

The Messenger

A newsletter of the people of First Lutheran Church, Waltham

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham
The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl, Pastor
<http://www.firstlutheranwaltham.org>

January 2010
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Contemplating a Capital Campaign

With Christ as our shepherd, First Lutheran continues to be a community of people through whom Christ is at work:

- **Gathering** lost and scattered sheep (including us),
- **Nurturing** his sheep. Binding up, watering, and feeding us through Word and sacrament, worship and fellowship, and the love and care of others.
- **Sending** us out be his hands and feet, his partners in gathering and nurturing others. (*Ezekiel 34*)

Over the years, in and through the gathering, nurturing, and sending God has been, and is, blessing us. God has blessed us with committed leaders, with a Spirit-filled congregation, and with growth. We have grown in numbers, in giving, and in outreach to the wider community.

Amidst the growth, we have also deferred a good deal of maintenance. The property committee has identified a list of needs that include: repairing the sanctuary walls and windows, repaving the church parking lot and parsonage driveway, extending the fire alarm system, and making the facility more energy efficient. We have also lived with uncertainty about our ability to fully fund important aspects of our ministry, including the internship program.

We are now at a moment in our life together where leaders in the congregation, including me, sense that God is guiding us and challenging us to embark on a capital campaign. This would enable us to raise funds for much needed capital improvements, and would provide for continued and expanding ministries with interns, with children and youth, and with our local community.

We invite you to join in conversation about this. We are offering three forums to discuss our building needs, to hear your, and other's, ideas and hopes for future ministries, and to answer your questions about the possibility of a capital campaign. If you are able, please join us at one of the forums, and please continue to keep our congregation in your prayers.

Faithfully, Pastor Maehl

Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 24, 2010
following worship

At this meeting we will adopt a budget for 2010 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 consider moving to begin a capital campaign.

All members are encouraged to attend. Please bring finger food to share.

Note: committee chairpersons, please submit annual reports to the church office by the morning of January 12.

If possible please email your report to: cniiler@usinternet.com.

Capital Campaign Forums

January 10 at 9:15 am

January 10 at 12:00 noon

January 17 at 9:15 am

We Worship and We Study

Adult Forum Schedule for January Sunday Mornings 9:15 in Founder's Hall

January 10 & 17 - Capital Campaign Forums

Come and:

- Hear from others and share your views about our facility needs,
- Share with others your and their hopes and dreams for our future ministry,
- Ask questions and learn more about the possibility of a capital campaign.

January 24 - End of Life Conversations

A month ago, we began a fruitful conversation about end of life decisions. On this Sunday the conversation will continue. Our plan is to address what happens physically at the end of life, and to discuss how we make decisions for loved ones as they approach death and how we make decisions for ourselves.

Our thanks to Cindy Carsten, LuAnn Kimker, and Elizabeth Sailhamer who, drawing upon their experience as nurses and as a doctor, are helping to shape and/or facilitate the conversation.

January 31 - Manna and Mercy

On this day we will join with confirmation youth to begin a study of major themes of scripture using a resource entitled Manna and Mercy, by Daniel Erlander. This book contains 16 chapters, addressing 16 parts of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Confirmation students will be reading a chapter a week and will join with the adult class about once a month. Adults are free to take copies of Manna and Mercy home for devotional use and are invited to join in conversation with the youth once a month.



*From the
Vicar*

In the days before and after Christmas, John and I decided to take advantage of being in this area by taking part in some Boston holiday traditions. We went to see *Black Nativity* at the Tremont Temple downtown and the *Christmas Revels* at Sanders Theater in Cambridge. Both of these shows have a decades-long tradition. *Black Nativity* tells the story of the Holy Family in song and dance using the poetry of Langston Hughes and gospel music. This year's *Revels* featured early American traditions of shape-note singing and Shaker songs and dances alongside Native American storytelling. In both shows the cast and audience together sang the African-American spiritual "Go Tell It on the Mountain," which we also sang here at First Lutheran on Christmas Eve.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

The folks who first sang this song were slaves in the American South in the years right around the Civil War. They could not go anywhere or do anything on their own because their bodies were the property of others. But their minds were not bound. The folks who first sang this song could not contain the joy and excitement that they felt at knowing the good news of Christ's birth. Like the shepherds, they "glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." (Luke 2:20)

Just as the days get longer, the light of Christ gets stronger as we move into the Epiphany season. "Epiphany" means "show forth, reveal, manifest." It is the aha! moment of finding God in our midst. During these Sundays of January, we read gospel stories about Jesus' baptism, miracles, and his call to the disciples. We hear and learn what Jesus did and said that revealed himself to be the Son of God.

