

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

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781-893-6563
tmaehl@rcn.com



Fides quaerens intellectum

This Latin phrase meaning, “Faith seeks understanding” was championed by St. Augustine (354-430). After some 1600 years it still holds.

Dear people of faith,

Do you (like Augustine and faithful Christians before him and ever since) have questions?

Do you wonder where God might be desiring to lead you; further or deeper ... you with your unique blend of gifts, limitations, experiences; ... you as an individual who mysteriously has been woven into a particular community of faith?

Do you desire to listen more deeply, seeking deeper wisdom?

If so, then I invite you to the adult forum series that will be happening over the next five months (*see page 2*). The plan is to go back to basics and focus on certain essential aspects of the Christian faith, and then to immerse ourselves in stories of Jesus taken mostly from the Gospel of Mark. Mark is a fast moving Gospel where the character of Jesus is surprisingly complex, and where his mission takes surprising turns. This is the Jesus whom in Mark calls upon people not to worship him, but follow his Way (and following is harder than praising). Which begs the question, “*What is his Way, intended for us, in this particular time and place?*” Lets talk.

Come if you grew up in a church; come if you did not. Come if you were confirmed as a teenager and remember what was taught; come if not. Come if you know your Bible. Come if you do not. If due to COVID, distance, or health you'd like to join in via Zoom, please contact me. May God continue to guide and provide.

Faithfully, Pastor Maehl



Hybrid Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 29, 2023

11:45 am

(following worship)

We will be holding our annual meeting in person with an option to participate via zoom (a link will be shared one week prior). For those in person, pizza will be provided.

At this meeting we will adopt a budget for 2023 and receive written annual reports from the pastor, president and committee chairs. We will hold elections for church council and other leadership positions. We will also vote on a proposed welcome statement (*see page 3*).

The proposed budget and all other reports will be sent via email at least one week prior; if you would like hard copies, please contact the church office.

We ask members to please make an effort to attend.

Nurturing Faith

Spring Adult Forums Essentials of the Christian Faith

Jan-May, 2023

We will explore principal parts of the Christian faith and engage stories of scripture.

On the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month we will utilize the full class time to explore a new topic, looking to see how that topic has resonance with an episode recounted in the Gospel of Mark.

On the 2nd and 4th Sunday we will utilize half the class time to discuss a Biblical story focusing on the questions:

- Where do we see the evidence of brokenness and/or oppression?
- Where do we see resistance?
- Where is the healing, mending, grace?
- How does this speak to life in the world now?
- To what might God be calling us?

For the other half of the class time on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, we will discuss something else related to the ministry of First Lutheran; e.g. Reconciling in Christ process, refugee resettlement, etc.

We encourage all who want to go deeper in their faith journey to make an effort to participate. If anyone desires to participate via zoom, please email Pastor Maehl and we will set up a link.

Tentative Schedule

Jan. 8 Topic: Overview to Scriptures, the Word of God, and the Kingdom of God (Mark 1)

Jan. 15 Story: Mark 2:1-12 "Hole in the Roof"

Jan 22 Topic: Creation stories and God's overarching aim to mend a broken creation (Mark 2)

Jan 29: Story: Mark 5:1-20 "Gerasene Demoniac"

Adult Forum Schedule (continued)

Feb. 5 Topic: Exodus and lessons of the manna in the wilderness. (Mark 2-3)

Feb. 12 Story: Mark 5:21-43 "Healing of the woman and the girl"

Feb 19: Topic: Judges and Kings; power, politics, and systems (Mark 3)

Feb 26: Congregational retreat to Camp Calumet, no adult Forum

Mar. 5 Topic: Prophets and the call for justice and righteousness (Mark 4)

Mar. 12 Story: Mark 6:30-44 "Feeding of the Five Thousand"

Mar. 19 Topic: The Ten Commandments; right relationship with God and neighbor (Mark 4)

Mar. 26 Story: Mark 6:45-52 "Jesus stills the storm"

Apr. 2 Topic: Apostles Creed and Lord's Prayer; Jesus at the center (Mark 11)

Apr. 9 Easter, no adult forum

Apr. 16 Topic: Baptism and Communion; inclusion and grace (Mark 8-10)

Apr. 23 Story: Acts 8:26-40 "Ethiopian Eunuch"

April 30: Special event - TBD

May 7 Topic: Salvation and Justification by grace through faith (Mark 12)

May 14 Story: Luke 17:11-19 "The story of the 10 lepers"

