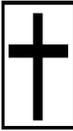


# The Messenger

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

June/July 2022  
781-893-6563  
tmaehl@rcn.com



## *From the Vicar*

Throughout my internship, Pastor Tom has taught me the importance of rhythms in our lives. These rhythms can look like daily rhythms of prayer and reading scripture or weekly rhythms like coming to worship on Sundays. The Messenger has become a part of a monthly rhythm for me, giving me an opportunity to do some deep reflection. Whenever it is time for the next newsletter to come out, I am given some intentional time to reflect upon where God has shown up in our community since the last Messenger. For this month in particular however, what I found is that God was showing up in our community, but also beyond our community.

As I sit down to write this column, I sit in the wake of the tragic shootings at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX; in the wake of the shootings at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY; and in the wake of so many other instances of violence. In the wake of tragedy, I can find myself at a loss for words in prayer, and so I turn to the rhythm of the Psalms. The Book of Psalms can offer us words of lament, anger, grief, and hope, when we might not have them for ourselves; petitions like from Psalm 13, "How long, O Lord?" How long, O Lord, will our country be plagued by mass shootings? How long, O Lord, will our world face gun violence?

In the midst of tragedy, the Book of Psalms can also remind us that God is not absent from the violence of the world. As I was flipping through the Psalms this week seeking guidance, Psalm 46 stopped me in my tracks. The Psalmist writes:

## **Psalm 46**

- <sup>7</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- <sup>8</sup> Come and see what the LORD has done,  
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- <sup>9</sup> God makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth.  
God breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> God says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

In the past month, in the midst of all we have faced, God has been with us and will promise to be with us. As we journey into June and July, in whatever rhythms of life you may find yourself in, may you find comfort in our God who is with us, who makes wars cease, and who shatters weapons of violence.

Peace,  
Vicar Samantha



**Worship  
Schedule  
for the  
Summer**

## **Summer Worship Schedule Starts June 5!**

**Worship at 9:30 am**

We move to one worship service at 9:30 am starting 6/5 through 9/4. Our livestream will also be at 9:30, but you can watch it anytime afterwards as well.

## Nurturing Faith



### Vacation Bible School July 18-22, 2022

Please register by June 12!

***Mark your calendars!  
Invite your friends and neighbors!***

Vacation Bible School is back this summer at First Lutheran! Join us July 18-22 for a week of exploring our theme: Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God! All week we are going to sing new songs, explore biblical stories about how God feeds us, learn about food justice in the community, play lots of games, and HAVE FUN!

This year the program will run from 11 am to 3 pm for ages 5-12 years old. Bagged lunches will be provided. Registration for VBS is now OPEN! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our Registrar, Anne Dugan.

#### Can you help?

Thank you to all of you who have offered your prayers, time, and support to help make VBS happen this summer. We ask that you continue to pray for this event, for all the leaders, volunteers, and children. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please reach out to our Director Sarah Rauhut at [firstlutheranVBS@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranVBS@gmail.com) for any information.



#### ***Save the Date!***

**Sunday July 24  
After 9:30 worship**

#### **MELT Food Truck**

In celebration of our week of VBS, First Lutheran is going to host an actual Food Truck Party after worship on July 24<sup>th</sup>! All are welcome for free food from MELT Food Truck, outdoor games, and shared community time.



## Serving Others

### Property Committee Update

*The Property Committee is committed to maintaining and preserving a safe and healthy church building*

The Property Committee, consisting of Norm Adams, Jason Felsch, Steve Hoff, Isaac Maehl, Brad Nederhoff, Paul Pintus, Alan Sieving and Ted Sjodin, have completed several projects and are working on a major repair to improve the church building and protect the health of all those who utilize its space.

While the church was shut down during 2021, mold was discovered behind the walls in the basement classrooms and in the carpet near the restrooms, likely stemming from multiple flooding events in past years. As mold can cause health issues, the Property Committee in concert with the Interior Care team worked to eliminate the mold and upgrade facilities to protect against future flooding. Flooring containing asbestos was safely removed and abated and contaminated carpeting was discarded. A leak in the roof drainage system was fixed. Vinyl flooring was installed and treated to protect against future water damage and the Founder's Hall floor was refinished. The classroom walls were opened and treated to remove the mold; to reduce future mold growth, the drywall was replaced with materials that are mold resistant. Much of this work was performed by property committee members. Today, these projects are complete and these areas are again hosting First Lutheran events and community groups that use the space.