These are also days to think about how Christ enters each of our lives. In what ways does the good news come to each of us? In what ways do we show forth the light of Christ? How might we go about telling it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere?

We Give and Serve

Serving the Homeless

Continuing our ministry
at the Home Suites Inn

On Wednesday, December 16, volunteers from First Lutheran and the Korean Hope Church gathered at the Home Suites Inn to provide food, fellowship, clothing and diapers for nearly 80 of the homeless parents and children who are staying there. We distributed children's clothing, coats and over 1,000 disposable diapers (these were a BIG hit.) We served Italian and Spanish food, salads, Panera breads and desserts. We sang Christmas carols, led by Cynthia Niiler and accompanied by the Korean Hope Church youth group. Parents and children made crafts together, decorating paper stars and snowmen with glitter and stickers and making "stained glass windows" out of tissue paper.

As often happens during the holidays, there were many activities on the hotel's calendar for December and there is nothing on the calendar for January. It is my hope that First Lutheran can continue to minister these families, in ways large and small. Some suggestions include:

- Continuing to provide diapers, baby wipes, clothing and coats on a regular basis.
- Continuing to bring meals, either banquet-style, or individually packaged.
- Providing fellowship opportunities for both parents and children: music, crafts, recreation, tutoring, etc.

I welcome any and all suggestions and ideas. If you would like to be involved, please call Vicar Ann at the church or email asundberg@ltsp.edu.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 7

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

First Lutheran's youth are gearing up to participate in another "Souper Bowl of Caring," scheduled for Sunday, February 7. The Souper Bowl of Caring is part of a nationwide, youth-led, grassroots movement, joining thousands of people together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities. Last year, the youth from First Lutheran collected 186 cans and other non-perishable foods and \$441 that were donated to the Salvation Army here in Waltham. This year we will again be donating to the Salvation Army food pantry.

To participate, on February 7, please bring:

- One Dollar (or more)
- One Can of Soup (or more)

For those up for a challenge, consider contributing to the hungry a proportion of what you spend on snacks and beverages for your own super bowl gatherings. In whatever way you participate, thanks for contributing to the Souper Bowl of Caring!

Christmas Thanks

Thanks to all who decorated the church and grounds, prepared for candle lighting, sang and played instruments, purchased poinsettias, provided food, and gathered for worship at Christmas. Thanks too for all who donated food for local food pantries, gifts for our holiday family, and who donated hats, mittens, and scarves for Bristol Lodge.

We Serve and Give

Silent Auction Update

On December 6 we had a wonderful luncheon, along with a bake sale and silent auction sponsored by and hosted by members of the Social Ministry committee. Through the silent auction and bake sale we raised \$1,020.00 and we received a matching grant of \$1,020 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The money raised will be used to provide scholarship aid for families attending our congregational retreat to Camp Calumet in February and for children and youth attending a week of summer camp in August.

Thanks to all who shared in bringing food, to all who contributed items, made purchases and donations and for all who came. Our special thanks to Louise Selmer for hosting the bake sale, Dick Johnson and Ernie Gaiser for playing their accordions, and the members of the Social Ministry committee for their efforts in coordinating, setting up, and cleaning up after the event!

Snow Cancellations

In the event of a snow storm on a Sunday morning, please note the following general guidelines:

- If the roads are passable, we will have worship at 10:30 am. In those rare cases when the roads are not passable, we will indicate that worship has been cancelled using the church answering machine and will send an email to those on our regular email list.
- Safety is primary. If it is a snowy Sunday morning and you have a leadership responsibility in worship or Sunday school, we are happy to cover for you if you choose or need to stay home.
- During the learning hour, we will consider who is present and engage in some sort of activity together. Adults and youth present can share in conversation, and/or snow shoveling.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

Tuesday, January 19

7:15 - 8:45 pm

This is a great time to join the choir! We have an upcoming joint choir Sunday with the Korean Hope Church as well as upcoming Lent and Easter music to learn. Consider committing to singing with the choir through Easter. This would include about 6 Tuesday evening rehearsals and about 6 Sundays.

