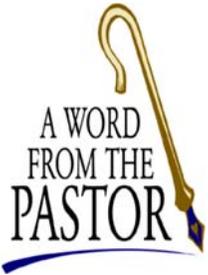


The Messenger

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

September 2018
781-893-6563
tmaehl@rcn.com



I call your attention to a conversation we will be having on September 30 focused on women and justice. (see page 2 for details). This is being offered in part as a response to feedback collected during an adult forum in June.

In that June Forum, participants were invited first to brain storm ideas for topics and venues, and then were invited to vote on the ideas of most interest. Multiple votes were made for the following:

- How do we combat sexism and promote equality in our church, denomination, and society?
- What is justice? List objectives that have to be met.
- Try a discussion after worship.
- Keep focusing on attempts for reformation beyond the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.
- Discuss interpretation of scripture, lifting up historical aspects including the culture of the times.
- Apply Jesus' teaching to today's issues.

As a bit of preview I will note here that in our tradition we view all of scripture through the lens of Jesus. Jesus is God's love and mercy in the flesh. Jesus consistently stood on the side of the oppressed, he challenged the norms of his day, and he called his followers to love their neighbors as themselves. When it comes to issues of power and equality, sexuality and status, we ask ourselves what is the just and loving thing to do. So too, we lift up portions of scripture that push us to greater inclusion over those that do not.

I invite all youth and adults to join the conversation if you are able. Faithfully, Pastor Maehl



Community BBQ

Following 9:30 worship on:
Sunday, September 9

Cedarwood Playground
25 Intervale Road, Waltham

Food

We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share and your own drinks.

Games

There is a playground and a sports field. ***There will be a soccer game for all ages.*** Bring your own frisbees, balls, or other games!

Fellowship

Invite a friend, bring a chair, sit in the shade and chat. ***All are welcome!***

Fall Schedule - September 16

We return to our regular Fall schedule on September 16 with:

Worship at 8:15 and 10:30 am
Learning hour at 9:15

(One service at 9:30 on last Sunday of month)

Nurturing Faith

Faith Formation 9:15 am

We offer multiple classes for children, youth, and adults ages 3 and above. The pre-K through first grade class is led by Heather Fahey and Emily Sjodin. The 2nd - 4th grade class is led by Isabella van der Weide. The 5th - 7th grade class is led by LuAnn Kimker. The confirmation class is led by Pastor Maehl and Vicar Athena Bless.

Sunday school, confirmation, and adult forums begin on September 16. Note, there are no classes the last Sunday of the month when we have one worship service at 9:30 am followed by a community event.

If you have Sunday school aged children, please consider bringing them regularly to worship and Sunday school, so that their engagement with the Biblical stories in community might nurture their faith and shape their view of themselves, God, and the world.

National Youth Gathering Stock Holder's Dinner

Saturday, September 15, 4:30 pm

We invite all supporters of our youth trip to join in this thank you dinner. The youth will prepare and serve food, and also share pictures and stories of their experiences in Houston, Texas.

Adult Forum Schedule

September 16: Interpretation of Scripture in relation to issues of women and justice.

September 23: El Salvador Service trip Celebration. The El Salvador service trip participants will be sharing pictures and stories from their trip. Food will be provided.

September 30: One service at 9:30 am followed by a conversation the draft ELCA Social Statement entitled "Women and Justice" (*see right*)

Woman and Justice A conversation

Sunday, September 30
10:45 in Founder's Hall
(*following worship at 9:30 am*)

Activities for Children will be provided

We are part of a religious tradition that insists that all people are created with equal worth and dignity. However, we live in a society where women's bodies are often objectified, gender based violence is commonplace (as evidenced in the #MeToo movement), and the age old sin of patriarchy* still endures.

With that in mind, the Justice and Service Team invites women and men, adults and youth to participate in a conversation. On September 30 we will be using an ELCA draft social statement entitled "Women and Justice" to guide conversation on these issues.

