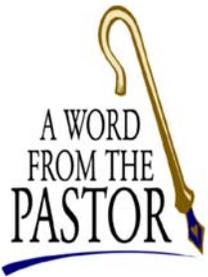


# The Messenger

A newsletter of the people of First Lutheran Church, Waltham

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham  
The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl, Pastor  
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June/July 2018  
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*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (Philippians 2:1-2)*

One of life's joys for me recently has been participating in our weekly Wednesday morning Bible Study. I find that I am fed by the stories and experiences of others, and at times am drawn into reflections that help me see God and life with different eyes. For example, at a recent gathering we were reading through Paul's letter to the Philippians and came upon the verses above. We noted that it is addressed not just to individuals, but to a whole church; and we agreed that "being of the same mind," does not necessarily mean having the same opinions, though that it does speak to deep, core values.

It was then that someone in the group re-read the first verse, and wondered aloud if the descriptive words there should be taken as the priority for the church; namely, offering *encouragement (in Christ), consolation (from love), the sharing of the Spirit, compassion, and sympathy*. It made me think about what that implies; namely that all of us at some point end up as:

- One in need of *encouragement*
- One who has faced loss and is in need of *consolation*.
- One who experiences a sense of emptiness and needs a *sharing of the Spirit*
- One who is in some ways broken or hurt, requiring *compassion and sympathy*.

This, according to St. Paul is what the Spirit of the risen Christ works among us; from us to others, from others to us. I give thanks for the varied ways these "priorities" are lived out through this congregation.

Faithfully, Pastor Maehl



## Bridging the Gap Mission Accomplished

Thanks to all who made financial gifts and pledges to our Bridging the Gap Fund. Our goal was \$16,000 and we have received \$16,650 to date. This is a tremendous blessing! During this time we have also received financial gifts toward the Intern Fund, the Capital Improvement Fund, our Youth Trip to Houston, and our adult service trip to El Salvador. I am deeply grateful for such generosity and faithful giving. Thanks be to God for continuing to provide!

## Upcoming Events

Please keep the participants in our varied trips and programs in your prayers

- June 3: Last Sunday with two services with a recognition of teachers at the 10:30 service.
- June 10: The beginning of our summer schedule with one service at 9:30 am (through Sept. 2).
- June 27-July 3: ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas
- June 30: VBS Decorating from 1-5 pm
- July 9-13: Vacation Bible School
- July 29: Vicar John Barton's Farewell
- July 29-August 4: Children and youth to Camp Calumet Summer Camp
- August 11-20: Service trip to El Salvador
- September 9: Return to regular schedule, with the beginning of Sunday school

## Nurturing Faith

### Vacation Bible School July 9 - 13



We are excitedly preparing and are grateful to have most all of our lead teachers identified.

We still have openings for elementary aged children. If you know of anyone whom you may invite, please do so.

We will have a youth orientation on Sunday, June 24 at 11:00 am; and an adult leader orientation on Monday, June 25 at 7:00 pm.

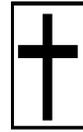
Also there will be a decorating day on Saturday, June 30 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Please come if you are able to help with painting, setup, and scenery.

### VBS Art Kits

We will again be collecting materials to include in "Art Kits" that will be assembled by the VBS children and then given to families participating in the Waltham Family School. The cost of one kit is about \$20. Over the next month we welcome contributions of cash (mark "Art Kits" on your donation) or the following:

- White Glue (individual bottles) 4 ounce size
- Glue sticks
- Colored markers---washable only, pack of 10
- Colored pencils--packs of 12 or 24
- Children's scissors--blunt tips
- Water color sets--sets of 8 colors
- Extra paint brushes for the watercolors
- Pencil sharpeners
- Colored tissue paper (for crafts)
- Sheets of stickers (appropriate for either gender)

Also, please continue to keep our Vacation Bible School program in your prayers. We pray that God will bless us with the resources we need, keep everyone safe, and inspire all the leaders.



*From the  
Vicar*

### Puerto Rico Update

As of May 28<sup>th</sup>, it has been 250 days since Hurricane Maria hit

Puerto Rico on the morning of September 20, 2017. In the first 100 days after the hurricane, 83 percent of households in Puerto Rico were without power. The official death toll for the storm is 64. However, a recent Harvard study says that an expanded death toll could be as high as 5000 and that the mortality rate of Puerto Rico jumped 62% the final 3 months of 2017. So how is there such a high disparity between 64 and 5000? The Harvard study, reported through NPR, says that the medical examiner in Puerto Rico counted 64 deaths directly attributed to Hurricane Maria and that the other thousands of deaths are "excess" or more than the normal mortality rate compared to the previous years at that time. That means that, though 64 deaths were reported to be caused by the storm, thousands of Puerto Rican- American lives were lost and largely ignored by mainland Americans until this study.

