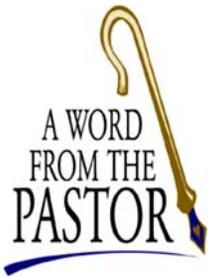


# The Messenger

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/May 2018  
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*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

(Jeremiah 29:11)

After ten years, the Korean Hope Church is leaving. They are joining in with another Korean speaking church in Bedford, and their last Sunday at First Lutheran will be April 15. I thank God for their time with us; and for the ways in which God has blessed them through us, and us through them.

This coming Sunday, April 15, a few elders from Korean Hope Church will be present at our 10:30 worship service. At the end of that service we will thank God for our time together and pray for both our congregations.

Also on April 15th, during the Adult Forum there will be opportunity to discuss what's next. Three practicalities will influence our conversation of "What's next?" The first is that there will be *more* space, the second is that there will be *less* income; the third is that there will be the *same* Holy Spirit binding us together as community. Here are my thoughts on each.

**More space:** We now is a new opportunity to dream about how else our church might be a blessing to others in our community. I wonder whom God might lead to us in the months or years ahead; perhaps a group related to the arts, education, service, or something else. Of course, we may have to wait for something new to present itself. I believe that our discernment in the months and years ahead should be driven by a desire and hope to be a to be of use to God; rather than anxiety over revenue.

**Less Income:** The Korean Hope Church has been contributing \$24,000 to our annual budget. Their leaving now presents us with a \$16,000 shortfall to the 2018 budget. I am aware that on one hand this is a great sum of money. On the other hand, at roughly the same time last year, we were able to raise \$20,000 for a new furnace (following two other major gifts). I believe we have the means to make up the gap.

**Same Holy Spirit:** *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,* I trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to be at work in us; perhaps surprising us with something new or perhaps having us operate for a time with less use of the building. So too, I trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to challenge and inspire us, in ways motivate our willingness to risk faithful giving. Each time there is a financial appeal at church we are each confronted with the questions: "*What do I want to contribute?*" "*What might God be calling me to contribute?*" "*Is it my turn, my time, to be one of those who will increase my contribution?*" I ask that you prayerfully consider those questions.

I invite you to pray for the people of Korean Hope Church as they embark on a new venture in Bedford; and continue to pray for our congregation as well. Come to the adult forum on April 15, if you are able, and join in the conversation. Finally, we welcome additional contributions; you can simply note "Making up the Gap" on your gift.

Thanks for your partnership in the ministry we share, and thanks be to God for so richly blessing our congregation with grace and mercy, resources and people, and the love of the risen Christ that will never let us go.

Faithfully, Pastor Maehl

## Nurturing Faith

### Adult Forum Sundays at 9:22

#### April 15: Korean Hope's Departure

On this day we will discuss:

- Ways in which our 10+ year relationship with the Korean Hope Church has been a blessing,
- Ways in which we might envision sharing our church space with the wider community now that Korean Hope is leaving, and
- Ways we might encourage contributions to fill a financial gap to our budget as a result of their departure.

#### April 22: Ascentria Care Alliance

William Mayo, the board chair of Ascentria Care Alliance (Formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England) will come to speak about their social service programs. Through a wide range of programs, Ascentria serves:

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

Come and help us think about ways in which we might connect with one or more Ascentria initiatives.

#### April 29: No Adult Forum

We will have one service at 9:30 followed by the Waltham Community Walk for Hunger at 11:30 (*see page 3 for details*).

#### May 6: Waltham Partnership For Youth

Kaytie Dowcett, the Executive Director of WPY will be our guest speaker. Kaytie will present an overview of WPY programs and focus on a new initiative that is connecting Waltham High students with paid summer internships in a wide range of fields such as law, biomedical research, environmental science, and early childhood education.

### Adult Forums (continued)

#### May 13: TBD

#### May 20: Global Health

Neema Landey, who has been part of our congregation for the past year, will be our guest presenter. Neema is from Tanzania where she has lived and worked addressing issues of health, particularly among her own Maasai people. She will have just completed an MS in Global Health Policy and Management from Brandeis University's Heller School. She will share some of her experiences and learning related to issues of global health.

