

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Organist: Bart Dahlstrom ([organist@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:organist@stjohnsudbury.org))

October 21, 2021

## Confirmation

Join us for  
**Confirmation Sunday**, October 31st  
as **Samuel Adams** and  
**Justin Scully**  
affirm their baptism.

*This will also be our first Sunday back in the sanctuary!  
An outdoor, cupcake reception will follow.*



### OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday  
and will be closed on Fridays.

### PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

**Sunday:** Worship, Sunday School & Confirmation (when in session)  
**Monday:** remote, appointments as needed  
**Tuesday:** 10:00am - 11:15 pm for staff meeting  
11:15 am - 2:00 pm for office hours  
**Wednesday:** 10:00am - 12:00 pm; home visits as needed  
**Thursday:** 10:00am - 2:00 pm office hours



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)



**OCTOBER 28TH, 4:00 PM –  
ZOOM MEETING TO DISCUSS  
RACE, RACISM, AND  
ANTIRACISM.**

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME!!!

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](mailto:jrnielsen@charter.net) or 978-549-3044.

**ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR  
OCTOBER 26th AND NOVEMBER 2nd**

Please join us!!!

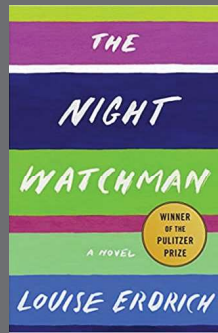
ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tuesdays, October 26th and November 2nd, at 11:00 AM for a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On November 16th, we will discuss “The Night Watchman” by Louise Erdrich.

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

Next books:

November 16, 2021, “The Night Watchman” by Louise Erdrich  
December 21, 2021, “The Yellow Bird Sings” by Jennifer Rosner  
January 18, 2022, “Crying in H Mart” by Michelle Zauner  
February 15, 2022, “The Giver of Stars” by Jojo Moyes



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:**

Debbie Reed  
Charles Miller  
Helen Williams  
Liz Tolbert  
Ruth Avery  
Janice Potter  
Jan Nielsen  
Liz Radoski  
Claudine  
Liz Arthofer

Brian Young  
Norma Duane  
Angelika Zollfrank  
Rhonda Tibbetts  
Pat Quinn  
Wendy  
Marilyn Kunelius  
Judy  
Joan Niemi  
Meg Davis

Christopher Miller  
John Duane  
Jim Hansgate  
Alexis Marsh  
Bill Davis  
Marilyn Hartke  
Ann Kirk  
Carolyn Sweeney  
Vija Bachmuts



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

On October 17th Janet Holmgren taught us a new prayer song to the tune of Jesus Loves Me. We spent our class time talking about Joseph, the favorite son, brother, dreamer, interpreter of dreams, advisor to Pharaoh, governor of Egypt, forgiver, child and friend of God. We played games and created puppets of Joseph and his multi-colored robe.

This week, we will learn about Holy Communion. On October 31st, we hope you will join us for our Reformation Day Fair. We learn a bit about Martin Luther and have some fun playing games centered around the Reformation.

Make sure to join the excitement!



## CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

This past week Confirmation students and their parents participated in a scavenger hunt through Exodus. We searched for who the Hebrew midwives were, discovered that God's name is Yahweh and what that means, and scrambled to find out what the Israelites were doing when God gave Moses the 10 Commandments. We wondered how the Israelites felt trusting Moses and God to lead them out of Egypt and continuing to trust as they wandered in the wilderness. We tested what it felt like to trust and follow without knowing where you are going. Using only voice and sound, parents led their blindfolded kids through a maze of chairs to the Confirmation Promised Land—a plate full of warm brownies!

Next week students will discuss Law—from the patio of the Valentino home so that we can also spend some time exploring the Valentino SpookyLand!

Looking ahead to October 31st, we will celebrate the Reaffirmation of Baptism with Sam Adams and Justin Scully during the service and follow-up with an outdoor cupcake reception afterwards.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL/CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

### Sunday School

10/24 - Family Sunday School

10/31 - Reformation Day Fair

11/7 - Family Sunday School

### Theme/Details

Holy Communion

David

### Confirmation

10/24 - Spookyland at the Valentinos' Law

10/31 - Attend and assist in Confirmation Service

11/7 - Judges

No evening class

### Upcoming Events

10/31 - Affirmation of Baptism during Service  
with Cupcake Reception to follow

- Reformation Day Fair following the service

11/12 - Lego Night 5-6:30 PM - Mark your calendars for Pizza and Lego Fun!

## TEACH ME TO NUMBER MY DAYS

One of the hardest parts of being a human is to recognize our mortality. Psalm 90 reflects on this by saying, “teach us to number our days that we may gain a wise heart”. The reminder that we are mortal is central to our self-understanding, but also to our understanding as the Church. The Israelites wrestled metaphorically with the fact that everything eventually changes or passes away through many accounts of wilderness journeys and relocations, building and destruction of cities, temples, and other seemingly immutable worldly things.

Everything passes away, but God endures.

