

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany



First Evangelical Lutheran Church
900 Main Street Brockton, MA 02301
www.firstevlutheran.org

A Congregation of the



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

900 Main Street Brockton, Massachusetts 02301

Telephone: 508-586-9021 Fax: 508-583-5501

Website: www.firstevlutheran.org

Our Vision Statement

Our vision is to become a visible, outreaching community resource consisting of diverse, active, enthusiastic and supportive Christians of all ages, working together with dynamic leadership and ministering to the spiritual and social needs of the congregation and community.

Our Mission Statement

“Gathered in Christ, Together We Serve”

Ministers: The Members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Staff

Pastor: The Reverend Jeffrey C. Johnson

E-mail: jjohnson@firstevlutheran.org Cell: 508-944-7109

Parish Administrator: James E. Benson

E-mail: jbenson@firstevlutheran.org Cell: 508-207-8746

Church/Financial Secretary: Evelyn Reuben

E-mail: ereuben@firstevlutheran.org

Minister of Music: David N. Burnham Bookkeeper: Nina Sousa

Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator: Dawn Caffelle

Sexton: Brian D. Gagne

Pastors Emeriti:

The Reverend Michael P. Fruth, Ph.D.

The Reverend Kenneth W. Hilston, Jr.

Minister of Music Emerita: Hope E. Mehaffey

Our altar flowers this day are given to the Greater Glory of God and in Loving Memory of my mother & father, Lillian & Carl Nelson by Marian E. Nelson

Presiding Minister: The Reverend Jeffrey C. Johnson

Assisting Minister: 7:45: Susan Newberg 9:00: Christine Newman

Crucifer: Carley Pearson

Acolytes: Johnny Pearson & Katarina Sousa

Lector: Christine Newman

Welcome to First Lutheran Church. All are welcome.

No really, we take this pretty seriously; **we want everyone here, including the children.** Children are welcomed and celebrated at First Lutheran Church. We understand that children are children: they make noise; they run around; they like to play games; they even on occasion cry. This bothers the family of the crying child more than it does us as a community. So please stay in worship with your children. Children's Bulletins are available from the greeters. Please take this seriously.

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

PRELUDE

David Burnham

Lobe Den Herren, Den Machtigen Konig Der Ehren

J.S. Bach

“Praise To The Lord, The Almighty King Of Creation”

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

858

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Lobe Den Herren

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



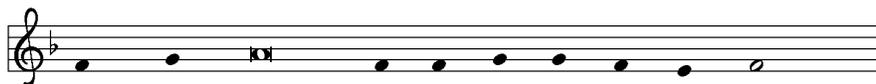
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF DAY

Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40: 21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

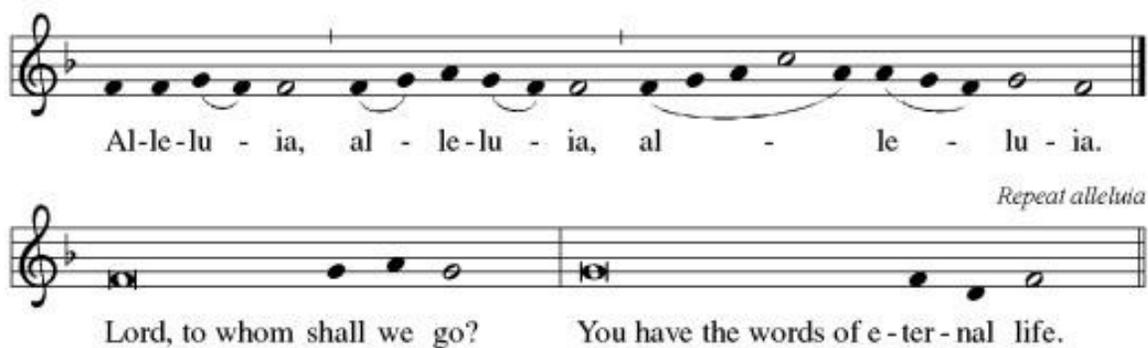
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Lesson Ends: Lector: *The Word of the Lord* Congregation: *Thanks be to God*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MARK 1: 29-39

The gospel is announced. The holy gospel according to Saint Mark the first chapter.

