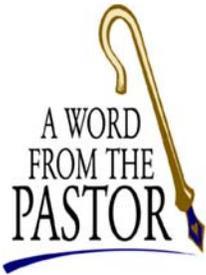


The Messenger

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

May 2017
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On Easter morning we gathered for worship and along with the Easter Gospel we heard these words:

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

This passage lifts up core aspects of our Easter Faith; including:

- That in each of our lives there is suffering (v. 6)
- That our life of faith is marked by just that, “faith,” without the benefit of seeing or clear proof of God’s existence (v. 8a).
- Trusting that our future has already been secured by Christ (v. 3), regardless of what we face, we are offered an ever-renewing source of joy and hope (v. 8b)
- Therefore salvation begins now, in this lifetime (v. 9).

This is why Sunday Worship is at the center of all we do as a Church!

Calendar

April 30 Community Walk Food Walk

Following one service at 9:30 am. (see page 4)

May 7 - Baptism of Aidan Rauhut at 10:30 am

Please bring diapers in celebration (see page 4)

May 14 - Farewell to Cynthia Niiler who begins her 3 month sabbatical (see page 2)

May 28 Spring Fling Luncheon

Following one service at 9:30 am (see page 4)

June 3 - Trivia Night (see page 5)

June 4 - Last Day of Sunday school

June 11 - First Day of Summer Schedule

One service at 9:30 am all summer

July 10-14 - Vacation Bible School

As plants are nurtured by water and sunlight, it is in worship that we are watered and nurtured by the Gospel - the transformative news that God is with us, that our future has been secured by the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, and that, therefore, hope and joy are available.

Thank you for the ways you support our worship services: some through assuming leadership roles, many others by your presence. May the risen Christ bless our worship experiences and may we all continue to be rooted and nurtured in him who is our enduring hope.

Blessed Easter,
Pastor Maehl

Sabbatical Bound!

By Cynthia Niiler

May 15 - August 27



Throughout my sabbatical the overarching focus will be on worship. I will be taking organ lessons and spending time practicing organ in order to advance my skills in leading the people's song during worship. I will spend time at Iona, an ecumenical Christian community on a small island off the coast of Scotland. Here I will worship in their ancient abbey and participate in a workshop focused on worship. I will experience worship at as many places as possible with a chance to talk to regular worshippers about what makes worship meaningful for them. I will have time for my own personal worship, refreshing my soul so I may have more to share when I return. I will have a chance to travel, broadening my experiences. And I will have some true vacation time to relax and recharge.

Here's my Itinerary:

May 15 - 18: Retreat with a spiritual director in Biddeford ME.

May 22 - June 14: Organ, Bible Study and worship conversations in St. Paul, MN

June 15 - June 29: Home continuing organ, bible study and worship conversations.

June 30 - July 24: Travel in England and Scotland, including a week attending the "Change without Decay" workshop at the Iona Community in Scotland.

July 25 - August 7: Home continuing organ, bible study and worship conversations.

August 8 - August 21: Vacation in New Hampshire and Maine.

August 22 - August 25: Retreat with a spiritual director in Biddeford, ME.

August 29 - Return to work.

Who's filling in?

In the office: Sarah Rauhut, with office hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Music for Sunday worship: Lindsay Albert will be here for most of the Sundays. She is an accomplished pianist who accompanies several collegiate choirs in Boston, and who grew up in the Lutheran church. Other Sundays will be covered by: Gregory Flynn, Sandy Hebert, Catherine Pinch and Adam Smith.

Can you help?

Beyond my official duties, I also take care of several flower gardens at church. Would you be willing to be part of a team that makes sure the gardens are watered and flowers are deadheaded through the summer as blossoms fade? If so, please speak with me between now and May 14.

Thank You!

I am ever blest by your support in providing this sabbatical time to me. Thank you!!!

Nurturing Faith

July 10- 14, 2017

Sunday School Update

Art Sunday: For our recent Art Sunday project, the kids were asked “*What do you think about God, Jesus, church and prayer?*” Their answers were then written onto garden stones that the children had painted. The beautiful stones are now displayed in the garden on the Eddy St side of the church. Many thanks to Carol Hansen for organizing and to all who helped including: Mary Ellen Adams, Erika Jerram, Steve Hoff, LuAnn Kimker, Lori Hrdlicka, Eben Rauhut, and Paul Weeden.

