

## 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

*Gathered in Christ, Together We Serve*

#### MINISTERS:

The Members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

#### STAFF:

**Pastor Elect: Reverend Jeffrey C. Johnson**

**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)

**Interim Organist: David Burnham**

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

**Sexton: Brian Gagne**

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**900 Main Street**

**Brockton, MA 02301**

Non-profit Organization

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Brockton, MA

Permit No. 418

*Time Dated Material Please Do Not Delay*

*Or Current Resident*

**Truck Driver wanted:** We are looking for a volunteer to help out our Food for Friends Food Pantry by driving our truck to Boston to pick up food at the greater Boston Food Bank—generally on Wednesdays. The time commitment on a day's run is from about 11:30 to 3. No special license is required.

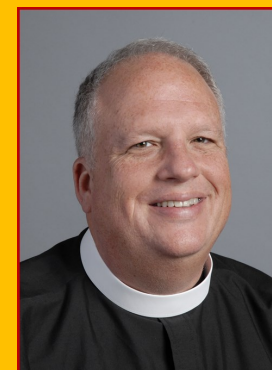


Ron Newman has been driving faithfully for several years now and occasionally needs a break. We appreciate all that Ron has done and continues to do but we don't want to wear him out.

We are always looking for co-pilots as well, the GBFB requires that all trucks picking up have 2 people—primarily the second person is to stay with the truck while the other is getting the paper-work and dock assignment.

If you are interested in helping out or learning more about this opportunity please speak to Ron Newman, Chris Newman or Jim Benson

## We Welcome



**Rev. Jeffrey C. Johnson  
to  
First Lutheran as our  
pastor on September 6**



**THANK  
YOU TO  
ALL  
WHO  
MADE  
OUR  
25th  
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT  
A HUGE SUCCESS**

**Save the Date  
CHURCH PICNIC  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 11 AM  
DETAILS INSIDE**

# SEPTEMBER TIDINGS

## FROM OUR NEW PASTOR



Dear Friends:

A blessed summer to you all! We're only a month away to beginning a great relationship together and I thought I would give you an update.

Please keep me in your prayers as I travel to my ordination in Florida on Thursday, August 20. It should be a wonderful

event. I am sharing it with a friend of mine, Joan Holden, is also getting ordained. Our bishop, The Rev'd Robert Schaefer, is ordaining us and presiding. It will also be a rich musical feast with music by Bach, Mozart, and Vaughan Williams. We're very excited. I wish you could be there.

I will arrive in Brockton on Monday, August 31 and I will be temporarily living at Brad Ness' aunt's unoccupied home. It's a great temporary situation while I look for something permanent. Many thanks to Brad and his family!

I begin our work and ministry together on September 1 and I will preach and preside on Sunday, September 6. I really look forward to joining you in worship.

Thank you again for your grand hospitality and help as I enter your community. Please keep me in your prayers for traveling mercies. I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Peace,

*Pastor Jeff Johnson*

## SHOUT OUT to SINGERS!



How wonderful that our new pastor is also an accomplished musician! Let's give Pastor Jeff a proper musical welcome by assembling a choir for his installation service later this fall. We will rehearse after the 9 a.m. service starting on Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you enjoy singing (even if you can't read music), please join us. We'll do some wonderful music for this very special occasion.

*David Burnham, Interim Organist*

## Join Us, Sept. 6



Sunday, September 6 will be Pastor Jeff's first Sunday with us since being called as our pastor. We realize that this is Labor Day weekend but we encourage all who possibly can to attend church on that day to welcome Pastor Jeff into our midst.

## PLEASE JOIN CHILDREN'S ARK PRESCHOOL



## Children's Safety Fair

In cooperation with the  
Brockton Police &  
Fire Departments

And

## Touch a Truck

Featuring trucks of all kinds to explore!

**FREE TO ALL**

Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 10am-Noon

Parking Lot of Children's Ark Preschool/First Lutheran

900 Main Street, Brockton

(Parking in rear lot of First Lutheran Church or along Main Street)

**Tour the Preschool! Enrollment still available!**

Questions: (508)587-8032



**Photographers Wanted:** We are looking for photographers within the congregation that would be willing to take photos of various church events that could then be displayed on our website. These images should be taken with a camera versus a cell phone for better website resolution. If you are willing to help out with this please speak to Jim Benson





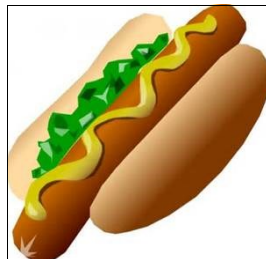
**When:** Sunday September 20, 2015 Rain or Shine  
**Time:** 11:00 am – 5:00 pm  
**Where:** East Bridgewater YMCA field (Camp Satucket facility)  
 635 Plymouth Street, East Bridgewater, MA 02333  
**Why:** Fellowship, Games & Fun for all ages!