Congregation: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord. **Congregation: *Praise to you, O Christ.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

9:00 AM

SERMON

Pastor Jeff Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

843

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Nettleton

APOSTLES CREED

7:45 ONLY

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church, its pastors, deacons, musicians, artists, teachers, seminarians, and all proclaimers of the gospel, that your gift of steadfast love and mercy will spread throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the earth and all living creatures, for those preparing fields for planting, and for favorable weather, that all of us who care for this life will find voice to help creation thrive, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all rulers of the earth in local, regional, national, and international offices, and those without the power of official office, that they will be given the courage to work for the protection

of all people and act as servants of all, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer this day: the sick and wounded, the grieving and brokenhearted, the hungry and exploited, those with malaria, and all who need our prayers (*especially*), that they will be consoled and healed by health care workers, counselors, family, and friends, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who gather in fellowship and festivities, for the ministries of this congregation in our community and throughout the world, that in all our service we see ourselves centered around Christ, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for those who have died in the faith and now sing praises around the throne of God, and that we be assured of the promise of everlasting life, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“Lobe den Herren”

Max Reger

OFFERTORY CANTICLE

“We All Are One in Mission”

576

(1st verse)

Kurotane

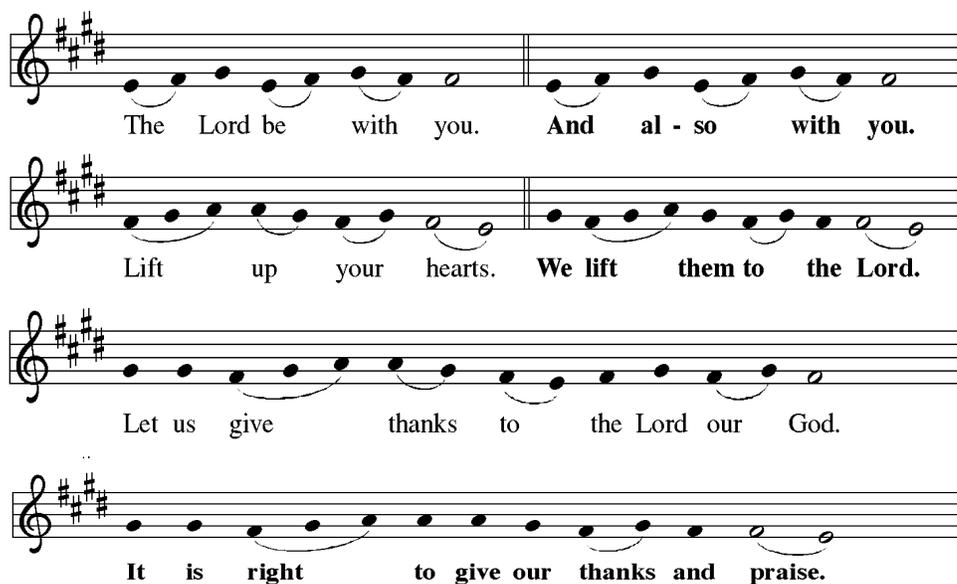
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

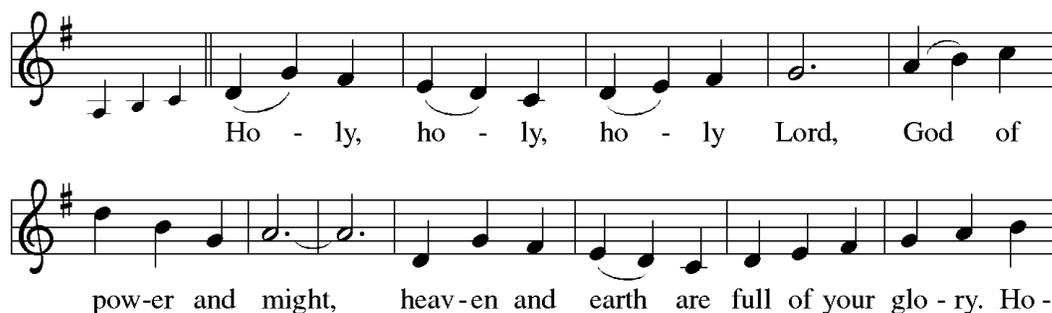
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
 You are most holy,
 and great is the majesty of your glory.
 You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
 but have eternal life.
 We give you thanks for his coming into the world
 to fulfill for us your holy will
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
 we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
 his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

