

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Organist: Bart Dahlstrom (organist@stjohnsudbury.org)

July 7, 2022

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

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|---------|---|
| July 8 | 5:30 pm - Flashy BBQ
7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group |
| July 10 | 9:30 am - Worship (In-person) |
| July 11 | 10:00 am - Seniorcise |
| June 12 | 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group
7:30 pm - Youth and Family Meeting |
| July 13 | 10:00 am - Seniorcise |
| July 14 | 10:30 am - Bible Study
4:00 pm - Discussion Group on Race/Anti-Racism |
| July 15 | 7:30 pm - Knitting Group |
| July 17 | 9:30 am - Worship (In-person)
10:30 am - Creation Hike |
| July 18 | 10:00 am - Seniorcise |
| July 19 | 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group |
| July 20 | 10:00 am - Seniorcise
7:30 pm - Council Meeting |
| July 21 | 10:30 - Bible Study |
| July 22 | 7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group |
| July 24 | 9:30 am - Worship (In-person) |

Login information

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

Meeting ID: 978 443 8350

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



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

JULY 14TH, 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 or 978-549-3044.

NEW ARRIVAL

We celebrate the birth of Charlotte Elizabeth Tully on June 14th. Charlotte is the daughter of Annie (Keto) and Ryan Tully, the granddaughter of Paul Keto and the great-granddaughter of the late Neil and Charlotte Keto. Congratulations to all!



ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR JULY 12TH AND JULY 19TH

Please join us!!!

ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tuesdays, July 12th and July 19th, at 11:00 AM.

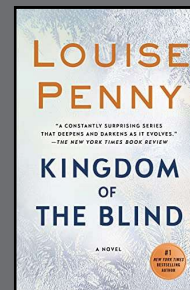
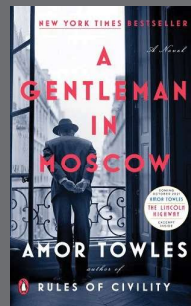
July 12th will be a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On July 19th, we will discuss “A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles.

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

Next books:

July 19, 2022, “A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles
August 16, 2022, “Gold Diggers” by Sanjena Sathian



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Brian Young
Norma Duane
Liz Tolbert
Ruth Avery
Wendy
Ann Kirk
Claudine
George Stanley
Wanda Miller
Pastor Ivan Bepalov (in Kyiv)
Mark Sarvela
Bob

Christopher Miller
John Duane
Rhonda Tibbetts
Bill Davis
Jan Nielsen
Judy
Meg Davis
Ed Holmgren
The Rev. Tim Stein
Christine Carosella
Scott

Charles Miller
Helen Williams
Alexis Marsh
Janice Potter
Marilyn Kunelius
Carolyn Sweeney
Joan LeDuc
Gus Sullivan
Barbara Locke
Rick Sarvela
Janet Erb
Sedona



MORE THAN ASPIRATIONS

As we near July Fourth, I find myself reflecting a lot on the meaning of the day. It means many things to people who reside within these borders.

This year, I find myself preoccupied with rulings by the Supreme Court, Cassidy Hutchinson's testimony under oath before the January 6th Committee, and in particular the words of Vice Chair of the January 6th Committee Rep. Liz Cheney.

I'm thinking of her words, because she speaks with the voice of the Republican party I remember in my youth. I was just a child when I remember President Reagan speaking of us being a shining city on a hill; when George HW Bush spoke about us being a thousand points of light back in the days when we had the luxury of *The Simpsons* being the most offensive thing many adults worried about. All us kids laughed about Barbara Bush going toe to toe with that show.

I'm thinking about Cheney's words, because they currently speak more about the hope of our nation than the fact of our nation. Now you might be asking why I'd speak about these things.

Precisely because the tension between hope and fact is a tension at the heart of the Christian experience and the human experience, not simply our current political reality, it's important to speak of the world we inhabit as plainly as the world for which we hope. When the words *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights* were penned, they were an aspirational address — hope for what we might be, not the fact of who we were or what we held, regardless of the source of its evidence.

Reagan's shining city on the hill was a rhetorical aspiration; the thousand points of light a dream of our best self.

Cheney spoke words to the effect that this is a moment when we abandon political party and become Americans. I'm so drawn to this because I see so very clearly in the Christian tradition the words that call us to our better selves, not on our own behalf, but on behalf of the love endowed by our Creator, that our hearts beat for others because God's heart beats for us all.

We proclaim forgiveness of sins, and though it's real, this is somewhat aspirational, too. We proclaim forgiveness, blessing, healing, hope, relief and release as a means of achieving a foretaste of what will come in its fullness. But that's not really what's so aspirational about our hope in the Christian faith.

