

## FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Visit us on the web at

[www.firstevlutheran.org](http://www.firstevlutheran.org)

Like us on Facebook at:

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

Celebrating the love of Christ...

Growing in faith and love...

Serving God and our neighbor...

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

### MINISTERS:

**The Members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

### STAFF:

**Transitional Pastor:** Reverend Edward W. Sproul

E-mail: [ed.sproul@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jbenson@firstevlutheran.org)

**Church/Financial Secretary:** Paula M. Fedele

E-mail: [pfedele@firstevlutheran.org](mailto:pfedele@firstevlutheran.org)

**Organist:** David Burnham

**Minister of Music Emeritus:** Hope E. Mehaffey

**Summer Sexton:** Patrick Dolan

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**900 Main Street**

**Brockton, MA 02301**

Non-profit Organization

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Brockton, MA

Permit No. 418

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*Or Current Resident*



## CHURCH PICNIC

When: Sunday, September 21, 2014, Rain or Shine

Time: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Where: East Bridgewater YMCA field, (Camp Satucket facility)

635 Plymouth Street, (Rt 106), East Bridgewater, MA 02333

Last year's picnic was such a success that we thought we'd have another. The picnic has been planned to be a day of fellowship, games and fun for everyone! There will be great food and games for every age!

The day will start with the traditional church service at First Lutheran at 8:00 and 9:00 am and/or you can join us for Worship with Holy Communion at the picnic from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

**If your last name begins with the letters A – M, please bring a salad or side dish.**

**If your last name begins with the letters N – Z, please bring a dessert**

There is a sign up sheet outside the church office.

To help get a count of how many people will be attending, we are asking everyone to make a reservation. You can sign up outside the church office or fill out the reservation form and drop it in the offering plate. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Transportation can also be provided.

## Upcoming Events

Sean Tibbetts  
Memorial  
Run/Walk  
September 14

Picnic  
September 21

CALUMET Weekend  
October 17-17-19

Kaffe Stuga  
November  
15

God's Work,  
Our Hands  
Day of Service  
Sunday, September 7

Sunday School  
Begins  
September 28

Armstrong Brothers  
Concert  
And BBQ  
October 4

# FALL TIDINGS

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Although the summer is time when (too) many take time off from church, significant activities and events continue. Planning is already underway for September events - a multi-Lutheran service project day on Sept. 7 called "God's Work. Our Hands." (the ELCA tag line), on Sept. 21 the annual church picnic, and September 28 with Rally Sunday for starting the educational year including distribution of Bibles to young people. See other articles in this Tidings for the details. There will also be more events, I'm sure.

Of course the big thing this fall is the Call Committee process, currently interviewing candidates provided by the bishop's office. At this point we anticipate hearing if any of the present candidates meet the congregation's expectations and are forwarded to the Council for a second interview.

News on that will also come in September.

At the request of the Transition Team, I also need to share an important distinction. A Call to a Pastor is not the same thing as hiring someone for an executive position. It is discernment by both parties in figuring out what partnership God has in mind, not just filling a position with the best available player. There is a three-way relationship being formed - congregation, pastor, and God - into a mutual ministry with the pastor in the lead without being in total control. Therefore the relationship will not be subject to employee practices, but rather mutual conversations. This person will be called to lead all the ministers in this place that we know collectively as First Ev. Lutheran Church.

As my days dwindle down in anticipation of the arrival of the new pastor, I continue to

work with lay leaders in strengthening the committees, commissions, and other ministry teams. My hope is that the new pastor will be jumping onto a moving train that has momentum. The FELC legacy insists on it.

Peace and joy to all.

*Pastor Ed Sproul,*  
Transitional Pastor



**IT'S COMING- 4 GREAT  
WEEKS- OCT. 19TH TO  
NOV.9TH-  
CIRCLE THESE WEEKS.**

## SOME IMPORTANT DATES

### Sunday, September 7

God's Work, Our Hands  
Day of Service

### Sunday, September 14

Sean Tibbetts Run/Walk

### Sunday, September 21

Church Picnic

### Sunday, September 28

Sunday Church School  
Begins

### Saturday, October 4

Armstrong Brothers Concert/BBQ Dinner

### Friday, October 17

Calumet Weekend Begins

### Saturday, November 15

Kaffe Stuga

### Sunday, November 16

Illusion Trio Concert

## CORNERSTONE PROJECT

Over the summer significant progress has been made on the outside restoration of the building. The education wing, and south and east walls of the church are re-pointed. Minor details remain on those sections before sealing the stone and joints. The north side has been cut, nearly every joint on that side had to be cut-out and the west wall of the tower is being cut as this Tidings is being written. Additionally the window trim on the west and east sides of the education wing are being repaired and painted. The preschool door has been replaced and others will be soon. Pictures on this page show the ongoing work as well as before and after photos.

