

# 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)*  
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*Organist: Bart Dahlstrom (organist@stjohnsudbury.org)*  
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May 14, 2021

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP BEGINS ON PENTECOST, MAY 23 AT 9:30 AM

After much careful consideration and conversation, St. John will gather weekly for in-person worship beginning on Pentecost Sunday! We'll meet in the area near the Memorial Garden and celebrate Communion during worship.

Here are a few things to know:

- **Seating:** Bring a chair, socially distance.
- **Masks** are required.
- **Facilities.** We will have bathrooms available for emergencies.
- **Rain Plan.** In the case of rain we will worship in Heritage Hall which has limited seating capacity. First arrivals will have preference for indoor seating.
- **Special Accommodations:** Please contact the office if you need special accommodations: if you can't carry a chair with you, if you need special assistance, etc.
- **Music:** There will be lyrics in your bulletin, and you may sing. We'll be masked and outdoors so this is allowed.
- **Communion:** All bread will be gluten free rice wafers, option for wine or grape juice.
- **Bring Friends!** Since we're outdoors and it appears that we'll have space for extra, invite your friends to join you for worship!

We can't wait to see you on Pentecost!



Check us out!  
@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

# UPCOMING EVENTS!

## MAY 27TH 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 [jrnienlsen@charter.net](mailto:jrnienlsen@charter.net) or 978-549-3044.



Login information

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

Meeting ID: 978 443 8350

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

May 14th	-7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
May 16th	-10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation' -11:00 am - Sunday School - (Pre-K - Gr3) -11:45 am - Sunday School - (Gr4-Gr6) -6:00 pm - Confirmation -7:30 pm - Class with Pastor Eric- <i>The World According to John-</i>
May 17th	-10:00 am - Seniorcise
May 18th	- 11:00 am -Seniors on the Go Book Group (Jan's Zoom) -7:00 pm - Social Justice Team
May 19th	-10:00 am - Seniorcise -7:30 pm - Council
May 20th	-10:00 am - Bible Study -11:00 am - Racism/Antiracism Group (Jan's Zoom)
May 21st	- 7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
May 23rd	-9:30 am - In-person Worship at St. John -10:30 am - Sunday School - In person -11:45 am - Sunday School - Zoom option -2:00 pm - Sudbury Clergy Sponsored Prayer Service (In person at St. John - see page 7 for details) -6:00 pm - Confirmation -7:30 pm - Class with Pastor Eric- <i>Now What?</i>
May 24th	-10:00 am - Seniorcise
May 25th	-11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group (Jan's Zoom)
May 26th	-10:00 am - Seniorcise -8:00 pm - New(ish) Parents Group
May 27th	-10:00 am - Bible Study
May 28th	-7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group

## ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR MAY 18TH AND MAY 25TH -

Please join us!!!

We will have a ZOOM book club meeting on Tuesday, May 18th at 11:00 AM to discuss "A Children's Bible" by Lydia Millet.

On Tuesday, May 25th 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.

If you do not receive a ZOOM invitation email prior to the meeting time, please contact Jan Nielsen at [jrnienlsen@charter.net](mailto:jrnienlsen@charter.net) or 978-549-3044.

Next books:

June 15, 2021, "Girl, Woman, Other" by Bernardine Evaristo

July 20, 2021, "Seven Sisters: Book One" by Lucinda Riley

## TESTING THE WATERS

I might have some slight resistance to authority.

By slight, I mean there's not really a rule that I haven't considered somehow at least fracturing just because it made me curious just how far it could bend. A friend who was my youth director while I was in high school told me once, "The problem I always had in dealing with you was that you were never really bad, but you were always up to some sort of mischief that toed the line". *Mea culpa*.

For this reason, the confession has always hit me hard, "we confess that we are captive to Sin and cannot free ourselves, we've sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, both by what we have done and by what we have left undone", and so on. Captive to Sin is such an interesting turn of phrase. Now I discussed its roots in the sermon this past Sunday at some length, but the other piece of this captivity is not only what we've done and not done, but the manifestation of our captivity that's known and unknown.

It's true, I find no small amount of joy in skirting lines from time to time, because this kind of stress to a system is necessary to develop relationships of trust, cultural flexibility, an institutional creativity that can't exist without being able to fracture our own rules from time to time, and sometimes the simple freedom that comes from trying something old in a new way. It's also true that I try very hard not to truly break anything that doesn't need to be broken. Even so, I feel sometimes like I was born with a demo hammer in my hand, and once in awhile that hammer needs to be swung.

