

# The Messenger

A newsletter of the people of First Lutheran Church, Waltham

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham  
The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl, Pastor  
www.firstlutheranwaltham.org

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781-893-6563  
tmaehl@rcn.com



It is Easter! Christ is Risen we proclaimed on Sunday as we gathered in worship to hear the story of the empty tomb. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the telling of the Easter story is similar. Women go to the tomb, discover it empty, and are met by an angel (or messenger) who tells them that Jesus is not “here” (in the tomb), but rather he is “out there” in the world. It is out in the world that they will meet him. What might that mean for us?

On Monday morning, the day after Easter, I made a pot of coffee, put my feet up, and began reading the newspaper. There, I read the obituary of Elwin Wilson. Elwin Wilson was an active Klu Klux Klan supporter who in 1961 participated in the brutal beating of John Lewis. John Lewis was an African-American Freedom Rider, a passionate worker for justice who later went on to become an Atlanta City Counselor and then Georgia congressman.

What drew me to the article was a 2009 picture of Representative Lewis and Mr. Wilson sitting side by side. They were together because in that year, Elwin Wilson in an attempt to make amends for decades of racial hatred, detailed his deeds in the local newspaper, and then called Mr. Lewis and admitted his guilt; “I’m the one that attacked you, I’m the one that beat you,” he said. Then he asked for forgiveness, and Mr. Lewis forgave him. Later Mr. Lewis would say, “He was the very, very first to come and apologize to me.”

I read this article and I was reminded of wise words I heard once, that “*there are no permanent enemies.*” With Christ “out there” active in this world, surprises happen, still! Hearts are moved, those formerly blind come to see, people change. In this case a Klansman, haunted by a deep fear of the risen Christ’s judgment, surprisingly repents. Then, in what may come as another surprise for those who can see the anger, but are blind to the passionate love of others that motivates some of the most courageous justice advocates; then, this former Klansman is given by Mr. Lewis the greatest gift that one human being can give to another, namely love, in this case love in the form of forgiveness and reconciliation.

This Monday morning obituary was for me a continuation of the Easter celebration from Sunday. For me, Easter means that there are no permanent enemies. For me, Easter means that I am called to live with a certain hopeful expectancy in what the risen Christ might do in any given person or situation. For me, Easter means that we are called to be partners with Christ is the healing, the reconciliation, the new creation that is God’s dream for us and all creation.

Blessed Easter, Pastor Maehl

## Nurturing Faith



### Vacation Bible School

July 8-12, 2013

*Everywhere Fun Fair* (this year's VBS theme) takes children to a global celebration with the look and feel of a world's fair. Children will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God's love can be found everywhere, including their own neighborhoods. Children will be introduced to special places from all over the world and discover that we are all neighbors and all children of God. Participants will experience: interactive Bible storytelling, global games, rockin' music, super science, cool crafts, and more!

The daily themes are as follows: Neighbors are friendly (Sarah and Abraham and the three visitors in Genesis 18); neighbors are giving (the widow of Zarephath in 1 Kings 17); neighbors are bold (the Good Samaritan); neighbors are forgiving (Jesus and Zacchaeus); and neighbors are welcoming (Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10).

As in years past, the program will run from 9 am to noon, with an optional extended day program until 3 pm for children who have completed kindergarten and older. Also, we are hoping for the help and leadership of many adults and youth. Registration materials will be available soon. Mark your calendars and get ready for another wonderful VBS experience!

### New Member Orientation

Interested in formally joining the congregation, or engaging in conversation with others who will be? Join us for two new member orientation sessions at 4 pm on Sundays, April 14 and 21. New members will be received during worship on April 28. Contact Pastor Maehl if you are interested.

### *Faith Alive: Living as God's People in the 21st Century*

**A New England Synod Gathering at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester  
Saturday, May 4th**

With new communication tools, and a growing hunger in adults to connect their faith to daily life, the Church is changing. At this gathering there will be a chance to hear from our new bishop and participate in a workshop geared toward helping us envision our faith and our living in this world in new ways. Here's what's scheduled:

Bishop Jim Hazelwood:

"Where in God's name are we?"

This presentation will include both an historical analysis as well as present day glimpse into the state of the Lutheran church, with particular emphasis on New England. We will explore and answer these questions: What is changing in the church today? Are our churches growing or shrinking, and why? How did we get here? What are some possible ways forward? What is the future of the congregation? Using a variety of communication tools, Bishop Hazelwood will also present his findings from his visits to many of our New England Lutheran congregations. The presentation will conclude with options and tools for congregational leaders to use in their local settings.

