

Sunday, July 30, 2017

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost



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

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

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 Memory of

Presiding Minister: The Reverend Jeffrey C. Johnson

Assisting Minister: Christine Newman

8:30: Lector: Nancy Reed Imai

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. **All are welcome. We're glad you're here!**

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The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

ORGAN PRELUDE

David Burnham

“Largo in G”

G. F. Handel

WELCOME

CALL to WORSHIP

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.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

The presiding minister announces God’s forgiveness with these or similar words.

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.

*“God of Grace and God of Glory”**Cwm Rhondda***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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

THE FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

THE PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

Spoken Responsively

¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching.**

THE SECOND READING: ROMANS 8: 26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33,44-52

The gospel is announced. The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew the thirteenth chapter.

Congregation: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey C. Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

775

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

Jesu, Meine Freude

APOSTLES CREED

**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

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Shine the light of understanding on your church on earth. Bind us together in the word to share your love with the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect birds and their nests, fields full of crops, the seas and the fish that swim in them. Inspire us to care for the creation you love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Raise up just and wise advocates and judges from small-town courts to international tribunals. Enlighten all leaders to discern what is right and do what is good. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nurture faith in those who doubt. Lift up those who are weak in body, mind, or spirit. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, and surround with love those facing their last days (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Expand the understanding of this assembly to see our neighbors as you see them. Let the yeast of your word grow beyond us to expand your boundless love to those around us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain us by the intercession of your Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit's sighs, too deep for words, comfort us until we rejoice with those already united with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

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

“Iste Confessor”

Thomas Tallis

OFFERTORY CANTICLE

884

“Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow”

Old Hundredth

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.
You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water.
You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.
That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us
through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the

face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE COMMUNION

(The assembly may be seated)

*Christ welcomes you to this Feast of the Baptized. Our communion distribution is 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 bread 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.*

COMMUNION HYMN: (sung following distribution)

793

“Be Thou My Vision”

Slane

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

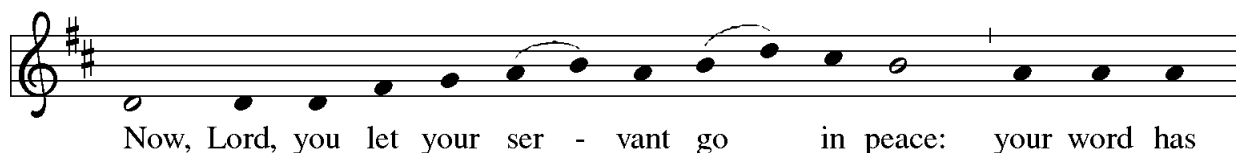
Assembly stands

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

201

“Now, Lord”



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has

been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
 which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
 a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

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

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

757

“All My Hope on God Is Founded”

Michael

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Fugue on the Kyrie”

Francois Couperin

SAVE THE DATE

27th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, September 18, 2017

Brockton Country Club

1:00 pm Shot-Gun Start, Scramble (Best Ball) Format

Banquet Following

Registration/Sponsorship Forms have been mailed in Tidings and are also available on the counter outside the Pastor’s office

**ANNUAL STRAWBERRY/PEACH
FESTIVAL**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

12:15 - 1:15 pm

Emmanuel House Residence

For more information see Alice Carlson

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

Shirley Elefson
The Grabau Family
Marilyn Tyler
David Tyler
Lisaann Czarnowski
Gustaf Dahlgren
Anna Haskins—St. Joseph's Manor
Scott Dunn
Marian Nelson-Hannah B. Shaw
Donna Persson
Eric Johnson
Jeanne Newman
Gary Eliasson-Brockton Rehabilitation
Vivian Tofteroo
Trudy Ciancarelli-Notre Dame Health
Phyllis Bolinder
John F. Kenyon Jr.

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

- ◆ Captain Scott Friski-grandson of Phyllis Nielsen
- ◆ Sgt. Erik Akerblom-stateside
- ◆ Sgt. Ryan R. Casey, USMC-stateside-grandson of Carole Casey
- ◆ SPC Shawn Jenkins-stateside-son of Tana Jenkins,
- ◆ Pvt. 1st Class Philippe Pinto-son of Sonia Pinto

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

- ◆ Robert Silke--uncle of Jeanne Govoni
- ◆ Michael Seward--friend of Barbara DeCarli
- ◆ Thomas Kenyon--nephew of the Kenyon family
- ◆ Carlos Evandro Azeredo--brother of Ana Paula Azeredo
- ◆ Amos & Beverly Conley--brother-in-law & sister of Skip Packard
- ◆ Joe Vassar--cousin of Dennis Govoni
- ◆ Lynn Burgess--sister-in-law of Lynda Whittemore
- ◆ Gary Lewis--friend of Diane Perry
- ◆ Kelley Newman Milliken--daughter of Ron & Jeanne Newman
- ◆ Jean Burgeson-cousin to Barbara Johnson & Jean-Ellen Ouellette-Kenney
- ◆ Susan Latinville—niece of Skip & Cheryl Packard
- ◆ Jennifer Anderson—cousin of Diane Perry & niece of Alden Anderson
- ◆ Don Anderson-son of Alden Anderson
- ◆ Junior Nicholas-son of Rosa Nicholas
- ◆ Sheri McIntire-friend of Anne & Rick Martin
- ◆ Donna Jeffreys-friend of Jean Anderson
- ◆ Christina Crosby-niece of Russ & Marian Grabau
- ◆ Doninick 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
- ◆ Lee Carlson-sister-in-law of Ruth Johnson
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Evelyn Carlson--grandmother to Rob, great-grandmother to Matthew & Juliette Carlson
- ◆ Eleanor Cauty-cousin of Marian Nelson
- ◆ Holly Hamilton-friend of Roberta Battaglia
- ◆ Hildred Tatro—friend of Hope Mehaffey
- ◆ Helen Goodwin—friend of Barbara DeCarli
- ◆ Robert D'Andrea—cousin of Barbara DeCarli
- ◆ The Rev. Margaret Hinkle--friend of Pr. Jeff

Counters: Counters for the Sunday offering are needed for the month of August. If you are able to do this please let Dana Christensen or the Church office know. Thank

THIS SATURDAY

GIANT YARD SALE

Saturday, August 5, 2017

8:00 - 2:00 pm

The Fruth Center

**You may drop off small items at the church
Monday - Thursday between 8:30 & 4--please call first**

This is a precursor to November's "Kaffe Stuga"

**For more information please speak to
Beth Christensen or Karen Christensen**