

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

900 Main Street Brockton, MA 02301
Phone: 508-586-9021 Fax: 508-583-5501

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www.firstevlutheran.org

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First Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Brockton, MA

A Congregation of the



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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:

Transitional Pastor: Reverend Edward W. Sproul
E-mail: ed.sproul@gmail.com Cell: 774-633-6747

Pastors Emeriti: Reverend Michael P. Fruth, Ph.D.
Reverend Kenneth W. Hilston, Jr.

Parish Administrator: James E. Benson

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

Church/Financial Secretary: Paula M. Fedele

E-mail: pfedele@firstevlutheran.org

Interim Organist: David Burnham

Minister of Music Emeritus: Hope E. Mehaffey

Sexton: Brian Gagne

MALARIA SUNDAY, APRIL 26th

Malaria is a preventable treatable disease spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. The disease claims the life of a child every 60 seconds. Malaria was virtually eliminated from the United States in 1951, but it remains a major health concern in more than 100 countries worldwide. To most of us in the United States, mosquitos are nothing more than a nuisance. But many countries in Africa just one bite from an infected mosquito could transmit malaria and lead to death. A bed net treated with long-lasting insecticide, coupled with training and education on how it is used, helps ensure that families are protected from this life-threatening disease as they sleep.

It takes only \$250.00 to supply mosquito nets for an entire village. Please help us reach that goal and save one village at a time. Look for the mosquito net outside of the chapel throughout Lent and donate as you are able.

Any questions, please contact Susan Rovaldi

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BEER 'N BAR-B-QUE CONCERT



THE ARMSTRONG BROTHERS

NEW NASHVILLE SOUND

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 AT 4:00PM

THE FRUTH CENTER

891 MONTELO STREET • BROCKTON, MA

TICKETS: \$25. CONCERT AND BAR-B-QUE

ORDER ON LINE: WWW.FIRSTEVLUTHERAN.ORG

OR PURCHASE AT THE DOOR

A CORNERSTONE CONCERT SERIES PERFORMANCE TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH RESTORATION FUND
SPONSORED BY: BROCKLAND TRUST • MONTELO HILL TRUST CO. • BARBOSH CORPORATION
AND THE BROCKTON/ MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

900 Main Street

Brockton, MA 02301

Non-profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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Brockton, MA

Permit No. 418

Time Dated Material Please Do Not Delay

Or Current Resident

Holy Week & Easter

The Passion of Our Lord, Palm Sunday, March 29

Service of Holy Communion at 7:45

Festival Service of Holy Communion at 9:00 First Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Service of Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 3

Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day, April 5

Service of Holy Communion at 7:45 am

Festival Service of Holy Communion at 9 am

HE IS RISEN

EASTER

HE IS RISEN
INDEED!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

As we turn our attention to Holy Week with Jesus' farewell to his disciples, his last teachings, the amazing sacrifice for our alienation and brokenness, and his resurrection, we cannot help but see our congregation's journey taking a similar course from farewells through our brokenness and pain into new life. I invite you to embrace it all so that your joy may be full and complete when First enters its next chapter of Christian service giving new life to others.

Many of your leaders have been grappling, some with much success, with renewing various ministries and programs here. New participants are being identified and are stepping forward. Things seem a little better organized with new goals emerging. I thank the members of the Council, committees, commissions, and all the teams for sharing their talents and passions. Renewed

vitality will help attract that next pastor we all await. In that regard the Call Committee continues faithfully praying and interviewing. They appreciate your prayers as well.

A new group of five young people will be joining us at the Lord's Table for their first communion this spring. Three slightly older youth are in final preparations for their confirmation on June 7. New life is all over the place through the Holy Spirit's work. God's grace is abundant! We pray that will be your story, too, as you take part and benefit from Jesus living among us.