### Then & Now, some restoration progress pictures

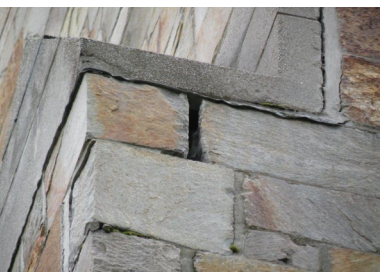


Process: the walls are power washed, then the loose/cracked joints cut out, power washed again to loosen additional mortar—joints are re-mortared, wall is acid washed to blend colors and finally water-proofed.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Response to the Cornerstone Capital Appeal Campaign has been very slow. We ask that those who have not responded please do so—it was a unanimous vote of the congregation that a loan be taken from the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA to fund this project and that a Capital Campaign be held from April 2014 to April 2017 to fund the loan.

Pledge cards are available from the church office and you may fulfill your pledge through Simply Giving on the website.



Left, section of north wall with joints cut out, nearly 100% of the joints on this side were cut out. Mortar is being mixed from Portland cement, lime and sand to match the original in strength, color and texture.

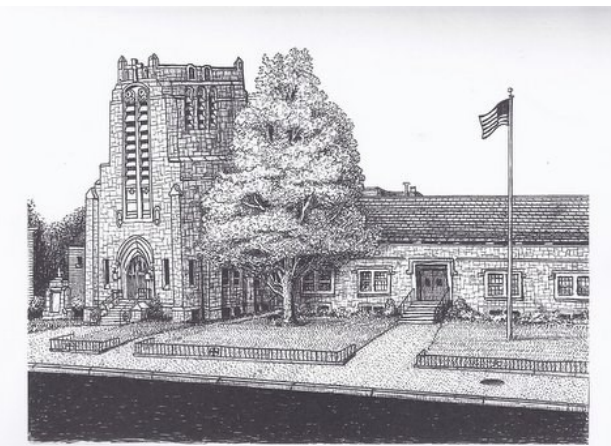


## CORNERSTONE EVENTS



With fall now within site the Cornerstone Concert Series will begin a new season for 2014-15. The first event will be something totally different than previous concerts. On October 4 at 3 pm we will have the Armstrong Brothers present the “new Nashville sound” and this concert will be followed by an indoor BBQ featuring pulled pork, chicken, baked beans, corn, cole slaw, salad, ranch house punch, coffee, apple cobbler with ice cream. Tickets for the concert only are \$20.00/\$15.00 for seniors and for the concert and dinner are \$30/\$25 respectively. Check out the performers website at [www.armstrongbrothersband.com](http://www.armstrongbrothersband.com). Invite your family and friends to a great afternoon out.

## Church Art



Though only the day after Kaffe Stuga, Sunday, November 16, (time to be announced) we have performing in concert the *Illumine Trio* featuring Christopher O’Hara, trumpet, Sarah Moyer, soprano and Mark Englehardt, organ. Chris and Sara have both performed here in the past and delighted the audience. Mark is the former organist at St. Paul’s Cathedral, Episcopal, in Boston and presently



serves as organist and Director of Music at St.

Peter’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Bay Shore, NY and is founder and administrator of the Center for the Arts at St. Peter’s.

*Illumine* joins together virtuosity, grace, and passion to bring audiences some of the most beautiful music ever created. The members of *Illumine* have performed all over the United States and across the world from Chicago to Japan, Boston to Great Britain, Tulsa to Russia and more. Each member is an acclaimed artist in their own discipline and have shared the stage with such ensembles as the Alliance Brass Quintet, Skylark, MagnificatBoston, The Boston Pops, and the Rolling Stones.

