

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 2019
781-893-6563
tmaehl@rcn.com



The following is a portion of Psalm 63, my favorite Psalm, in two parts.

Part 1: *O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you, My soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place that I might behold your power and your glory. For your steadfast love is better than life, my lips shall give you praise. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.*

Part 2: *My soul is satisfied as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches. For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My whole being clings to you' your right hand holds me fast.*

Notice how this Psalm moves from emptiness and longing, "My soul thirsts," to fullness and joy, "My soul is satisfied!" What is responsible for this shift? According to the author, it is a return to God's holy place (or sanctuary); the place where God's promise of steadfast love is articulated, the place where one is drawn into praise. Also, it is clear that worship in the temple has been central for so long that the author can now draw upon it even when not there, fixing the gaze of his thoughts upon it, meditating upon it in long watches of the night., finding the memory of it somehow lifting his spirits.

Where is your "Holy Place?" That is, the place where God's promise of steadfast love is communicated, the place where your lips are drawn into giving praise to God, the place where the thirst in your soul may be slaked. For me it is, and always has been, Sunday worship. I pray those of you who can - will be present in worship in the weeks and months ahead; and may God draw near to us all. - Pastor Maehl



Community BBQ

Following 9:30 worship on:

Sunday, September 29

**Cedarwood Playground
25 Intervale Road, Waltham**

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

September Worship Schedule

9:30 am on September 1 and 8

8:15 and 10:30 am on September 15 & 22

9:30 on September 29 followed by picnic

Note on September 1 we welcome our new intern, Vicar Courtney Smith

Nurturing Faith

Faith Formation

9:15 am

We offer multiple classes for children, youth, and adults, ages 3 and above. The pre-K through Kindergarten class is led by Heather Fahey and Emily Sjodin. The 1st - 3rd grade class is led by Inpakala Pandian, Kayali Pandian, and Isaac Maehl. The 4th - 6th grade class is led by LuAnn Kimker and Beth Melillo. The confirmation class is led by Pastor Maehl and Vicar Courtney Smith.

Sunday school, confirmation, and adult forums begin on September 15. 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.

Post-Confirmation Youth

We are soon to be starting a post-confirmation youth group that meets during the learning hour on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Watch for more information.

Adult Forum Schedule

On September 15 we will discuss issues of immigration focusing on why people are coming to our southern border seeking asylum, and why this has generated such concern in our national dialogue. Our conversation will be facilitated by Don McNemar who teaches international relations at Bentley University.

On September 22, we will continue the conversation begun a week earlier and focus on some key teachings of Jesus that might inform our responses.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Resumes on September 18

10:00 am

We will resume our Wednesday morning Bible study on September 18. 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.

Children's Library

I recently came across the phrase, "*If God is white, than white is God.*" It is important that our faith communities expose us to many different images of God, of Jesus, and of the beautiful diversity of God's children. During the first half of September there will be a display of children's books in the Pearson Room that are being added to our children's library. Take a look when you have an opportunity; and if you have children invite them to borrow books that strike their fancy.

- Pastor Maehl

Walking Together in God's Love



The choir needs you!

There are two ways to sing with us.

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 9/17
7:15 - 8:45 pm
Continuing about every other week

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. 15
9:45 am Rehearsal
10:30 am Worship



God's Work. Our Hands. September 8

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity join with other ELCA Lutheran churches around the country, celebrating who we are – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

On September 8, following our one service at 9:30, we will be packing food bags to share with children and youth in our community. These bags will be distributed through the Boys and Girls Club. ***We invite you to contribute toward the purchase of the food items and join us in packing bags.***

Upcoming Events—Mark your calendar!



**November 8-10
Blue Gentian Lodge
Londonderry, VT**

Our annual Fall adult-only retreat is scheduled for November 8-10. Join us in Vermont for a weekend of adult fellowship, study, discussion, and renewal.



El Salvador Service Trip Summer of 2020

Plans are beginning for another group trip to El Salvador to participate in a Habitat for Humanity build. If you are interested please speak with Jennifer Lambert. Note, the trip dates will be decided with input from participants.



**February 21-23, 2020
Camp Calumet
Freedom, NH**

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

Walking Together in God’s Love

Prayer Concerns



Members of our First Lutheran Community: Marquette Alexander; Penny Alexander; Christina Danielson; Connie Danielson; Rosy Hebert; Steve Latter; Lorne MacArthur; Kathryn McCowan; Cynthia Niiler; Joan Niiler; Pam Sperry.

Friends and Family: Adekemi (*friend of Sarah Rauhut*); Christiansen family (*friends of Jennifer Lambert*); Donna (*friend of LuAnn Kimker*); Magnus Forsman (*great-nephew of Rut Johnson*); Susan Goslin (*friend of Joan Clemens*); Norma Huisman (*aunt of Brad Nederhoff*); Nancy Jewell (*cousin of* (friend of Joan Clemens); Eudeen MacSweeney (*friend of Rut Johnson*);

Joan Clemens); Joy Lewis (newborn nephew of Cat Niemann); Jason Mihalko (*friend of Matt Jerram*); Sally Raymond (*Jen Biter’s mom*); Stacey Reed (*sister of Penny Alexander*); Doug Sewich (*brother-in-law of Meg and Tom Maehl*); 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 Charles Wilson (*brother-in-law of Joan Clemens*); the family and friends of Terri Koopman (*aunt of Matt Jerram*)

Thanksgiving for Healing: Henrique (*friend of the Rauhuts*)

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.

Name Tags



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

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
firstlutheranwalthamoffice@gmail.com
Vicar Courtney Smith, Intern
csmith@uls.edu

Council: Brad Nederhoff, President
Ann Sjodin, Vice President
Eben Rauhut, Secretary
Scott Niemann, Treasurer
Holly Diaz
Erika Jerram
LuAnn Kimker
Angela Neal
Janice Ostrander
Susan Pintus

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am 9/1, 9/8, 9/29
8:15 am & 10:30 am 9/15, 9/22

Sunday Learning Hour:

9:15 am 9/15, 9/22



Visit us on the Web at:

www.firstlutheranwaltham.org
and on Facebook at First Lutheran

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

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