It may be a little surprising that I see my trouble as less that I buck God's authority, but that I buck my own authority. Over the years, I made real peace with the fact that God is God and I am not; I have yet to make peace with the fact that my *not-Godness* means that I really can't control myself the way I wish. Thoughts that race uninvited through my mind; intended words with intended consequences and unintended words that reach escape velocity before they pause in my brain; the impact of both what I choose to choose and what I choose without actual intention. I am so not God, and I try so hard to be less so — and there are moments of clarity when I realize that this is my precise problem.

I can't be less not-God, I'm already as non-Divine as it's possible to be on account of the utter completeness of my humanity. When I'm in a healthy space, one where I can listen to and observe my own heart of hearts that speaks with the crushed silence of God's Spirit, I can accept what's always true: I am only called to be myself.

I bear the fruit that God created me to bear, and can bear no other. I am about the work given by God, and can do none that hasn't been given to me. I can walk only where I've been called to walk, and there are no other paths I can follow without disastrous mistakes and directional confusion.

We all have been called to be precisely and only ourselves. God sees what God is creating in us, and sees in us our total capacity for all of it— and even though part of it is the energies I use for rebellion against every authority, God chooses to call me and us good through the waters of baptism.

And we are who we are being made to be: children of God, holy and beloved, whole yet still being made whole.

Being creations in progress doesn't mean that we're less than we should be, it simply means we aren't yet what God knows we will be.

Grace & Peace, PEW

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH FAMILY PROMISE.

*Please join us if you can!*

### **Saturday, May 15 – 10:00 am – 12 noon: Yard Work at the Day Center**

Join us for some simple clean-up and landscaping at the Day Center: raking, weeding and laying of mulch. Please bring gardening gloves and any tools you have: rakes, edgers, trowels, etc. Volunteers who have not completed orientation can participate. 6 Mulligan St., Natick, MA. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3oeX7fl>.

### **Wednesday, May 19 – 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Part 2 of Volunteer Orientation**

Our new and improved volunteer orientation is up and running, and we'd love for you to participate! Even if you've participated in FPM's past orientations, this is an opportunity to reacquaint yourself with the organization and the things that have changed! You can also provide much-needed feedback on its content and delivery. The program is divided into two parts:

**Virtual:** A self-guided online module and assessment (available at <https://bit.ly/3bpjVnA>) that must be completed before registering for the live session. If you haven't already, please go back and take the online portion before registering for this event.

**Live:** Monthly sessions will be conducted via Zoom videoconference and will take about an hour. Again, you must complete the online module and assessment before registering for this event. We require a minimum of 7 participants to hold the event. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3hBGRnJ>

### **Throughout the month of June**

For the month of June 2021, Family Promise Metrowest will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Stop & Shop store located at 829 Worcester Street, Natick MA.

Please reach out if you have any questions or comments. I welcome the interaction!

Warmly,  
Paula Brown  
Outreach & Network Coordinator  
She/Her



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### **AMIRAH COMMUNITY-WIDE PRAYER SERVICE: MAY 25, 7:00 PM**

Amirah is hosting their second ever community-wide prayer gathering on Tuesday, May 25th at 7:00 pm. You are invited to join with them in prayer.

They will worship, pray, and hear from pastors and members of the Amirah community - including the hosts of The Rooted Life Podcast.

You can visit <https://www.amirahinc.org/church-partners> to register.

We believe this is going to be a uniquely special time. You're not going to want to miss this!



## DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY NEEDED

It's an exciting time in the life of St. John! As we look to the future, we're staffing for the future by seeking out a Director of Youth & Family Ministry. Please think of the people in your life who have the skills needed for this position, and whoever it is, even if it's you, make certain they contact Pastor Eric using this link:

<http://bit.ly/sjsdyfm>

We're so excited to see what God has in store for this congregation as we work to grow into God's vision for our congregation.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Eric

## FAMILY DINNERS WITH THE PASTOR'S FAMILY

Friends,

My family would like to invite your family to (ZOOM) dinner!

Over the next few months, Valerie will be calling the folks on our roster to invite you to ZOOM dinner on Thursdays at either 5:30 or 6, or another time that evening if those times just don't work. Each of us will fix a meal for our own family, chat, and eat together on ZOOM. Yes, this is a little weird, but so is the moment — also, we have a toddler and this allows her to get to bed on time.

