

Sunday, March 12, 2017
The Second Sunday in Lent



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

Ministers: The Members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Church Secretary: Evelyn Reuben

E-mail: ereuben@firstevlutheran.org

Minister of Music: David N. Burnham Sexton: Brian Gagne

Pastors Emeriti: The Reverend Michael P. Fruth, Ph.D., Pastor of FELC for 29 years

The Reverend Kenneth W. Hilston, Jr., Assistant Pastor & Pastor of FELC for 31 years

Minister of Music Emerita: Hope E. Mehaffey, Minister of Music at FELC for 53 years

Today's altar flowers are given to the Greater Glory of God in loving memory of Kenneth R. Persson by his grateful wife and children.

Presiding Minister: The Reverend Jeffrey C. Johnson

Assisting Minister: Brittany Czarnowski

Lector: 9 am : Nina Sousa

Crucifer: Aurelia Portal Acolytes: Manny Robinson & Angela Braun

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

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!

Cover: Jesus & Nicodemus in a 1904 lithograph by the Providence Lithograph Company

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PRELUDE

David Burnham, Organist

“Largo from Concerto in A minor “

Vivaldi/Bach

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

660

“Lift High the Cross”

Crucifer

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 - vation, 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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer 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.

PRAYER OF DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to

all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4a

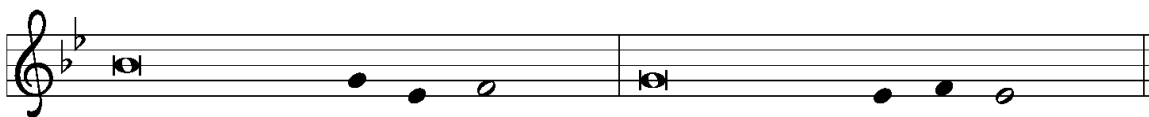
¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

THE PSALM: Psalm 121

Chanted Responsively



¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

²**My help comes | from the LORD,**
the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

⁵the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike | you by day,**
nor the | moon by night.

⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**
from this time forth for- | evermore.

THE SECOND READING: ROMANS 4: 1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

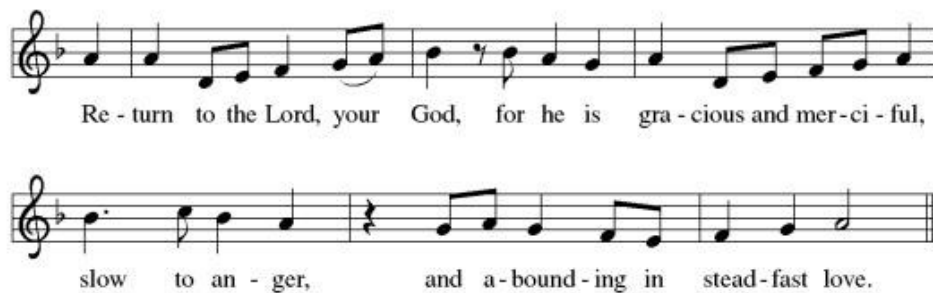
¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his

descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 3: 1-17

The gospel is announced. The holy gospel according to Saint John the third chapter.

Congregation: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lift-

ed up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

9:00 AM

SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

323

“God Loved the World”

Rockingham Old

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

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of all earth’s families, bless your church to be a blessing and bestow your grace to a hurting world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you love the entire cosmos. Help us to love all of the creatures and life within it. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, our help is in you. Keep the nations, their governments, and their people from all evil. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your promises ease our pain and sorrow. Grant comfort, healing, and joy to all who are in need. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, lead this assembly in its Lenten journey toward faith, works of love, and prayer. Let those gathered here be fed and nourished by your word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into the light of faith and mercy, and direct our steps in the way of justice and accompaniment for our Ruth House mothers and their children. Help us to walk humbly with them in their transition to a future full of opportunity and hopeful endeavors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, we give thanks for the faithful departed who have joined your saints in light. Let their lives be guides to our own. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord. **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