The ensemble was brought together by a common love for the music written for trumpet and voice. Some of the greatest masters of Western Music have contributed to this beautiful lexicon including Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Friedrich Handel, Alessandro Scarlatti, and Henry Purcell. While the bulk of music for this ensemble was written during the Baroque period, the versatility of the performers allows them to branch out over the centuries and includes everything from the original Baroque works to jazz. Watch Facebook, the church website and Sunday bulletins for ticket information. Check out the performers website at [www.illuminetrio.com](http://www.illuminetrio.com)



Local Brockton artist John Adams has created the beautiful pen & ink drawing of the church shown at the left. The Cornerstone Committee will be offering this drawing for sale as a framed 8 x 10 or framed 5 x7 print or as a note card. The card features a brief history of the church on the reverse. Proceeds from the sale of this art work will go to the building restoration project. Mr. Adams is working on additional drawings of the church interior and architectural highlights. Prints currently need to be ordered while we have a supply of cards on hand. Prices are as follows:

8 x 10 framed print: \$20.00    5 x 7 framed print: \$15.00

Notecards: \$2.50 each

## MINISTERIAL ACTS



### Deaths

#### Phyllis E. Cousins



On July 6, 2014 the eldest member of First Lutheran, Phyllis E. Cousins died just three days short of her 100th birthday. Phyllis sang in the FELC choir for many years, was a member of the Martha Guild and one of the few remaining WAVES from World War II. Up until her final days Phyllis delighted in visitors and reveled in conversation with them.

## MOST GENEROUS

Over the summer as has been the practice we have had the carpets in the Children’s Ark preschool cleaned as well as those in the main floor hallways, Sunday School room, nursery, chapel, parlor and office. We wish to thank Marian Nelson for her gift once again of this important maintenance item.

## THANK You!

A big thank you to church member Patrick Dolan who served this summer as our sexton. Patrick will be leaving that job to attend Massasoit Community College. Patrick worked hard to keep the building clean and ready for services and events throughout the summer. We wish Patrick all the best as he continues his education. Also, watch for Patrick to be a star baseball player for Massasoit!

## CALL COMMITTEE

As the chair of the Call Committee, Aaron Rovaldi, announced that the committee has been given the names of three pastoral candidates from the Synod and will soon be beginning the interview process. Outside the Nave in the hallway is a green box and index cards—you may submit questions that you would like asked of the candidates into this box. If you have any questions please speak to a member of the committee: Aaron Rovaldi, Sandy Dunphy, Liz Belanger, Dennis Govoni, Hans Christensen, Maeghan Christensen. Please remember to respect the confidentiality of the committee members by not asking them information that they cannot divulge at this point such as the name of a candidate, where from, etc. Please keep this committee and their work in your prayers, by the time you receive this Tidings the committee should be in the process of interviewing a candidate. Thank you!

## GRACE CHAPEL

We congratulate Grace Chapel on their recent celebration of four years of proclaiming the Gospel in Brockton! It is with joy that we listen to Grace Chapel worship on Sunday mornings and we rejoice with them as their ministry continues to reach out from these walls into the community.

## FRUTH CENTER

The Old Colony YMCA continues renovations on the upper floor of the Fruth Center as they convert this space into living units for six young men as part of a program that teaches independent living and transitions these post high school young men into living independently in the community. The Y as part of the renovations has upgraded the fire alarm system, installed state of the art video surveillance inside and out, added a shower stall and kitchen on the upper floor and installed a sprinkler system to that part of the building with accommodations for expanding it to other areas of the building if need be at a future date. The Y has funded all of these changes at a cost in excess of \$190,000.00. We are working with the Y that once complete a time will be set aside for church members to view the project.



## SEAN TIBBETTS' MEMORIAL FAMILY RUN/WALK



**Sunday, September 14 at 9:00 am  
DW Field Park, Brockton, MA**

Registration table will open at 9:00 am and  
the run/walk will begin at 10:00 am

The money raised will be to start a college fund for Evan and Kyla

\$25.00 (ages 13 and up) \$15.00 (ages 5 to 12)

Free (under 5) if you would like a t-shirt for child, the cost is \$5.00

Registration fees should be made payable to:

Sean F Tibbetts Memorial Fund and mailed with the form to Denise Bert,  
416 Summer Street, Brockton, MA 02302 or give them to Melissa Tibbetts

Thank you!!!