THE COMMUNION

(The assembly may be seated)

*Christ welcomes you to this Feast of the Baptized. This morning's communion will be a communion at the rail using **Intinction** as the method of distribution. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers, receive the bread from the Pastor or Assistant, then to the cup and dip the in either the wine (the chalice closest to the bread) or in the grape juice and proceed back to your seat by the side aisles. If you require gluten free bread, please indicate such to the Pastor/ Assistant.. Please Do Not Drink from the Cup. Small Children and infants are assisted by adults.*

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

483

"Here Is Bread"

Here Is Bread

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Assembly stands

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with

the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

THE BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

871

“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”

Lobt Gott Den Herren, Ihr

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Lobe den Herren”

Johann Gotfried Walther

Prayer Change: Beginning on Ash Wednesday we will change the Prayers of Intercession by reading only the names of First Lutheran members that are on the prayer list. We will continue to list in the bulletin each week those for whom you have requested prayers and the petition of the the prayer remembering those for whom prayers are requested will be changed to include them as a group and to allow for a period of silence. As you can see the list numbers nearly 60 names all for whom we will continue to pray. We ask that you continue to give the staff updates via the yellow cards and if you have concerns about this change you may indicate that as well on a yellow card. Thank you!



Food for Friends: We will have about 5,000 pounds of food to unload on Wednesday around 2 pm. If you are able to held for an hour or so it would be greatly appreciated.

Our next distribution date is Saturday, February 20 and help is needed between 8 and 10:30 am as you are able.

Easter Egg Hunt: Once again this year due to the early Easter the Keith Park Neighborhood Association will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Hilston Gym at the Fruth Center on Saturday, March 31 from 1 to 3 pm. This is a great event and if you're in the neighborhood, hop in to see what's going on--you might even get your photo taken with the Easter bunny!



Let Us Pray for our members that are homebound or ill, or otherwise in need of our prayers:

Francella McFarlane--St. Joseph's
The Grabau Family
Marilyn Tyler
David Tyler
Lisaann Czarnowski
Gustaf Dahlgren--West Acres
Anna Haskins--St. Joseph's Manor
Marian Nelson-Hannah B. Shaw
Donna Persson
Eric Johnson
Vivian Tofteroo
Trudy Ciancarelli-Notre Dame Health
John F. Kenyon Jr.

And for a Special Measure of God's grace to be upon:

- ◆ Robert Wedge, E-5 Master of Arms US Navy, stationed in Bahrain-friend of Pam Mansbach
- ◆ Ensign Jonathan Daus-US Navy-recently deployed-granddaughter's husband of Grace & Ken Bjorklund
- ◆ Sgt. Erik Akerblom-son of William Akerblom-deployed to North Africa
- ◆ Sgt. Ryan R. Casey, USMC-stateside-grandson of Carole Casey
- ◆ Pvt. 1st Class Philipe Pinto-son of Sonia Pinto
- ◆ Airman 1st Class James Glavin-friend of Beth Christensen

We offer our prayers for those members of our extended family:

- ◆ Vivian Benson--Aunt of the Christensen's
- ◆ Juannay Jenkins--niece of Tana Jenkins
- ◆ David McLeod--husband of Lori McLeod
- ◆ Michael McHone--friend of Dennis Govoni
- ◆ Caitlin Ledin--friend of Diane Perry
- ◆ Susan Berry--friend of the Bjorklunds
- ◆ Laurie Dolan Dellarocco-- aunt of Chelsea & Patrick Dolan
- ◆ Rick Venti--friend of the Thompsons
- ◆ Liisa Johnson--friend of Jeanne Govoni
- ◆ Colleen Hammerquist--sister-in-law of Elaine Sullivan
- ◆ Nettie Johnson--Aunt of Linda Whittemore
- ◆ James Chapman Sr. & James Chapman Jr.--father-in-law and brother-in-law of Brian Gagne
- ◆ Mary Petrie--friend of Diane & David Perry
- ◆ Alberto "Booty" Rogers-- former co-worker of Dennis Govoni
- ◆ Chuck Warnock--friend of Dennis Govoni
- ◆ Grace Finch--friend of Sandy White
- ◆ Robert Silke--uncle of Jeanne Govoni
- ◆ Carlos Evandro Azeredo--brother of Ana Paula Azeredo
- ◆ Gary Lewis--friend of Diane Perry
- ◆ Jean Burgeson--cousin to Barbara Johnson & Jean-Ellen Ouellette-Kenney
- ◆ Jennifer Anderson--cousin of Diane Perry & niece of Alden Anderson
- ◆ Junior Nicholas--son of Rosa Nicholas
- ◆ Sheri McIntire--friend of Anne & Rick Martin
- ◆ Donna Jeffreys--friend of Jean Anderson
- ◆ Dominick D'Agostino--father of Jessica Burke
- ◆ Judy Dolan--grandmother of Pat & Chelsea Dolan
- ◆ John Cunningham--friend of the Thompsons
- ◆ Frankie Vigorito--friend of the Rovaldis
- ◆ Lorena Giordano--sister-in-law to the Giordanos
- ◆ Steve McLeod--friend of the MacNeVins
- ◆ Marilyn Gilmetti--friend of The Thompsons
- ◆ Bob Lowe--friend of the Rovaldis
- ◆ Sharon Palumbo--friend of Jean-Ellen Ouellette-Kenney
- ◆ Maureen Pigeon--friend of Pat McAfee
- ◆ Velia DeCarli--mother-in-law of Barbara DeCarli
- ◆ Martha Myers--aunt of Sandy White
- ◆ John Bordieri--friend of the MacNeVins
- ◆ Holly Hamilton--friend of Roberta Battaglia
- ◆ Hildred Tatro--friend of Hope Mehaffey
- ◆ Robert D'Andrea--cousin of Barbara DeCarli

We welcome to First Lutheran this morning Kathy Copas, a consultant engaged by the Forward Leadership group and the Council to visit FELC and to give feedback on FELC from an outsider's/visitors view. The purpose of her visit is not to tell us what we do right or wrong but to help assist in seeing things that we may not see through the eyes of others. Kathy will be in the vestry following the 9 am service to talk with us and share information. Please join us.

all YOU
need is
LOVE
& SOME CHOCOLATE

Come and share a cup of cocoa and chocolate concoctions in the parlor following the 7:45 service and in the vestry following the 9 am service.

Promises to be a sweet time for all!

Free will offering to purchase Dunkin Donuts Gift Cards for our College Students

This morning at the 9 am service the newly elected members of the Congregation Council along with those already in office will be installed. Please welcome to the council Rosa Nicholas and Michael Madigan. There is also an unfilled two year term on the council, if you are interested in serving please speak to Pastor Jeff or Jim Benson.

This morning immediately following the 9 am service the Trustees of the Permanent Fund will meet for a very brief organizational meeting in pastor Jeff's office. Trustees please be prompt so that all may join the Forward Leadership event in the vestry.

The 2018 Discipleship Commission will hold a re-organizational meeting this Thursday, February 8th, 6:30 p.m. at the Cape Cod Café. Anyone interested is welcome to attend and if you have questions please speak to Pr Ken Bjorklund.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We will hold a service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes in the main church at 7 pm. The service will be preceded by a Soup Supper in the Serving Room at 6 pm. For those unable to get out at night we will also hold a less formal Ash Wednesday service at 10 am Ash Wednesday in the parlor followed by a luncheon. All are welcome to attend these services.



SOUP COOKS WANTED! We need volunteers to make soup for our Wednesday night soup suppers preceding mid-week worship services. If you can help out by making your favorite soup for one of these suppers it would be most appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

2018 LENTEN LUNCHEONS

On Friday, February 16 we will continue our three and a half decade old tradition of holding luncheons on the Fridays in Lent. We encourage you to attend and bring a friend. The luncheons begin at 12 and end at 1 and feature good fellowship, good food and good speakers.