Our last day of Sunday school is June 4.

Our thanks to our lead teachers Heather Fahey, Emily Sjodin, Michelle Landstrom, Isabella van der Weide, and LuAnn Kimker. Also our thanks to Lori Hrdlicka for serving as Sunday school coordinator, and to Erika Jerram for overseeing the Art Sundays. Thanks too for all who have helped fill in on varied Sundays, have supported the library and nursery, and to all who have made a commitment to bringing their children to participate.

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. There will be a teacher appreciation breakfast during the learning hour on May 21, We welcome all teachers and all who have assisted with the Sunday school program (art Sundays, library, reading, music, etc.). Please RSVP to Lori Hrdlicka if attending.



Might you be able to come one or more afternoons between 1 and 3 pm to help facilitate our afternoon program?

With some groups walking to a nearby park and others staying back to engage in crafts and other projects we need several adults to act as chaperones and shepherds.

Watch the bulletin and e-news for other ways you might contribute; and please keep our VBS program in your prayers.!

Holy Week and Easter Thanks

Thanks to all who helped lead our services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. In particular, our thanks to:

Brad Nederhoff, Ted & Ann Sjodin for opening their office and home respectively for our Maundy Thursday gatherings in Boston and Lexington.

Our youth who provided music, readings, and “stripping of the altar” for our Good Friday service and also leadership for our Easter Vigil service; namely, **Diedre Fahey, Betsy and Nick Hoff, Julia and Maggie Niemann, Kayali Pandian, Martin Sieving, Justin Sjodin, and Jake Villalta.**

Those who helped decorate the sanctuary for Easter, who set up Founder’s Hall for the Easter Vigil and again for Easter Day breakfast; in particular to the: **Flinner/Hoff, Hrdlicka/Villalta, Lambert, Maehl, Niemann, Pintus, Sieving, Sjodin, & Yarbroughs**

To those who provided special music: **Cathy and Isabella van der Wiede, Justin and Ted Sjodin, Tom Maehl and Brad Nederhoff, and all the members of the adult choir.**

Doing Justice, Serving Others

Food Walks

On April 30 we will be helping to host the 1st annual **Waltham Community Food Walk**. All money raised will support the Waltham Fields Community Farm Outreach Market. The Outreach market provides low income Waltham residents with access to fresh fruits and vegetables at a reduced cost, or for free for those who receive vouchers from local social service agencies. If you would like to join in this 1.5 mile walk, simply show up at Waltham Fields Farm at 11 am on April 30 (240 Beaver Street).



On May 7, we again will be supported **Project Bread's 20 mile Walk for Hunger** that supports feeding programs throughout Boston. If you would like to join in this walk, please contact Meg Maehl.

Donations for either walk may be made by placing cash or check in the offering plate marked, "Food Walk," or "Walk for Hunger." You can also contribute on-line at one of the following:

<http://www.communityfarms.org>

<http://www.projectbread.org>
(search on Meg Maehl's contribution page)

Thank you for helping to address issues of hunger in our community!



Diaper Drive Gathering thru 5/7

We continue our tradition of gathering diapers at each baptism. They are then donated to the Diaper Depot housed at Christ Episcopal Church. We are celebrating two baptisms: Viviana Estrom on April 23 and Aidan Rauhut on May 7.

We encourage you to share in the celebration by bringing diapers (preferable size 5-6) at any time between now and May 7.

Luncheon and Basket Raffle Sunday, May 28

Following One Service at 9:30 am on Sunday, May 28 we invite you to a luncheon that will include a raffle of gift baskets and beautiful hand crafted items, made by participants in our Thursday knitting group. All money collected will be used to support our Camp Calumet scholarship Fund, enabling us to help send children and youth for a week of summer camp.

We invite you to participate in any of the following ways:

- Coming to the event and sharing in the community gathering.
- Bring a food item to share in our pot-luck luncheon.
- Preparing a basket to be raffled. Some past themes have been: "Chocolate Lovers" "Summer Fun" "Baker's Delight" use your imagination. Note: items to be raffled will be put on display beginning on May 14 to allow for participation from other groups who use the First Lutheran facility and from those who will be away over Memorial Day weekend. We welcome contributions of baskets anytime between May 14 and 28.
- And of course, we welcome your financial support either through the purchase of raffle tickets or with contributions marked, "Camp Calumet."