Registration forms are on the table outside the Chapel.

## YOUTH GATHERING DETROIT 2015



The 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in Detroit from July 15 to 19—a little over a year away. If you are a youth member of FELC watch for more information on this great event and if you are an adult watch for ways in which you can invest in our young people and make this trip possible for them by helping offset the financial burden of the trip.

**Youth Gathering Meeting**  
Tuesday, Sept, 9th at 7:00 pm at the church.

Parents and youth are asked to come.

Spread the word!! Thanks!

## HUNGER REPORT (CONT.)

The following are statistics on clients of eastern Massachusetts food pantries from the previous mentioned survey:

### Client Race/Ethnicity

White/Non-Hispanic	52.7%
Black/Non-Hispanic	19.0%
Hispanic	15.6%
Other	12.6%

### Primary language spoken by adults at home

English	87.7%
Spanish	12.4%
Other	8.9%

### Household Size

1 member	34.8%
2 to 3 members	38.5%
4 to 6 members	24.3%
More than 6 members	2.4%

*"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."*

- Albert Schweitzer

## STUDENT AID!

Once again this summer high school students from around New England gathered at Stonehill College for their annual leadership conference. Part of this conference is a day of community service. This year we had 12 highly energetic and motivated students assist Phil Robinson in stocking shelves, cleaning and other tasks in our Food for Friends Food Pantry. This is the third year we have had young people from this conference volunteer here and we look forward to welcoming them again next year.



## FOOD FOR FRIENDS

Our Food for Friends Food Pantry had experienced a normal seasonal slow down over the summer with the number of clients averaging about 180 per month. Past experience shows this will increase to close to 250 as cooler weather arrives. We continue to have an ample supply of food and our offering of frozen meat and chicken has increased due to the current issues with Market Basket. We recently purchased two additional chest freezers to handle the amount of food. These freezers are paid for with operational funding received through grants.

Our truck continues to serve us well and make pick-ups easier in bad weather. Its hard to believe but we have had the truck for almost a year now. It appears that the annual cost of owning and operating the truck will run between \$4,000 and \$5,000 per year. This cost includes maintenance, fuel, registration and insurance. The funds that were raised as part of the Thrivent Grant and your gifts to match that grant paid for the truck, covered all cost for 2014 and will cover some of 2015's costs. Many parishioners faithfully support the pantry with their gifts for food, we would also encourage anyone willing to make a gift to the Food for Friends Truck Fund to help with those expenses. If you wish to make a gift please mark the check/envelope with Food for Friends Truck Fund. Thank you!





# HUNGER REPORT STAGGERING!

The Greater Boston Food Bank (“GBFB”) (of which our Food for Friends Food pantry is a partner agency) in cooperation with Feeding America, the national network of 200 food banks, has recently participated in the most comprehensive survey of hunger ever undertaken in eastern Massachusetts, *Hunger in America 2014 (“HIA 2014”)*. This study provides critical data regarding the demographics of clients that receive assistance from GBFB and its network of member agencies and the capacity the network has to address issues concerning food insecurity. Following are excerpts from that survey, copies of the full survey are available in the hallway outside the Chapel)