#### May 27: No Adult Forum

We will have one service at 9:30 am followed by a luncheon. (*see page 4 for details*).

#### June 3: Overview to Summer Programs.

Information on Camp Calumet, Habitat for Humanity, the National Youth Gathering, and VBS will be shared. Also note, this will be the last day of our regular schedule with worship at 8:15 and 10:30 am.

### Joint Lutheran/Jewish Bible Study

**May 9, 10:30 am**

On April 11 we had our first joint Bible study with members of Temple Beth Israel in Waltham. We met at the Temple and began a discussion of the book of Judges focusing on the story of Deborah. Rabbi David Finkelstein was an insightful leader and gracious host.

Our next meeting will be on May 9, at 10:30 am at First Lutheran. Come (if you are able), learn about Gideon, join in spirited conversation, and participate in this experience that demonstrates that people of faith can learn from one another across religious traditions.

## Doing Justice, Serving All



### Waltham Community Food Walk 11:30am, Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>

#### How to Participate:

- Sign up on the sheet in the Pearson Room.
- 11:30am: Gather at Waltham Fields Community Farm on Beaver Street and walk to Waltham Common. Only 1.5 miles.
- Spread the word, invite others.
- If you are not able to attend, please sponsor a walker. You may donate using cash, check, or online at <https://bit.ly/2GU0HFi>.

#### A Guide for Giving:

- \$15 - 1 cent per step based on 1,000 steps per mile.
- \$30 - 2 cents per step
- \$45 - 3 cents per step



### Kaleidoscope Festival 11am-3pm, Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>

We are excited to be partnering with Grace Christian Church and their new Kaleidoscope Festival at the Waltham Common. We will engage with Grace Christian Church and the other participants to celebrate each group's unique diversity and history while also lifting up our common ground as communities of Waltham. The event seeks to make a community of communities, bringing together secular and faith groups who all bring something to the collective Waltham table.

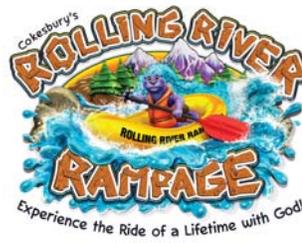
#### How to Participate:

- Attend the Festival on the Common.
- We will be hosting a First Lutheran table at the event. Volunteer for a shift of hosting the table.
- Consider volunteering to help Grace Christian Church with operations of the festival.
- Think of a story in which you have had a positive experience of diversity in Waltham.
- If you would like to participate in any way or have other questions, contact Vicar John.



### Camp Calumet Summer Camp July 29-August 4

If you have a child between the ages of 8 and 16 who wishes to attend and you have not already communicated with Pastor Maehl, please do so by May 6.



### Vacation Bible School July 9-13, 2018

Registration forms will be available on paper and online within the next two weeks. If you are planning on participating, please sign up your children by early May before we open up registration to the wider community. Also ....

- Do you have one or more mornings or afternoons to come and help during VBS week? or
- Might you be able to help with decorating beforehand? or
- Do you have neighbors whom you might invite?

If so, please speak with Holly Diaz our VBS director or Pastor Maehl.

### Intern Update

Our next intern is named Athena Bless. She is currently a student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley California. Athena is a native of North Carolina and will begin her internship with us in the beginning of September. Pastor Maehl will be travelling to California for a meeting of interns and supervisors over May 7-10

## Doing Justice, Serving All



**Lawn Care**  
**Cut the grass**  
**or**  
**Cut a check**



### **TRIVIA NIGHT** **Cinco de Mayo**

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, May 5**

**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 call or email Jennifer Lambert or the church office.**

Proceeds will be divided between our youth trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas in June; and our adult Habitat for Humanity build El Salvador in August.

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

Once again we are inviting the community to share in the care of our lawn. As we did last year, we will have a sign up in the Pearson Room for the weeks in May, through mid-September. If you choose to sign up for a week or more, you may indicate if you are going to cut the grass yourself or contribute \$30 toward a youth.