Reagan's hope was that somehow we could become that beacon by our own efforts, power, and faithfulness — but it's such a seductive works righteousness that undermines the vision from scriptures of the city on the hill which cannot be hidden. We have hope for what we might work to become in our nation, but the city on the hill in Matthew is already self-evident in its inability to be hidden. It's describing what *is*, not what we hope might be. This is the work of God's love, God's grace, God's hope; God's transformative presence that calls us into life together even as the Senate might rage around us, SCOTUS rulings roar and foam, Presidents come and go, and trials convene and recess. It's not the hope of life that God's grace calls us to. Life in God is life realized. Hope in Christ is hope achieved. God's grace is mercy revealed.

So in a world of aspirations while I find myself preoccupied by all the goings on, I pray that I can instead fix my sight on what is Real.

It's true, these things all matter and we live in a moment that demands our sober attention. It's also true that we don't live for aspirations as God's people, but in the context of promises fulfilled; God with us already.

As Reagan borrowed from Jesus, I'm borrowing it back to say that we at St. John are the city on the hill that cannot be hidden. We are seen, we are known, we are called and commissioned in this community to bear in our hearts and hands the love that God has instilled in us. The question now is, what will we do with it?

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Eric



RUBY'S ROAD TRIP

As we mentioned during the Children's Message this Sunday, Ruby and her Funzel friends will be hitting the road to share God's love wherever she goes. Follow the Funzels' fun in the newsletter, on the Puppet bulletin board, and on Instagram @puppets-and-the-little-things.

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



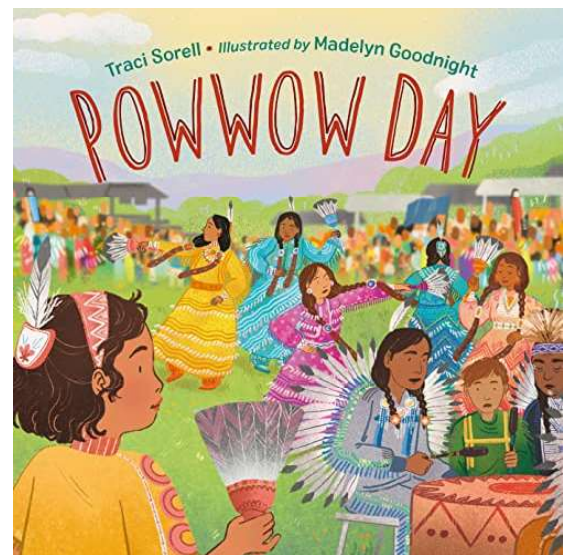
FEATURED CHILDREN'S BOOK FOR JULY

This month's book is *Pow Wow Day* by Traci Sorell and illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight.

Traci Sorell is a member of the Cherokee Nation. Her books present culturally accurate portrayals of Cherokee and Indigenous people, their history and their traditions. In *Pow Wow Day* the author tells the story of a young girl desire to dance at the powwow but is unable as she is recovering from illness and how her friends step up to dance for her; reflecting on how community and culture aid in the healing process.

The illustrator, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, colorfully portrays the people, costumes and dancing at the Pow Wow.

- Mildred Cheung



LET'S ENJOY GOD'S WORLD TOGETHER



Grab your hiking boots (or just a comfy pair of walking shoes) and join us for a family-friendly Creation Hike after church and a snack on Sunday, July 17th. Our trail will be 15 minutes or less from church, and we will announce the hiking spot shortly. If you would like to join us, please email Michelle Rose at mrose@stjohnsudbury.org so we can make sure you know the details.

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.

- Mike Ripley
- Bart Dahlstrom
- Laura Kennedy
- Mike Misslin
- Kathy Menzel
- Was a drum major in the band and plays trombone
- Is a boat captain
- Was a scuba diver in Belize
- Rarely misses yoga class
- Loves to go to rock concerts

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

Lauren Wolf has 2 bachelor's degrees.

Elaine McCann CAN belly dance.

Maddy Rose is a green belt in Jujitsu.

Carrie Stamos is a synchronized swimmer.

Karen LaCure is a rose gardener.



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FUN, FELLOWSHIP, & FOOD
AWAIT YOU AT OUR NEXT
FLASHY BBQS!

FLaSHY is our fun name for the group of people we are trying to bring together: folks with kids in school or younger, folks without kids, or folks who would like to socialize with this group of people.

If you fall into any of those categories, you are invited!

Friday, July 8th 5:30-7 PM
Wednesday, July 27th 5:30-7 PM
Friday, August 12th 5:30-7 PM

St John's Backyard

You bring a side to share (nothing fancy required) and beverages for your family (beer & wine are okay for grown-ups), and burgers (of all kinds) and hotdogs will be provided as well as buns and condiments.

