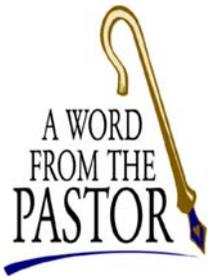


The Messenger

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 2018
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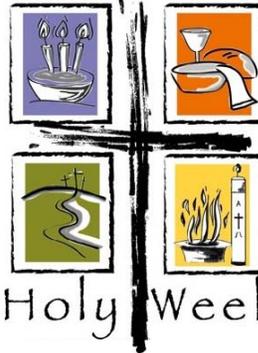
Again we are trying something new on **Maundy Thursday**, March 29. This year we are offering three opportunities to gather around the story of Jesus' "Last Supper" and celebrate Holy Communion.

- 11:30 am: There will be a service at First Lutheran for those who prefer to travel during the day
- 5:30 pm: There will be a gathering at a bar in Cambridge, and we will be joined by several people from Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge. Note the precise location will be determined, and communicated, soon.
- 7:00 pm: There will be a gathering at the home of Angela Neal, 204 Hudson Road, in Sudbury. Children and adults are most welcome!

At these gatherings we will read the story of Jesus' "Last Supper;" then share in conversation about how his love for us and his commandment that we are to love one another give shape to our work and daily life. We will also engage in a brief order of confession and forgiveness* and share Holy Communion.

*Did you know? Lent officially ends with the confession and absolution offered on Maundy Thursday. Then we enter into the great three days where we along with many other Christians throughout the world attend to the central story of our faith; namely, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please engage in our Holy Week services at Church and gatherings out in the world as you are able.

Faithfully, Pastor Maehl



Holy Week Schedule

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

March 25 - Palm/Passion Sunday

9:30 am Worship with palms and the hearing of Mark's Passion. **Followed by pizza and Spring Clean up**

March 29 - Maundy Thursday

(details on left)

March 30 - Good Friday

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

March 31 - 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 1 - 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

Thanks to our recent forum leaders: We have been enjoying a wonderful series focusing on issues of health and healthcare. Our thanks to :

- **Eric Carlson** and **LuAnn Kimker** for leading a conversation on physical health.
- **Matt Jerram** for leading a conversation on mental health
- **Rod Rietze** and **Ann Sjodin** for leading a conversation on drug development.

Note our series will resume on April 8 with a continuation of our conversation about drug development. Join us and bring your questions.

Upcoming Adult Forum Schedule

March 11: No Adult Forum or Sunday school as it is the weekend of the congregational retreat.

March 18: Financial Planning

Jonathan Hendrikson from Thrivent will lead a conversation about financial planning.

March 25: Last Sunday of the Month,
No Adult Forum or Sunday School.

April 1: Easter Sunday!

Join us for Easter Breakfast at 9:15 am.

April 8: Drug Development, part 2

April 15: TBD

April 22: Social Service and Advocacy:

Bill Mayo, board chair of Ascentria (*Formerly Lutheran Social Services*) will speak about various Ascentria programs, including the resettlement of refugees; and will lead a discussion about ways we might grow in advocacy.

Lenten Wednesdays March 14 and 21

Conversation & Evening Prayer

We continue our midweek Lenten Program with conversation focusing on how the three congregations sharing space may grow in our relationships.

The schedule is as follows:

6:45 Finger Food (Founder's Hall)

7:00 Conversation (Founder's Hall)

8:00 Evening Prayer (Founder's Hall)

Please join us!

Last Sunday of the Month March 25 Palm Sunday One Service at 9:30 am

Following worship we invite you to stay and join in helping with one hour of Spring Clean up. We will provide pizza! Tasks to choose from include: dusting, polishing pews, washing windows, etc. Children and adults are encouraged to work together.