If you choose to mow yourself, you may do it anytime during the week for which you have signed up. There is a lawn mower and gas at church.

If you choose to contribute toward a youth mower, simply put \$30 in the offering plate marked "Lawn mowing." We will then pay \$15 to whomever performs the mowing that week, with the remaining \$15 used to support our youth programs.

**Calling all youth!** If you would like to serve as a lawn mover over one or more week, please speak with Pastor Maehl. Each time you mow, you will receive \$15 for your efforts and another \$15 will go to support our youth programming. Take a look at the board in the Pearson Room for more information.

### **Spring Clean Up Thanks**

Many thanks to everyone who helped with our one hour of clean up following worship on March 25. Our particular thanks to Norman and Mary Ellen Adams for preparing all the cleaning supplies and lists of tasks.

## Walking Together in God's Love



### Luncheon and Basket Raffle Sunday, May 27

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. All money collected will be used to support our summer trips: to the National Youth Gathering in June, Camp Calumet in July, and El Salvador in August.

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

- Come to the event and share in the community gathering.
- Prepare 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 13 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 13 and 27.
- Contribute toward a free-will offering for lunch that will be provided with funds through a Thrivent Action Grant.
- And of course, we welcome your financial support through the purchase of raffle tickets.



### Next Senior's Gathering Thursday, April 26 11:30 pm

Our next gathering will be Thursday, April 26 at 11:30 am. Bring a sandwich. Pastor Maehl will be providing goodies and we will watch a brand new, wonderful documentary entitled "I Know a Man ... Ashley Bryan." Ashley Bryan is an acclaimed artist (and proud Lutheran!) who is also a shining example of what it means to embody Jesus' command to love one another. *Note: there will be popcorn, soda, and bad-for-you candy provided during the showing of the film.*

Also, at this gathering we'll talk about what we might do together in May.

### Holy Week and Easter Thanks To:

**Vicar John, LuAnn Kimker, and Cynthia Niiler** for designing, **Diana Dupuis** for sewing, and **Mary Ellen Adams** for rigging our beautiful Lenten Banners.

**Eliza Dickert, Alexa Kimker, Tom Neal, and Jake Vilalta** for sharing in the passion reading on Palm/Passion Sunday.

**Angela Neal** for opening her home and providing wonderful hospitality for our Maundy Thursday evening gathering.

**Sally Biter, Diedre Fahey, Betsy Hoff, Nick Hoff, Erika Jerram, Jennifer Lambert, Isaac Maehl, Julia Niemann, Maggie Niemann, Eegan Pandian, Kayali Pandian, Emma Pinch, Richard Pinch, Martin Sieving, Justin Sjodin, Cahty Sukow, Isabella van der Weide** for helping to read, sing, and enact stories of deliverance during our Easter Vigil.

**Mary Ellen Adams** and **Carol Hanson** and all the Sunday school children who created the beautiful Easter mural.

Our brass players and choir members for glorious music, and for all who decorated for Easter.

## 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; Steve Latter; Lorne MacArthur; Kathryn McCowan; Cynthia Niiler, Joan 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*); Margie & Roger Schroeder (*parents of Curt Schroeder*); Doug Sewich (*brother-in-law of Meg and Tom Maehl*); Dianne Seymour (*friend of Jim and Pam Sperry*).

**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.*

### Graduates!



Is someone in your family graduating? Please let us know so we can list graduates in the June Messenger. It is nice to have the following information: Name, where graduating from, degree received (if appropriate), and plans for next year.

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham**

**Ministers:** The people of the congregation

**Staff:** The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl, Pastor  
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Ms. Cynthia Niiler,  
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Vicar John Barton, Intern  
jbarton@ses.plts.edu

**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

**Sunday Worship:**

8:15 and 10:30 am  
(9:30 am on April 29 & May 27)

**Sunday Learning Hour:**

9:15 am

**Visit us on the Web at:**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.firstlutheranwaltham.org](http://www.firstlutheranwaltham.org)

and on Facebook at First Lutheran  
Church - Waltham, MA

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

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