“Fugue in F “

Johann Pachelbel

OFFERTORY CANTICLE



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

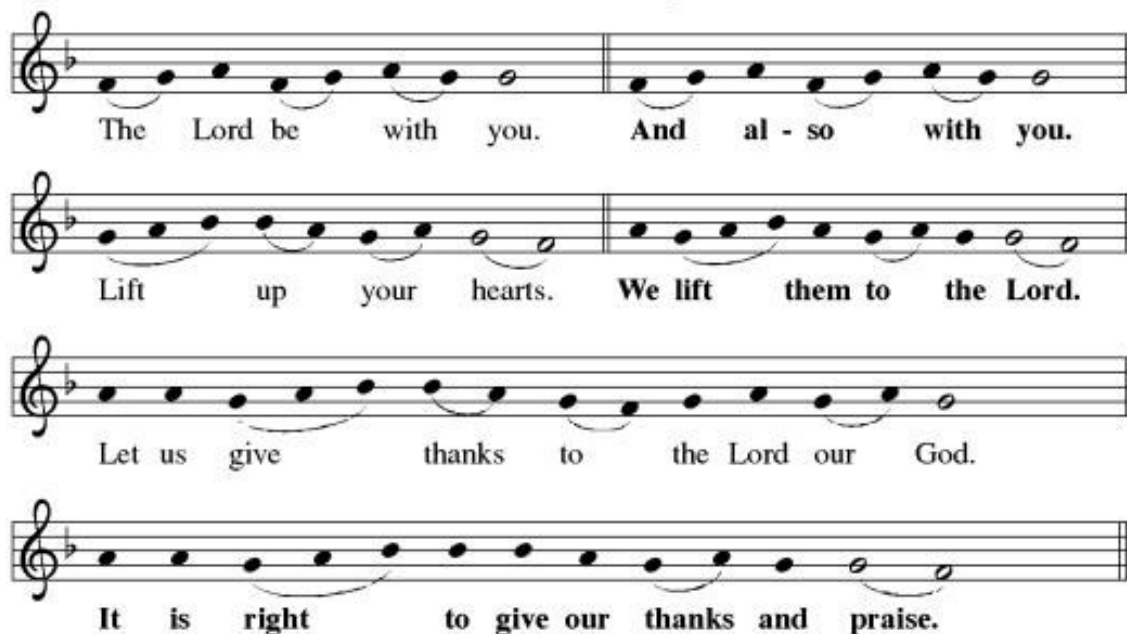
God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.

Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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, 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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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



The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
- Staff 2: world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
- Staff 3: take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
- Staff 4: Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
- Staff 5: world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

759

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Olivet

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,

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING HYMN

750

“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”

Herzlich Lieb

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in D minor”

Johann Ernst Eberlin

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

David Tyler
Kristine & Jim Manning
Barbara Childs-St. Joseph's Manor
Phyllis Nielsen
Lisaann Czarnowski
Bill Kelley
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
Jeanne'e O'Connell
Angie Goucher

And for those members of our extended family:

- ♦ Leeann Richardson-Trahan-cousin to Liz & Mike Belanger
- ♦ 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
- ♦ Pastor Richard Schlak, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Foxboro
- ♦ Pastor Jonathan Ahnquist, retired pastor of First, W. Barnstable
- ♦ Bonnie Gagne –wife of Brian Gagne
- ♦ 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
- ♦ Jack Foye-uncle of Karen Christensen
- ♦ Doninick D'Agostino-father of Jessica Burke
- ♦ Olivia Tassinari-friend of Carole Casey
- ♦ Judy Dolan-grandmother of Pat & Chelsea Dolan
- ♦ John Cunningham-friend of The Thompsons
- ♦ Bob Bevis-friend of Don & Chris Newman, & Jim Benson
- ♦ Frankie Vigorito- friend of the Rovaldis
- ♦ Lorena Giordano-sister-in-law to the Giordanos
- ♦ Steve McLeod-friend of the MacNevins
- ♦ Rachel Grabau-daughter of Russ & Marian Grabau
- ♦ 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
- ♦ Kevin Gagne-brother of Brian Gagne
- ♦ Velia DeCarli-mother-in-law of Barbara DeCarli
- ♦ Martha Myers-aunt of Sandy White
- ♦ John Bordieri—friend of the MacNevins
- ♦ Sylvia Foster-Aunt of Pr. Jeff
- ♦ Evelyn Carlson--grandmother to Rob, great-grandmother to Matthew & Juliette Carlson
- ♦ Eleanor Canty-cousin of Marian Nelson
- ♦ Holly Hamilton-friend of Roberta Battaglia
- ♦ Waylon Goucher-son of Angie Goucher
- ♦ Hildred Tatro—friend of Hope Mehaffey
- ♦ Brian Delorenzo & Carl Cunningham-friends of Pastor Jeff
- ♦ Christopher Kinney—friend of the Christensens
- ♦ The Rev'd Omar Stuenkel—friend of Pr. Jeff
- ♦ Dr. Tommy Johnson—father of Pr. Jeff
- ♦ Theresa Pinel—friend of Pr. Jeff
- ♦ Helen Goodwin—friend of Barbara DeCarli
- ♦ The Brutell family on the loss of their son & brother, Rick-friends of Pr. Jeff

