

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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June 11th, 2021

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

- June 20th -9:30 am - Worship at **St. John**  
- 7:30 pm - Pastor Wolf's class - **The World According to John?**
- June 21st -10:00 am - Seniorcise
- June 22nd - 11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group
- June 23rd -10:00 am - Seniorcise  
- 8:00 pm - Newish Parents
- June 24th -10:00 am - Bible Study  
-11:00 am - Racism/Anti-Racism
- June 25th -10:30 am - Senior Ministry Meeting  
- 7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
- June 27th -9:30 am - Worship at **St. John**  
-10:45 am - Congregational Meeting (in-person & Zoom)  
- 7:30 pm - Pastor Wolf's Class - **Now What?**



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

### JOIN US JUNE 27TH FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

This will be in Heritage Hall  
immediately following in-person worship.  
(around 10:45 am)  
You may also attend via Zoom (see login above!)

We will be voting on new Council Members  
so please attend to ensure that your vote is counted!



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](http://www.stjohnsudburyma.org)

## WE WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED!

April 18th - **Lucas Stewart McLinn**, child of Kirsten and Michael McLinn was baptized at St. John on April 18th. Richard and Deborah Sward are Lucas's sponsors. The McLinn family is new to St. John and we are very excited to have them among us!

June 13th - **Matthew James Cunningham**, child of Kirsten (Bean) Cunningham and James Cunningham was baptized at St. John on June 13th. Daniel Bean and Cori Robichaud are Matthew's sponsors. Matthew is a 4th generation member of St. John!



## JUNE 24TH 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.

Please note that we are using the church ZOOM.

Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 978 443 8350  
Passcode: 8350

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

## ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR JUNE 22nd

On Tuesday, June 22nd at 11:00 AM, we will have a ZOOM book club meeting for just a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read. Please join us!!!

Please note that we are using the church ZOOM.

Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 978 443 8350  
Passcode: 8350

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

Next books:

July 20, 2021, "Seven Sisters: Book One" by Lucinda Riley  
August 17, 2021, "Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind" by Ann B. Ross

# PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Rachel Florey

Johnny

David Donnelly

Trish Sarvela Leiva

Paul Simeone

Patricia Jolou

Ruth Avery

Janice Potter

June Carins

Erica Kivimaki

Rev. Angelika Zollfrank

Brian

Wendy

Christopher Miller

Alexis Marsh

Liz Tolbert

John Duane

Jim Hansgate

Ron Rakowsky

Peter Kindem

Bill Davis

Regina Mueller

Richard

Brian Young

Brennan McGinnis

Pat Quinn

Rhonda Tibbetts

Charlotte McNeil

Norma Duane

Steven Greene

Helen Williams



## I REMEMBER

Some days you set out with a plan; other days you set out to find it. Though I'm pretty certain this isn't unique to my vocation, today the plan found me and caught me by surprise.

I've been feeling more passionate about race issues lately, and the last few months it's been ramping up and I could identify that it was because it's nearing the anniversary of the martyrdom and murder of the Emanuel 9,



slain by Dylann Roof (who grew up in an ELCA congregation) six years ago. I forget sometimes what a powerful influence had on my life and sense of vocation, and how heavily it still rests in my heart, pumping blood around it, as it resides in a place all its own.

One reason for this is that I had a loose relationship with Rev. Clementa Pinckney. We'd had three or four conversations during CPE while I was doing my year-long residency and he was doing his summer internship in 2007, and the few times I'd run into him after we always chatted and enjoyed a

few minutes. It wasn't a close relationship, but he always felt familiar. Just about everyone I've heard talk about him said the same thing. It made me realize that I wasn't unique to him, but he was unique to a lot of us. Even in seminary, Clem was a minister among ministers.

I've been fasting this week in honor of the Emanuel 9, and this morning when I looked at the date, I ate my grief. This is common in my family, it's in the jeans. The Emanuel 9 are nine reasons why justice relating to antiracism, gender equality, and full inclusion for LGBTQIA+ persons is such an important part of my life and ministry.

These aren't issues.

These are faces.

They're the faces of people I've known and haven't, attached to names like Clementa Pinckney, Matthew Shepard, and Inez Milholland, who are among countless others who lived and died. Pinckney died for his race, but also for his activism. It's no coincidence that a white supremacist drove from Columbia to Charleston to murder people at Mother Emanuel AME, considered to be one of the pillars of the AME denomination, a destination for those who might lead the Church. Matthew Shepard was murdered for being gay. He wasn't an activist, he was twenty-two — essentially still a kid (with apologies to young adults). Inez Milholland was an activist and is identified as a martyr for the cause of women's suffrage, but no one murdered her; she died young of an infection that went untreated due in part to her schedule.

There's nothing that I do because it's an issue. If you see me advocating for something, it's because I can see the faces. In these faces, I see the face of Christ looking back, convicting me with the words, "whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me".

This is why every year I remember the Emanuel 9, observe the ELCA commemoration of their deaths, and why this morning I broke my fast to eat my grief. It's because in love, we cannot remain unmoved.

Christianity isn't so much about believing things about Jesus, rather it's about believing the things that Jesus taught us about God and each other. In the fullness of Jesus' humanity and divinity, we see what our own full humanity looks like: one that ignores the barriers between us and sees faces beloved by God.

We love murdering people like that.

Grace & Peace, PEW

## THE HISTORICAL LEGACY OF JUNETEENTH

In July of 2020, Massachusetts officials signed into law legislation making Juneteenth an official state holiday here in Massachusetts. As we approach Juneteenth this Saturday June 19th, we wanted to provide some historical background on the significance of this date and encourage reflection on our collective call from God to work towards justice and equity in a world that truly resembles God's love for all.

Below is an excerpt from the National Museum of African American History and Culture's piece titled 'The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth'.

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

As we reflect on the legacy and importance of Juneteenth, may we also reflect deeply on our role as a community of faith to work towards building an anti-racist, just, and equitable world for all God's children.

- Social Justice Ministry Team



***God Who Frees Us, through the death and resurrection of Jesus,  
we see the freedom that comes from your love.  
Though this freedom is the same for each and all of us,  
each and all of us have different experiences of it,  
different expectations of it, different applications of it  
according to our own issues and understandings.  
Help us to hear you and listen,  
to open our hearts and ears to the freedoms  
you give us as you give them  
so we can enjoy your glory as you desire us to experience it.  
In everything we do, help us to be agents of freedom  
in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.***

