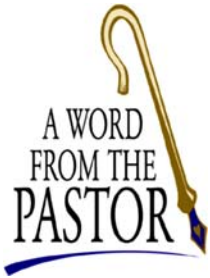


The Messenger

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

January 2017
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Last Sunday of the Month One Service at 9:30 am

We are continuing to experiment with our Sunday morning worship schedule:

In 2015, we began adding a 2nd service on the first Sunday of the month.

Worship attendance was small at first, (*I remember one Sunday with 7 people in worship*); however this earlier service was well received by a committed group of participants, and attendance began to grow. By the end of the year it was stable enough, with an average attendance of roughly 15, that we were ready to expand.

In 2016, we added the 8:15 early service every Sunday of the academic year. We found that some appreciated a worship opportunity earlier in the day, others appreciated the “slightly less formal” feel to the service. By the end of the year, the average worship attendance at the early service had grown to 25; with an average attendance at the late service of 62. (Note: a year earlier, when there was only once service at 10:30 the average was 74).

Now in 2017, we are making another change in order to foster community among those who are now regularly attending different services. On the last Sunday of each month, there will be one service at 9:30 (so everyone moves times); and often there will be a communal activity after worship. Here is the schedule with tentative activities following the 9:30 am worship service:

- January 29: Annual Meeting & pot-luck brunch
- February 25: Congregational Retreat to Calumet
- March 26: Prep for Easter
- April 30: Mini-walk for hunger for kids
- May 28: Pot-luck brunch
- Summer: All worship at 9:30
- September 24: TBD
- October 29: Reformation Luncheon
- November 26: Silent Auction & Brunch

Getting the Word Out: We are aware that this change of time calls for extra communication. With that in mind, during the week prior to each “Last Sunday,” we are planning to:

- Send an email reminder to everyone on the church email list. The subject line will read, “**Last Sunday Worship at 9:30!**” This will be in addition to the weekly e-blast.
- Place phone call reminders to regular attendees in the congregation who do not use email.
- Update our Web site and phone messages accordingly.

It is my hope and prayer that God will bless this experiment that is part of our striving to be **one** community of faith with **two** Sunday worship opportunities. Through it all, may God continue to deepen us and help us to grow.

Faithfully, Pastor Maehl

Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Worship at 9:30 m

Meeting follows

At this meeting we will adopt a budget for 2017 and receive written annual reports from the pastor, president and committee chairs. We will hold elections for church council and other leadership positions.

**All members are encouraged to attend.
Please bring a food item to share at our
potluck brunch.**

Nurturing Faith

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:22 am

This past fall, we explored the writings of several Old Testament prophets, notably: Amos, Hosea, and Micah. We found that time and again, through the voices of the prophets, God was calling for justice, for the care of others in need, and for worship experiences that deepened people's relationship with God. This is summarized in the famous words of Micah, "*What does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God,*" (Micah 6:8b)

Over January and February we will focus on ways this prophetic charge is lived out in the world now. In particular we plan to have a variety of guest speakers to help expand our vision and foster conversation. The schedule is as follows:

January 8: Introduction led by Pastor Maehl

January 15: **The Rev. Matt Carriker** will be our guest forum leader and preacher for the day. Matt is the Protestant Chaplain at Brandeis University where he has worked with students on various peace and justice initiatives. Matt also is beginning a new congregation in Waltham in the United Church of Christ tradition (UCC).

January 22: **Marc Rudnick** will be our guest adult forum leader. When not working his day job as a building contractor, Marc has devoted himself to community service in Waltham for over 30 years. Among his accomplishments he has founded or help to found the following local organizations: The Waltham Alliance to Create Housing (WATCH), the Waltham Land Trust, the Waltham Farmer's Market, and the Hardy Pond Association. He has also served on the Waltham Zoning Board of Appeals, the Downtown Rehabilitation Committee, and has been a strong advocate of affordable housing.