Our hope is to have dinner with every family and get to know you while enjoying some good food and conversation. Lauren, Willo, and I can't wait to see you for dinner! PEW

## NEW(ISH) PARENTS, MAY 12 AT 8:00 PM BY ZOOM

Beginning Wednesday May 12 at 8:00 pm, a group for New(ish) Parents will meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month for about an hour. Our aim is to provide a chance to get to know each other, build new friendships, talk about what brings us joy and what we find challenging, and share some time with by ZOOM while enjoying a beverage of your choice. We're hoping to each leave the first session with a "buddy" family to keep in closer contact with during the off weeks so we can get to know some people more personally. We'll work out the other details as we go.

This group is for parents of children from birth through middle school, can't wait to see you there!

There's also a plan in the works to begin a group for parents of high schoolers and older as well in the near future once this group is established. If you're interested in helping Pastor Eric come up with times for this one, please let him know! This won't make you "in charge" unless you'd like that!

### 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	June Carins
Peter Kindem	Steven Greene	Erica Kivimaki
Bill Davis	Inger Rhoads	Larry Wolff
Liz Tolbert		





## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

5/16/21 The Ascension -  
Zoom: 11:00 (prek-3) and 11:45 (4-6)

5/23/21 Pentecost  
10:30 AM - Inperson  
11:45 AM - Zoom

5/30/21 - NO CLASS  
Memorial Day Weekend

## CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

ALL CLASSES 6:00 PM VIA ZOOM

5/16/21 Vocation  
5/23/21 Worship  
Family Confirmation

5/30/21 - NO CLASS  
Memorial Day Weekend



## THE LATEST NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have had a busy Easter season in Sunday School.

Families have met in-person and on Zoom depending on the week and individual family's needs. We have discussed Doubting Thomas and having faith. We tied butterflies in with this discussion, which was a great follow-up to our recent puppet show Halle the Caterpillar. Our next topic was *Peter, Do You Love Me?*, when we talked about the importance of showing love. We painted kindness rocks to share our love with others.

Thank you to Maddy LaCure and Laura Kennedy for leading a lesson around *Let the Children Come to Me*. Families shared with each other their different backgrounds and how those backgrounds impact their families' lives as special mementos, stories, and traditions. We played a game around the same and different and discussed how differences enrich all of our lives.

Coming up this week, classes will address Jesus's ascension, and on Pentecost, May 23rd we will meet in-person in the courtyard from 10:30-11:30 AM following our first regular outdoor church service! We will also offer Zoom Sunday school that day at 11:45 AM. We look forward to seeing all families to celebrate the Ascension and Pentecost!

# SUNDAY SCHOOL





## KITCHEN STARTER KITS

The Confirmation Class is planning a service project to create Kitchen Starter Kits for the Household Goods Recycling Ministry. You can help in one of 2 ways.

Pick up any of the items listed below and dropping them off in the box just inside the church entrance on North Rd (most can be found at the Dollar Store); or, Send a check payable to St John Lutheran Church with a note in the memo section designating it for the HGRM service project.

### Most Needed Items:

- Can Opener
- Pot Holders (2)
- Dishcloth or Sponge
- Dish Towels (2)
- Set of Measuring Cups
- Measuring Spoons
- Slotted Cooking Spoon
- Wooden Spoon
- Spatula/Lifter
- Tongs
- Paring Knife
- Vegetable Peeler
- Cooking Fork
- Carving Knife

### Additional Useful Items:

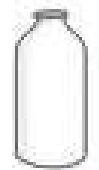
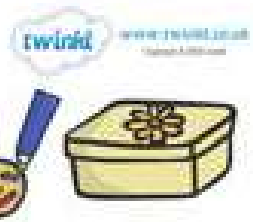
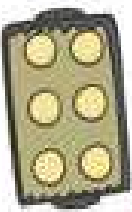
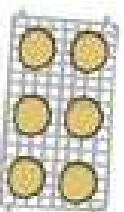
- Liquid Measuring Cup
- Spaghetti Spoon Server
- Ice Cream Scooper
- Pizza Cutter Wheel
- Potato Masher
- Wire Whisk/Beater
- Rubber Scraping Spatula
- Cheese Slicer
- Calendar

Please deliver items and checks to church by  
Monday, May 24th!  
Thank you in advance for your help!