May 21 Topic: The cross of Christ and the Gospel (Mark 14, 16)

May 28 Story: Luke 24:13-35 "The road to Emmaus"

Doing Justice, Serving All

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Update

Thank you for your feedback and support as we continue engaging the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The RIC writing team discussed and discerned the feedback offered, and produced our final RIC Welcome Statement:

First Lutheran's RIC Welcome Statement:

Walking together in God's love, we rejoice in the diversity of God's wonderfully made children. We celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and non-binary people and all members of our human family regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, age, marital status, physical and mental ability, faith history, economic status, education, family configuration, or immigration status. We renounce the sin of racism and all forms of discrimination. We welcome all to join us in worship, leadership, participation in rites and sacraments of the church, and fellowship on our journey of nurturing faith, doing justice, and serving all.

Edits that were made to create this final draft included a few grammar edits, as well as expanding the LGBTQIA+ acronym and spelling out all of the letters. The goal in spelling out all the LGBTQIA+ acronym is to emphasize our priority of welcome for all identities. If you would like to learn more about what these various identities mean, here are a few resources to access:

- Article: What do all the letters mean?
<http://queergrace.com/letters/>
- YouTube video: What's LGBTQ even mean? Part 1 and 2:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPnQCf-imbk>

We will hold another discussion about the RIC statement during the Adult Forum on Sunday, Jan. 15. A vote on the statement will be held at the annual meeting on Jan. 29th. We look forward to continuing this process together and living out Christ's welcome for all people! - Vicar Samantha



**WINTER
RETREAT**

Congregational Retreat to Camp Calumet February 24-26

Our annual retreat for the entire congregation is scheduled for Feb. 24-26 at Camp Calumet, located 2 ½ hours north on Lake Ossipee in Freedom, NH. We have spots reserved for 70 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:

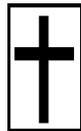
Adults \$160
Students \$80 (7-18 years)
Children \$0 (0-6 years)
Maximum family fee is \$500

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.

To Sign Up: please use the following link. www.signupgenius.com or contact the church office. If you have food allergies or lodging requests, please email those to Pastor Maehl. If you are planning on attending, **please sign up by February 5** so that we can plan accordingly. Thank you.

COVID Note: As with the Fall Retreat, we will be asking participants to take an at-home COVID test before traveling; then masks will be optional during the retreat.

Doing Justice, Serving All



From the Vicar

Throughout the season of Advent, we waited with anticipation for Christ to be with us. We then welcomed and basked in the glory of Christ's birth during the Christmas season. Now we begin our journey through the season of Epiphany – a season to show us that Christ's birth is an ever-unfolding promise for all people. The season of Epiphany begins by commemorating the coming of the Magi bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by doing so, reveal Jesus to the world as Lord and King (Matthew 2).

My hope then, as we journey through the season of Epiphany, is that like the Magi you may catch glimpses of God's revealing love, of God's revealing grace, and of God's revealing hope. May we all be surprised by the mystery of God's unfolding presence among us.

As we embark into the season and new year together, I offer this daily prayer from theologian Walter Brueggemann's poem called *Epiphany*:

"We pray for the light of your glorious presence,
as we wait for your appearing;
We pray for the light of your wondrous grace as
we exhaust our coping capacity;
We pray for your gift of newness that will over-
ride our weariness;
We pray that we may see and know and hear
and trust in your good rule.
That we may have energy, courage, and freedom
to enact your rule through the demands of
this day. We submit our day to you and to
your rule, with deep joy and high hope."
Amen.

- Vicar Samantha

Thanks for Sharing

Thanks to all who contributed McDonalds and Dunkin Donuts gift cards, and Charlie cards in December. The gift cards were given to the leaders of Chaplains on the Way. So too, thanks for all who contributed toys; these were distributed by members of Santuario Luterano to families in need.

Thanks also to all who made contributions to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Over the past year this money has been used to help support our neighbors with food, utility payments, rent subsidies, funeral and health care expenses, and more.

Christmas Sale Update

Our annual Christmas sale was held on Sunday, December 11. Through the sale we raised over \$1,500 that will go to our Camp Calumet Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who donated and purchased items, and to all who helped with the set-up and cleanup.

Summer Camp Note: For those families who desire to send a child/children (ages 8 to 16) to Camp Calumet, please sign up on your own at www.calumet.org. Then please contact Pastor Maehl for scholarship aid. Through our scholarship fund we are able to underwrite up to half the cost for a week of camp.

