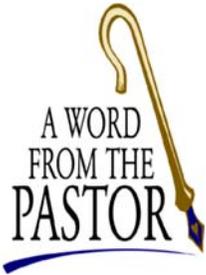


# The Messenger

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

January 2020  
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On Sunday, January 5, I had the privilege of attending the inauguration of Waltham City Government. I witnessed the mayor, city councilors, and school committee members taking oaths of office; and found it quite moving. Also, I joined in praying for them. In the year ahead, I will continue to pray for our local and national leaders.

That morning we read, or should I say prayed, portions of Psalm 72 in worship. It is a prayer arising from a people whose political leadership is centered in a king; thus, Psalm 72 is a prayer for a king. In our form of government we have no king, but a variety of political leaders. So I have rewritten portions of Psalm 72 changing “king” to “political leaders.” It is these ancient words that were in my heart on January 5, and are my prayer in these uncertain times.

## A Prayer for our Political Leaders (Paraphrase of Psalm 72)

- <sup>1</sup>Give our current political leaders your justice, O God, and your righteousness to those who succeed them;
- <sup>2</sup>That they may rule your people righteously, and the poor with justice;
- <sup>3</sup>That the earth's resources may bring prosperity to the people, as they are used rightly.
- <sup>4</sup>Let them defend the needy among the people, rescuing the poor, and crushing those who oppress.
- <sup>5</sup>May we have just and righteous leadership, as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- <sup>7</sup>During their term of office may the righteous flourish, and may their be an abundance of peace, until the moon shall be no more.
- <sup>11</sup>And may the leaders of other nations pay tribute to our national leaders, for this sole reason,
- <sup>12</sup>That our political leaders deliver the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those with no helper.
- <sup>13</sup>For they have compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserve the lives of the needy;
- <sup>14</sup>keeping them safe from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in the leader's sight.



## Meeting of the Congregation

**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

**Worship at 9:30 m**

*Meeting follows*

At this meeting we will adopt a budget for 2020 and receive written annual reports from the pastor, president and committee chairs. We will hold elections for church council and other leadership positions.

**All members are encouraged to attend.**

**Please bring a food item to share at our potluck brunch.**



## Nurturing Faith

### Adult Forum Sundays at 9:22 am

#### January 12: Keeping Sabbath

We will discuss and share personal experiences about the blessing and challenges of trying to build sabbath rest into our lives.

#### January 19: Discernment

We will engage in a way of supporting one another with the challenge of discernment in our complicated lives.

#### January 26: No Adult Forum

Join us for worship at 9:30 am with our annual meeting following.

#### February 2: Puerto Rico

The group who participated in the service and learning trip to Puerto Rico last June will share photos and stories about their experience. Refreshments will be provided!

#### February 9: Chaplains on the Way

A representative of Chaplains on the Way (COTW) will discuss their ministry among the homeless and at risk adults in our community.

### Christmas Thanks

Thanks to all who facilitated the Sunday school Christmas pageant, and to those who decorated the church and grounds, sang and played instruments, purchased poinsettias, provided food, and gathered for worship at Christmas. Also, a special thanks to Carol Hansen for the flower arranging and to Diana Dupuis who made Christmas Eve gifts for all the children.

It was all a blessing!



### Congregational Retreat to Camp Calumet February 21-23 Mark your calendars!

Our annual retreat for the entire congregation is scheduled for Feb. 21-23 at Camp Calumet, located 2 ½ hours north on Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH. We have spots reserved for 60 people and hope members and friends of all ages will come. The retreat begins after dinner on Friday and ends after lunch on Sunday.

**Cost:** The actual cost depends upon whether one is staying in the conference center, staff house, or village cabins. To make it simple we are asking each participant to use the following as a guide:

Adults \$160

Students \$80 (7-18 years)

Children \$0 (0-6 years)

Maximum family fee is \$500

Note that the above guide gives most everyone a discount, some smaller, some greater. We invite all participants to pay an amount that you believe to be within your means. For some that might mean the guide-amount or a bit more, for others a bit less, for others an amount significantly less.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Pearson Room, please consider joining us. If you are planning on attending, **please sign up by February 9** so that we can plan accordingly. Thank you.

## Doing Justice, Serving All



### *From the Vicar*

2020 brings us not only a new year, but also a new decade. I've been reflecting on how much I have grown

and changed in the last ten years in my life and in my faith. Ten years ago I was a teenager in high school trying to find her place in the world; I looked pretty much the same, and I had most of the same hobbies, but I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and where my faith was leading me. In the past ten years I grew up a lot, not so much in height, but in maturity, knowledge, my understanding about the world, and the ways my faith continues to impact my life and my ministry.