If you sing the hymns during worship on Sunday, you can sing in the choir. Music is always chosen based the abilities and voice parts of the choir members, whether it is all men, all women or something in between. The Chancel Choir/Women's Choir rehearse about every other Tuesday from 7:15 - 8:45 pm and sing in worship about every other Sunday morning.

St. Augustine said, "Those who sing pray twice." Come sing and pray-twice with us! If you have questions or would like more information, please call me, email me, or speak to me in person.

Cynthia Niiler

781-893-6563

cniiler@usinternet.com



Snow Sign Up

Please consider signing up either alone or in partnership with a friend to cover snow shoveling for a week or more this winter.

We contract to have the parking lot plowed when needed, but we rely on one another for shoveling the sidewalks around the church and Nelson Apartments. If you can help please sign-up on the big blue ministry board in the Pearson Room. If you need info on the Snow Thrower please contact someone on the Property Committee: Norm Adams, Steve Hoff, Dennis Ostrander, Tom Maxwell, Paul Pintus, or Ted Sjodin. Thanks.

We Encourage



Senior Classics

The Senior Classics had a wonderful Christmas party in December with about 15 attending. Thank you to all who joined us for a delicious feast and the music of Richard Johnson and Ernie Gaiser.

January 21 is our next meeting. Please come with ideas for the rest of the year and stories of your holidays. All are welcome.

Tables of Eight

Forty-four people have signed up for tables of eight, and dining groups will be assigned shortly. If you signed up, a list of those in your group will be in your mailbox soon. As a reminder, groups agree to meet for a meal four times during the calendar year with different group members hosting each time. We hope this will be a way of meeting others and building relationships. Bon appétit.

St. Olaf Choir Concert

Mechanics Hall, Worcester
Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 pm

The St. Olaf Choir, founded in 1912, has been singing for capacity audiences in major venues across America, and around the globe (including 13 international tours) for more than 90 years. Sharing the finest sacred choral repertoire, inspiring people of all faiths, the St. Olaf Choir has garnered immense critical acclaim and set new standards for choral excellence. It is the premier choral ensemble of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. St. Olaf College is a four-year liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with students from across the United States and 30 other countries. St. Olaf Choir members are full-time undergraduate students.

If you are interested in joining a group to attend this concert, please sign up in the Pearson Room or talk to Cynthia. Tickets are \$30. If we have a group of 20 or more we would be eligible for a discount. Please indicate your interest by Sunday January 17, so we can order tickets.

Congregational Retreat to Camp Calumet February 26-28 Mark your calendars!

Our sixth annual retreat for the entire congregation is scheduled for February 26-28 at Camp Calumet, located 3 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.

We will soon have information on cost and again plan to provide scholarships to all who request it. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Pearson Room and please plan on joining us. We welcome people of all ages!

Summer Camp

We have received word that Camp Calumet has reserved 15 spots for us the week of August 1 - 7. If there is a child or youth between the ages of 8 and 16 whom you would like to register for camp, please contact Pastor Maehl.

Christ In Our Home

We continue to offer the daily devotional, *Christ in our Home*. For each day there is a suggested scripture reading and brief reflection, and the passages chosen correspond to the scripture readings appointed for the coming Sunday. Thus, using Christ in our Home for daily devotions can help one to prepare for Sunday worship. Copies are available in the Pearson Room and we invite you to take a copy home with you.

Thanks

We are thankful for the many notes, cards, and remembrances that came to us at Christmas. God continues to bless us through you all in so many ways and we are grateful.