Pastor Ed Sproul,
Transitional Pastor



Council

At the February meeting of the Congregational Council the following were elected officers for 2015:

Vice President:
Frank Czarnowski

Secretary:
Christine Newman

Treasurer:
Al Bandlow

Easter Memorials

Reminder that Easter memorial are due by Palm Sunday, March 29. Forms were in the last edition of Tidings and are available from the office

Easter 2015

Important Dates

March 29
Palm Sunday

April 2
Maundy Thursday

April 3
Good Friday

April 5
EASTER

April 11
Italian Dinner

April 24
Armstrong Brothers

May 2
Swedish Meatball Dinner

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OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Help support our Campello neighborhood—stop by and see the joy on the faces of our neighborhood children as they hunt for those colorful eggs.

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH
1-2PM
George E. Keith Park
Main St. at Plain St.

Children can participate in an Easter Craft, Egg & Spoon Race, Easter Egg Hunt and a visit with the Easter Bunny!
All children will receive a 'KPNA Bunny Bag' of goodies to take home.

This is a FREE event and is for children ages 12 and under

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Go to KPNAbrockton.weebly.com to register

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Applications are now available from the church office for 2015 scholarships. If you would like to apply for a scholarship please pick up an application and return it to Jim Benson no later than Thursday, April 23.

SUNSHINE



Our Sunshine Committee is in need of volunteers to write and send cards to sick and shut-in members

and friends. (Cards & postage are supplied by the committee). If you are willing to make this task a part of your personal ministry please contact Kerstin Denholm, Sonja Sigren or the Church Office.

Thank You!



Pastor Steve Rahn, pastor of Grace Church, shown here with his family has been called to serve a church in Indiana and has begun the moving process. We give thanks for Pastor Steve's work at Grace, here in Brockton and here at First. He and his family have been wonderful to work with and we wish them the best in their ministry.

Grace Church will remain here at First and although their process is somewhat different as they transition to new pastoral leadership they face some of the same challenges and hurdles that we have faced and continue to face in our Call process. Please keep the Rahn Family and the Grace Church family in your prayers.

HOT CROSS BUNS: A LENTEN TRADITION TO BENEFIT OUR YOUTH CAMBERSHIP FUND



Our youth in conjunction with our Fellowship Commission and Thrivent Financial will be taking orders for Hot Cross Buns that

will be available on Palm Sunday, March 29. Orders must be placed by Wednesday, March 25. Buns will be sold in 4 packs for \$4.00 per pack. 100% of the proceeds will go to the church's Camper-ship Fund to assist youth going to Camp Calumet or other council sanctioned youth events. Orders may be placed on-line through the church website, through the office or on Sunday mornings.

The Tradition: From Father Francis Weiser in *Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs* :

"It was a universal custom (and still is in Catholic countries) to mark a new loaf of bread with the sign of the cross before cutting it, in order to bless it and thank God for it. On special occasions the cross was imprinted on the loaf before baking, as on the Christmas loaves in southern France and in Greece, the Kreuzstollen (cross loaf) in Germany, the cross bread of Mid-Lent among the Slavs. On Good Friday, loaves bearing an imprinted cross (Karfreitaglaib) are eaten in Austria. In England, from the end of the fourteenth century, buns were baked with a cross marked on them. They are said to have originated at Saint Alban's Abbey in 1361, where the monks distributed them to the poor. Whatever their origin, these "hot cross buns" became a famous Good Friday feature in England and Ireland, and later in this country. They were made of spiced dough, round in shape, with a cross made of icing on the top. In recent times these cross buns are sold not only on Good Friday but all through Lent."

ITALIAN DINNER: APRIL 11



The Martha Guild will be sponsoring a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, April 11 at 6:30 pm. The dinner will be followed by a brown bag/pocketbook auc-tion at 7:30. Tickets for the dinner are available for a do-

nation of \$5.00, all proceeds benefit the Martha Guild Scholarship Fund. Tickets are availa-ble in the church office and on Sunday mornings from Martha members.



SWEDISH MEATBALL SUPPER: MAY 2

A Swedish Meatball Supper will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 6 pm for the benefit of our youth and advisors who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gath-ering trip to Detroit in

July. Please invite family and friends to join in this tradi-tional favorite dinner. Tickets are available for a dona-tion of \$10.00 or \$5.00 for children under 12. Tickets are available on-line at www.firstevlutheran.org, from the church office or on Sunday mornings, tickets will also be available at the door and meals can be picked up "to go" as well.