January 29: No Adult Forum. Join us for worship at 9:30, (*not 8:15, not 10:30, but 9:30 am*); and then please come to the annual meeting following worship!

Intern Update

It is our hope that we might have another full time intern for the 2017-2018 academic year. In fact a seminary student has been recommended to us through Bishop Hazelwood of the New England Synod. With the rising cost of housing in the Metro Boston area the biggest challenge to funding an intern is housing. If you know of anyone who is a landlord and might have a reasonably priced apartment available in the fall please contact Pastor Maehl. Also, we welcome gifts to the Intern Fund at any time. Please keep the intern ministry in your prayers. - Pastor Maehl

Bible Studies

We continue to meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am and Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm to discuss Brian McLaren's Book, *We Make the Road by Walking*. For those following at home we are reading chapter 19 during the first week of January, and the following chapters each week thereafter.



Christmas Thanks

Thanks to all who decorated the church and grounds, sang and played instruments, purchased poinsettias, provided food, and gathered for worship at Christmas. Also, we are thankful for the many, cards, remembrances, and expressions of care that came to us at Christmas. We thank God for the First Lutheran community and all the love and support we receive from through you. We wish you all God's blessings in the new year.

Pastor Maehl and Cynthia Niiler

Walking Together in God's Love



**Congregational Retreat
to Camp Calumet
February 24-26
Mark your calendars!**

Our annual retreat for the entire congregation is scheduled for February 24-26 at Camp Calumet, located 3 hours north on Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH. We have spots reserved for 50 people and hope members and friends of all ages will come. The retreat begins after dinner on Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday.

Cost: The full cost of the retreat which includes two nights lodging and five meals is as follows:

- Adults \$150
- Students \$75 (7-18 years)
- Children \$0 (0-6 years)
- Maximum family fee is \$500

We are providing scholarships again, and we invite you to pay an amount that you believe to be within your means. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Pearson Room and please consider joining us.

Final note: We currently have space for 50 people. If more were to sign up, we would need to request space by early February. If you are planning on attending, **please sign up by January 29** so that we can plan accordingly. Thank you.

Silent Auction Update

Because of the many of you who donated items and bid on items, we raised \$1,100 at the Silent Auction! All of this will go toward Calumet Scholarships. Thank you!!



Christmas Pageant Thanks

We had a lovely Christmas Pageant during the learning hour on December 18. We are grateful to all who participated and helped plan the event. In particular our thanks to:

Preschool/K Sunday School Class

Teachers:	Heather Fahey and Emily Sjodin	
Participants:	Ezra Diaz	Quinn Dickert
	Alden Dickert	Maddie Jerram
	Henry Neal	Hal McCowan
	Davin Weeden	

1st-3rd Sunday School Class

Teachers:	Michelle Landstrom and Isabella van der Weide	
Participants:	Eliza Dickert	Brett Fahey
	Abby Neal	James Neal
	Henry Niemann	Tage Weeden
	Vicky Villalta	Jake Villalta

4th-7th Sunday School Class

Teacher:	LuAnn Kimker	
Participants:	Deidre Fahey	Nick Hoff
	Betsy Hoff	Alison Jerram
	Maggie Niemann	Julia Niemann
	Eegan Pandian	Kayali Pandian
	Martin Sieving	Justin Sjodin

Music: Cynthia Niiler

Costumes: Mary Ellen Adams

Behind the Scenes: Norman Adams, Holly and Erik Diaz, Lori Hrdlicka, Erika Jerram, and Pastor Maehl.

Doing Justice, Serving All

Gifts for Others

I am grateful for gifts to the Pastor's Discretionary Funds over the past year. This has allowed me to help persons in need with meals and groceries, lodging and rent, car repairs, child care, and more. Thanks too to all who donated gift cards to Target, McDonalds, and Dunkin Donuts in December. The folks at Chaplains on the Way were deeply grateful to have these to share with people in need over the holidays. I thank God for such supportive care by so many.