S'mores fixings also provided.

During the months of July and August, we would like to help others benefit from our gatherings.
Please bring family-friendly items for the Food Pantry so we can share our gifts with others.

Share dinner duty with the rest of your St John family while getting to know each other socially
—while the kids play in the yard and connect with their peers too.

Yard games for kids of all ages will be out on the lawn.

FLASHY BBQs are scheduled for the 2nd Friday and 4th Wednesday of each month
through summer and early fall from 5:30-7 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Rose at mrose@stjohnsudbury.org,
(work) 978-443-8350 or (mobile) 508-320-7245.

WELCOME TO OUR ST JOHN FAMILY!

Dan Kramer

It can be hard to catch up with Dan because he is always on the go. Dan grew up in Nebraska and attended Hastings College in Nebraska as well. That is where he met Justin Goettsch and made a lifelong friend and future business partner. While in medical school in Colorado, Dan had the opportunity to intern in Memphis, Tennessee with Dr. Scott Morris at Church Health, the church-based non-profit medical center that Dr Morris developed. This experience shaped Dan's life plan. He hopes to found a church-based non-profit medical center as well. To that end, Dan completed medical school and is a hospitalist, an internal medicine physician who works with Emergency Room patients to admit them for in-patient care at the hospital. Dan is actually a working physician at the Colorado Springs hospital where he did his residency.



During the school year, he is a student at Harvard's Divinity School so that he can provide the faith expertise as well as the medical expertise to realize his goal of creating a Church Health-like program. And this is what brings Dan to us. He resides in Acton, and in-between his divinity studies and trips back to Colorado Springs, Dan enjoys playing golf and pickle ball and reading non-fiction especially books involving evolutionary science—perhaps with his elderly cat Pierce purring nearby.

Justin Goettsch



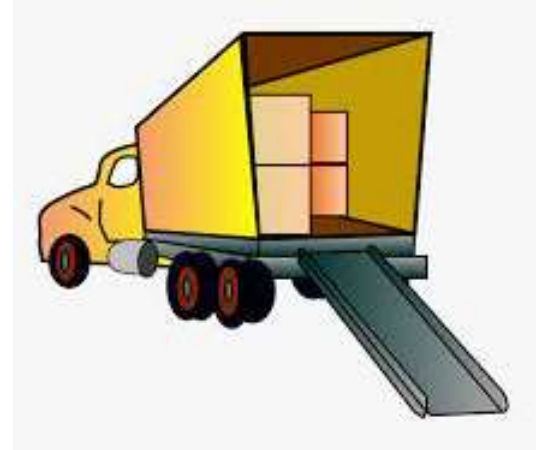
Justin grew up in a small town on the plains in Colorado and enjoying summer vacations spent fishing on lakes in the Rhinelander-area of Wisconsin. After attending Hastings College in Nebraska, where he and Dan met, Justin became a high school math teacher in a town outside of Denver. As college friends do, Dan and Justin kept in touch and Justin shared Dan's vision for creating another Church Health-type program. In working toward that goal, Justin attended the University of Oregon and earned a master's degree in non-profit management. Justin now serves as the Development Director at Fitchburg's The Arc of Opportunity. The Arc creates and supports lifetime opportunities in the community for individuals with disabilities and

their families to reach their fullest potential by providing advocacy, education, employment, residential, and recreational services to enhance quality of life.

In his downtime, Justin likes to travel. Having visited Scotland recently for a friend's wedding, Justin has Greece and Italy topping his list of places to visit. When Justin is closer to home, he enjoys golfing, playing on a local softball league, and his cat Sully.

MISSION MOVES OPPORTUNITIES!

The Mission Moves program is supporting folks in transition with a moving team of volunteers and furniture from Household Goods as they get settled into a new home. In an effort to extend further care and support to the clients, we have started to send a follow up card of well wishes on their new home, including a grocery store gift card to each client. We are seeking donations to support this initiative and would be very grateful for any contributions!



Here is how you can help...

- Donate to support the costs for the rental trucks and moving supplies.
- Volunteer to support with moves one Saturday morning a month. Upcoming moves are scheduled for July 30th and August 27th!

Donations can be made to St. John with the subject line 'Mission Moves Gift Cards' and sent by mail or left in the Social Justice mailbox in the work room. Please contact the Social Justice Ministry at socialjustice@stjohnsudbury.org with any questions! Thank you!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS WANTED!



COFFEE HOUR

We are pleased to announce that Coffee Hour has resumed.

Are you able to host a coffee hour?

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the kiosk in the lounge where you may sign-up to provide approximately 6 dozen goodies and to make the coffee (help is available for coffee instructions). Feel free to partner with someone!