## Key Findings

- ◆ Food insecurity is a growing problem in eastern Massachusetts with 63.6% of agencies seeing an increase in the volume of clients compared to the previous year while only 4.2% saw a decrease
- ◆ Approximately 1 in 12 individuals living in eastern Massachusetts access food from GBFB and its member agencies annually
- ◆ As many as 1 in 3 clients served is a child under the age of 18 and as many as 1 in 5 clients served is 60 years old or older
- ◆ 87.8% of households receiving food assistance have at least one member that has graduated with a high school diploma or equivalency, 57% have at least one member with education beyond high school and 15.6% have at least one member that has a four-year college degree or higher
- ◆ 48.9% of households receiving food assistance earn a household income of \$1,000 or less monthly and 45.6% earn \$10,000 or less annually
- ◆ 61.2% of households receiving food assistance are living in poverty
- ◆ In households receiving food assistance where the main income earner is working, less than half (43.9%) are estimated to be working over 30 hours per week
- ◆ The main income earner in 67.1% of households receiving food assistance is not employed
- ◆ 80% of those out of work are not able to look for work because they are elderly and retired, are disabled or in poor health, or are taking care of someone who is disabled or in poor health
- ◆ In the past 12 months, most households had to choose between paying for food and paying for other expenses such as:
  - ◆ Medicine/Medical Care (60.3%)
  - ◆ Utilities (60.8%)
  - ◆ Housing (59.5%)
  - ◆ Transportation (51.9%)
  - ◆ Education (31.0%)
- ◆ 15.3% of households have at least one member that is in poor health, 32.8% of households have at least one member with diabetes and 61% of households have at least one member with high blood pressure
- ◆ 29.4% of households have medical bills that they have not been able to pay
- ◆ 68.5% of households sometimes have to purchase inexpensive, unhealthy food due to their limited budgets and 44.7% have received help from family or friends
- ◆ 72.4% of households need to use food pantries on a regular basis
- ◆ For 90.9% of food distribution programs, no longer being able to get food from GBFB would have a **Major Effect** for them and their ability to serve their clients

# WOMEN OF THE ELCA

All women, teens to elders, and their friends ( even non-Lutherans) are welcome to attend the 9th Biennial Convention of the New England Women of the ELCA

**OCT. 23-25 at Camp Calumet, West Ossipee, NH**

There will be several workshops, a Silent Auction and Camp fire Sing -A- Long on the lake as well as opportunities to relax and renew.

The newly elected president of Women of the ELCA, Patti Austin and the executive director, Linda Post Bushofsky will be present.

Registration forms and detailed information is on the bulletin board across from the parlor.

The delegate from First gets free lodging on Thursday night as well as the first 3 meals free.

For questions , please contact your Conference secretary, Pat McAfee (9 am service) or me (7:45 am service)( Wed.10 am Bible Study)

TAKE A BREAK TO REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT .

Alice Carlson 508-697-3445

NE WELCA board rep.

# YARD SALE

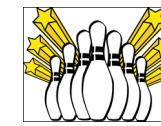


Thank you to all who made this year’s yard sale a success. A great day brought people out to buy most of the items we had for sale. Very little was left

over and what was we donated to Salvation Army stores in Brockton.

Emmanuel House also had a very successful day in selling many items of furniture. Thanks again to all who made donations of items, those who helped sort and set up and all the volunteers throughout the day.

# STRIKE!



Bowlers are needed for the 2014-2015 season of the Lutheran Bowling League. This league was founded in 1918 as the Lutheran Men’s Bowling League and was established to provide a recreational outlet for young soldiers returning from service in World War I. Several years ago women were invited to join the group which has continued to grow. The league meets on Monday nights at 7 PM at Timberlanes on Route 18 in Abington, If you are interested in joining this group for fun and fellowship please contact Lynn Madigan at 508-587-3308.

# STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The ladies of our Wednesday morning Bible Study recently provided an afternoon of fellowship at Emmanuel House with strawberry shortcake and peach shortcake which was enjoyed by all.



# COVER GIRLS

Kudos to Laverne Ekberg (left) & Miriam Johnson for being featured in this Emmanuel House Facebook ad. Both of these wonderful ladies are members of FELC, Laverne served as our organist from 1938-1951 and Miriam currently serves on the Congregational Council.





## "God's work. Our hands." Sunday



Sunday, September 7, join your brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the ELCA in a day of service.

Here at FELC we will join forces with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in north Easton, Prince of Peace in Montello, Emmanuel House Residence and Joy in Christ in Abington for an array of service projects.

At Joy in Christ workers will be baking cookies for first responders, while at Emmanuel House origami flowers will be blooming as lunches are being packed for Main Spring House at Holy Trinity as Operation Christmas takes place at Prince of Peace with assembling back packs for kids and at FELC warm fleece blankets will be made for those cold winter nights.

At 4:30 the day will culminate in a worship service to which all are invited and the service will be followed by a meal and time of fellowship.

Please contact Susan Rovaldi via e-mail at (sjrovaldi@yahoo.com) if you need more information, have questions or would like to volunteer. Sign-up sheets for the day's events are outside the Chapel. A limited number of tee shirts themed to the day are also available at a cost of \$6.00.