Spring Clean Up Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who helped with our one hour of clean up following worship on March 26. With nearly 50 people participating it was a great success and we hope to do it again next spring. Our particular thanks to Norman and Mary Ellen Adams for preparing all the cleaning supplies and lists of tasks.

Doing Justice, Serving Others

TRIVIA NIGHT

We moved our previously scheduled trivia night to Saturday, June 3. We invite you to come and participate in this very fun annual event. You can come with a team already defined, or come alone and you'll be joined to a team when you arrive. Here are the details:

Saturday, June 3

Gather at 7:00 p.m.

Trivia begins at 7:30 p.m.

**\$175/table or \$25/person
(8 person max/table)**

**To reserve a table or seat, please contact
Jennifer Lambert or the church office.**

Proceeds will be divided between First Lutheran and the Waltham Farmers Market.

- The First Lutheran portion will support our next service trip to El Salvador being planned for the summer of 2018. (This trip is in partnership with Thrivent Builds and Habitat for Humanity).
- The Waltham Farmer's Market portion will be used for their "Double your SNAP coupon program." This encourages persons who receive governmental support for food to patronize the Waltham Farmer's Market; and by doubling their vouchers they are provided with greater access to healthy food.

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

Waltham Family School (WFS) Showcase

Wednesday, May 31, 10am - Noon

Waltham Community & Cultural Center
510 Moody Street, Waltham
Enter Door #8 (*around back*)

The annual WFS Showcase is a wonderful opportunity to meet Waltham neighbors and to support and encourage WFS parents in their learning. All you have to do is talk!

This *Showcase* provides the parents with the opportunity to use their developing English skills to share their experiences and successes with others in the wider community. It is an open house, so you can drop in any time between 10:00 and noon. **The children will sing at 11:30 am.**

For those who do not know the organization: The Waltham Family School provides educational opportunities for families who want to learn English. The school prepares preschool children for success in school, empowers parents to be partners with the schools in the education of their children, and strengthens the parents' skills necessary for parenting, workforce, and community life. Our members Britta McNemar, Meg Maehl and Anne Dugan are WFS staff, and our church supports the school in many ways. You can learn more about the school at: www.walthamfamilyschool.org

WFS Family Fair

Saturday, June 3, 11 AM - 2 PM

Come, have fun and support Waltham Family School. WFS Family Fair is a fun event open to the public. Hosted by alumni and parents in Waltham Family School, you can enjoy games, face painting, a photo booth, clown show, and snacks for families with children in the ages of 3 years old and up.

Waltham Community and Cultural Center
510 Moody Street, Waltham, MA
\$5 per child (3 years and up)
Tickets available at the door.

Walking Together in God's Love

Property Committee Update

Tower Doors We are happy to report that thanks to so many gifts to the Capital Improvement Fund, we now have the \$15,000 necessary for the reconstruction of both sets of Tower Doors. We expect construction and installation to be completed this summer.

Sound System: Our sound system is old and is beginning to fail. On Sunday, April 30 we will be experimenting with new speakers that are on loan. If you are in worship that day, please let us know what you think. Also, we are expecting that the cost of upgrading our sound system will be approximately \$8000 and so we continue to welcome gifts to the Capital Improvement Fund.

Sink Hole: On a negative note, we have developed a large sink hole near a cistern in the church parking lot. If you come to church, you may notice an orange cone blocking that spot. We are currently seeking estimates on how to repair this. On a positive note, we received a \$5,000 gift from the estate of Alice Johnson. At its last meeting, the church council voted to direct this gift to the Capital Improvement Fund allowing us to cover this unexpected expense.

Lawn Mowing: SOMETHING NEW!!!!

As in years past, we welcome your help with the mowing of the church lawn. There is a signup in the Pearson Room and you can sign up for one or more weeks over the summer. You are then welcome to come anytime during that week at your convenience. We provide the lawn mower and the gas. **WHAT IS NEW** is that this year we are inviting you to sign up for a week **either to mow or to pay a youth to do it in your stead.** The way this works is that you would pay \$30 for a given week. \$15 of that would be given to the mower and the \$15 will support our 2018 Youth Gathering Trip in Houston.

