matter how complicated their legacy.

Grace & Peace,

PEW

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION VIA ZOOM

10:00 AM
SUNDAYS



KNITTING/SEWING GROUP VIA ZOOM

7:30 PM
EVERY FRIDAY!



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Rachel Florey	Brian	Bill Moldwin
Joe Jackson	Regina Mueller	Johnny
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
Wendy		



EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Sunday School

Confirmation

2/21/21	Prayer/The Lord's Prayer	11:00 AM	PreK-Gr 3	2/21/21	The Cross
		11:45 AM	Gr 4 & 5	2/28/21	Law and Gospel
2/28/21	Healings	11:00 AM	PreK-Gr 3	3/7/21	Saint and Sinner
		11:45 AM	Gr 4 & 5		No Family Confirmation
3/7/21	Family Sunday School Salt and Light	11:00 AM	For all Grades	-	Just regular class

**FEBRUARY 25TH AT 11:00 AM
– ZOOM MEETING TO DIS-
CUSS 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

**SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 23RD AT 7:00PM
INEQUALITY OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PRESENTATION**

Join St. John, Trinity, and members of the New England Synod for a presentation and discussion led by our very own Jeff Furher! This discussion will focus on the dramatic inequality of economic opportunity in the US, contrary to our aspiration to be a land of opportunity. First, we will examine the history and data documenting the racial disparities in income and wealth. Next, we will examine candidate explanations for the wealth gap, considering the extent to which current income, education levels, homeownership, or savings proclivities (among others) can explain the wealth gap. We will conclude that none of these factors provide adequate explanations, and then examine the structural, institutional, decades-long discrimination that has produced the wealth gap. Finally, we will discuss potential solutions, and leave plenty of time for Q&A.

Join us on Zoom at <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87589409836>

(Note: this is not the St. John account so please use the above Zoom information)

**I CARE INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACIAL EQ-
UITY: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021 AT 3:30PM**

Join St. John Lutheran Church and communities of faith in Sudbury for a continued conversation on race, racism, and the call to action for racial justice and equity in our communities. We will discuss how race and racism have impacted members of our community and brainstorm action steps we can take together as communities of faith. Join us on Sunday, February 28th from 3:30pm - 5:00pm via Zoom here:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9784438350>

ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR FEBRUARY 23RD

Please join us!!!

We will have a ZOOM book club meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd 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

THANK YOU

The Stewardship Ministry is grateful for the giving spirit of our St. John Family! Your generous gifts of time and talent, and finances have supported our transition to living out our mission and faith during a global pandemic. It has helped us to grow and serve in many new ways! With the gift of technology and members who have freely given their time and talents in this area, we now have a vibrant and engaging online community and ministry.

We thank you for your pledges and financial support. If you have not yet pledged, please consider offering this gift by completing a pledge card online (go to: www.stjohnsudbury.org/pledge or by sending a pledge card to the church office. As we anticipate with excitement gathering in-person once again, your pledges support St. John's mission and ministry, and helps us to share and grow together in our faith.

Look out for a mailing with information about giving of your time and talents – now and in the future.

The goal of our Stewardship Ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.

Annual Giving Commitment

You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:11

\$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Yearly

Your planned giving may be revised as necessary during the year.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
stjohnsudbury.org (978) 443-8350

Please mail or return this card to the Church Office.

FROM THE STAFF...

To the thoughtful and caring St. John congregation, thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. With the ongoing pandemic and so much going on around us, this was truly unexpected and a total surprise. I hope and pray that everyone remains healthy and safe and look forward to the time when we can meet "normally" again in church.

With hope, love and blessings, Ron

To my St. John Family,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. With everything that is going on, the thoughtfulness is especially appreciated. I am grateful for the phone calls, emails and 'waves from afar' that we have, I am really looking forward to the time when we can be back in the building together.

Peace and Blessings to you all, Valerie

Thank you so very much for remembering me this holiday season. I truly appreciate your kindness and generosity, and feel blessed to continue to work with this church community.

Wishing you all the best for a happy and healthy 2021!

Fondly, Amie Alzapiedi

It is with a very grateful heart that I say thank you for the generous gift! I did not expect it and am touched that the congregation acknowledged my work and position throughout the pandemic. I miss my ministry as a staff person, but am blessed to be a member of this community. I truly look forward to the time when we can meet in person again, but until then we are still church.

God's blessings Karen

SAVE THE DATE

*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)*

February 19th - 7:30 pm - Knitting Group

February 21st - 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

February 22nd - 10:00 am - Seniorise

February 23rd - 11:00 am - Seniors of the Go Book Group

- 7:00 pm - Discussion: Inequality of Economic Opportunity

February 24th - 10:00 am - Seniorise

February 25th - 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Race and Antiracism

February 26th - 7:30 pm - Knitting

February 28th - 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)

- 3:30 pm - Sudbury Clergy Event

-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)

Dear St. John Members,

I would like to express my gratitude for the recent Christmas gift from the members of St. John. As I am sure you know, the music industry was hit hard by Covid-19, and many musicians are out of work. I feel grateful to have kept my position here and to have had the opportunity to make music, even virtually, with dedicated singers and bell ringers. This gift came at the perfect time, and I can't thank you all enough.

-Ben

Dear St. John community:

Thank you so much for the unexpected monetary gift in my last paycheck. And thank you even more for your continued support and encouragement during the past most memorable year. And thank you most of all for singing along with the hymns each Sunday!

Bart