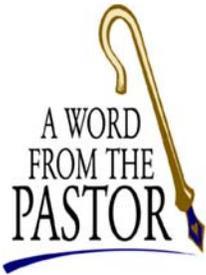


The Messenger

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

April 2017
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This Holy Week we are trying something new! Instead of one service on Maundy Thursday, there will be two; and both will be hosted elsewhere.

The first will begin at noon at a restaurant in Boston; the precise location has yet to be determined and will depend upon the number participating. The second will begin at 6:30 pm at the home of the Sjodin's, 24 Freemont St in Lexington.

What will happen? Along with food and fellowship there will be a brief service that will include confession and forgiveness, a reading of the Passover account appointed for the night, a reflection on Jesus' Last Supper, and the sharing of Holy Communion.

Why are we doing this? It is the task of the Church in every age to keep retelling the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We strive to do so in varied ways that might help draw us deeper into the story, at times revealing to us new or rediscovered truths. Perhaps by setting out the bread and wine, and retelling the story of the "upper room" from someone's dining room, the Holy Spirit might stimulate our imaginations and deepen our experience of God's astounding sacrifice and grace. Also, it is our hope that this might help encourage greater participation in observance of Holy Week.

What about Children? They are most welcome in the evening. After 10 minutes of fellowship, the service itself will be roughly 25 minutes. Thus, kids can get home at an early hour; and those who wish to stay longer may do so.

How Can I help? You can sign up at Church so that we know you are coming and can prepare for you.

May God bless this holy experiment, Pastor Maehl

Holy Week Schedule

Join us we retell, reengage, and celebrate the central story of our Christian faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

April 9 - Palm/Passion Sunday

8:15 & 10:30 am Worship with palms and the hearing of Matthew's Passion.



9:15 am Adult Forum & Sunday School

April 13 - Maundy Thursday

Noon in Boston & 6:30 pm at the home of Ted and Ann Sjodin, 24 Freemont St. Lexington. (see details on left)



April 14 - Good Friday

7:15 pm Worship including Saint John's passion account.



April 15 - Easter Vigil

7:15 pm We join with Santuario Luterano in celebrating Christ's Passover from death to life in a bi-lingual worship service.

April 16 - Easter Sunday

9:15 am Potluck Breakfast

8:15 & 10:30 am Festive worship with Holy Communion, flowers, and bells. With choir and brass at 10:30.



Nurturing Faith

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:22 am

In this the 500th Anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation, we continue our conversations drawing from our Lutheran heritage.

April 2: Rabbi David Finkelstein from Temple Beth Israel in Waltham will be our guest speaker. Rabbi David will share parts of his story, living his Jewish faith in our Massachusetts context.

April 9: Martin Luther, Saint and Sinner. The Latin phrase, "Simul Justus et peccator" was central to the theology of Martin Luther. It means that a Christian is at the *same time* both righteous before God, a saint, (having been justified by grace through faith), and a sinner. Practically speaking, as "saints" we are capable of remarkable good, extending generosity, compassion, and love. At the same time as "sinners," we all have blind spots, get caught up in our own limited view of the world, and end up hurting people. This core teaching allows us to revere Martin Luther for his profound insights and courage; while at the same time disassociating ourselves from his writings and opinions of the Jewish people.

April 16: Easter Breakfast. There will be no adult forum on this day. Please join in the breakfast and bring something to share if you are able.

April 23: Martin Luther and the Theology of the Cross. We will discuss Luther's view that God is revealed most deeply in brokenness and suffering; and that the way to wholeness and salvation is therefore to bring our brokenness and suffering to God, rather than trying to, for instance, purify ourselves or the world apart from God.

April 30: One Service at 9:30 am. No Forum.



July 10- 14, 2017

REGISTER NOW!

We are again offering an early registration for members of First Lutheran, Korean Hope, and Santuario Luterano. If you have children or youth whom you wish to participate, please register before April 15 when registration is opened to the wider community. You can send your registration online (watch the "This Week from First Lutheran" for links) or request paper forms from the church office.

Note: The program is for children 3 years of age by 4/1/17 and older. The morning program is from 9 - 12 pm with an extended day from 12 pm - 3 pm for children who have completed kindergarten. Lunch is provided for children in the extended day program.

Additionally, there are many adult leadership roles to fill; please speak with Holly Diaz or Pastor Maehl if you are able to help. Also, as always we offer this program is free of charge. We are able to provide this for the children in our communities because of generous donations made by others. Contributions marked "VBS" are welcomed at any time! Thank you.



PASSIO by Arvo Pärt
Sunday April 9 at 4:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Worcester.

This setting of St. John's passion narrative, will be presented on the Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday, a day when many churches will have proclaimed the passion according to Matthew's gospel. The performance of the PASSIO will be the perfect devotion to enter the days of Holy Week.