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!

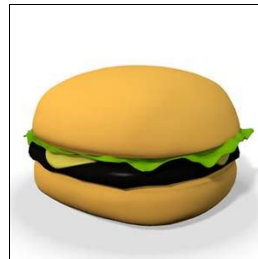
The day will start with the traditional church service at First Lutheran at 8:00 and 9:00 am and/or you can join us for church with Communion at the picnic from 11:00-12:00.

The grills will be fired up and grilling will begin at 12:00.  
 The committee will cook and sell Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Sausages:

**\$1.00 for a hot dog**



**\$2.00 for a hamburger**



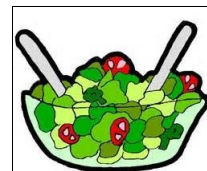
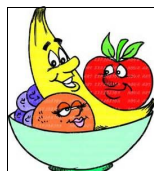
**\$3.00 for a sausage**



**\$1.00 Soda/Water**

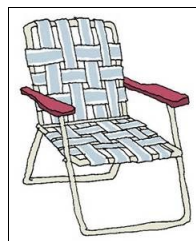


**Bring your favorite picnic salad, side dish or dessert to share.**



**There is sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office**

There is a small children's playground, and lots of field space for Frisbee, football, kickball. Our older church adults can relax under the pavilion and enjoy each other's company.



Also remember that walk-ins are always welcome! Transportation can be provided if needed!

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a day of fun and fellowship with members and friends of First Lutheran Church. Pass the word around and we look forward to seeing you there!

## MINISTERIAL ACTS



### Baptisms

*Riley Marie Manship*

### Weddings

*Bonnie Elizabeth Stults &  
 Jeffrey McAllister Mast*

### Funerals

*Diane Akerblom  
 Ruth Ohlsson*

## *“God's Work, Our Hands”*

**Save the Date!**

**Save the Date!**

**October 4**

The Community Service Commission encourages you to save the date (October 4, 2015) for your participation in **God's Work Our Hands Sunday**. FELC membership and friends are invited to join with area Lutheran Churches in ministry action to the larger community. Ministry action teams, of all ages and interests, will participate in activities as varied as the needs of our neighbors and skills of our volunteers! Some of the activities will include working with an animal shelter, visiting at nursing homes and engaging the residents in singing some oldies and hymns, helping the elderly with yard clean-up, making and delivering cookies to first responders, packing nutritious bag lunches for Father Bill's Main Spring House, making blankets for children in transition, writing cards to home-bound and additional activities as you may suggest.

The day will offer opportunity to meet and work with local Lutheran Churches, Joy in Christ (Abington)-Prince of Peace (Brockton)-Holy Trinity (North Easton)! You will begin your volunteer day after the 9:00A.M. service of worship. You may commit to participate in one activity or commit to a time period that fits your schedule. The GWOH day will celebrate at FELC with joint worship and dinner at 4:30 PM.

More information will follow in the bulletin and Fall Tidings....Look for sign up

Opportunities which will be posted on the bulletin boards this Summer. For those who will be unable to participate in the activities there will be opportunities to contribute materials to the varied ministry activity teams!

**SIGN UP EARLY the opportunities are unlimited!**

## SAVE the DATE

The first of our fall season of Cornerstone



Concerts will begin on Sunday, September 27 with a performance by world-class organist, Joseph Ripka. Ripka performed here last year and is a young talent of great ability. This is

a concert that you won't want to miss. The time and more information on the performance will follow in the church bulletin, our website and Facebook page.



## WANT TO HELP THE YOUTH OF BROCKTON?

First Evangelical Lutheran, Grace Chapel, and others are partnering to build the Boys' and Girls' Brigade, an inter-denominational, multi-cultural Christian youth organization that aims to provide love, spirituality, discipline, and a sense of belonging to the youth of Brockton, many of whom are "at risk" or from an "underprivileged" background. We have about 25 young people who have been meeting regularly, and dozens more on our roster who've expressed interest.

