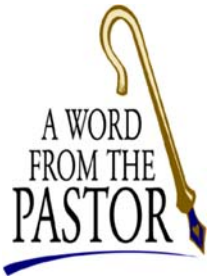


The Messenger

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

March 2017
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In the season of Lent, we are invited (paradoxically) to seek to draw closer to the God who is always close at hand. We do this by repentance, a word that means both a change of our *ways* and a change of our *minds*.

Many Christians throughout the centuries have taken on certain disciplines for lent, paying greater attention to prayer, food, and sharing with the poor. For the most part, these activities address the “*change your ways*” aspect of repentance. But where might we turn if we seek to *change our minds*? Ultimately, a change of mind comes through listening: listening to the scriptures opened for us in worship, listening to the words of wise acquaintances, listening to insightful authors.

I found the following meaning-full quotation recently, it speaks to the kind of repentance that entails a change of mind ...

Jesus says in his society there is a new way for [people] to live:

You show wisdom, by trusting people;

You handle leadership, by servng;

You handle offenders, by forgiving;

You handle money, by sharing;

You handle enemies, by loving;

And you handle violence, by suffering.

In fact you have a new attitude toward everything, toward everybody. Toward nature, toward the state in which you happen to live, toward women, toward slaves, toward all and every single thing. Because this is a Jesus society and you repent, not by feeling bad, but by thinking different.

(Rudy Wiebe, The Blue Mountains of China, Toronto: McClelland and Steward, 1970, pp. 215-216. Quoted in Thinking the Faith, by Douglas John Hall)

As you think about keeping Lent this year I invite you to consider one or more of the underlined “ing” words in the quotation above; asking yourself:

- With whom might I risk greater trust?
- How else shall I serve?
- With whom may I be freer with forgiveness?
- What more shall I share?
- What enemy is close enough to me that my loving them could make a difference?
- What injustice facing someone else might I stop ignoring and face more squarely, even if a measure of suffering might ensue?

Perhaps just pick one, and live with it for week, or all of Lent. Perhaps, just perhaps, living with a question such as this ... just might change our mind.

Reformation Trivia Question:

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany. What was his first thesis?

Answer: *When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.*

I wish you all a blessed Lent, Pastor Maehl

Last Sunday - One Service

**Sunday, March 26
Worship at 9:30 am**

Activity following (see page 2)

Please remember that there is only one service on the last Sunday of each month.

Nurturing Faith

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:22 am

2017 Marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. At various points during the coming year there will be opportunities to learn more of our Lutheran heritage.

March 5: Pastor Christopher Hoyer will be our guest speaker. Pastor Hoyer was ordained 40 years ago at a time of great division within one particular strand of American Lutheranism, called the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He attended Seminex, short for "Concordia Seminary in Exile," which was formed in 1973 when 45 out of 50 faculty of the largest Lutheran Seminary in the US had their jobs terminated over their refusal to refrain from using a particular form of modern scholarship. Come hear Pastor Hoyer share pieces of his story.

March 12: Luther on Grace. We will watch a portion of a Rick Steve's presentation of the Reformation; and then reflect on some of Luther's writings that reveal the heart of Lutheranism; namely, the insistence that all depends upon God's grace which has the power to transform our lives now.

March 19: Luther on Judaism. We will watch the second portion of the Rick Steve's presentation of the Reformation; and then reflect on some of Luther's negative writings (writings we now reject!) pertaining to the Jewish people.

March 26: No Adult Forum

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.

Lenten Wednesdays

Conversation & Prayers Around the Cross

We join with our sister congregation, Santuario Luterano, in a joint mid-week Lenten program. With guest speakers from the wider community we will discuss the intersection of faith and public life. Dinner will be prepared by members of Santuario and we will take care of the clean up. Our guest on March 8 will be Carlos Vidal, a local realtor and the first Latino elected to the Waltham City Council.