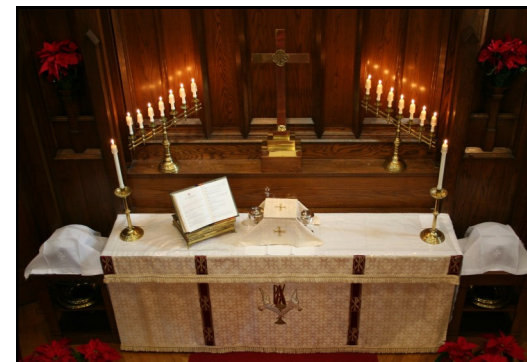
HOLY COMMUNION

On Palm Sunday, March 29 at 9 am the following will be recognized for completing instruction about Holy Communion. May this seed continue to grow as they continue their faith journey.

Abigail Cruz
Matthew Weatherbee
Sofia Belanger
Matthew Ferrara
Derek Ferrara

(Matthew & Derek will receive their First Communion post-Easter)

MINISTERIAL ACTS



Baptisms

Jayda Alexa Rivera

Deaths

Keith Evans

William Beyer

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Pat McAfee & Carolyn Giordano for once again coordinating our

Ruth House “Disaster Relief”

First Evangelical Lutheran Church has a rich history of sup- porting the teen mothers and their babies at the Ruth House, from the seed money that made the program more than a dream to the Martha Guild showers and our Christmas Giving Tree. Today, the Ruth House is in critical need.

The last days of December, 2014 were marked by two fires at the North Main St. home. Fortunately, no one was hurt in either incident but the structure sustained damage mostly from the sprinkler system having been engaged. Repair work had begun before the major snows which caused a roof col- lapse. A Brockton contractor has been engaged to begin clean -up and an assessment of the total damage is being undertak- en. The property is insured but there are high deductibles totaling some \$40,000.00

The teen moms, babies and staff have been temporarily housed in a nearby hotel. The rooms alone cost \$500 per night in addition to staffing costs. As you can imagine, having teen moms and their children at a hotel is not the best situa- tion for the long -term and it is certainly most expensive in the short-term.

Your monetary gifts are needed to support the Ruth House program!

Donations can be made as follows:

Online: <https://www.ascentria.org/donation> Please designate your gift “Ruth House Disaster Relief” (Ascentria Care Alliance is the new name for Lutheran Social Services of New England)

Mail: Please make your check payable to:

Ascentria Care Alliance
Development Department
14 East Worcester Street, Suite 300
Worcester, MA 01604-3612

and on the memo line write “Ruth House Disaster Relief”
Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

Friday Lenten Luncheons. Thank you to all the ladies who assisted them and to all who attended and to our guest speak- ers. We have averaged 25 –30 at each luncheon which is completing its 35 year!

YOUTH LEADER JOB OPPORTUNITY

South Shore Mission Hub: Director of Youth Ministry

PURPOSE OF POSITION:

We are looking for an individual with a passion for youth ministry, a warm, flexible, people-oriented self starter, who demonstrates a strong passion for Christian living. The primary function is to serve as director of youth ministry, overseeing all aspects of Grace Chapel’s youth program, the Boys’ and Girls’ Brigade (BGBB) within the Brockton community, serving as liaison to local, national, and international BGBB community, and coordinating with all activities of the Grace Chapel office. The Brigade is a non-denominational Christian youth organization with the vision of engaging boys and girls in various activities that will instill godly characters and enhance a humane spirit among young adults in our community. The BGBB youth minster coordinates communication with parishioners, the ecumenical community, families and youth, and oversees all administrative duties. This position works directly with the Brigade Chaplain (Missioner of Grace Chapel) and reports to the South Shore Mission Hub Executive Director.

HOURS: Full Time with benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. This position includes Saturday and Sunday responsibilities. Some work from home hours may be possible. The position is funded by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted via email to: ssmissionhub@outlook.com

Your application should comprise three elements:

- ☐ A brief cover letter (maximum 1 page),
- ☐ A personal statement outlining how the competencies, experience and values you would bring to the post would support the BGBB (2 pages) and
- ☐ Résumé (maximum 3 pages) and 3 references (include both employment and character references).