The concert is free - an offering will be received. As the performance is not suitable for small children, nursery care will be available.

Note: *Our own Sylvia van der Weide will be singing with the Trinity Choir in this performance.*

Doing Justice, Serving Others

Pursuing Racial Justice

Thanks to Rachel Nederhoff and Padre Angel, who had a great conversation during the sermon on Sunday, March 26, during which they discussed issues of racial justice and criminal justice reform. One resource strongly recommended by Rachel during the sermon is the documentary “13th” (available on Netflix). For those who are interested in reading or watching more related to these topics, below are links to additional resources.

Reading: In particular, Rachel highly recommends The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander, as well as Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. A fuller list can be found at: <https://qz.com/728658/heres-what-librarians-recommend-reading-on-blm/>

Watching: Below are links to two YouTube videos as well as a list of movies that deal with the intersection of issues of social just and current events: In addition to the documentaries listed below, we also recommend the documentary *Time: The Kalief Browder Story* currently airing on the SpikeTV network and on demand through your cable provider.

“What Is Privilege?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD5f8GuNuGQ>

“Why Does Privilege Make People So Angry?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeYpvV3eRhY>

20 Documentaries
<http://www.vulture.com/2017/02/20-documentaries-that-help-explain-2017-and-where-to-stream.html?wpsrc=nymag>

- Jennifer Lambert,
from the Justice and Service Team

Camp Calumet Summer Camp July 30—August 5

We again will be sending a group of children and youth to Camp Calumet. The camp is reserving 10 spots for our two congregations (First Lutheran and Santuario). The full cost of a week of camping is \$630 plus \$90 for bus transportation; however, Camp Calumet is once again 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 by May 1

Home Weatherization Opportunity

Have a Drafty House? Having Trouble with high Energy Bills? WATCH (The Waltham Alliance to Create Housing) can help! WATCH is looking for homes for our volunteer home weatherization days. Some of the work we do is sealing cracks in basements, caulking around windows, sealing or replacing broken basement windows, installing seals around doors and windows that reduce drafts. Here is what is involved:

- First, WATCH staff and our home efficiency experts will walk through the house with you. Together we will identify all the improvements we can make to reduce your energy use.
- Then, on the day of the event, we will bring community volunteers to your home. We'll all get some training and work alongside the experts to make those identified changes to your home.
- When the work is done, we'll all share lunch!
- Then you and your neighbors in the building can enjoy lower bills and a more comfortable home! And there is no cost to you.

This program is meant for properties of between 2 and 4 units, owned and/or occupied by families of low or modest incomes. If interested, please contact Genoveva at: (781) 891-6689 ext 208. More information at www.watchcdc.org

Doing Justice, Serving Others

Property Committee Update

Clean Up Day Thanks: Following our combined worship service on Sunday, March 26 roughly 50 people participated in our hour of church clean up. Windows were washed and pews were polished, the yard was raked and sidewalks were swept, and much more! Following, we enjoyed a wonderful pot-luck luncheon together. Thanks to all who participated!

Tower Doors: We currently have approximately \$9,500 in our Tower Doors Replacement Fund and are well on our way to our goal of \$15,000. We have signed an agreement with an artisan from Connecticut who will reproduce the existing doors (the current ones are too far gone to repair). We expect the installation of the new doors, for both tower entrances, mid to late summer.

We are thankful to the Nelson Memorial Apartments whose gift of \$5,000 in honor of Reinhold Carlson kicked off this project. If you are able and willing to make a gift to this fund, helping us to close our \$5,500 deficit, it would be greatly appreciated.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Sunday, April 23 at 6:00 pm

The congregation of Temple Beth Israel invite us all to an event on April 23 at the Temple, 25 Harvard Street in Waltham. Professor Rita Goldberg, a lecturer in comparative literature at Harvard University will be discussing her memoir, Motherland, Growing Up with the Holocaust. Professor Goldberg's mother was a Holocaust survivor and like many children of camp survivors, Professor Goldberg also has been profoundly affected by her experience. All are welcome and the event is free of charge.

Community Food Walk

April 30, 2017

Last year we had what we called a mini walk for hunger to encourage children to participate in raising fund for local feeding programs. This year we are expanding! Specifically, we are collaborating with Temple Beth Israel in Waltham and Waltham Fields Community Farms (WFCFs) to offer what we are now calling the Community Food Walk. The details are as follows (from WFCF Web page)...

Welcome to the Waltham Community Walk for Food, presented by First Lutheran Church, Temple Beth Israel and Waltham Fields Community Farm. All three organizations are excited to raise awareness and support around the ability to make fresh, local produce available to our community. On the morning of April 30, we will meet at Waltham Fields Community Farm and at 11am, we walk as a united community to Waltham Common - roughly 1.5 miles away. There we will be joined by Mayor McCarthy for a small celebration of this accomplishment for ourselves and our community. 100% of the funds raised from the Waltham Community Walk for Food will go directly to the costs of operating and growing food for of the WFCF Outreach Market.