By positively intervening in the lives of young people now, we can dramatically reduce the social problems troubling Brockton—gangs, poverty, crime, and prostitution, for example—in the future. We believe that the kids we work with now will grow to become pillars of the community. You can help make that happen.

Over the past four years, the Brigade has been able to provide kids with time to play, Bible lessons, cooking lessons, sports activities, and a lot more. We sent five of our young people to summer camp in New Hampshire in July – without charge. Two others went to the SOUL Conference in Utah, also without charge. For most of these kids, this was their first time away from home, and away from Brockton. They report that it was a positive, life changing experience.

The only thing holding us back is the number of volunteers we have. We need people for a variety of tasks: teachers for younger children, discussion group facilitators for teens, coaches, artists who can teach, chaperones/shepherds, people who can do administrative work, drivers, and more—whatever your talents are, they will be welcomed. The Brigade meets on Saturdays, but we can use your help at other times as well, if this day does not work for you.

If you'd like to help with the Brigade—or if you or your child would be interested in joining—please contact Dan Margolis at Grace Chapel. You can call 646-326-1141 or email [dmargolis@gracechapelbrockton.org](mailto:dmargolis@gracechapelbrockton.org). You can also view our website at [www.bgbrigadebrockton.org](http://www.bgbrigadebrockton.org).

## CROWD MANAGERS NEEDED



Since the tragic Station Night-club fire in Rhode Island in 2003 various laws have been enacted to manage crowds in public gathering places.

These laws and ordinances

have been adopted and enforced by states and municipalities around the nation and Brockton is no different.

As a church with gather space for large events and also the owner of a gym that is used for gatherings we are expected to conform to the guidelines of the law.

To this end, we need Certified Crowd Managers at all functions (except church services) where more than 100 people are gathered.

We are seeking members of the congregation to become certified in this role. It's a simple on line certification process.

At church events, such as concerts, dinners etc. we will be looking for Crowd Managers who are volunteers. At Fruth Center events where it is a non-church event we are looking for Crowd Managers that will be compensated for their time at an hourly rate yet to be determined. One manager per 100 people is required.

The basic responsibilities of the Crowd manager are to be sure the crowd does not exceed the capacity of the space, that all entrances are kept clear and that all fire pull stations are kept clear. Additionally to make safety announcements to the crowd at the beginning of an event and to point out emergency exits and procedures.

If you would be interested in becoming a Certified Crowd Manager or would like more information about it please speak to Jim Benson.

*God's Purpose:  
To go where Love Leads,  
to Serve Where Love  
Calls!*

*O, Come Let  
Us Worship  
the Lord!*

**This visionary statement certainly contains the motivation and purpose of our WDD (Weekday Discipleship Development program) Mondays 6:30 p.m. September 14 to October 26.**

For our members, this is an opportunity to gain orientation and clarity on the direction our congregation is focused as we join with a new pastoral leader, Pr. Jeff Johnson.

Pr. Johnson has been invited to this learning event as both a welcome and orientation to our new organizational church life. The folks on the Ministry Site Profile writing team expressed a feeling of concern that a new Pastor would be entering an entirely new entity, rather than just following a previous pastor's ministry. Our Interim Pastoral leader, Pr. Ed Sproul has guided us through a major self awareness and self determination process to where we are now. Thus we wrote into the profile, which was utilized by the call committee, the promise to be welcoming with open hearts and homes to the new called leader. Several times Pr. Jeff has remarked and thanked the Call Committee for such a welcoming experience in that process. He Heard!

Now we will all be taking up this, so very pleasant opportunity of hospitality. Part of that responsibility is in helping our Pastor to gain, and quickly I assume, a level of familiarity of our new operational organization of Council and commissions. This fall, September 14 - October 26 a new and upgraded WDD (Week-Day Discipleship Development program) is being offered to Pr. Jeff, Congregational Council members, Commission members and Congregation members for orienting and clarity about how we are developing our Mission and Ministry activities.

**Registration Forms may be found on the corridor wall near the office. Group size is limited to 12 persons.**

For more information contact Pr Ken Bjorklund

As we get back into our fall schedule we need your help!

Sunday morning worship does not just happen—it takes many hands and too often they are the same hands week after week. There is something for everyone to help ease the burden on others.

**We need:**

**Worship Assistants**

**Lectors**

**Acolytes**

**Crucifers**

**Ushers**

**Greeters**

**Set-up/Clean-up People**

If you are willing to assist in any of these capacities please speak to Sandy Dunphy, Pat McAfee. Karen & dana Christensen, Paula Fedele or Jim Benson.