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

Those members of First Lutheran attending college
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 Philipe Pinto-son of Sonia Pinto



In the Lenten Tidings was included a sheet regarding the 150th Anniversary book that we will be publishing for our April anniversary celebrations. This sheet provides opportunities for advertisements and sponsorship of our anniversary celebrations. We have included this form again today for your use. Please ask business people you deal with if they would like to place an ad or take a line sponsorship.

We encourage members and friends of the congregations to consider a sponsorship level. These can be a simple line with your name or may be “In memory” or “In honor” of someone. They will be listed in the book similar to this example:

Tower Level
\$400.00—\$699.00
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Lawson
In memory of Ida Lawson by her family

Deadline for ads and sponsorships is Monday, March 20.
If you have any questions please speak to Jim Benson or Pastor Jeff

Note: The inside front cover and inside back cover have been taken

SOUP’S ON: With the Lenten season upon us we will be having a weekly Soup Supper on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm in the serving room downstairs. These suppers will precede our 7 pm mid-week Lenten service which will be held in the Chapel.. If you would like to attend or bring a soup, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or contact Jeanne Govoni at 781-831-8437.

2017 Scholarship Applications are now available in the Church Office. These need to be returned to the office no later than April 21, 2017.

COOKBOOK: The Martha Guild and First Lutheran will be assembling a cookbook to be published in honor of our 150th Anniversary and to be available at Kaffe Stuga in November. In today’s bulletin is a template for submitting a recipe. You may place these in the offering plate or leave at the church office. The Martha Guild published their first cookbook in 1917 for our 50th anniversary.

**The deadline for recipe submission is
July 1, 2017**



Ruth House
A member of Ascentria Care Alliance

Dear Partners in Ministry,

This is a special time to share our Christian faith with the community by lifting up through prayer and service, those among us who face challenges like the teen mothers and their children living at the Ruth House.

When these young families leave the Ruth House, they often face barriers to their continued success. In order to ease this transition and build upon their success at the Ruth House, Ascentria is establishing a Fashioning the Future Fund and a mentoring program to give the Ruth House moms a “hand up” as they transition into the community and move forward in their lives.

Today, we share with you our vision for the future of these young families and how your congregation can help us in ways that will directly benefit the young women of the Ruth House.

It is an honor to visit First Lutheran Church on this journey of faith and service to others. Let the prophet Micah release the light of the Epiphany season with powerful and bold words, moving us through Lent with “fasting” deeds of justice and kindness, and finally accompanying our Ruth House moms and their young children through the 50 days of Easter. Peace be with you.



Ascentria
CARE ALLIANCE

14 East Worcester Street | Worcester, MA 01604 | ascentria.org

We welcome this morning First Lutheran member, Jean-Ellen Ouellette-Kenney as she presents a Temple Talk about Ruth House, its mission and its vision towards the future and its upcoming events to benefit their “Fashioning the Future” fund.

Jean-Ellen and her family and particularly her mother, Ruth B. Ouellette, were instrumental in the founding of Ruth House named for both the Biblical Ruth and our Ruth.

April Volunteers needed: As you are aware we have a very busy April scheduled here at First with Palm Sunday, Holy week and Easter followed up by three exciting 150th Anniversary events. A Community Vesper service and Celebration at 3 pm on Sunday, April 23, a Cornerstone 150th Anniversary Concert featuring the Alliance Brass Quintet on Saturday, April 29 at 3 pm and our Festival Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on Sunday, April 30 at 10 am. We would like to have a reception after each of these events and are seeking volunteers to help with the organizing and preparing for these receptions. If you are willing to assist please speak to Pastor Jeff or Jim Benson or Evelyn Reuben in the church office.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

TODAY: March 12

- 7:45 & 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:15 am Sunday School
- 10:15 am Coffee Hour
- 3:00 pm Cornerstone Concert with Jonathan Dimmock
- 4:00 pm Confirmation Class at Holy Trinity, N. Easton

TUESDAY, March 14

- 7:00 pm Congregation Council

WEDNESDAY, March 15

- 10:00 am Bible Study
- 2:00 pm Food Delivery @ Food for Friends
- 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 pm Lenten Service, Chapel

THURSDAY, March 16

- 3:30 pm Discipleship Commission
- 6:30 pm Witness Commission
- 6:30 pm Christian Education Commission

FRIDAY, March 17

- Noon Lenten Luncheon

SATURDAY, March 18

- 8:00 am Food for Friends Food Pantry Distribution Day

NEXT SUNDAY, March 19

- 7:45 & 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:15 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Pathways to Discipleship Follow-up
- 4:00 pm Confirmation Class at Holy Trinity, N. Easton

" I would like to thank Martha Guild and all who donated for the generous Dunkin Donut's gift card. It will definitely be put to good use while I'm away at school."