Job Description & Required Qualifications are available on the counter outside

FEINSTEIN GRANT

Its that time of year again— We are currently in the open challenge period of the Alan S. Feinstein Foundation Grant for Hunger. Each year, Rhode Island philanthropist, Alan Sean Feinstein funds a million dollars in grants to food pantries and like agencies. We have received grants of \$250.00 in the past from this foundation. In order to be eligible we must report how many dollars and how many food items (each item is considered equal to a dollar) are donated to our food pantry between March 1 and April 30. the more we raise the greater our potential for a larger grant. We welcome you food donations as well as your monetary donations toward this grant. Thank you!

WALK FOR HUNGER

Project Bread’s Annual Walk for Hunger will take place on Sunday, May 3. The last several years we have not had a group walk but have provided volunteers for assistance with registration early that morning. If you would like to walk or are available to assist early that morning in Boston with registration please speak to Beth Christensen or Jim Benson. Our volunteer participation makes it possible for our food pantry to be eligible for a grant from Project Bread.

COUNCIL RETREAT RECAP

Brief Summary of March 7th Retreat at Zion Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MA

A working Retreat for Congregation Council and Commissions. Saturday March 7,2015 10:00 a.m Vice Chairman Frank Czarnowski and council members, Pat McAfee, Mark Richardson, Miriam Johnson, Diane Perry, Pr. Ken Bjorklund, Secretary Christine Newman, and Treasurer Al Bandlerow met at Zion Lutheran Church, Court St. Plymouth for a day-long working retreat. Commission Leaders and Team Leaders, Dana Christenson, Sandra White, Julie Erving, Rosa Nicholas, Jean-Ellen Oullette-Kenney, Sandra and Bill Dunphy, Grace Bjorklund, Alice Carlson and Administrator Jim Benson. Pr Ed Sproul and Pr. Ken Bjorklund were Retreat Leaders.

The purpose of the retreat was to acquaint new Council members, Commission Chairpersons and Team Leaders with the new Organizational Plan for Congregational Leadership. The busy day included inspiration, learning about our own personal gifts of leadership, the new structure of congregational leadership, and meeting time in the six Comission groups. The Commission meetings were lively with review of prior planning and new ideas by which to serve the congregation more effectively.

Food cost were contained by generous contributions of cookies, salads, cakes, coffee and sandwiches to supplement our lunch food order from Roche Bros. Groceries. The event concluded with a Discipleship Consecration ceremony from Matthew 28.

Pr. Ken Bjorklund

*Awake, thou wintry earth -
Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth
Your ancient gladness!*
Thomas Blackburn, "An Easter Hymn"

YOUTH SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 10 our youth will lead both our 7:45 and 9 am services in all aspects with the exception of the celebrating of Communion. We encourage you to attend on this day, which is also Mother’s Day, in support of our youth. Youth will deliver the sermon, read the lessons, lead the liturgy, collect the offering, serve as Communion assistants.

DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION REPORT

2015 Discipleship Commission Quarterly Report

Congregational Spiritual Life Retreat Coordinator: Lynn Pearson has planned an October Retreat with Camp Calumet for October. More details will come out this spring.

Grateful Giving writer of articles to appear in the Tidings,, Bulletins and other places. Julie Erving is this task leader.

Teaching an appropriate and Biblical use of wealth is headed up by Team leader Gary Oman.

Christian Environmental Stewardship Team leader is Michelle Dolan, who has scheduled April 22 as Earth Day and is looking forward to assistance in connecting with schools and other civic organizations supporting Ecological values.

Our informational Team Leader in informing our congregation about the ministries of the ELCA- Locally (such as our new Mission, in Marshfield , soon to be recognized as a congregation of the New England Synod), National and Global is Tana Jenkins.

This Commission is searching for a Chair-person. Secretary, as soon as the call committee completes it’s task it will be Sandra Dunphy. Current Liaison to the Congregation Council is Pr. Ken Bjorklund.