The Prayers Around the Cross is a contemplative service, with times of quiet and a focus upon Jesus giving his life for the sake of the world. The schedule is as follows:

- 6:30 Dinner (Founder's Hall)
- 6:30 Conversation (Founder's Hall)
- 7:45 Prayers around the Cross (sanctuary)

Please consider making Wednesday nights at First Lutheran part of your Lenten discipline.

Last Sunday of the Month March 26 One Service at 9:30 am

On this Sunday we will join with members of Santuario Luterano for worship. Following we invite you to stay and join one of several teams (made up people from both congregations) who will engage in 45 minutes of clean up: dusting, polishing pews, washing windows, etc. Following that we will end with a joint meal. *Watch for more details.*

Pastoral Note: We do not have a maintenance person or building manager on staff; and thus the care of the building falls primarily on the few dedicated members of the property committee. Your participation in this event, joining with others for a brief time in caring for the building that God has entrusted to us all, would be a blessing. Please join in if you are able —Pastor Maehl

Walking Together in God's Love



Senior Classics

In February we had a lovely get together with strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, chips, and two birthday cakes to celebrate 5 seniors. There was lots of laughter and conversation.

Our next gathering will be March 16, 11:45 am. Join us for a carpool visit to Ikea for lunch and shopping, weather permitting.

PS: If you have the time—all are welcome no matter the age—Join the fun.

Property Committee Update

We have received a bid for \$13,000 for the construction and installation of two sets of entry doors for the tower. The new doors will match the original using quarter sawn white oak; and the existing hardware and original glass will be reused. We expect the project will be undertaken in May or June.

At our annual meeting in January, we received a \$5,000 gift from the Nelson Board in honor of Reinhold Carlson for these new doors. The remaining balance will come from existing funds in the Capital Improvement Funds and additional gifts given. We welcome contributions that may be designated either "New Tower Doors," or "Capital Improvements."

Game Night Fun

We had an enjoyable game night on Saturday, February 4 with roughly 25 people participating. With cards, dominos, Chronology, and ping-pong it was an pleasurable evening for all. If anyone would like to coordinate another game night, please contact Pastor Maehl. Its as easy as picking a date and ordering pizza.

Congregational Retreat Update

There we 60 who participated in our annual congregational retreat to Camp Calumet in NH and we had a wonderful weekend together. We had times for engaging conversation, games, food, worship; and although warm, there was still enough snow for snow tubing. Next year's retreat is scheduled for March 9-11; mark your calendar and consider joining us.

Camp Calumet Summer Camp July 30—August 5

We have confirmed with Camp Calumet that our assigned week will be Sunday, July 30 through Saturday, August 5. The camp is reserving 12 spots for our two congregations (First Lutheran and Santuario). May we reserve a spot for your child/children ages 8-16? If so, please contact Pastor Maehl

Mark Your Calendars

March 26 - One service 9:30 am

April 13-16 Holy Week services: including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday.

April 29: Trivia Night: Join us for a fun night of trivia! Funds raised will be split between the Waltham Farmer's Market matching SNAP coupons program and our participation in the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX.

April 30: Mini-Walk for Hunger: We will be joining with Temple Beth Israel in Waltham to host this year's mini-walk to raise funds for the Waltham Fields Community Farms. Watch for more information.

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*). 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 our partners: For the Rev. Ángel Marrero and Santuario Luterano, our Spanish speaking Lutheran sister 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



Our Thanks To ...

Holly Diaz and Kevin Dickert for leading the middle school youth component of our congregational retreat.

Geri Nederhoff and Jennifer Lambert for providing hospitality for a refugee support gathering held at First Lutheran on February 25

Adam Smith for providing piano accompaniment to worship on several occasions, including the Sunday of our congregational retreat.

Norman Adams, Dennis Ostrander and Reinhold Carlson for their ongoing maintenance work at the church and the Nelson apartments.

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

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

Worship:
8:15 and 10:30 am
(9:30 am on March 26)

Learning Hour:
9:15 am

Visit us on the Web at:

 Find us on www.firstlutheranwaltham.org
Facebook 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.