Contribution Thanks

We are grateful for recent contributions for the Tower Doors in Honor of Reinhold Carlson and for additional gifts to the Capital Improvement Fund from:

Charles Benson
Eric Carlson
Reinhold Carlson
Bud Crouse
Connie Danielson
Diana Dupuis
Ernie and Marielu Gaiser
Joanne Guernsey
Rosy Hebert
Alice Johnson (via her will)
Patricia Kuehl
Meg and Tom Maehl
Dennis and Janice Ostrander
Catherine and Peter Pinch
Paul and Susan Pintus
Alan and Alexandra Sieving
Doris Speer
The Nelson Memorial Apartments



Calling all youth! If you read the "Lawn Mowing" item to the left you can see that we are inviting youth to participate in lawn mowing over this summer. If you would like to serve as a lawn mover over one or more weeks, please speak with Pastor Maehl. Each time you mow, you will receive \$15 for your efforts and another \$15 will go to support our big youth trip in the summer of 2018. Take a look at the board in the Pearson Room for more information.

Walking Together in God's Love



Senior Classics

The seniors gathered to visit and enjoy delicious cake in celebration of Juri Niiler's birthday.

We missed our Connie as she is now in rehab getting stronger after a recent illness and being well cared for.

For May, the group has decided to visit the Wayside Inn for lunch in Sudbury on Thursday, May 18. We have reservations for 11:45 am and will leave church at 11:00 am. The historic Inn is lovely and their gardens should be blooming. Note: we will be celebrating Ardeith's birthday and this meal is being covered from a fund at Church; so there will be no charge for lunch! Please let Ardeith know if you can join us.

Intern Update

Our next intern is named John Barton and he is currently a student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley California. John is originally from Tempe, Arizona and will begin his internship with us in the beginning of September. Pastor Maehl will be travelling to California for a meeting of interns and supervisors over May 1-5.

Intern Fund Update: we currently have roughly \$25,000 in our Intern Fund with a final goal of \$35,000 needed to cover stipend and housing costs. We welcome contributions to the Intern Fund at any time.

New England Synod Assembly Donation Appeal

Please consider bringing donations for the individual and families Ascetria serves. Your thoughtful donations will be shared with:

- Refugees, including unaccompanied minors
- Older adults and the elderly
- Children, youth and families
- Person with developmental disabilities, mental illness and deafness
- Those who are economically disadvantaged

Items requested

- Pillows (new)
- Blankets: twin or full size (new)
- Sheets: twin or full size (new)
- Gift Cards: Wal-Mart, Target or grocery store
- Toiletry Items (full size preferred)
 - Shampoo
 - Bar soap or body wash
 - Toothpaste
 - Toothbrushes, dental floss
 - Deodorant
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Shaving supplies

Please bring items by June 4 so that they can be delivered to the New England Synod Assembly being held June 9-10 in Springfield, MA. Our thanks to Angela Neal and Brad Nederhoff for serving as our delegates to the assembly this year.

Walking Together in God's Love



Prayer Concerns

Members of our First Lutheran Community: Christina Danielson; Connie Danielson, Mimi Ham, Rosy Hebert, 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*).

For those who grieve: the family and friends of Ray Jahrling; Michael Kelleher (*cousin of James Kelleher*); the family and friends of Michael Veit (*friend of Paul and Susan Pintus*).

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

Ray Jarling

1926 - 2017

We received word that that long-time member Ray Jahrling died on April 24 while in hospice care in Florida. The family is planning a memorial service at First Lutheran to be held on Friday, May 26 (with a tentative time of 11:00 am).

Please keep June Jahrling and all their family in your prayers. We thank God for Ray and for the gift he has been to our congregation; and we thank God for his sure promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Celebrations

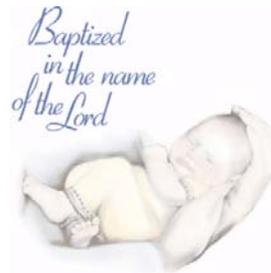
Graduates!

Is someone in your family graduating this spring? Please let us know so we can list graduates in the June Messenger.



It is nice to have the following information:

- Name
- Graduating from
- Degree received (if appropriate)
- Plans for next year.



We Rejoice in the Baptisms of:

Viviana Estrom, daughter of Kristin and Michael Estrom, and sister of Quinn on April 23.,

Aidan Rauhut, son of Sarah and Eben Rauhut, and brother of Melina on May 7.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham

Ministers: The people of the congregation

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

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 May 28)

Learning Hour:
 9:15 am

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



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

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