Thank you so much,
Maeghan Christensen



Thank you so much for the Dunkin' Donuts gift card! I was so excited to receive it and it will definitely get me through this last week before spring break! I will see you all in church when I'm home for Easter break!

Love, *Reneé Banks*



This coming Friday's Lenten Luncheon speaker will be Ms. Candace Cramer, Chief Development Officer of Ascentria Health Care Alliance (formerly Lutheran Social Services). Candace will speak on *"Refugee Resettlement: Welcoming the Stranger"*.

She will speak about Ascentria's long running program in this area and what it is all about and what it means. It is a timely subject not only from what is happening in the world today but also as First Lutheran celebrates its 150th Anniversary. Pastor J. Alfred Anderson of First Lutheran was instrumental in the founding of the Lutheran Immigrants and Seaman's Home in East Boston and served as its treasurer in the early years of the 20th century. Anderson was also instrumental in the founding of the Lutheran Children's Home in Avon. In 1948 Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act to handle the millions of refugees from Europe following World War II, First Lutheran took a leading role locally in this effort by sponsoring several families—providing financial support, housing and finding employment for these families.



Lutheran Immigrant & Seaman's Home, East Boston c. 1907

A few more historical tidbits



- ♦ Citing the difficult position that the church was in financially, pastor Anders Hult at the annual meeting of 1875 made the following motion: 1. that all confirmed members should support the church. 2. That the expenses of the church be share proportionately by all members. 3. That members who refuse to pay be dropped after one year and four months. 4. That the contributions be paid monthly since it is easier to pay the smaller amount than the larger. 5. That the sick and poor are excused from paying. 6. That the practice of renting the pews be continued and that collections were to be taken at all services. This resolution must have worked, at the annual meeting of 1876 it was reported that income had been \$1,780.67 while expenses were \$1,677.30.
- ♦ Pastor Peter Froeberg began his ministry here in October of 1918. When he arrived in Brockton the "flu" was ravaging the city, nation and world. Public gatherings including church services were banned and death was everywhere. Reflecting back 20 years Froeberg wrote in 1938 "The World War was still raging...the influenza epidemic was at its height and there was a cloud of gloom or mourning hovering over every home. The doleful parade of funeral carriages was seen in the street's every day. The harvest of death was large among our own church members. I officiated at 25 funerals before Memorial Day the year following. (1919). But the war ended, the 'flu' spent itself...we settled down to a peaceful and normal life. A new parsonage was bought in 1920 and the new church was built in 1922-1923."



SWEDISH KAFFE STUGA AND CHURCH FAIR

Saturday, November 11, 2017

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

First Lutheran Church

900 Main Street

Brockton, MA 02301

Crafters Wanted: First Lutheran Church of Brockton will be holding its Kaffe Stuga on November 11, 2017 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

This wonderful event is only held every three years. 2017 is a special year! We are also celebrating the 150th Anniversary of First Lutheran Church! There will be the traditional Kaffe House with sandwiches and pastries along with many rooms filled with Swedish imports, homemade crafts, bakery featuring Scandinavian delights, children's room, plants and much more.

For more information, please contact Beth Christensen at 508-583-2168 or email bec0517@yahoo.com. Space is limited so don't delay!

A check in the amount of \$40.00 per 8 foot table will reserve a space for you.
Please make check payable to Martha Guild and mail to
Beth Christensen, 22 Bernice Ave, Brockton, MA 02301 no later than October 1, 2017

Thank you for your interest in our fair and we look forward to seeing you!

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First Evangelical Lutheran
Church
Celebrating 150 Years in 2017



CORNERSTONE CONCERT
'REFORMATION 500'
FEATURING
JONATHAN DIMMOCK
ORGANIST WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017 AT 3:00 PM
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
900 MAIN STREET BROCKTON, MA
NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION,
FREEWILL DONATIONS APPRECIATED
LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BROCKTON AND
MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCILS