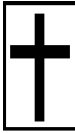


The Messenger

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

August 2022
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From the Vicar

I am not sure that I can fully express how much I have learned from our VBS week at First Lutheran. I learned

how planning for VBS takes a village, how resilient children really are, and how somehow God always makes a way. But the thing I learned that surprised me the most during the week of VBS is that there is always room for joy.

With so much to do and so little time in our every day, I forget that there are moments for joy in our day to day too. With the state of our world throughout the pandemic, as we see the impacts of inflation and of climate change, it's hard sometimes to realize there is still joy in the world too. I realized through all the songs, games, and lessons we experienced as a group during VBS, there is always room for joy in the midst of all we face in the world and in our own lives; joy that is given to us by God and so abundantly present in God's children.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).

Not only does Jesus remind us that the kingdom of heaven belongs to children, but Jesus also shows us what the kingdom of God like through children. During the week of VBS, the children showed me what the kingdom of God is like. The kingdom of God looks like children bursting with laughter as they ran through and chased the water at the spray park. The kingdom of God sounds like children learning how to play the 'Happy Birthday' song with boom-wackers. The kingdom of God tastes like sweet and refreshing popsicles in the midst of the summer's heat. The kingdom of God smells like

cheese sandwiches and bags of baby carrots. The kingdom of God feels like dancing to songs about manna and quails.

God's kingdom is like the joy children bring to this community; joy that exudes laughter, curiosity, and honesty. And God's kingdom is for all of us, where there is always room for joy. May God continue to bless the children in our community and the world.

Peace,
Vicar Samantha



**Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer**

Summer Worship

9:30 am

Continues through 9/4

*Pastor Maehl returns from
Sabbatical 8/28*

Return to Fall Schedule

8:15 & 10:30

September 11

On September 11 we will return to our fall schedule, with worship on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30.

Nurturing Faith



What a blessing it was to have had 17 children, 8 youth, and 13 adults to return to First Lutheran Church for VBS this summer! Thanks be to God for all that God provided for this week that was filled with so much joy, song, learning, and community.

This year's theme for VBS was Food Truck Party! Every day we had daily specials that taught us all about the way God provides for us. Together we learned Bible stories from our Food Truck Party expert, Chef Haze, about the ways God provided manna in the wilderness, how Jesus fed the 5,000 and cooked breakfast for the disciples on the beach. By the end of the week, all together we were able to pray, "God is great. God is Good. Let us thank God for our food. By God's hands we all are fed. Give us Lord our daily bread. Amen!"

Throughout the week, the group also got to learn all about the importance of food and what happens with food in our community. We were grateful to have had visitors from the Newton Food Pantry, the Community Day Center in Waltham, and Waltham School Nutrition to teach us about food insecurity, food distribution, and healthy food. We even got to learn about our very own little pantry at FLC and put food inside to share with those who need it most. At the end of the week, the kids were also able to give back to the community by assembling 30 art kits that will be shared with the Waltham Family School.

We were so grateful to have so many helpers and teachers who taught the group a variety of Bible stories, arts and crafts, and science. Throughout the week the group got to weave their own manna baskets and picture frames, dress in costume as the Israelites and reenact catching fish with Jesus. In their science activities, they got to learn all about planets, energy, and waves, and even got to chance to make their own planet, splash water with tuning forks, and play songs with boom-wackers!

In the midst of high temperatures, we were so grateful to have been able to find rest in the shade and retreat to the spray park to cool off. Together we got to play lots of games and bask in the joy God provides us! Finally, we were so grateful to celebrate the week of VBS with a REAL food truck on Sunday. It was a delight to share in community over lunch provided by MELT Food Truck.

What a blessing – thanks be to God!



Chef Haze



Nurturing Faith

Many thanks to all who helped make our Food Truck Party VBS a Success!!

Director: Sarah Rauhut,

Co-Director: Vicar Samantha DiBiaso

Registrar: Anne Dugan,

Small Group Leaders: Hazel (Isaac) Maehl, Kat Flinner,

Music: Cynthia Niiler,

Craft: Cat, Julia, Maggie, and Henry Niemann

Story: Rafaela Radke,

Science: Inpakala Pandian,

Park: Kathryn McCowan,

General Help: Geri Nederhoff, Rosa Santiago, Cathy Sukow

Office/Phones: Doris Speer

Teaching Moments:

Marilyn Crone (Colleen Nolan), Newton Food Pantry

Carolyn Montalto, Community Day Center

April Liles, Director of Food Services in Waltham Public Schools

Art Kits: Susan Pintus,

Tent: Paul Pintus with Alan Sieving, Steve Waldron, Brad Nederhoff, Beth Melillo, Erik Diaz

Fencing: Steve Hoff

Bag Lunches: Emily Citrone, Vicar Samantha, Pat Clem, Helen & Larry Yarbrough, Beth Melillo

Decorating: Vicar Samantha, Emily Citrone, Helen Yarbrough, Leslie Waters, Geri Nederhoff, Rachel Nederhoff, Hazel (Isaac) Maehl, Anne & Lea Dugan, Kathryn McCowan, Mary Ellen Adams, Ardeith Froeberg, Sheila Landsman, Janice Ostrander



Our REAL food truck party!

Walking Together in God’s Love

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

SUMMER 2022

ELCA.org/disaster

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Airports are now shut, and few railway lines are operational. Civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine’s western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Millions of people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities and pastoral care.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland Slovakia, Romania and Moldova, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

Your gifts designated for “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

.....
Yes, I want to help!

- Lutheran Disaster Response: Eastern Europe Crisis Response \$ _____ IDG0103
- Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** and write “Eastern Europe Crisis
Response” or “Where needed most” on your check’s memo line.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

First Lutheran Ministry Schedule

If you are unable to serve when scheduled please *find a replacement* and contact the office.

August

	August 7 Pentecost 9 9:30	August 14 Pentecost 10 9:30	August 21 Pentecost 11 9:30	August 28 Pentecost 12 9:30
Asst. Min.	<i>Ann Sjodin</i>	Emily Codner	Rachel Nederhoff	Geri Nederhoff
Lector	Tom Neal	Jennifer Lambert	Brad Nederhoff	Anthony Rivera
A/V	Eegan Pandian	Steve Hoff	Emily Citrone	Prakash Pandian
Altar Care	<i>Doris Speer</i>	Geri Nederhoff	<i>LuAnn Kimker</i>	<i>Ann Sjodin</i>
Counters	Meg Maehl Jennifer Lambert		Alan Sieving Bill Meaney	

September

	September 4 Pentecost 13	September 11 Pentecost 14	September 18 Pentecost 15	September 25 Pentecost 16
8:15 Lector	N/A	Julie Weeden	Kevin Dickert	Tom Neal
10:30 Asst. Min.	LuAnn Kimker	Sammy Kalisa	Ann Sjodin	Inpakala Pandian
10:30 Lector	Cathy Sukow	Holly Diaz	Emily Codner	Vicki DeVault
10:30 A/V	Curt Schroeder	Ted Sjodin	Eegan Pandian	Steve Hoff
Altar Care	Catherine & Peter Pinch	Penny & Mar- quette Alexander	LuAnn Kimker	Geri Nederhoff
Counters	Norman Adams Meg Maehl		Mary Ellen Adams Ted Sjodin	

October

	October 2 Pentecost 17	October 9 Pentecost 18	October 16 Pentecost 19	October 23 Pentecost 20	October 30 Reformation
8:15 Lector	????	Julie Weeden	Kevin Dickert	Tom Neal	????
10:30 Asst. Min.	Emily Codner	Rachel Nederhoff	Geri Nederhoff	LuAnn Kimker	Sammy Kalisa
10:30 Lector	Jennifer Lambert	Brad Nederhoff	Anthony Rivera	Cathy Sukow	Holly Diaz
10:30 A/V	Emily Citrone	Prakash Pandian	Curt Schroeder	Ted Sjodin	Eegan Pandian
Altar Care	Doris Speer	Ann Sjodin	Peter & Catherine Pinch	Marquette & Pen- ny Alexander	LuAnn Kimker
Counters	Jennifer Lambert Alan Sieving		Bill Meaney Norm Adams		Meg Maehl Mary Ellen Adams

Walking Together in God's Love

Prayer Concerns



Members of our First Lutheran Community: Sarah Allen; Jen Biter; Joan Clemens; Heather Fahey; 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); Kat Benbenek (friend of Inpakala Pandian); 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*); Emily Dallman (friend of Dianne Poulos); Handel Dixon; Donna (*friend of LuAnn Kimker*); Chuck Flinner (*father of Kat Flinner*); Richard Ham (brother of Cindy Gelinias); 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*); Skip Moyer (grandfather of Samantha DiBiasco); 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*); 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:

Jane Danielson

Matthew Stanhope (partner of Jane Danielson)

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



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.