In preparation, Pastor Maehl will be leading an adult forum on September 16 that explores how we interpret scripture in our tradition in regards to issues of women and justice. All are invited on September 30 whether or not one has participated in the study on September 16.

Hard copies of the draft social statement will be available at church. Also copies of are available at the following: <https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice/Draft>

*Note: The social statement defines **patriarchy** as follows: *The social, institutional, legal, political, educational, economic, religious and interpersonal systems of society that benefit men and the interests of men with status and power. While all people within a patriarchal system participate in it, the system functions with men at the center. This means that, sometimes unconsciously, people participate in systems that control and oppress people who do not fit society's ideas of maleness and masculinity.*

Nurturing Faith



There are *two ways* to sing with the choir this year!

Here's what you need to know.

Chancel Choir

- Men and Women, post-confirmation and up (If you sing hymns on Sunday you can sing in the choir.)
- We are a group that Sings, Prays, Laughs, Cares, and Leads
- Rehearsals are held at church in Founder's Hall
- First rehearsal, Tuesday 9/11
7:15 - 8:45 pm
Continuing about every other week

New this Year - Quick Choir

- All singers are welcome
- About once a month
- You choose which individual Sundays to sing
- Come to rehearsal before worship and be part of the choir that week.
- First Quick Choir Sunday is Sept. 30,
8:45 am Rehearsal
9:30 am Worship

We sing to praise and pray to God; in joy, in distress, in good times and bad. In singing we can express more than we can with words alone. We all are invited to sing during worship (parts of the liturgy and hymns); the choir adds to that singing by preparing special music that may let the listeners enter into a psalm, or experience a prayer in a different way. ***The choir's main task is preparing music to enrich our worship; however, the choir is also a small group that cares for each other.*** It is a good way to get to know others by working together towards a common goal.

We need you! Please consider singing with the choir this year.

Join us!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes on September 12 10:00 am

We will resume our Wednesday morning Bible study on September 12. We will again be using the Narrative Lectionary to guide our conversations.

The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings that include major episodes in Scripture. They are arranged in a narrative sequence to help people see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement:

- From September to mid-December the texts begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel's early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return.
- From Christmas to Easter there is sustained reading of one of the four gospels.
- From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul's letters.

Using this lectionary we engage with rich and wonderful stories from scripture that still speak to the ways human beings tend to interact with God, with one another, and with the world; and speak to the ways in which God continues to respond. Because of this, we keep finding that the old Biblical stories are extremely relevant to issues facing us today. Come if you are able and join in.

Note: There will be no Bible Study on September 19 as the pastor and Vicar will be away.

Library Update

Our children's library has moved to the triple Sunday school classroom in the basement. Check out the bright, newly painted space when you have a chance. Also, the spines of the books have been color coded to make check out and return easy for the children. Parents, please encourage your children to make use of this great resource.

Doing Justice, Serving All

God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 9

On this day we join with thousands of other Lutheran congregations in engaging in acts of service. Specifically we will be:

Packing gift baskets for 1st Responders in Waltham. Following one service at 9:30 there will be an opportunity to sign cards for police, fire fighters, and EMTs. Food baskets will be prepared for the six fire stations, the police headquarters, and for the Cataldo Ambulance company in Waltham.

Collecting food items for a new food pantry at Brandeis University. Please consider bringing one or more items from the list on the right.

Blessing Art Kits. During the children's sermon children will be invited to bless art kits that were prepared at Vacation Bible School and will be shared with families of the Waltham Family School in Waltham.

Drivers Needed: There will be a sign up sheet in the Pearson Room listing the locations where the 1st responder baskets will be delivered. Please consider signing up to make 1 delivery. Then join us following for our church picnic at The Cedarwood playground.

In Summary, what can you do on God's Work Our hands Sunday, September 9?

- Come to worship at 9:30
- Bring food items to share with the Brandeis Food Pantry
- Bring a side dish or dessert to share at our church picnic
- Consider delivering a gift basket to a 1st responder station
- Join us for the church picnic at The Cedarwood playground.