February 16

Speaker: Ms. Bridget Meigs
Manager, The Farm at Stonehill

Menu: Meatballs, pasta, lasagna, corn, salad, garlic bread, and pie

February 23

Speaker: Ms. Megean Schoenberg
Founder/Coordinator of Brockton's Blessings in a Backpack Program

Menu: Turkey, mashed potato, squash, salad, dinner rolls, and pie

March 2

Speaker: Ms. Susan Nicastro
Our New Ward 4 City Councilor

Menu: Seafood Newburg, biscuits, green beans, salad, and pies

March 9

Speakers: Mr. James Benson & Ms. Nicole Casper
Authors of "The Brockton Tragedy at Moosehead Lake"

Menu: Roast pork, potatoes, carrots, dinner rolls, salad, and pie

March 16

Speaker: Chief Michael Williams
Brockton Fire Department

Menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, peas, salad, and pie

March 23

Speaker: The Reverend Paul Sinnott
Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod

Baked ham, potato casserole, broccoli, salad, and pies

OUR 2018 LENTEN JOURNEY

Ash Wednesday, February 14

10 am: Service & Luncheon

6 pm: Soup Supper

7 pm: Service

Wednesday, February 21

6 pm: Soup Supper

7 pm: Service

Wednesday, March 7

6 pm: Soup Supper

7 pm: Service

Wednesday, February 28

6 pm: Soup Supper

7 pm: Service

Wednesday, March 14

6 pm: Soup Supper

7 pm: Service

Wednesday, March 21

6 pm: Soup Supper

7 pm: Service

Sunday Services

at

7:45 & 9:00 am

HOLY WEEK

The Passion of Our Lord, Palm Sunday, March 25: Services at 7:45 & 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday, March 29: Service at 7 pm

Good Friday, March 30: Service of Tenebrae at 7 pm

OUR EASTER JOY

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

Services at 7:45 & 9:00 am

Today's Hymn of the Day is a modern text set to an old hymn tune. The author of the text, "Praise the one who breaks the darkness" is Rusty Edwards. Rusty Edwards was born on January 22, 1955, in Dixon, Illinois, and ordained in 1985. He was Assistant/ Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois from 1985 to 1991. He was Senior Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rockford, Illinois from 1991-1998, during which time he co-founded Luther Academy at Gloria Dei (LCMS-ELCA K-6 School.) He has been Senior Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church from 1998 to the present. He was Volunteer Manager of the 2003 ELCA Youth Gathering at Atlanta.



Edwards received a Masters of Divinity from Luther Seminary at St. Paul, Minn., in 1985, and a D. Min. from Graduate Theological Foundation at Notre Dame, Ind., in 1990. He also holds certificates from Blackstone School of Law at Dallas, Texas, Seminary of the Southwest at Austin, Texas, and Pecos Benedictine School of Spiritual Direction in New Mexico. He was an Oxford Foundation Fellow (U.K.) in 1998, and Visiting Fellow of Seminary of the Southwest in 2004.

Edwards' hymn collections are: *The Yes of the Heart* with a foreword by Chick Corea, *Grateful Praise* (Selah), *As Sunshine to a Garden*, *Each Breath Every Heartbeat*, and *Bidden Unbidden*. He has 15 ASCAP Awards, 2 RAMI Awards (with The Pitneys), and recorded a Grammy nominated CD with The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Robert Shaw. He is a Kentucky Colonel and an Honorary Citizen of Austin, Texas. Tyler Texas held a "Rusty Edwards Hymnwriter Day" in 2009.

The hymn tune NETTLETON, to which we sing "Praise the one who breaks the darkness" was first published as a new tune without any composer listed in John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, published in 1813. Originally, the tune was called HALLELUJAH or GOOD SHEPHERD.

It has been attributed to Wyeth (1770-1858), a printer by trade, who was known in the history of hymnody as a compiler and publisher of early shape-note tune books. However there is no evidence that he also wrote music, as he was not himself a musician.

NETTLETON has also been attributed to Asahel Nettleton (1783-1844), who was a well-known evangelist of the early nineteenth century for whom it was named. Nettleton published *Village Hymns* (1825), but this compilation had no music and there is no indication that Nettleton wrote any tunes at any time.