John Roberto:

"Living as God's People in the 21st Century"

Looking for a way to connect your faith and everyday life? Want to make decisions that reflect your faith? This day-long workshop is designed to help you live God's mission, at home, school, work and play. Participants will work in large and small group settings and leave with tools and resources for personal and congregational use.

If you would like to attend, please sign up in the Pearson Room or contact Pastor Maehl.

## Doing Justice, Serving Others



### Spring Clean Up Day Saturday, April 6 9 am - 2 pm

Please come on April 6 anytime between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm to help with our Spring Cleaning Day. Come join us to clean, scrub, dust, polish, and fix indoors; or to rake, trim, and tidy outdoors. It's a great event for adults and children! Please come if you are able, for an hour or more, and join with your community in caring for our facility.

Thanks, the Property Committee

### Habitat for Humanity Build Saturday, April 13 9 am - 4 pm

A group from First Lutheran will be going to Lowell to participate in two projects. One group will be working at a home construction site and the other at "Restore" (Habitat's second hand outlet) where they will be building picnic tables. There are still a few spots available if anyone would like to join us. Youth who are 14 or older are also welcome to participate. If interested please contact Jennifer Lambert either directly or through Cynthia Niiler in the Church office.

### Serving Lunch at the Waltham Community Day Center April 19

On Friday, April 19, (during the week of school vacation) our middle school youth will be serving lunch for the guests of the Waltham Community Day Center (a drop-in center for homeless and at risk adults). They are gathering on a Saturday prior to prepare the food (tortellini soup, bread, fruit and dessert).

### Kid's Care Meals Packaging April 28 at Grace Lutheran in Needham

At noon on April 28, a group will be gathering to package Kid's Care Meals at Grace Lutheran Church in Needham. We are planning to package 10,000 meals on that date and those meals will be distributed to food pantries and persons in need in various places in New England. If you would like to participate in the packaging, please sign up in the Pearson Room. If you would like to contribute funds for hungry persons in our community, please support our Walk for Hunger team (*see below*.)



### Put on Your Walking Shoes! Walk for Hunger Sunday, May 5

Please consider joining the First Lutheran Walk for Hunger team as we walk in Project Bread's Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 5, 2013. Hunger is not just in third world countries. When is the late time you were truly hungry....and had not access to food? Unfortunately, families in Waltham and in surrounding communities go hungry every day. You can make a difference.

Supporting Project Bread is a great way to help feed our hungry neighbors. Last year we raised over \$3000. Let's join together to meet or exceed this amount! Enjoy a festive day walking through Boston and the surrounding neighborhoods while you help our hungry neighbors in Massachusetts. You can register to join the team "First Lutheran Waltham" as a walker or make a contribution at [www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org). If you are not up for all 20 miles there is transportation and easy check points. Friends are always welcome – Hunger has no denomination...of any sort.

If you have questions, contact LuAnn Kimker or Meg Maehl for more information.

## Walking Together in God's Love

### Camp Calumet Summer Camp July 28 - August 3

We have received word that this year, Camp Calumet is reserving 15 spots for us, for the week of July 28 - August 3. The full cost of a week of camping is \$570 plus \$82 for bus transportation; however, Camp Calumet is generously offering scholarship aid of \$200 for each of our campers. Additionally, we will have funds in our Camp Calumet Scholarship Fund to further offset the cost for those who need it.

If you have a child between the ages of 8 and 16, and are interested in camp, please speak with Pastor Maehl now.

This camp experience has been a blessing to many of our children and youth. If you are looking for a way to say thank you to God, or to honor an anniversary, or to share in the blessings of a tax refund, please consider sending one of our 15 children to camp. Donations can be marked, "*Camp Calumet scholarship.*" Thank you.

- Pastor Maehl



Thanks to those who shoveled snow during the varied storms of this winter. In particular, we thank Scott Niemann, Ted Sjodin, Dennis Ostrander and Norm Adams.

Thanks to those who decorated the church with art work and flowers during Holy Week and Easter. In particular we thank: Carol Hansen, LuAnn Kimker, Ann Sjodin, and Clarisse van der Feltz.

Thanks to choirs, food preparers, readers and story tellers, other worship leaders, and all who participated in our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Day services. You have blessed us!