## BLANKETS

Photos of FELC members and friends making blankets for the God's Work, Our Hands project. These blankets will be distributed to children in need through the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families.



## FROM OUR BISHOP



### I don't want to talk about Ferguson (from the Bishop's Blog)

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."* Romans 12:1-2

Michael Brown, a young unarmed African American man was shot six times by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. Trayvon Martin was killed two years ago. In America an unarmed black man, woman or child is murdered almost every day in this country. And yet, I don't want to talk about Ferguson, Missouri.

I don't want to talk about Ferguson, because frankly it's just too damn hard to have that kind of conversation. It would require gathering people from the whole range of the criminal justice system — police officers, mothers of young black men, prosecutors, poor white rural folk, merchants, Latino teenagers, fathers of suburban kids hooked on heroin. It would require the kind of crucial conversations that bring about deep understanding — and that's a whole lotta work.

I don't want to talk about Ferguson, because there are so many other things I can do. I can post my opinions on Facebook. I can go to the beach, and plan my vacation. I can turn on the TV and watch a news outlet that will justify my preconceived ideas.

I don't want to talk about Ferguson, because it's not only about race, (though that is a big part of it) it's also about economic class. In this country, I want to believe we are all the same, but deep down I know this isn't true. In fact, it may be easier, (though still extremely challenging) to have a multi-ethnic community in this country than it is to have a multi-class community. And, candidly, I'm a person who has it pretty good. I'm white, male, tall, overly-educated and pretty comfortable. Why would I want to get into this messy Ferguson conversation?

And then I read Jesus, Isaiah, and Paul. "Do not be conformed by this world, but be transformed..."

In this country there are 50 million Americans who are poor, the vast majority of them are people of color. In the scriptures, there are 2,357 verses that speak to the need to attend to the orphan, the widow and the poor. In my mind, I put those two sentences together and it defines everything I need to know about what God is calling us to do.

What can we do?

1. Stop preaching about the topic of poverty and race, unless you are willing to make something happen. While that may sound harsh, what I'm trying to do is push us from simply talking to actually walking. Faith without works is dead, is cheap grace.
2. Engage in crucial conversations on the criminal justice system. Pr. Tiffany Chaney is looking to engage people from a range of perspectives to address this topic in her neighborhood in Dorchester, MA.
3. Find ways to intentionally bring people of various backgrounds together. Pr. Dan Hille in Avon, CT is partnering over three years to connect affluent white teens with economically disadvantaged teenagers of color.
4. Find a church either nearby or in our synod and partner with that church. First in East Greenwich, RI is connecting with Gloria Dei in Providence. They are learning from one another about race, class and mission.

These are just the beginning, but we must find beginning points. It's important to note that these are mutual conversations, in other words they are not one group informing another.

I don't want to talk about Ferguson, Missouri, I want us to do something about Ferguson. If that can't happen in the church of Jesus, Isaiah and Paul, then where else is it going to happen?

Bishop James Hazelwood  
New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**IT'S COMING- 4 GREAT WEEKS- OCT. 19TH TO NOV.9TH-**



## KAFFE STUGA

Once again, Martha Guild, LCW will be the sponsors of "Kaffe Stuga" If you have joined our First Lutheran fellowship since 2011, perhaps you would like to know a little bit about what Kaffe Stuga is. Those two Swedish words mean "coffee house". This is why our vestry is transformed into a place where one can sit at a table, relax and enjoy coffee poured from silver services and refreshments (dainty sandwiches, cookies and cakes) served to you by waitresses in Swedish costumes.

Can you believe Kaffe Stuga is still more? Yes, it is a place where men, women and children can do their Christmas shopping under the direction of helpful women dressed in Swedish costumes. There are tables of gifts, delightful handmade articles and crafts for sale; there is a Christmas boutique where you can find items to trim your tree or decorate your home; and there is also a place to buy Scandinavian imports. There will be specialty booths with items handmade by our own talented artist and outside vendors. If you have a "green thumb", you will feel right at home in the plant room. Children will be delighted with the children's room, featuring stuffed toys, games and even a picture with Santa. Of course, this is a good place for grandparents, aunts and uncles and even parents too! Kaffe Stuga wouldn't be complete without a food room. Here you may buy Swedish coffee bread and all kinds of delicious baked goods to take home for supper or Sunday dinner.