We cannot hope to control storms like Maria and we cannot bring back those lost to the storm. What we can do, and what I believe what we are called to do as Christians, is notice the difference in the magnitude of storms in the last several years, the connection those changes have to human related climate change, and how those climate changes affect the most vulnerable populations in the world. We are also called to notice the difference in how aid and rebuilding efforts were distributed to the Spanish-speaking, majority Latina/o territory of Puerto Rico compared with the aid services provided to other storm struck states of this country. Finally, I think that God calls us to remember those hundreds and/or thousands of people who died due to the storm and do what we can to prevent it from happening again in the future. These numbers and these callings matter because the people of Puerto Rico matter and they deserve better. So as this study comes and goes, and even after the first anniversary of Hurricane Maria is highlighted and then fades from the news, remember. Keep the people of Puerto Rico on your minds. Amen.

- Vicar John

## Doing Justice, Serving All

### National Youth Gathering Update

*Living the mission of First Lutheran on a National Scale.*

June 27 - July 3  
Houston, Texas

The ELCA Youth Gathering for high school-age youth takes place every three years and is about faith formation, worship, study, fellowship, service and play. This year five of our youth will be participating: Isabella van der Weide, Emily and Justin Sjodin, Kayali Pandian, and Isaac Maehl; along with chaperones Vicar John Barton, Jennifer Lambert and Pastor Maehl.

The Gathering is a five-day event that begins on Wednesday evening, June 27 and ends with a service of communion the following Sunday morning, July 1. On the opening night, the youth will gather at the NRG Stadium, home to the Houston Texans Football team. With dynamic speakers, nationally known bands, and the spirited presence of over 30,000 other youth this night sets the stage for the days ahead in which these young people may have a sense of Jesus' presence among them that energizes their faith and helps them discover their call to serve locally and globally.

On the days between Wednesday and Sunday, the participants rotate through a variety of service learning experiences in the surrounding community. They explore and may strengthen their faith by studying scripture, serving their neighbor, participating in lively faith discussions and broadening their experience of God's world and diverse communities.

**Fund Raising:** We are thankful that already we have raised over \$2,500 toward the event through Trivia night, the May luncheon and basket raffle, and through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans "giving dollars."

**Stock Sale:** Over the weeks of June we are inviting others to invest in our youth by purchasing a share in the youth gathering. Share prices are \$100, \$50 or \$25. Share holders will be invited to a share-holders banquet after the youth gathering. At this banquet, the youth will cook and serve the meal and will share stories and pictures of their experience. Shares may be purchased any June Sunday in church, or you may simply mail a check to the church marked "Youth Stock Sale." Thank you for your support!

### Community Food Walk

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, thirty participants from four different faith communities came together in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Waltham Community Food Walk. Together we raised \$825 to support Waltham Fields Community Farm in providing fresh produce for reduced cost at its Outreach Market. Though the weather threatened to put a damper on the walk, those gathered persevered and walked on as the sun came out for a beautiful day. The Waltham Community Food Walk turned out to be a wonderful display of community with people working together for the betterment of that community. I want to say congratulations and how appreciative I am to everyone who participated, donated, and made the event possible. Thank you!

- Vicar John

### Trivia Night

Question: *What military victory is celebrated on the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo?* Mexico's victory over a) England, b) France, or c) the United States. If you had come to trivia night on May 5, Cinco de Mayo, you would have found out. On May 5, we had another enjoyable (and at times raucous) night of trivia through which we raise nearly \$1,000 for our summer youth and adult trips. Our thanks to Ken Kimker for once-again doing a fantastic job emceeding the event. Also thanks to Jen Lambert and LuAnn Kimker for coordinating.

### Basket Raffle

On May 27, we held our annual Spring Fling Luncheon and Basket Raffle. We raised over \$600 to support our summer youth and adult trips and had a wonderful time doing so. Our thanks to all who helped with the setup, food preparation, and clean up; and to those who donated baskets and desserts. Also thanks to our youngsters Hal, Josie, and Ezra for picking the winners.

## Doing Justice, Serving All

### Property Committee Update

**New Plantings:** We have contracted with Stonegate Gardens to put in new plantings around the tower doors. These will include a Japanese Maple and new Rhododendron. Each of these, at their mature size will not overgrow the space. Our thanks to all who made donations to our garden fund at Easter helping enable us to further beautify the church.

**Lawn and Garden Care:** Our thanks to Jason Felsch and Norman Adams for the recent care of the lawn, and to Cynthia Niiler and Helen Yarbrough for care of the beautiful gardens. We continue to have a sign up in the Pearson Room to help with lawn mowing over the summer.

**Lawn Mowing:** We are inviting you to sign up for a week of lawn mowing, either to mow yourself or to pay \$30 for a youth mower. So too, we are inviting youth to sign up for one or more weeks of mowing. Youth mowers, remember that for each week you mow you will receive \$15 and another \$15 will go to our youth ministry fund; please sign-up online.

**Parsonage Water Repair:** A water pipe at the parsonage became blocked and for over a week the water to the house was provided through a hose running from the neighbor's outdoor spigot. A portion of the water line was replaced and water has been restored.

