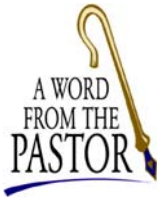


# The Messenger

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

October 2019  
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I am so thankful for all who gifted me with notes of appreciation and encouragement in honor of my twentieth anniversary of serving as pastor of First Lutheran. It is the perfect gift!

As I reflect on the past two decades, I am so grateful for all that God has blessed us with, and for the tremendous support and care I have received. In particular I am grateful for the abiding love and support of my family, for the blessed working partnership with Cynthia Niiler, and for the generosity, the gracious spirit, and the faithful service of the people of First Lutheran (and there are too many to name!).

Also, I am grateful that we're still experimenting, evolving, and seeking to deepen and grow. I know that part of what keeps me from going stale are the ideas, perspectives, and gifts that each intern brings (Vicar Courtney is our eleventh). So I also offer my thanks to our interns and to all who support the intern program.

Thanks to each of you for your part in this community; and thanks be to God who has led us all along the way, who has given us over to one another's care, who has provided all the resources we have needed, and who promises to never let us go.

Faithfully, Pastor Maehl

**Reformation Sunday, October 27**

**One Service at 9:30 am  
Pot-luck Brunch Following**

*Please bring food to share*



*From the  
Vicar*

Hello everyone! I am Courtney Smith, the new vicar here at First Lutheran. I grew up in King of Prussia, PA (with the big mall), completed my undergraduate studies in Towson, MD, and then served as a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) in South Africa. It was about this time three years ago, October 2016 that I was sitting in my home in South Africa reading a book about birds in the Bible, when I realized I was being called to seminary. I started my studies at United Lutheran Seminary in January 2018 and will head back to Philadelphia for one more year of study after completing internship.

Some fun facts about me: my favorite color is yellow, and my favorite book of the Bible is Luke. I love reading, writing, and adventuring to new places. This is my first time in New England and I've already gone exploring in Connecticut and Rhode Island where I enjoyed my first Lobster Roll! I am a Gryffindor and will talk all things Harry Potter if given the chance.

This year brings a lot of opportunities for learning and growth, not only for me, but also for the congregation. I can already feel the energy around the new post-confirmation youth group, young adult gatherings, and the desire to engage in conversations around social justice issues prominent in our community and our world. I look forward to all the exciting and challenging opportunities that the next year will bring for us!

- Vicar Courtney

## Nurturing Faith

### Adult Forum Schedule Sundays 9:15 am

#### October 6: The Refugee Crises

Using materials from the ELCA Dialogue Series, we continue a conversation focused on the world refugee crisis.

#### October 13 and 20:

##### Dysfunctional Families - the Story of Joseph

At the heart of every society is an individual who is a member of a family system. Over two weeks, Vicar Courtney will lead a conversation exploring family dynamics, through the story of Joseph (*Jacob's son, not Jesus' father*); while looking for similarities and differences to our families today.

#### October 27:

##### Luncheon Following 9:30 Worship

Please join us for a pot-luck brunch following our single service at 9:30. During the meal, we will engage in an exercise that helps identify gifts of the Spirit.

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:00 - 11:30 am

We continue discussing keys stories of the faith. All are welcome to join us, regularly or occasionally.

### Reception of New Members October 27

We are planning on receiving new members on October 27. If you are interested in formally joining the congregation, please speak with Pastor Maehl.

### Book Study Engaging the Powers, By Walter Wink

**Background:** Engaging the Powers addresses the systemic nature of evil. It describes how evil lures us into believing that the only or best way to confront evil is with violence; which in the end only serves to perpetuate evil. It then focuses on the power of non-violence as demonstrated and taught by Jesus, who was non-violent but also highly confrontational. It also includes insightful reflections on prayer and action.

**Rational:** We are living in tense times and more and more we are being lured into dividing people and groups into "good" and "bad" with little reflection on the systemic nature of our global, national, and individual problems. Focusing on the systemic nature of evil might help inform our conversations and actions regarding concrete issues like immigration, race, etc.