*From the  
Vicar*

The joy of the Easter season reminds us that God is very much at work in our world and in our lives, always loving, forgiving, and offering new beginnings and new life. This is not a God whom we have to seek, or be good enough for, or work towards. We have a God who *comes to us*- coming to live among us in our humanity (in Jesus), coming to us to forgive us, save us, and offer life.

But how exactly is God revealed to us? In this season of Easter, of resurrection and new life, how do you know God's presence in this world and in your life? Although God comes to us in countless ways, there are a few patterns in the Bible we can draw from.

1. God is often revealed by what God has done. For the Israelites, God is often revealed as "the God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." This is how the Israelites identified God. What has God done for you? We often know God by what God has done good in our lives. What are some things in your life for which you can give thanks to God?
2. God is often revealed to us by others. From the prophets, to the apostles, or the blind, sick, or demon possessed people Jesus healed- other people are often responsible for helping people realize God's presence and actions. How is God present in community? From our church community during Sunday morning worship, to friends and family, to strangers we meet on the street- God is present in all of these situations. How do we know God's presence in our relationships?
3. For the Christian church, God is most revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. What does this mean to you? How does Jesus reveal God to you? God also comes to us in the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. How do you experience God in these?

Of course, this is hardly a complete list of the ways we experience God. After all, God is always finding ways to surprise us and be known to us in a new way, and I invite you to consider how you might be aware of God's presence in your life as we journey through Easter!

- Vicar Ian

## Walking Together in God's Love

### Jonah Skit

Our thanks to members of the pre-teen Sunday school class who told one of the Old Testament stories of deliverance in skit form at our Easter Vigil. To see the skit, go to our church web site, click on the "worship" link, scroll to the bottom, and follow the link.

### Book Recommendation

During Lent, a group of about a dozen of us engaged in Marcus Borg's, [The Heart of Christianity](#). This book served as a good dialogue partner, helping us to glimpse some of what arising out of what is being named Emergence Christianity.

For those looking for another good read, (and a more "Orthodox" one) I strongly suggest [Simply Christian, Why Christianity Makes Sense](#) by N.T. Wright. You can find hundreds of favorable reviews on Amazon.com. Here are a few words from one reviewer that I find helpful:

*At its core, then, the "faith" to which the Bible calls us is essentially trusting in a God who has revealed himself in history, who has begun, through Jesus' death and resurrection, to redeem the world and transform it into his kingdom, who invites us into to an intimate relationship with him, who demands that we become all that we were created and meant to be, who forgives us when we fall short of that mark, and who invites us to play a significant role in moving forward his plan for the world. For Wright, Christian faith is not just a matter of spiritual feelings that are quite independent of what we say and do. It makes demands upon us that can only be met in the realm of thought and behavior.*

*As C. S. Lewis did in his fiction, "Simply Christian" persuasively invites its readers to recognize that there is a transcendent reality that impinges on our ordinary world, that the God who rules this realm has made himself known in history and continues to do so, that we are part of his plan to renew his creation, and, consequently, that what we think and do has cosmic significance.*

### First Evangelical Lutheran Church Communion Bread Recipe

The communion bread that we eat is made by those in the community willing to do so. We welcome others sharing in this ministry! If you would like to try it, follow the recipe and instructions below. Then tell us in the church office so we're aware of your gift. Thank you.

#### Ingredients:

6 cups white flour  
 ½ cup brown sugar  
 1 Tbsp. salt  
 2 tsp. baking soda  
 2 tsp. baking powder  
 1 Tbsp. cinnamon  
 ¼ cup honey  
 ½ cup shortening  
 2 cups water

#### Directions:

1. Mix together all dry ingredients
2. Mix in separately – one at a time – honey, shortening and water
3. Knead for 10 minutes on floured surface
4. Divide dough into 4 pieces and roll out 1/8" thick
5. Cut in approximately 6" diameter circles
6. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for approximately 10 minutes – do not overbake!
7. Allow to cool
8. Wrap each bread airtight in saran wrap
9. Store in kitchen freezer – it is best to store inside a freezer bag to maintain freshness.

## World Malaria Day

The ELCA Malaria Campaign is starting work in Uganda – but help is needed.