Christmas Decorating & Service

Thanks to all who helped decorate for Advent and Christmas; in particular Carol Hansen, Steve Hoff, Lori Hrdlicka, LuAnn Kimker, Geri Nederhoff, Ann Sjodin, Doris Speer, Jake and Vicky Villalta, and Helen Yarbrough. Thanks also to all who assisted with A/V, reading lessons, and serving as assistant minister and on altar guild for our varied worship services.

Walking Together in God's Love

Prayer Concerns



Members of our First Lutheran Community: Sarah Allen; Jen Biter; Eddie Hughes; June Jahrling; Erika Jerram; Steve Latter; Kathryn McCowan; Don & Britta McNemar; Kerry Meaney; Cynthia Niiler, Joan and Jüri Niiler, Alexa Turner.

Friends and Family: Adekemi (*friend of Sarah Rauhut*); Lauriana Arevalo & Eustaquio Dubon (parents of August Arevalo); Kate 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*); Donna (*friend of LuAnn Kimker*); Chuck Flinner (*father of Kat Flinner*); Betty Kaufman (*great-aunt of LuAnn Kimker*); 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*); Skip Moyer (*grandfather of Samantha DiBiaso*); 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 & Leslie Waters*); Margie and Roger Schroeder (*Curt Schroeder's parents*); Ann and Doug Sewich (*sister and brother-in-law of Meg Maehl*); Maria Silva (*aunt of Olga Jimenez*); Wayne Sukow (*father 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: Bill Jerram (*father of Matt Jerram*); Brian Murphy (*husband of Stacy Reed, brother-in-law of Penny Alexander and Leslie Waters*)

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. And for our efforts to resettle a refugee family.

If you would like to add/remove a name to/from the prayer list, please inform the church office.

First Lutheran Ministry Schedule

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

January

	January 1 Name of Jesus	January 8 Baptism of Our Lord	January 15 Epiphany 2	January 22 Epiphany 3	January 29 Epiphany 4
8:15 Lector	N/A	Julie Weeden	Kevin Dickert	Tom Neal	????
10:30 Asst. Min.	Inpakala Pandian	Emily Codner	Rachel Nederhoff	Geri Nederhoff	LuAnn Kimker
10:30 Lector	Pat Clem	Vicki DeVault	Emily Codner	Jennifer Lambert	Brad Nederhoff
10:30 Usher	<i>Holly & Ezra Diaz</i>	<i>Sarah Rauhut Norman Adams</i>	<i>Pat Clem</i>	<i>Heather, Deidre, & Brett Fahey</i>	<i>Emily & Penelope Codner</i>
10:30 A/V	Curt Schroeder	Ted Sjodin	Eegan Pandian	Steve Hoff	Emily Citrone
Altar Care	Catherine & Peter Pinch	Penny & Marquette Alexander	LuAnn Kimker	Geri Nederhoff	Ann Sjodin
Counters		Bill Meaney Meg Maehl		Mary Ellen Adams Ted Sjodin	

February

	February 5 Epiphany 5	February 12 Epiphany 6	February 19 Transfiguration	February 22 Ash Wednesday 7:30 pm	February 26 Lent 1
8:15 Lector	Julie Weeden	Kevin Dickert	Tom Neal	N/A	N/A
10:30 Asst. Min.	Sammy Kalisa	Ann Sjodin	Inpakala Pandian		Emily Codner
10:30 Lector	Anthony Rivera	Holly Diaz	Cathy Sukow		Vicki DeVault
10:30 Usher	Sarah & Milena Rauhut	Pat Clem Norm Adams	Holly & Ezra Diaz		Heather, Deidre, & Brett Fahey
10:30 A/V	Prakash Pandian	Curt Schroeder	Eegan Pandian	Ted Sjodin	Steve Hoff
Altar Care	Doris Speer	Peter & Catherine Pinch	LuAnn Kimker	Geri Nederhoff	Penny & Marquette Alexander
Counters	Jennifer Lambert Alan Sieving		Bill Meaney Norman Adams		

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!



Can you make coffee and provide goodies after 10:30 worship one Sunday? It's amazing how having a cup of coffee or goodies available provides a reason for people to stay and connect. Can you help with this ministry?

Not sure how to use the large coffee pot or what hosting entails? Ask Pastor Maehl, Vicar Samantha or Cynthia to connect you with a mentor!

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 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:

Sundays:
8:15 am in person
10:30 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.