Camp Calumet Summer Camp July 29—August 4

We have confirmed with Camp Calumet that our assigned week will be Sunday, July 29 through Saturday, August 4. The camp is reserving 10 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

Doing Justice, Serving All



*From the
Vicar*

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

(Matthew 25:35)

Food is one of those basic needs that everyone has, we all need food to survive. Increasingly though, it is harder to access healthy, affordable food, especially for those with low income. With that in mind, two years ago members of First Lutheran Church came together to walk and help raise funds for Waltham Fields Community Farms and its Outreach Market which grows local, organic produce. This produce is then affordably provided to members of the Waltham community with the help of financial partnerships, sponsors, and subsidies.

Last year the walk's participation was expanded to include members of Temple Beth Israel. The original common goal of raising resources for healthy, affordable food was continued and joined by the desire to build community among faith groups in Waltham at the same time.

This year, when I heard about the great efforts and work already done with the food walk, I hoped to contribute to helping it grow even more. This year, faith communities and people from around Waltham have been invited to participate in the Waltham Community Food Walk. All of the participants are excited to raise awareness and support around the ability to make fresh, local produce available to our community. Mark your calendars because on the morning of **April 29th**, we will meet at Waltham Fields Community Farm and at **11:30 am**, we will walk as a united community to Waltham Common - roughly 1.5 miles away. There we will have a small celebration of this accomplishment for ourselves and our community. 100% of the funds raised from the Waltham Community Food Walk will go directly to the costs of operating and growing food for the Outreach Market.

This event was originally conceived to allow more people of all ages, especially children and families, to work together raise awareness and resources for healthy food access in the achievable distance of the 1.5 miles.

Come and meet other people in your community from different backgrounds with the same passion for food justice. This event will be a great opportunity for practicing ecumenicalism and interfaith work while simultaneously internally engaging our own faith as Christians. *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."* This walk is one way of many in which we can live out Jesus' words from Matthew's gospel.

For more information or questions about the day, contact me.

Sincerely,

Vicar John Barton

Mark your Calendar

Waltham Community Food Walk Sunday, April 29, 2018

- 9:30 am worship
- 11:30 am Gather at Waltham Fields Community Farm (240 Beaver Street, Waltham)
- 12:00 (or whenever you get there) share food with others on Waltham Common.

Walking Together in God's Love

Scavenger Hunt Thanks

Our thanks to **Kat Flinner** for organizing a fabulous scavenger hunt on Sunday, February 25. Intergenerational teams, with children in the lead, traipsed through the sanctuary, balcony, and elsewhere looking for:

- scripture verses on stained glass windows,
- Dedication plaques
- Symbols
- And more



A Scavenger Hunt Team
Standing below the only stained glass window
that has a verse from the Gospel of Mark

Property Committee Update

Thanks to so much support from the congregation, last year we were able to accomplish a variety of major capital improvements including the installation of a new furnace and new tower doors. Now we are turning our attention to other projects. The following are three projects we are hoping to accomplish in 2018:

Installation of a brass railing in the balcony:

We are planning to install a brass railing to increase the safety in the balcony. We have funds for this and are currently looking for a contractor to do this work.

Installation of New Sound System:

The sound system in the sanctuary is old and outdated. Furthermore the sound quality underneath the balcony is poor, and some people with hearing loss have noted that it is often difficult to hear. We have worked with a consultant and have an estimate of approximately \$16,000 to upgrade our sound system.

We currently have half of the funds raised for this. We received a \$4,000 gift from an individual and we received a \$4,000 rebate from Mass Save for our new boilers. We are hoping that with additional gifts to the Capital Improvement Fund we might tackle this project over the summer.

Creating an outside sitting area: The city recently replaced part of the sidewalk on Eddy Street and damaged hedges in front of "La Casa" (our name for the office space in the apartment attached to the church). We are hoping to remove the hedges, have a stone retaining wall built, put in some new plantings, and create a sitting area in that spot.

We welcome contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund at any time, and we thank the congregation for your ongoing support.

- The Property Committee

Walking Together in God's Love

Balcony Update

As you may know we have created a contemplative Prayer space in the balcony. I am slowly adding reading materials; not longer books, but magazines and shorter books of essays, poems, and prayers that one might sit with for a shorter time.