Being officially in my mid-forties, I know that my days are numbered because my body reminds me in the most embarrassing ways. Several months ago, I managed to injure my back in my sleep and the pain lasted for a week. The other day I tweaked my shoulder slightly and I wondered humorously, “wow, how many years will I feel this?”.

It’s also true in other areas of our lives as well.

Happiness passes, sorrow passes. Our identity in vocation comes and goes in various ways throughout the years. Even if some of our sense of identity remains, it changes. It’s different being the parent of an infant than it is being the parent of a toddler. Many of my friends are already experiencing the challenge of having children who leave the house and start their own lives.

The Church is no different, and right now we’re counting a lot of different days in a lot of different ways. We’re numbering our days to return to the sanctuary after the council voted last night to hold our first service in the sanctuary on Reformation Day, October 31! I can’t wait to count that one. It’s also surprisingly unsettling to me because I’ll miss worshipping outside. I don’t quite know what to do with that, to be honest with you. I can’t wait to worship in the sanctuary, but change is awkward.

The awkward thing of being the Church right now is that our situation always feels so unique, but looking at the history of God’s people we see that we’re in the same boat as we’ve always been — we’re on the road, always changing and transitioning. The good news in this discomfort is that God is constant in love. God’s love is unchanging and unyielding, God’s presence is constant, though quiet. We have the benefit of knowing that in the griefs of change, God’s presence draws us close as individuals, but more importantly, as a people.

As we wrestle with these moments of change, remember the blessing of transition is the knowledge that we don’t go alone. God goes before and after and that is a - and perhaps the only - gift of stability in this crazy changing time.

Grace & Peace,  
PEW

## THE ST JOHN STEP-UPS STEPPED UP FOR THE CROP WALK



Sunday, October 17th was a great day for a walk! Doug and Johanna Ellis and Carrie Stamos gathered with the Smith and Labiento families—and their dog--for a 3.5 km walk through Concord. Michelle Rose walked separately in Newport, RI. Together the group raised over \$2300 for local families dealing with food insecurity. This year’s event drew 64 walkers who raised over \$20,000! Thanks to everyone who contributed to the St John Step-Ups!

# LET'S GET MOVING!

Are you looking for a new service opportunity? Do you want to learn how to get involved with a community partnership?

Join the St. John Social Justice Ministry on Tuesday November 2nd at 7:00pm via Zoom to learn more about a service opportunity with Acton Mission Movers and Household Goods to support families and individuals in transition move and settle into new homes.

Join Zoom Meeting  
Meeting ID: 9784438350  
Passcode: 8350

Contact  
[socialjustice@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:socialjustice@stjohnsudbury.org)  
for more info



## MUSIC GARDEN UPDATE

The new children's play area is beginning to take shape. Al Miller and his son, Matthew (an alumnus of St. John's Confirmation Class 1996), Betty Lewis, Mike Misslin, Facilities Ministry Chair, and Chris and Carrie Stamos shared their time and talents in refurbishing the play area pea stone base and adding a new bench and play-house. The new grass is starting to grow, too. Keep your eye out for the installation of new music and play items including a xylophone, bongo drums, bell tree, and sandbox. If you have ideas to share, please reach out to Carrie Stamos at [carrie637@msn.com](mailto:carrie637@msn.com).



## UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| October 24th | -9:30 am - Worship at St. John<br>-10:50 am - Sunday School at St. John<br>-6:30 pm - Confirmation |
| October 25th | -10:00 am - Seniorcise   |
| October 26th | -11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group<br>-7:00 pm - Social Justice Ministry Meeting             |
| October 27th | -10:00 am - Seniorcise<br>-8:00 pm - Newish Parents  |
| October 28th | -11:00 am - Discussion on Racism/Anti-racism   |
| October 29th | -7:30 pm - Knitting/Sewing Group   |
| October 31st | -9:30 am - Worship at St. John (Confirmation Sunday)   |
| November 1st | -7:30 pm - Who Are We Now? (Pastor Eric's Class)   |
| November 2nd | -11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group<br>-7:00 pm - Social Justice Event "Let's Get Moving"     |
| November 3rd | -10:00 am - Seniorcise   |
| November 5th | -7:30 pm - Knitting/Sewing Group   |
| November 7th | -9:30 am - Worship at St. John<br>-10:50 am - Sunday School at St. John<br>-6:30 pm - Confirmation |



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

## **PASTOR'S CLASSES**

Pastor Eric offers Pastor's classes over Zoom in 6-12 week segments to encourage grownups of all ages to explore their faith. Classes meet on Monday evenings at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

Pastor Eric is offering a six week Monday evening class called The Way: Who Are We Now? beginning on Monday November 1 at 7:30pm on the St. John ZOOM account. During this class we will explore the ways our lives have changed, the way the world around us has changed, and how that affects the way we hear our baptismal call to follow Jesus.

Week 1: The Way We Were: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Week 2: The Way We Are: Grief, Anger, Hope, and Chaos

Week 3: The Way of the Cross: On the Road with Jesus

Week 4: The Way of Hope: Suffering, Endurance, Character, & Hope

Week 6: The Way We Will Be: Looking to a Hopeful Future