Each decade brings us new music, new best seller novels and hit movies, new pop stars in the media, and new crises around the world. The last decade for me was memorable for Harry Potter, the Hunger Games, Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, Star Wars, and Disney Princesses Rapunzel, Moana, Anna and Elsa.

With each year we strive to become more accepting of people, we work to create safer and healthier spaces for people, and we hope for greater peace and understanding around the world. 2020 is an exciting year for anniversaries such as the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower's arrival in Massachusetts and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowing women to vote. Two important events in American history that brought us to where we are today.

As we look back and celebrate the past, it is equally important to look forward at what is in the future. We have a busy year ahead here at First Lutheran with our upcoming retreat to Calumet, the continued formation of youth ministry, and opportunities to grow and learn in our faith.

I am excited to see what this year brings for each of you and to adventure through it together.

Peace,  
Vicar Courtney

### Maker Sale Update

Thanks to all who donated and purchased items, and to all who helped with the setup and cleanup. Through the sale (held on December 8) we raised over \$1,200 that will go to our Camp Calumet Scholarship Fund.

### Pastor's Discretionary Gifts

I am grateful for gifts to the Pastor's Discretionary Funds over the past year. This has allowed me to help persons in need with meals and groceries, lodging and rent, car repairs, and more. Also, thanks too to all who donated gift cards to, McDonalds, and Dunkin Donuts in December. The folks at Chaplains on the Way were deeply grateful to have these to share with people in need over the holidays.

- Pastor Maehl

### Dates to Remember

#### Vacation Bible School July 6-10

We are planning our annual week of VBS for July 6th through 10th. We again hope to have a pre-k class, 4 rotating elementary school classes, and spots for many youth helpers and adult leaders. Please mark your calendar if interested!

#### Camp Calumet - Summer Camp July 26—August 1

Camp Calumet is reserving 12 spots for our two congregations (First Lutheran and Santuario). The full cost is \$680 (plus \$88 for bus) and we are hoping to be able to underwrite one-half the cost for our campers through our Camp Calumet Fund. May we reserve a spot for your child/children ages 8-16? If so, please contact Pastor Maehl.

## 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 and Jüri Niiler; Pam Sperry.

**Friends and Family:** Adekemi (*friend of Sarah Rauhut*); Christiansen family (*friends of Jennifer Lambert*); Emily Clemens (*niece of Joan Clemens*); Lavara Clemens (*mother of Joan Clemens*); Donna (*friend of LuAnn Kimker*); Marlin Emschweiler (*cousin of Joyce Anderson*); Carolyn Hoff (*mother of Steve Hoff*); Norma Huisman (*aunt of Brad Nederhoff*); Nancy Jewell (*cousin of Joan Clemens*); Sigrid Johnson (*granddaughter of Rut and Richard Johnson*); Ellen Katterheinrich (*LuAnn Kimker's mother*); 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:

- Jane Wolley
- Sandra Neal (*Tom Neal's mother*)
- Ted Allwardt (*uncle of Ann Sjodin*)

**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.*

Jane Wolley died on December 24, as a result of a major stroke. I want to express my thanks to all those from the congregation, and to the Nelson board in particular, who visited her in the hospital, kept vigil, and who prayed for her. We thank God for her, and for God's promises that in Christ she lives.

Pastor Maehl



### Thanks from the Staff ...

We are thankful for the many, cards, remembrances, and expressions of care that came to us at Christmas. We thank God for the First Lutheran community and all the love and support we receive from through you.

Pastor Maehl, Cynthia,  
and Vicar Courtney,

## Walking Together in God's Love



### St. Olaf Choir Concert

Mechanics Hall, Worcester

Wednesday, February 5, 7:30 pm

Tickets \$10—\$40

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-olaf-choir-tickets-68477061735>

There is a group from church planning to attend The St. Olaf choir concert on February 5. Comprised of 75 voices, the St. Olaf Choir is hailed as the nation's premier a cappella ensemble, known for its artistry and beauty of sound

If you would like to sit together with others from church, please contact Cynthia by 1/15 so we can purchase a block of tickets. We will aim to purchase tickets at the \$25 level. Otherwise feel free to order tickets on your own. We can still carpool to the event.

### 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 (1/26) at 9:30 am

#### Sunday Learning Hour:

9:15 am

#### Visit us on the Web at:

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



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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.*