For instance, there is a collection of poetry by Mary Oliver called Devotion. Here is a sample:

Praying

*It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch*

*a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway*

*into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak."*

By Mary Oliver

Please use this new prayer space when you need a time of quiet, or space away from the bustle of a Sunday morning. Along with resources for reading there are also images to look at, places to sit (chairs, benches, rugs, pillows), and the sacred quiet of our beautiful sanctuary.

- Pastor Maehl



Walking Together in God's Love

Prayer Concerns



Members of our First Lutheran Community: Marquette Alexander; Sally Ann Biter; Ernie Gaiser; Christina Danielson; Connie Danielson; Mimi Ham; Rosy Hebert; Lorne MacArthur; Kathryn McCowan; Cynthia Niiler.

Friends and Family: Mildred Care (*grandmother of Sarah Rauhut*); Christiansen family (*friends of Jennifer Lambert*); Steve Connearney (*friend of First Lutheran*); Donna (*friend of LuAnn Kimker*); Magnus Forsman (*great-nephew of Rut Johnson*); Pelle Geholm (*twin brother of Rut Johnson*); Susan Goslin (*friend of Joan Clemens*); Norma Huisman (*aunt of Brad Nederhoff*);

Terri Koopman (*aunt of Matt Jerram*); Emily Lewis and her parents (*friends of Paul and Susan Pintus*); Eudeen MacSweeney (*friend of Rut Johnson*); Stephen Manz (*nephew of Paul and Susan Pintus*); Helen Marquedant (*friend of Paul and Susan Pintus*); Ralph Platfoot (*uncle of LuAnn Kimker*); Sally Raymond (*Jen Biter's mom*); Stacey Reed (*sister of Penny Alexander*); Doug Sewich (*brother-in-law of Meg and Tom Maehl*); Charles Wilson (*brother-in-law of Joan Clemens*).

For those who grieve: The family and friends of James Shread Sr. (*grandfather of John and Ryan Shread*); The family and friends of Norma Jean Wiberg (*mother of a friend of LuAnn Kimker*).

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/remove a name to/from the prayer list, please inform the church office.

Thank
you!

Thank you to the people of First Lutheran. Your prayers have helped to get us through a worrisome time.

Robin and Jack Borenca

Celebrations

Music for the Season

Saturday March 24 at 7:30 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
73 Lancaster Street
Worcester, MA

St. Mark Passion, BWV 247 Johann Sebastian Bach

Trinity Choir and Orchestra with soloists
Cantor Mark Mummert, conducting

www.trinityworc.org

Sunday, March 18 at 7:00 pm
Trinity Episcopal Church
81 Elm Street
Concord, MA

Lenten Vespers Service music will include **J. S. Bach Cantata #199, Mein Hertz Schwimmt im Blut**

With additional works by: Henry Purcell,
Heinrich Schutz, Tomaso Albinoni

Performed by the Peregrine Consort, a pe-
riod instrument ensemble in residence at
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Wo-
burn.

www.peregrineconsort.org

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 John Barton, Intern
jbarton@ses.plts.edu

Sunday Worship:

8:15 and 10:30 am
(9:30 am on March 25)

Sunday 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:

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.

2018 Easter Plants Order Form



I/we would like to make a contribution to:

- Easter Lily(s) Tulip(s)
 Daffodil(s) Hyacinth(s)

At \$7.50 a plant for a total of \$ _____

I/we would like to make a donation
to support the church's gardens of \$ _____

As a Memorial Gift
In Memory of _____
Given by _____

As a Living Tribute
In Honor of _____
Given by _____

Name _____

Phone Number or email: _____

*You can take your plants home after the 10:30 service
on Easter morning.*

Please complete this form and return it with your payment to the
church office or you may put it in the offering plate.

**THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING EASTER PLANTS IS
MARCH 18**