# HOUSEHOLD GOODS<sup>SM</sup>

*Helping People Make a Home.*

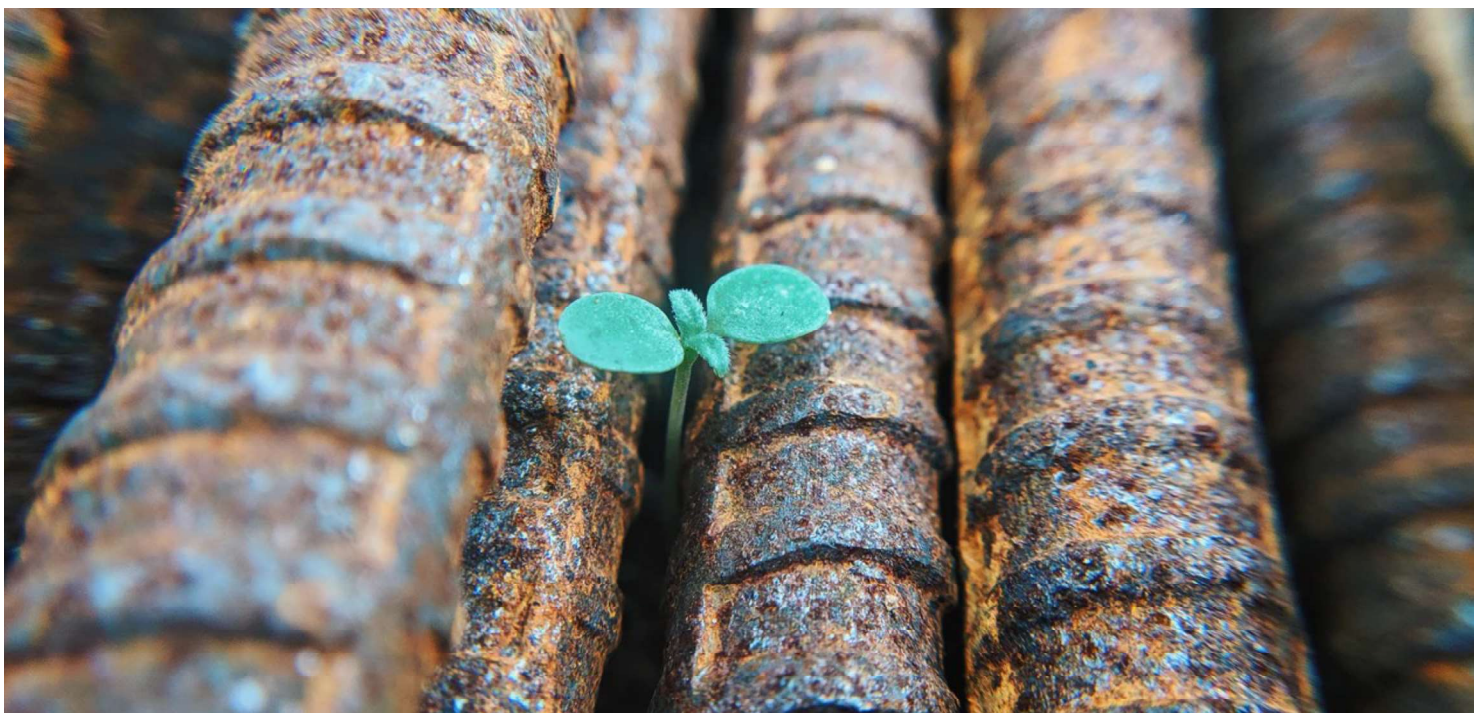




# Embracing Our Sorrows

A Service of Prayer & Partnership

Confronting Racism in Our Community



## Embracing Our Sorrows

*By the waters of Babylon –*

*there we sat down and wept as we remembered Zion.*

*On the willows - there we hung up our harps,*

*for it was there our captors asked us for songs*

*and our tormentors asked us for mirth, saying,*

*“Sing us one of the songs of Zion”. (Psalm 137)*

Unlike the author of this Psalm, we mourn in our hearts for a land we've never inhabited. We long for a land that is not colorblind, but where we see color and creed and meet them with loving dignity and human respect.

As congregations in Sudbury, we gather to lift up our voices in prayer and song as we join to do the work set before us, dreaming of reconciliation we've not yet seen.

Join us in prayer that we may see this land, as we hope to feel its soil beneath our feet..

## Gathering Instructions & COVID Precautions

- ▶ In Parking Lot, masks are still *mandatory*
- ▶ Bring a chair, sit at appropriate distance
- ▶ We will sing as we feel comfortable
- ▶ Open to all, Sudbury clergy and representatives social justice and antiracism ministries are especially invited.

**When: May 23, 2021**

**Where: St. John Lutheran Church**

16 Great Rd. Sudbury, MA 01776

On the 117 side

**Time: 2:00 - 2:45pm**

**Email: Pastor Eric Wolf**

Contact [pew@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:pew@stjohnsudbury.org) with questions or to volunteer to participate in musical accompaniment.