You can readily see that Kaffe Stuga is a huge undertaking. It takes many people, working many hours. Although it is a Martha Guild, ELCA sponsored endeavor, it takes **every member** of all ages of First Lutheran to make Kaffe Stuga a huge success. This much anticipated event will become a reality on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

If you can help in any way, please return the following form to the church office, Beth Christensen, Pat McAfee or Karen Christensen. In any case, we'll be looking forward to seeing you at Kaffe Stuga. Your cooperation and prayers are greatly need and appreciated!

Yours in Christ,

Beth Christensen, Pat McAfee, Karen Christensen and the Martha Guild Board



**KAFFE STUGA**

**SWEDISH COFFEE HOUSE & CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**Saturday, November 15 from 10 to 3**

For more information contact:  
Beth Christensen @ 508-583-2168  
Pat McAfee @ 508-580-1558  
Karen Christensen @ 508-223-4293

Hostesses in traditional Swedish folk dress serve coffee, sandwiches and treats in the Kaffe Stuga.

Over 40 Vendors  
Crafts  
Christmas Decorations  
Swedish Imports  
Non-Profit Agency Displays  
Children's Room

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
900 MAIN STREET  
BROCKTON, MA  
508-586-9021 www.firstvlutheran.org  
All Facilities are Elevator Accessible



**KAFFE STUGA**

**Swedish Coffee House & Christmas Fair**

## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

**Thank you** for considering participation in the "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014. Whether we plant gardens in urban communities, write letters to soldiers and veterans or serve meals to people and families who are food insecure, we dedicate this day to be church together – as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – for the sake of the world.

It's not too late to plan your participation in this dedicated day of service!

To help guide your congregation's planning download a toolkit, bulletin insert and flyer at [www.ELCA.org/dayofservice](http://www.ELCA.org/dayofservice). T-shirts are once again available from Old Lutheran to help increase the visual impact across the ELCA.

Excited about your congregation's service activities? The toolkit offers a special media outreach section to pitch your story with local newspaper, television and radio outlets. Advocacy is also part of our call to discipleship. Visit [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy) to learn how we can use "our voices" to make positive changes in the world.

Shortly after Sept. 7, please share stories about your congregation's participation. Send your stories and photos to [LivingLutheran@elca.org](mailto:LivingLutheran@elca.org), so that together we can celebrate what God accomplishes through you.

As we serve together during "**God's work. Our hands.**" **Sunday**, we are witnesses to the love of God who knows and loves each one of us.

*In gratitude to God and in service to others, go in peace.*

Peace,



Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Instructional portions of Bishop's Eaton's message have been edited out for readability.*

## CALUMET WEEKEND

Its that time of year again, school has begun, the weather is cooling, the leaves are turning and our youth are preparing for a weekend in the White Mountains of New Hampshire at Camp Calumet. This year Calumet Weekend falls on Oct 17, 18, 19 this should be a great weekend full of fun, fellowship and faith based activities. Please contact Beth Christensen for more information.

## CALLING ALL KIDS!!!



**Sunday Church**  
*School kicks off this year on September 28.*

We encourage all youth to attend and ask parents to support this important aspect of your child's faith journey and fulfill the

promises made at your child's baptism.

All are welcome- bring friends, neighbors and family. Instruction begins at age three (must be toilet trained) and continues through eighth grade. Older teens are needed to help in classrooms or can attend adult education classes, which take place during the school hour (10:15-11:15).

Fourth graders will also receive **Holy Communion instruction**, culminating in First Communion on Palm Sunday, March 29.

Seventh and eighth graders will attend **Confirmation classes** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in North Easton. These classes commence on Sunday, September 7 from 4-6 PM. Those eighth graders completing instruction will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. Christian education is a fundamental building block not only in the life of the individual but in the congregation as a whole for as Martin Luther wrote "When schools flourish, all flourishes."