**Dates:** The first four meetings will be on Wednesday nights 7:30 pm as follows:

Oct 9 - Chapters 1, 2, 3: The Domination System

Oct 16 - Chapters 4, 5: Nature of the Domination System & power of unmasking it

Nov 6 - Chapters 6, 7, 8: The Kingdom of God as God's Domination free order

Nov 20 - Chapters 9, 10: Engaging the Powers non-violently, Jesus' 3<sup>rd</sup> way

TBD - chapters 11, 12, 13: Beyond Just War and Pacifism

TBD - chapters 14, 15: The Acid Test: Loving Enemies

TBD - chapters 16-17: Prayer and the Powers

If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Maehl or sign up in the Pearson Room at church. Also, contact Pastor Maehl if you would like him to order a book for you at a cost of \$25.

## We Serve and We Give

### Financial Commitments

During October there will be an opportunity to make a financial commitment to the church. Our financial commitments are one important way we live out our faith, and they are essential for developing a budget for the coming year. Each year's budget is initially crafted by the Finance Committee in November, further edited by the Church Council in December, and brought to the congregation for discussion, possible amendment, and ratification in January.

In preparation, we ask that each person prayerfully consider the age-old, enduring question of Christian stewardship, "Of all that God has given me, what am I being led to use for myself, what am I being led to share with the church, and what am I being led to use in the care of others." Many have found that thinking in percentages is often helpful in this discernment. Thank you for your faithful support.

### Youth Sleepover

Confirmation and post-confirmation youth are invited to a sleep over at the church on October 12 into 13. There will be games, food, and a variety of activities for engaging our faith and one another. Please let Vicar Courtney or Pastor Maehl know if you will be participating.

### God's Word Our Hands

Our thanks to the Justice and Service Team for coordinating the assembling of food bags following worship on September 8. We contributed 96 bags to the Waltham Boys and Girls club who distributed them to children and youth in our community. Thanks also to all who made contributions. We received over \$600, covering the cost of the food and serving as seed money for the next packaging event.



### FALL RETREAT

Once again we travel to Vermont for a weekend of adult fellowship, study, discussion, and renewal. There will also be shared meals, free time, games, and an opportunity to deepen our relationships with God and others.

**When:** November 8-10 (Friday evening through Sunday noon)

**Where:** The Blue Gentian Lodge, Londonderry, VT

**Cost:** The full cost is \$165 per person; however, we invite college/graduate students, and others with financial uncertainty to contribute less (*Speak with Pastor Maehl for more clarity*). The Cost includes 2 nights lodging and 4 meals

#### Schedule:

- **Friday:** Car pools are available for the 3 hour ride on Friday afternoon or evening and we have dinner on the way. Then we check into our lovely motel style rooms and have a simple orientation all together.
- **Saturday Morning:** We will engage in activities and conversation intended to help us attend to, and deepen, our relationships with God, one another, and our inner selves.
- **Saturday Afternoon:** is free. Some people may hike the ski mountain in the back yard of the lodge, others explore Weston, VT (often in search of fudge, cheese, and other goodies), while others simply read or rest.
- **Saturday Evening:** After Evening Prayer, we have group games and there is a hot tub for any who desire it.
- **Sunday Morning:** We conclude our program with a brief activity followed by worship.

*Please sign up in the Pearson Room if going!*

## Walking Together in God's Love

### Prayer Concerns



**Members of our First Lutheran Community:** Marquette Alexander; Penny Alexander; Sarah Allen; 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*); Norma Huisman (*aunt of Brad Nederhoff*); Nancy Jewell (*cousin of Joan Clemens*); Eudeen MacSweeney (*friend of Rut Johnson*); Myles Martins and parents (*infant 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 of:

- Lorraine Livingston (mother of Meg Maehl)
- Christina Danielson (daughter/granddaughter of Jane and Connie Danielson)
- Susan Goslin (friend of Joan Clemens)
- Joy Lewis (friend of Joan Clemens)

**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.*



### Clean Up Day Saturday, Oct. 26 9:00 - Noon

We invite any who are able to come help with leaf raking, window washing, and other clean up tasks. Come for an hour or more, anytime between 9:00 am and noon. *We welcome your help!*



### Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Central to our Sunday hospitality is our coffee fellowship following worship. We are in need of hosts to make coffee and bring goodies for after our 10:30 am service. Hosting entails bringing simple food to share (baked goods and/or fruit), and setting up, making and serving the coffee. (The coffee itself is provided by the church). More detailed instructions are available in the church office and the sign-up sheet is in the Pearson Room or online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b44a8ac2ca64-coffee>

Your help would be appreciated.

### 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:**

8:15 am & 10:30 am  
Last Sunday (10/27) at 9:30 am

**Sunday Learning Hour:**

9:15 am

**Visit us on the Web at:**

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