More recently, mold has been discovered in the First Lutheran offices and vestibule. In contrast to the basement, the source of this mold comes from above...water leaks resulting from a flat roof and an aging air conditioning unit installed approximately 20 years ago. The Property Committee is receiving quotes from external vendors that would replace the roof and install water-

resistant materials, remediate the mold and replace any deteriorated materials, as well as remove and replace the air conditioning unit. Although this is a complex and multifaceted project, it is hoped that this work can be completed over the summer during Pastor Maehl's sabbatical and without impacting Vacation Bible School.

To date, all of this work has been paid from the Capital Improvements fund. The use of this account for these projects will result in healthy workspaces for Tom, Cynthia, and Samantha as well as maintain the building for all who use the facility now and in the future. It is a blessing for and a credit to this congregation and the generosity of past donors that the potential \$50,000 cost for the planned work can be fully funded with the fund dedicated to the care of our building... THANKS BE TO GOD!

*These projects will also significantly deplete the Capital Improvements account, from which much of the work of the Property Committee is funded. As the current President of the FLC Church Council, I ask that you consider making a donation directly to the Capital Improvements Fund so that the Property Committee and Interior Care team can continue to make our church a beautiful, healthy and safe place where everyone can congregate, work, converse, worship, sing, pray, and play.*

Ann Sjodin  
Council President

## Walking Together in God’s Love

### Garden Help Needed

#### Shrub Borders:

We need someone or a group of someones, to clean up the shrub borders. This would include weeding, edging, mulching.

#### Perennial Borders:

Cynthia could use help keeping these beautiful. You could work alongside of Cynthia, or on your own time. Tasks include:

- Spring Cleanup (weeding, edging, mulching)
- Dividing plants that have outgrown their space
- Ongoing care—watering, deadheading

Talk to Cynthia or a member of the Property Team (Ted Sjodin, Alan, Sieving, Steve Hoff) if you are interested in helping!



Tall Bearded Iris 'Immortality'



Siberian Iris

*Would you like some Iris for you garden? We will be dividing both of these. Talk to Cynthia if you want some!*



### Lawn Mowing Volunteers Needed

Would you be willing to mow the church lawn one or more times this summer? ***We are in need of volunteers to share in caring for the church in this way.***

The church has a lawn mower and a member of the property committee is happy to help orient you if you’ve never done it before. ***We have a sign up sheet in the Pearson Room at church.*** If you sign up for a given week, you can mow the lawn at a time of your convenience during that week.

***We’d appreciate the help!***

### Congratulations to Our Graduates!

#### Isaac Zachary Maehl

Waltham High School  
Attending Lasell University in Newton, MA

#### Justin Paul Sjodin

Lexington High School  
Attending University of Washington in Seattle, WA

#### Kayali Prema Pandian

Hopkinton High School  
Attending Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA

#### Jane Louise Sieving

Olin College of Engineering in  
Nedham, MA,  
with her BS in Engineering.

#### Martin Gilbert Sieving

Waltham High School  
Attending Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY



## Serving Others



### Eyeglasses for Lesotho

I want to extend a HUGE thank you to the First Lutheran community for their donation of glasses to the recent Boston Medical Center Ophthalmology mission trip to Lesotho. Over six clinic days in March we examined or screened over 400 patients and did over 20 cases in the operating room. Your glasses, in addition to others that were donated, were distributed to more than a 150 patients. Reading glasses were a need of many patients, but due to the donation of all types of glasses we were able to hand out free prescription glasses to almost 30 patients, saving them the burden of seeking out the rare optical shop and paying what would have been a large fee.

The Church Council recently voted to allocate \$2500 to future needs of this mission, but **additional support is always welcome in the form of glasses or monetary donations.** Glasses can be given to Jennifer Lambert at any time prior to October, when the next trip is scheduled. If you would like to contribute financially, you can do so through the offering plate, just earmark your donation for Lesotho. Thank you so much again for your generosity, prayers, and ongoing support.