- Pastor Maehl

HELP AND HOPE: A 12 Step Recovery Program for Family and Friends

Are you worried about another person's drinking? Is someone you know struggling with drug addiction? Don't know what to do or where to turn for help? Join us for HELP AND HOPE: A 12 Step Program of Recovery for family and friends of those who suffer from addiction. Learn how to live in the solution, not the problem! The meeting is held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in Saint Mary's Religious Education Building (30 Pond Street, Waltham) - first floor in the meeting room at the end of the hallway on the left. All are welcome! If you have questions, please feel free to contact Donna at 781-893-4765 or donnalaswell@verizon.net.

Tables Available

In January we will be purchasing six long tables to be used for events in Founder's Hall. These new tables are made of sturdy plastic and will replace older, also sturdy, but heavier tables. If you would like to take one of the older tables for home use, please contact Norman Adams from the Property Committee.



Senior Classics

A good group gathered for our annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 15. Along with laughter and conversation, we enjoyed pizza, salads, and a variety of tasty desserts.

The knitting group continues to meet every Thursday at 10:00. *Our next "Senior Classics" gathering will be Thursday January 19 at 11:45 am*, weather permitting. Join us when you can.

2017 Dates to Remember

Please take note of the following dates, along with the "last Sunday" events listed on page 1.

- January 29: Annual Meeting
- Feb. 24-26: Congregational Retreat to Calumet
- March 1: Ash Wednesday
- April 13: Maundy Thursday
- April 14: Good Friday
- April 15: Easter Vigil
- April 16: Easter Sunday
- June 4: Pentecost Sunday
- June 11: Start of Summer schedule
- July 10-14: Vacation Bible School
- Sept. 10: Return to regular worship schedule
- Nov. 10-12: Fall Adult Retreat

Doing Justice, Serving All



Crisis in Syria

LWR is one of our Lutheran partner organizations. The following update was posted by LWR in September of 2016. It provides a brief overview of the situation (up to that point in time) and how LWR has been responding.

SITUATION OVERVIEW:

- In March 2011, Syrian security forces opened fire on demonstrators, who were protesting the arrest and torture of several teenagers in the city of Daraa. The violence prompted nationwide protests calling for the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad. The government continued its use of force against demonstrators and by the summer of 2011 armed rebellion had erupted, launching Syria into civil war.
- The chaos afforded the Islamic State (IS) the opportunity to take root in the country, which has drawn regional and world powers into what many are calling a 'proxy war' and further complicated the conflict. A U.S.-led coalition began launching airstrikes against IS targets in Syria in September 2014. Russia began launching airstrikes a year later, purportedly against IS, but coalition forces claim that Russian airstrikes are targeting rebel groups in civilian areas to further Assad's military agenda.
- Since 2011, multiple sources estimate that more than 400,000 people have been killed and more than one million have been injured. The violence and total destruction of cities and towns has forced 4.8 million Syrians to seek asylum outside of the country and has displaced 6.6 million, who cannot, for a multitude of reasons, leave Syria.

LWR – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

Through livelihood programming and basic needs support in Syria, Jordan and Iraq (detailed below), LWR is reaching more than 340,000 people affected by the crisis in Syria.

- In Syria, LWR provided 13 cash-for-work activities designed to ease the economic strain on 1,500 IDPs (*Internally Displaced Persons*), who have few income-generating options, by giving them the opportunity to work on community development projects, such as building or restoring community centers, child care centers, hospitals, and community kitchens, and a training workshop to repair and distribute second-hand clothing.
- In Jordan, LWR is offering 16 workshops to train 400 Syrian women refugees on how to start their own business and will train 48 volunteers from these workshops to support the distributing of material resources, such as LWR Personal Care Kits and clothes, to nearly 26,000 Syrians refugees in the country.
- In the Dohuk region of northern Iraq (Kurdistan), LWR is working with 2,656 refugees, IDPs and members of host communities (52% of which are women) to increase food security, offer community-based psychosocial support, improve water systems and sanitation, and restore livelihoods through skills trainings.
- LWR is shipping Mission Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits and Personal Care Kits to Armenia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Serbia and Syria for distribution amongst refugees. Since 2011, Lutherans have sent more than \$7 million of Quilts and Kits reaching more than 337,000 people.