## NEW BOOK

Our parish administrator, Jim Benson will be joining literary forces with Nicole Caspar, Director of Archives & Historical Collections at Stonehill College to author an in-depth narrative historical account with photographs of Brockton's historic Strand Theatre Fire of 1941 in which 13 Brockton firefighters lost their lives. Several members of First Lutheran were involved as firefighters in this tragedy among them Arthur Hammarquist and Lawrence Johnson. The late Roy McKeraghan's father, Roy, Sr., was among those killed. If anyone has information, photos, etc. of the Strand or its predecessor Sheedy's/Empire Theatre please contact Jim. The book will be published in the spring of 2017 by The History Press.



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**Have you ever wondered,  
“What is a Food Packaging Event all about?”**

A brief way of thinking about it is, some people gather in a place and put dried food in plastic packages. This particular food is then donated to food pantries for hungry people.

Many of these packages have been distributed through our Food For Friends Food Pantry. They are a popular commodity among many of our clients. One package of Rice & Beans or Mac & Cheese, when cooked in water expands to provide meals for six people. The contents are designed to be both nutritious and tasty.

END HUNGER NE is the source for the food in bulk form, thus the task of making family sized packages. Friends of the hungry donate the funds to purchase the large quantity in bulk form. This is a ministry to feed the hungry by circumventing the commercial providers and be able to make it cost effective in the food donation channels.

Cost reduction is enhanced by volunteers doing the hand work process of packaging. The next Food Packaging Event in our locale is this August 31<sup>st</sup> here in our Fruth Center. In this case the labor donation is contributed by Stonehill College students in a ‘Day of Service’ project. While the students will be doing the work any of us so motivated may contribute toward the cost.

Those gifts may be forwarded through our Administrator, Jim Benson.

**Glad you asked!**

**Contributed by Pr Ken Bjorklund**

## Children’s Ark

Children's Ark Preschool still has available slots in their two, three, four and five day programs for 3, 4 & 5 year olds starting in September

Please call Mrs. Rogers at 508-587-8032 for more information.

# DO<sup>ing</sup> WHAT MATTERS

**BOOK OF FAITH returns Sunday,  
September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Sunday School Hour,  
10:15 a.m.**

**You are invited to drop on down  
stairs to the Youth room for coffee, conversation,  
donut holes and inquiry into God’s  
Word.**

On opening Sunday we will be starting our journey of faith at Matthew Chapter 7. This particular chapter is the last one of the three, 5, 6, 7, that are known as the Sermon on the Mount. Most likely, these three chapters are a collection of Jesus teachings on the new way of life he was instituting for those who love and follow God. We have found that Jesus emphasis is on his sense of all relationships between people and God. These teachings are in contrast to the laws of the religious leaders of the time that were stated in the negative.

Essentially Jesus teachings are a refreshing restatement of the Mosaic Code brought down from Mount Sinai by Moses. That code was a loving covenant expressed by God for his people. Now we know that God loves all of his creation, all of the people of the world, and we have guidance on living appropriately with one another, not our selfish selves.

Please feel welcome to enter with us in the journey of faith through the pages of the Word of God and our neighbors and friends.

**Pr. Ken Bjorklund**



**First  
Lutheran  
at  
Calumet!**

**Columbus Day Weekend  
October 9<sup>th</sup> — 12<sup>th</sup>**

## FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FAITH WITH FIRST LUTHERAN AT CALUMET

*Come One! Come All!* What fun we will have all together at Camp Calumet. Enjoy outdoor ministry amid the glorious colors of the autumn leaves on Lake Ossipee at Camp Calumet! It’s probably the most beautiful time of year to visit New Hampshire. At Calumet you can take part in some of the age-old autumn traditions such as apple picking, cider making, pumpkin carving, football games, foliage hikes up Jackman’s Ridge and beading with Bonnie just to name a few! You can stay anywhere you like on camp, at either the Conference Center, The (new) Village Cabins, the traditional cabins (heated and unheated) or bring your tent or camper and stay in the campgrounds. There is always great food and fellowship all weekend. There are quite a few First Lutheran families that go up that weekend every year. We’d love to see more of you. And do something special as a group. So please sign up! The Chaplain for the weekend is Pr. Bill Barter of St. Ansgar, Portland, ME. He is wonderful! He’s been the pastor on previous Columbus Day weekends. We are so excited to have him again!