In Uganda, thousands of children die each year from malaria – a preventable and curable disease. The entire population is at risk of malaria, but less than 50 percent are protected by preventable measures like insect-treated bed nets and mosquito spraying. Hospitalization and deaths from malaria have increased in recent years. **The time to help is now.**

World Malaria Day is April 25 and we are turning this day into a special week – focusing on the work of the ELCA Malaria Campaign in Uganda.

Our goal is to raise \$250,000. This would be enough to jump-start malaria programming in Uganda. Imagine the number of lives saved and the impact we can have if we all come together on one Sunday for one cause. Join millions of people around the world and thousands of ELCA members across the United States in the fight against malaria on Sunday, April 28.



**ELCA Malaria Campaign**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## Prayer Concerns

**Members of our First Lutheran Community:** Eleanor Brodrick; Gunny Cacace; Salvatore Cacace; Christina Danielson; Quinn Dickert; Ray Jahrling; Doris Johnson; Alice Johnson; Kathryn McCowan; Louise Selmer; Jane Wolley.

**Friends and Family Facing Illness:** Anne Beatrice (*mother-in-law of Cindy Gelin*); (Beryl Bingman (*friend of Carol Hansen*); Mary Ellen C. (*friend of Susan & Paul Pintus*); Bob Callahan (*friend of Lorraine Livingston, Maxwells and Maehls*); Tony and Alex Chamoun (*friends of Kat Flinner*); Charlie; Anders Clasesson (*infant son of friend of Rut and Richard Johnson*); Kathy Dickinson (*friend of Susan and Paul Pintus*); Patricia Eversole (*aunt of Peter Pinch*); Tony Fabrizio (*friend of Cheryl Ricci*); Leisel Voosen Field (*friend of Rut and Richard Johnson*); Susan Flinner (*Kat Flinner's mother*); Daniel Forsman (*Rut Johnson's nephew*); Irma Fox and family (*Gloria Atherton's sister*); Margie Gelin (*Cindy Gelin's sister-in-law*); Willie Goulet (*family of Rich Gravelin*); Börje Hallberg (*cousin of Meg Maehl and Pat Maxwell*); Helen Hanson (*friend of Lorraine Livingston*); Paul Hoff (*Steve Hoff's father*); Abby Houck (*niece of Tom and Pat Maxwell*); Paul Hrdlicka (*father of Lori Hrdlicka*); Edward T. Hughes II (*father of Ed and Tracy Hughes*); Erika Klemm (*friend of Marielu & Ernie Gaiser*); Joann McLaughlin; Adam Mitchell (*friend of Kat Flinner and Steve Hoff*); Deb Nelson (*Cheryl Ricci's sister*); Colleen O'Brien (*friend of Kathy Gravelin*); Jean Pinch (*grandmother of Peter Pinch*); Peter Ricci (*Cheryl Ricci's son*); Mia Rushe (*friend of Ann Sjodin*); Judy Sassano (*friend of Reinhold Carlson*); Jus Singh (*friend of Ann Sjodin*); Ken Thompson (*friend of Susan and Paul Pintus*); Mieke van der Feltz-Visee (*grandmother of Clarisse van der Feltz*); Beverly Wentzel (*friend of Ernie and Marielu Gaiser*); Arian Wiley (*aunt of Penny Alexander*); Nancy Wills and George Stanton (*friends of Mimi Ham*); Jim Wilson (*brother-in-law of Geri Nederhoff*).

We rejoice in the baptism of **Halbert Bruce McCowan** on March 17. Hal is the son of Kathryn and Derrick McCowan.

*Note: if you would like to add or remove a name from our prayer list, please contact the church office.*

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham**

**Ministers:** The people of the congregation

**Staff:** The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl, Pastor  
tmaehl@rcn.com  
  
Ms. Cynthia Niiler,  
Director of Music and Parish Secretary  
cniilerchurch@rcn.com  
  
Vicar Ian Hill, Intern  
ihill@ltsp.edu

**Worship:** Sundays at 10:30 am

**Learning Hour:** Sundays at 9:15

**Council:** Rich Gravelin, President  
Angela Neal, Vice President  
LuAnn Kimker, Secretary  
Scott Niemann, Treasurer  
Kevin Dickert  
Lori Hrdlicka  
Jennifer Lambert  
Michelle Landstrom  
Paul Pintus

Visit us on the Web at:  
[www.firstlutheranwaltham.org](http://www.firstlutheranwaltham.org)

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**Our Mission:** We discern that Jesus Christ is calling us to:

*Walk together in God's love; nurturing faith, doing justice, serving all.*