For more information on the crises and ways to offer support, go to www.lwr.org.

Walking Together in God's Love

Prayer Concerns



Members of our First Lutheran Community: Christina Danielson; Mimi Ham, Rosy Hebert, Ray Jahrling; Bill Kalke; Kathryn McCowan; Cynthia Niiler; Pamela Sperry.

Friends and Family: the Barazi family (*friends of the Biter's*); Brown family (*friends of the Flinner/Hoff family*); Christiansen family (*friends of Jennifer Lambert*); Steve Connearney (*friend of First Lutheran*); Patricia Eversole (*aunt of Peter Pinch*); Irma Fox and family (*Gloria Atherton's sister*); Pelle Geholm (*twin brother of Rut Johnson*); Gail Hoftender (*sister of Geri Nederhoff*); Norma Huisman (*aunt of Brad Nederhoff*); Duke Katterheinrich (*LuAnn Kimker's father*); Ellen Katterheinrich (*LuAnn Kimker's mom*); Kurt Kresge (*step-father of Peter Pinch*); Tom Lividoti (*friend of Susan and Paul Pintus*); Eudeen MacSweeney (*friend of Rut Johnson*); Ann Manz (*niece of Susan and Paul Pintus*); Helen Marquedant (*friend of Paul and Susan Pintus*); Vicki Ostoff (*sister-in-law of Geri Nederhoff*); Sally Raymond (*Jen Biter's mom*); Bob and Martha Rediehs (*uncle and aunt of Ann Sjodin*); Stacey Reed (*sister of Penny Alexander*); Doug Sewich (*brother-in-law of Meg and Tom Maehl*); Brian and Debbie Stoops (*parents of Eben Rauhut's sister-in-law*); Carol Sukow (*Cathy Sukow's mom*); Michael Veit (*friend of Paul and Susan Pintus*).

For those who grieve: the family and friends of Steve Pacifico (*friend of the Kimkers*)

Thanksgiving for Healing: Geri Nederhoff

For our partners: For the Rev. Ángel Marrero and Santuario Luterano, the Spanish speaking Lutheran congregation in Waltham. For other organizations we actively support: the Waltham Family School, The Waltham Community Day Center, Chaplains on the Way, the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing, and ELCA World Hunger.

If you would like to add (or remove) a name from the prayer list, please inform the church office



Flowers for the altar can be donated at any time. This can be a great way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or to remember a loved one who has passed.

Simply sign up on the Flower Chart hanging on the bulletin board in the Pearson Room or contact the church office. On the bulletin board you will also find an envelope on which you can indicate how you would like the flowers dedicated. Please return the envelope to the church office.

Altar Flowers are \$40 for the two arrangements. You may bring them home after worship.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham

Ministers: The people of the congregation

Council: Angela Neal, President
Kevin Dickert, Vice President
Eben Rauhut, Secretary
Scott Niemann, Treasurer
Erika Jerram
Jennifer Lambert
Brad Nederhoff
Janice Ostrander
Susan Pintus
Ann Sjodin

Staff: The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl, Pastor
tmaehl@rcn.com
Ms. Cynthia Niiler,
Director of Music and Parish Secretary
cniilerchurch@rcn.com

Worship: 8:15 and 10:30 am
(9:30 am on 1/29)

Visit us on the Web at: www.firstlutheranwaltham.org
and on Facebook at First Lutheran
Church - Waltham, MA

Learning Hour:
9:15 am



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

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