The Outreach Market is a once-a-week farm stand for low-income households, open from July through October on Tuesday afternoons. At the Market, customers can fill a bag with fresh, Waltham-grown vegetables. These bags are free with a voucher from one of our partner organizations or for \$5, using cash or SNAP benefits. Last year, the average value of each bag was \$36.47, giving each household an incredible 5 to 1 value!

Watch for more information on how to participate, get sponsors, and donate.

Walking Together in God's Love

JOIN US FOR TRIVIA NIGHT!

Saturday night, April 29th
First Lutheran Church
Waltham, MA

Gather at 7:00 p.m.
Trivia begins at 7:30 p.m.

\$150/table or \$20/person
(8 person max/table)

To reserve a table or seat,
please call or email Jennifer
Lambert or the church office.

Proceeds support First Lutheran
Waltham Youth and The "Double
your Snap Coupon" program at
the Waltham Farmer's Market

Invite friends, come for
fun and laughter, support
our Justice & Service Team.



Project Bread,
Walk for Hunger
May 7, 2017

The annual Project Bread walk for Hunger is scheduled for May 7, and the full distance has returned to 20 miles. If you are interested in participating, more information may be found at www.projectbread.org.



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, which you may bring home after worship.



Thank you to our church family who has offered support and voiced concern for me after my knee surgery. Thanks for the cards, notes, flowers and luscious treats and welcome food ---- some with recipes even! Norm and I really appreciated it all.

Thanks for the kind and gentle thoughts of encouragement. And it is reassuring to hear personal anecdotes ... much to ponder. A special thank you to Pastor for his counsel with phone calls and a home visit. Our church community is a blessing.

Mary Ellen Adams

Walking Together in God's Love



Prayer Concerns

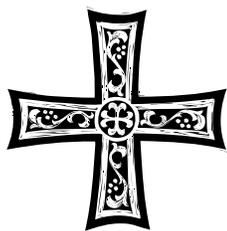
Members of our First Lutheran Community: Christina Danielson; Mimi Ham, Rosy Hebert, Ray Jahrling; Bill Kalke; Kathryn McCowan; Cynthia Niiler; Pamela Sperry.

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*); Peggy Codner (*Tristan Codner's mother*); Steve Connearney (*friend of First Lutheran*). Magnus Forsman (*great-nephew of Rut Johnson*); Irma Fox and family (*Gloria Atherton's sister*); Pelle Geholm (*twin brother of Rut Johnson*); Ray Hauck (*great nephew of Rosy Hebert*); 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*); Eudeen MacSweeney (*friend of Rut Johnson*); Helen Marquedant (*friend of Paul and Susan Pintus*); 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*); Carol Sukow (*Cathy Sukow's mom*); Michael Veit (*friend of Paul and Susan Pintus*).

For those who grieve: the family and friends of Robert McNemar (*father of Don McNemar*), and Jean Schmitz (*grandmother of Sarah Rauhut*).

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



In Memoriam

Martha Bergeson

1921- 2017

We received word that that Martha Bergeson has died. Martha was married to Pastor Ernest Bergeson who served First Lutheran from 1970-1986 and predeceased her. Martha had been a resident of Harwich, MA and died suddenly on March 20th, 2017 at the age of 95. Along with serving First Lutheran in many ways, Martha also worked as a 5th grade teacher in the Waltham school system. A Memorial Service was held at Faith Lutheran Church in Andover, on Saturday the 25th of March, 2017.

We thank God for Martha and Pastor Bergeson and for their love and care extended to many here in Waltham and elsewhere. the promise that in Christ they live.

Celebrations

Our thanks to:

Members of the Youth Sunday school class for presenting the Gospel reading in dramatic fashion on Sunday, March 26. It was the longer story of "The man born blind," from the Gospel of John and it was wonderfully portrayed.

Norman Adams and Holly Diaz for the creation of the new cross used for mid-week Lenten Services. Norman Cut the heavy duty ply wood to shape and Holly glued the image (purchased from Taize in France) onto the wood. The result is beautiful!

Inpakala Pandian and Erika Jerram for researching Lutheran ministries around the world and bringing information and activities to our Sunday school classes. Also to **David Thorp** who is an ELCA pastor currently working among the indigenous peoples in Bolivia, who joined the youth Sunday school class via Skype on March 19 and answered questions about the Lutheran Church there.



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

Worship:

8:15 and 10:30 am
(9:30 am on April 30)

Learning Hour:

9:15 am

Council:

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

Visit us on the Web at:

 Find us on www.firstlutheranwaltham.org
and on Facebook at First Lu-

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

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