**Organ Wind Chest:** Recently we received the wonderful news that we do NOT need major repairs to our organ at this time. We had thought that we might need a new wind chest and related work that might cost as much as \$35,000. However, during recent maintenance, the organ repair company was able to alleviate the most problematic symptom with a much simpler fix. "As I see it," says Pastor Maehl, "Its sort of like God made a \$35,000 donation to our Capital Improvement Fund." Thanks be to God.



### Kaleidoscope Festival

Grace Christian Church's Kaleidoscope Festival on May 26<sup>th</sup> saw 18 First Lutheran Church members mix with a dozen other Waltham communities and community members. In the mix were martial arts, dance, and yoga demonstrations as well as getting to know other faith communities in Waltham. Other participating groups included the Oom Yung Doe martial arts studio, the Waltham Police Department, and More Than Words group. I think it was a great first event for Grace Christian Church' series of events aimed at fostering connections and community to replace divisions within our society. In fact, Grace will continue to host events seeking to encourage conversation and heal divisions throughout the year as a series of Kaleidoscope events open to the community.

The next Kaleidoscope event is called "Becoming Neighbors: Documenting the Immigrant Experience." It is a screening of films made by Brandeis students on experiences of immigrants living in and around Waltham. Following the screening there will be a conversation facilitated by Professor Perdomo, whose class produced the films. The screening will be on Monday June 4 from 6pm-8pm in the lecture hall at the Waltham library.

Our thanks to all who helped with the First Lutheran table at the festival preparing brochures and display material, setting up and cleaning up, and greeting visitors. In particular, thanks to: Joan Clemens, Signe Johns, LuAnn Kimker, Eric Korpalski, the Maehls, Paul and Susan Pintus, and Curt Schroeder.

- Vicar John

## Walking Together in God's Love



### Senior Classics

On May 24, twenty of us enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury. Our thanks to the Nelson Board for picking up the tab; it was a wonderful treat!

We continue to have a regular gathering on Thursday mornings between 10:00 am and noon. All are welcome.

### Library Update

We continue to expand our children's library at First Lutheran. Consider checking out some books for summer vacations. Also, remember we have a wonderful online catalogue! For a list of titles go to <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/firstlutheranlibrary>

### Summer Camp Update

We now have 12 children and youth from both First Lutheran and Santuario Luterano signed up for a week at Camp Calumet Lutheran over the week of July 29 through August 4. We continue to provide financial support to our campers and welcome gifts to the Calumet Scholarship Fund at any time.

### Sunday School Thanks

Our Thanks to our dedicated team of Sunday school teachers: Heather Fahey, Emily Sjodin, Isabella van der Weide, and LuAnn Kimker; and our Sunday school coordinator Lori Hrdlicka. Also thanks to our fabulous Art Sunday leaders: Erika Jerram, Carol Hansen, Mary Ellen Adams. So too, our appreciation to our wonderful Sunday school support staff: (*substitutes, readers, librarians, musicians, and more*): Inpakala Pandian, Geri and Brad Nederhoff, Cynthia Niiler, Julie Weeden, and Laura Nederhoff,

### Sunday School Appreciation Breakfast

On Sunday, May 20 master chef Paul Weeden cooked another 5-star breakfast for our teachers, helpers, and Faith Formation Team. The menu is below. If you would like to enjoy a breakfast like this next May, we invite you to join our Sunday school team. Thanks to Paul Weeden for a truly amazing meal!

#### FIRST LUTHERAN BISTRO

*First Lutheran Teacher  
Appreciation Breakfast*

#### Menu

*Filet Mignon Benedict  
with Hollandaise*

*French Toast Popover  
with Whiskey Maple Cream*

*Berry Salad  
with Mint Crème Fraiche*

*Maple Smoked Lamb Bacon*

*Peach Orange Bellini*

*Coffee/Decaf*

## 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:** 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*); Judy Vichniac (*friend of Susan Pintus*).

**For those who grieve:** the family and friends of John Tungseth (*cousin of Curt Schroeder*)

**Thanksgiving for Healing:** Mildred Care (*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/remove a name to/from the prayer list, please inform the church office.*

## Celebrations

### Congratulations to our Graduates!

**Christopher Kelleher**

BA in Economics  
University of Massachusetts Lowell.

He has also been commissioned in the Army Chemical Corps as a second Lieutenant and will be stationed at Colorado Springs, CO

**Neema Landey**

MS Global Health Policy and Management  
Heller Institute for Social Policy and Management,  
Brandeis University.

**Rachel Nederhoff**

MA Conflict Resolution  
University of Massachusetts Boston

**Alexandra Sieving**

Master of Architecture  
Roger Williams University

**Alexandra (Alexa) Turner**

Master of Public Policy  
Brandeis University

**Berta Daniela Padilla**

Master of Education, School Counseling,  
University of Massachusetts Boston.

**Miguel Alejandro Vallejos**

Automotive Technology, Associates Degree,  
Massachusetts Bay Community College.

### 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  
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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 June 3  
9:30 am Summer Schedule begins June 10

**Sunday Learning Hour:**

9:15 am (6/3 last before summer)

**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.*