Brandeis Food Pantry

Brandeis University has initiated a Food Pantry for Brandeis students who are experiencing food insecurity while working and studying at the university. This is particularly targeted toward international students who come with very limited resources.

It is our plan to support this pantry, along with our own modest one, in the coming year. The following are items needed:

- Canned or dry chick peas, lentils, beans
- Nuts
- Raisins and other dried fruits
- Canned tuna, chicken
- Bags of rice
- Canned tomatoes/sauce
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Crackers of all kinds
- Applesauce
- Cereal bars
- Canned soups
- Peanut butter
- Any kind of pasta
- Macaroni and cheese packages
- Individual packets of oatmeal
- We're also distributing potatoes, yams, onion, garlic and ginger root

If you wish to contribute, please donate any of the items on the list. Also, if you would like to be part of a small team that, on rotation, delivers the food to Brandeis every few weeks please contact Pastor Maehl.

Walking Together in God's Love

Our Thanks to:

Cynthia Niiler for her tremendous work caring for the gardens of the church.



Carol Hansen for all her efforts moving and re-organizing the children's Nursery

Norman Adams for repurposing extra pews by cutting them down to a length that enables them to fit on the stage.

Jennifer Lambert for her leadership of both the Habitat for Humanity service trip to El Salvador in August and the youth trip to Houston Texas in July.

Catherine Pinch for playing the piano in worship on a Sunday when Cynthia was attending a conference.



Care Dimensions is looking for volunteers to help support our hospice patients and families. Come be a part of something truly extraordinary and help us in our mission to make each day a gift for our patients and their families.

Whatever your skills, talents, or motivation, we have a volunteer opportunity for you! Our next training starts soon so please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Heather Merrill at 781-373-6509 or hmerrill@caredimensions.org for more information.

(Note: Care Dimensions has recently opened a hospice facility near the reservoir in Waltham).



**November 9-11
Blue Gentian Lodge
Londonderry, VT**

Mark your calendars. Our annual Fall adult-only retreat is scheduled for November 9-11. More details about cost and program will be coming soon.



**February 22-24, 2019
Camp Calumet
Freedom, NH**

Mark your calendars for our annual congregational retreat. People of all ages welcome.



New Member Orientation

We will be planning for a new member orientation in early October. If you are interested in joining the congregation, please contact Pastor Maehl.



Name Tags

Please wear your name tags during the month of September. It will help our new intern Vicar Athena and others learn names more quickly. If you do not yet have a name tag, please contact Cynthia in the church office.

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; Rosy Hebert; Steve Latter; Lorne MacArthur; Kathryn McCowan; Cynthia Niiler, Joan Niiler.

Friends and Family: Christiansen family (*friends of Jennifer Lambert*); 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*); Di-
anne Seymour (*friend of Jim and Pam Sperry*); Maria Silva (*aunt of Olga Jimenez*); Judy Vichniac (*friend of Susan Pintus*), Jim Wroe (*cousin of Carol Hansen*).

For those who grieve: the family and friends of Barbara Haffman (cousin of 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/remove a name to/from the prayer list, please inform the church office.



Flowers for the altar can be donated at any time. This can be a great way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or to remember a loved one who has passed.

Simply sign up on the Flower Chart hanging on the bulletin board in the Pearson Room or contact the church office. On the bulletin board you will also find an envelope on which you can indicate how you would like the flowers dedicated. Please return the envelope to the church office.

Altar Flowers are \$40 for the two arrangements, which you may bring home after worship.



Senior Classics

The Senior Classics will meet on Thursday, September 27 at 11:30. Bring your own sandwich. Dessert and coffee will be provided. Come and meet our new intern and join in conversation with one another. We also will talk about scheduling meetings and outings for upcoming months.

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 Athena Bless, Intern

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:

9:30 am Summer Schedule through Sept 9

8:15 and 10:30 am returns Sept 16

9:30 am on Sept 30—last Sunday

Sunday Learning Hour:

9:15 am (returns Sept 16)

Visit us on the Web at:



Find us on
Facebook

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.