---Jen Lambert

### New Benches!

Hello everyone! As I'm sure most of you noticed, we have new benches outside! These benches were hand crafted by me, and the scouts of Troop 119 from Lexington. I would like to thank the property committee, the church council, my wonderful parents, and everyone who helped me complete this project. Truly, it was my pleasure!

However, due to supply chain issues and wood shortages, these benches ended up being more costly than originally intended. The property committee assured me that they would cover for all costs, and I greatly thank them for their generosity, but **to help subsidize this project, I, and the property committee, would greatly appreciate donations to the capital improvement fund.** No donation is too small. Thank you everyone, and I look forward to supporting the church more in future projects!

Justin Sjodin



*Many thanks to Justin who led a group of scouts in making 4 new benches for use outside at church. When you put two of these beautiful benches together, they will convert into a picnic table. Enjoy a seat in the garden, next time you are at church!*

## Walking Together in God's Love

### Prayer Concerns



**Members of our First Lutheran Community:** Sarah Allen; Jen Biter; Joan Clemens; Heather Fahey; Rosy Hebert; Eddie Hughes; June Jahrling; Erika Jerram; Steve Latter; Kathryn McCowan; Don & Britta McNemar; Kerry Meaney; Cynthia Niiler, Joan and Jüri Niiler, Sandra Schwab; Leslie Waters.

**Friends and Family:** Adekemi (*friend of Sarah Rauhut*); Lauriana Arevalo & Eustaquio Dubon (parents of August Arevalo); Roxan Brown (sister of Dennis Ostrander); Elaine Chan (aunt of Catherine Pinch); Emily Clemens (*niece of Joan Clemens*); Lavara Clemens (*mother of Joan Clemens*); Pam &

Ken Cochran (COTW partner; Steve Codner (father-in-law of Emily Codner); Leslie Crowe (*friend of Connie and Jeanette Fagone*); Handel Dixon; Donna (*friend of LuAnn Kimker*); Chuck Flinner (*father of Kat Flinner*); Richard Ham (brother of Cindy Gelinaz); Bob Hofgren (brother of Janice Ostrander); Norma Huisman (*aunt of Brad Nederhoff*); Joyce; Ellen and Duke Katterheinrich (*LuAnn Kimker's parents*); Sylvia and Chris Lee-Thompson (friend of Susan Pintus); Marybeth; Peter Melanson (*brother-in-law of Matt and Erika Jerram*); Jason Mihalko (*friend of Matt Jerram*); Pappas family (friends of Jennifer Lambert); Cathy Platfoot (cousin of LuAnn Kimker); Sally Raymond (*Jen Biter's mom*); Susan Raymond (sister-in-law to Jen & Bill Biter); Stacey Reed (*sister of Penny Alexander*); Margie and Roger Schroeder (*Curt Schroeder's parents*); Ann Sewich (*sister of Meg Maehl*); Doug Sewich (*brother-in-law of Meg and Tom Maehl*); Maria Silva (*aunt of Olga Jimenez*); Matthew Stanhope (*partner of Jane Danielson*); Wayne & Carol Sukow (parents of Cathy Sukow); Tara Waters (*family of Penny & Marquette Alexander*); Jim Wroe (*cousin of Carol Hansen*).

**For those who grieve:** the family and friends of:

Rosy Hebert

John Elander

Gwendolyn Steele (newborn cousin of Emily Codner)

**For our partners:** Santuario Luterano, the Spanish speaking Lutheran congregation in Waltham, and for their interim leader: Rafaela Radcke. 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, Camp Calumet, and ELCA World Hunger.

*If you would like to add/remove a name to/from the prayer list, please inform 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 Samantha DiBiaso, Intern  
sdibiaso@capital.edu

**Council:** President: Ann Sjodin  
Vice-President: LuAnn Kimker  
Secretary: Julie Weeden  
Treasurer: Susan Pintus

Holly Diaz  
Sammy Kalisa  
Jennifer Lambert  
Beth Mellilo  
Curt Schroeder

**Worship:**

Summer Sundays:  
9:30 am in person and Facebook Live

**Visit us on the Web at:**

[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.*