***Please come, learn, and grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus.***



## VOX POPULI

### Learning How to be Generous

By Glenn Taibl

As a parish pastor, I often noted that generous people are wired differently than people who have not learned generosity. Generous people have a more hopeful and positive perspective of life and the communities they serve. Generous people possess a generosity that usually embraces financial resources, time and relationships beyond their homes. They are often the life-blood of the faith community as they serve as conduits of God's abundance for others.

I like Christian Smith's definition of generosity in his recent article in Big Questions Online, "What Makes us Generous:" "By generosity, I mean the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. Generosity thus conceived is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action—entailing both the inclination and actual practice of giving liberally. Generosity is not a haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life. It entails not only a moral good expressed but also vices rejected, such as selfishness, greed, fear and meanness."

I agree with Smith that generosity is a learned trait. I have asked generous people where they learned this gift and they have shared wonderful stories. Of course you will want to have such conversations in your congregations for there is much to learn from these generous members. At the very least you will want to ask the generous brother or sister in your midst, "Where did you learn generosity?" As I have listened to them I have

thought that if generosity is not learned in the home as part of my "growing up" I may never learn this trait. Such would have been my case where I had good parents but parents who were not generous. They tended to be more on the scared and stingy side. They were definitely concerned that we would never have enough.

I learned generosity in the church. My intern supervisor was generous in his life and leadership and he challenged me and modeled a new way of relating to time and financial resources. In the first congregation we served my wife and I were recipients of generous commitments to the faith community and its mission. The church family changed us. Generous people placed their lives next to our lives until we were changed by the difference.

*From the website of Luther Seminary  
submitted by Pr Ken Bjorklund*

## BOOK OF FAITH

The Book of Ephesians is where it all begins for us this fall. This has been an intense time for all of us as we work our way through the process of seeking new Pastoral leadership.

Looking at ourselves in a mirror and attempting to understand who and what kind of people we are and then sharing what we see with potential leaders is a time of risk and hope. In that situation our emotions can become a little out of control. One moment we are up and the next down. Who wants us? Do we want them? The long dragged out process becomes wearing and tiresome. At this moment in time we know that three people are at least interested in us. The 'Call Committee' has the task of taking on the study and interviewing process in the initial decision-making process on our behalf.

The Book of Ephesians is very helpful to people like us, at a time as we are in. Many of us who are seeking spiritual support and some surety from God will gain from gathering together and receiving insights and hope. Many Lutherans and other people have found hope and meaning from the writings of Pr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his letters from prison. The Apostle also writes from prison in this Book of Ephesians. From the last place we would want to be there is encouragement and hope to gain. Starting September 14<sup>th</sup> 10:45 a.m. Youth Room.

*Pr. Ken Bjorklund*

## THANK YOU! MRS. DOLAN



The children, staff, and Board of Children's Ark Preschool extend their profound gratitude to Diana

Dolan for her 18 years of service. Diana has done a wonderful job teaching and nurturing the many, many children that passed through our doors. Please join us in wishing Diana good luck in her new endeavor!

**IT'S COMING-  
4 GREAT WEEKS-  
OCT. 19TH TO  
NOV.9TH-  
CIRCLE THESE  
WEEKS.**

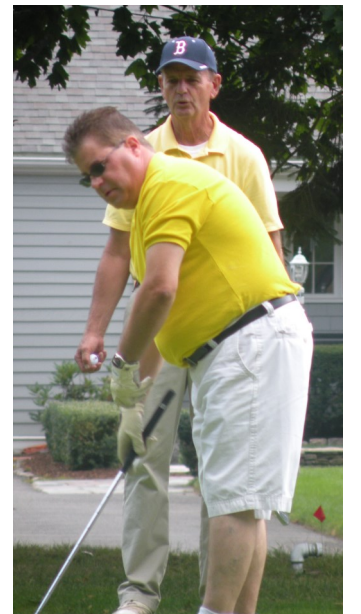
## 24TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Kris Pearson



Proceeds from this year's 50/50 raffle went to the Food for Friends Truck Fund



Scott Tibbetts & Peter Thompson



Volunteer, Don Newman



Evan & Kyla Tibbetts each received a \$500.00 scholarship towards their education fund.



Golf Committee member, Dick Pearson

This year's tournament was dedicated to the memory of Sean F. Tibbetts, faithful member of FELC, council member and worker in community outreach who died on February 23, 2014 at age 41.