To sign up and find out more information please contact Alice at Calumet at 603-539-3223 x 220 or email her at [alice@calumet.org](mailto:alice@calumet.org) or visit Calumet’s website at [www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org) go to the “Year Round Programs” tab, click on “Families” and scroll down to “Columbus Day Weekend” for a detailed description of the weekend and pictures too. See if you can spy any familiar faces on those pictures! Don’t hesitate to contact me with any question too! My email address is [blpearson@comcast.net](mailto:blpearson@comcast.net) and my cell# is 508-965-6554. It will be so fun to celebrate family, friends and faith with First Lutheran at Calumet!

Boom Chicka Boom! **Lynn Pearson**



## REFLECTIONS ON CHANGE

*“The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.” - Alan Watts*

Fall is a wonderful time where we learn the true beauty of change. Change is in the leaves that grow brightly, decorating our lawns, red, orange, and gold. Change is in the air when we set out for our early morning rituals and open the door to be greeted with a crisp, brisk wave of cool air. Change is in the constant stop and go's on the way to work, or breakfast, reminding us school is once again, in session. But this fall for our church, change is within, - leading us, preaching to us, and bringing forth a new chapter.

As we welcome our new Pastor, we must remember change cannot be alone, but must be accompanied by helping hands. It is a ripple effect that helps ease the transition of change. Rather than watching and wondering, becoming part of the movement; joining the dance to acclimate our new church leader, will not only immensely help him, but will bring a sense of self-fulfillment and strengthen our church community.

**Julie Erving**, Discipleship Commission



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*Maeghan Christensen* is the recipient of this year's Golf Tournament Scholarship presented in memory of event founders, Paul Pearson & Ed Holyoke. Maeghan is the daughter of Karen & Dana Christensen, graduated from Attleboro High School and was a member of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society and will be attending Merrimack College this fall.



Beth Christensen, Ron Newman, Chris Newman, Jim Benson, Maeghan, Pat McAfee, Dana Christensen, Jennie Christensen, Karen Christensen at Golf Banquet



*Renee Banks has been awarded the 2015 Food for Friends Food Pantry Scholarship.* This scholarship is presented in honor of Donna Persson and her husband the late Kenneth Pearson, benefactors of the pantry. Renee is the daughter of Lee & Sherri (Tessier) Anderson graduated from West Bridgewater Middle-Senior High School and will be a nursing student at Regis College in the fall.

**Are you between the ages of 6 and 96?** (Don't say "not me" our oldest volunteer is a young 91!) If so we have a job for you at our Food for Friends Food Pantry. We have jobs of all types for all ages, abilities and skill levels! Registering clients, calling numbers, helping clients shop, restock shelves, re-pack canned goods, carry groceries outside for clients, empty trash and so on. No application required! Starting salary: The satisfaction of doing good for someone less fortunate within our community—God's Work—Our Hands! For more information speak to Chris Newman or Jim Benson.

# ASK, THANK, TELL

**Ask, thank, tell** is the theme of our stewardship program. It is our sincere hope as this "new and improved" stewardship process is rolled out this fall that it will intrigue and inspire you.

The Stewardship Committee will be working hard to dispel the notion that stewardship is a once-in-the-fall effort to balance the budget. Stewardship is akin to discipleship and a whole lot more. The Committee will be exploring ways to share the good news of our members, of the church committees and about the many services provided within and outside our church both locally and elsewhere.

The Committee is hoping to hear some interesting and exciting stories from a lot of people over the next year and after. And we're also hoping that, as you hear these stories, you will get a better idea about what First Lutheran is, what its members do and what your church means to them and so many others.

As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." If your talents are in the asking (don't worry, we won't be doing every-member visits), in the thanking, or in the telling, your service on the Stewardship Committee is most welcomed.

The Committee looks forward to hearing from you. Feel free to call the office or e-mail me directly at [gary@omancpa.com](mailto:gary@omancpa.com).

Thank you for all you do for First Lutheran.

Peace be with you.

**Gary Oman**, Stewardship Committee



**ELCA  
Youth Gathering  
Detroit  
July 2015**



- Some Facts:**
- 20,000 people moved each night in 400 buses
  - 113 area hotels utilized
  - 62 bishops in attendance
  - 1500 communion assistants
  - 300 in Sunday morning's processional
  - 3,200 vacant lots cleaned of debris
  - 319 vacant houses boarded up
  - 26 dumpsters filled