Pastor Maehl, Cynthia Niiler,
and Vicar Ann

We Pray



Prayer Concerns

Sandra Lovequist Bell, Lillian Cane; Esther Clarke; Grace Dahlin; Christina Danielson; Sara Farwell; Alice Johnson; Doris Johnson; Phyllis Magnuson; Stian Mollung; Pam Sperry; Jane Wolley

Dean Borst (Ann Sjodin's uncle); Toby Bottorf (co-worker of Peter Pinch); Nancy Carlson (family friend of Cynthia Niiler); Charlie's parents suffering with Alzheimer's; Patty Dupont (friend of Gunny Cacace); Alice Gaudette (friend of Rut and Richard Johnson); Betty Geisler (friend of Carol Hansen); Margie Gelinas (Cindy Gelinas' sister-in-law); Börje Hallberg (cousin of Meg Maehl and Pat Maxwell); Jim Hanson (friend of the Maehls); Holly (friend of Nicole Gelinas); Juana and Juan and Olinda and their family; Erika Klemm (friend of Marielu and Ernie

Gaiser); Austin Luger (Holly Diaz's cousin); Joann McLaughlin; David and Lisa Milbert; Chris and Trish Morck missionaries in Quito, Ecuador; Deb Nelson (Cheryl Ricci's sister); Robert Nordstrom (Marlene Nordstrom's brother); Britt-Marie Olinder (friend of Gunny Cacace); Bridie Pacifico (friend of LuAnn Kimker); Peter Ricci (Cheryl Ricci's son); Steve Rock (family friend of LuAnn Kimker); Marion Snow (Cheryl Ricci's mother); Stig Svenson (friend of Gunny Cacace); Ethel Teigeler (friend of Maxwells and Maehls); Rafaela Viera (Orlando Jimenez's mother); Nancy Wills and George Stanton (friends of Mimi Ham); Pastor Yim of Korean Hope Church; Ruth Zinser (cousin of Ernie Gaiser)

For those who mourn the death of John Prophet (Heidi Schmelzer's uncle)

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

On Monday, January 18, 2010, Brandeis University will celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a program entitled "A Heart Full of Grace", and welcomes the wider community of faith, though seating is limited. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Shapiro Campus Center Theater. This year's program includes: Kennett Altidor '10 with a special presentation of Dr. King's speech "I've Been To the Mountain Top"; singing by Brandeis' own "Manginah" and "Voices of Praise"

Gospel Choir; poet sensation and phenomenon Jamaal St. John and the return of the Reverend Hurmon Hamilton as accompanied by The Roxbury Presbyterian Church Mass Choir. There will also be a special guest song by our own Lynne Jordan. This is Brandeis University's 5th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

This event is free and seating will be made available at 6:00 p.m. Seating is limited.

The program is sponsored by: Brandeis' MLK Scholars and Friends, The Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Communications.



Martin
Luther
King Jr.
Day



Thanks to:

The **Pinch Family, Rut and Richard Johnson,** and **Britta and Don McNemar** for hosting coffee during December.

Alexandra Sieving, and June Jahrling, for providing Wednesday dinners.

Jason Soukop and Norm Adams for clearing the church's sidewalk of snow.

2010 Offering Envelopes are available on the shelves by the ramp in the Pearson Room. Pick yours up today! Let the office know if there are none out in your name and we will get some for you.



Reminder: the deadline for the February "Messenger" is Tuesday January 26. Items can be emailed to cniiler@usinternet.com or dropped off at the church office.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waltham

Ministers: The people of the congregation

Council: Marty Dugan, President
 Britta McNemar, Secretary
 Brad Nederhoff, Treasurer
 Lori Hrdlicka
 Christine Kelleher
 LuAnn Kimker
 Lori Leary
 Tom Neal
 Laura Nederhoff
 Paul Pintus
 Ryan Porter

Staff: The Rev. Thomas E. Maehl, Pastor
tmaehl@usinternet.com

Ms. Cynthia Niiler,
Director of Music and Parish Secretary
cniiler@usinternet.com

Vicar Ann Sundberg, Intern
asundberg@ltsp.edu

Worship: Sundays at 10:30 am

Learning Hour: Sundays at 9:15 am.

Visit us on the Web at:
www.luther95.com/FELC-WMA

New Reader?? Come Visit Us!!! We're so glad that you picked up this publication; we hope you will find it interesting, provocative and worth your time. If you are not a member of any church, please take the next step and worship with us, any Sunday. We are a growing, active place with friendly people who will welcome you without pressure. Or, please call us at 781-893-6563 for more information and how we might respond to your needs.