

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

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 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

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

Preschool Wish List

Our Children's Ark Preschool is looking for donations of the following items for the 2014-15 school year.

If you are able to donate any of these items they may be left at the school during weekday mornings or at the church office afternoons or Sunday mornings. Thank you

Flash Drive * Epson Ink Black, Color or Any Color #69**

White Construction Paper * 5 ounce cups**

Napkins * Copy Paper**

Tri-Fold Paper Towels * Tacky Glue**

Large Ziploc Bags * Small Ziploc Bags**

Old (used) Laptop or iPad * Small Paper Plates**

Large Paper Plates * Gift Cards for Snacks**

New Ceiling

Recently the downstairs hallway from the preschool to the kitchen received a new suspended ceiling and lighting. We had a water pipe that leaked, was repaired, and leaked again in a different spot so the decision was made to replace the entire pipe as continued repairs would exceed the cost of a new pipe. The original 1958 ceiling of tile is no longer available so a suspended ceiling has been installed after removing the old ceiling and at the same time new lighting has also been installed. We also installed new and better lighting in the lower level restrooms. Thank you to Brad Ness and his crew that removed the old ceiling.

Upcoming Events

**KAFFE STUGA
NOVEMBER 15**

**Sunday School for all
ages each Sunday at
10:15 am**

**BIBLE
SUNDAY
OCTOBER
26**

**ILLUMINE
TRIO
CONCERT
NOVEMBER 16**

**PLEDGE SUNDAY &
CONGREGATIONAL
BRUNCH
NOVEMBER 9**

**Worship each
Sunday at
7:45 & 9 am**

All Are Welcome!

STEWARDSHIP

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Fall has traditionally been the time for stewardship campaigns and other fund-raising efforts as the church starts to plan for the next year. It is good to plan but also good to remember the old adage, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him you plans." 2015 should see the arrival of a new pastor and renewed energy for the work of the church. We pray it will all be God-pleasing.

For me the real stewardship of the church is how all the gifts, skills, passions, and energy of the people are gathered and utilized. When that is done well, the money seems to take care of itself. When a church is staff and building centered, it becomes money focused. But when a church is passionate about its purpose and calling, it becomes people-centered including people outside as well as inside the church.

In short, that latter vision is where the crunch is being felt. Your leaders see lots of opportunities and too few embracing them. This is not a new problem.

Jesus said something along those lines - "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." Give thanks for the first and, while you are at your prayers, also pray for the second.

Martin Luther took time to elaborate on the Bible's principle of the priesthood of all believers. Those who followed his insights - that is, we Lutherans - have not always done so well at being that priesthood. So again, now is crunch time! Gone is the day when an engaging pastor will fill the pews singlehandedly. Many more people, including our senior citizen contingent, will need to heed our Lord's call to join this new pastor in vigorous service.

I rejoice to see so much talent gathered in one place. My prayer will continue to be that it find its way into service in building God's kingdom.

*Pastor Ed Sproul
Transitional Pastor*



Like First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brockton, MA on Facebook

Pastoral Candidate

Call Committee chair Aaron Rovaldi is pleased to announce that the committee has chosen a candidate that the committee will be moving forward to the Congregational Council for their action. A few things need to be finalized before the council interviews the candidate so a date has not been set for the council interview as this Tidings goes to print. Please keep the call Committee, council and candidate in your prayers.

WELCOME

We welcome Brian Gagne as our new sexton. Brian will be working Sunday from 6:30 am to 10:30 am and Mon.—Fri. from 7 to approximately 12:30. Please welcome Brian to FELC when you see him.

LIKE US

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, October 26

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, November 2

All Saints' Sunday

Saturday, November 8

Food Pantry Open
Turkey Distribution Day

Sunday, November 9

Pledge Sunday/Brunch

Saturday,
November 15

Kaffe Stuga

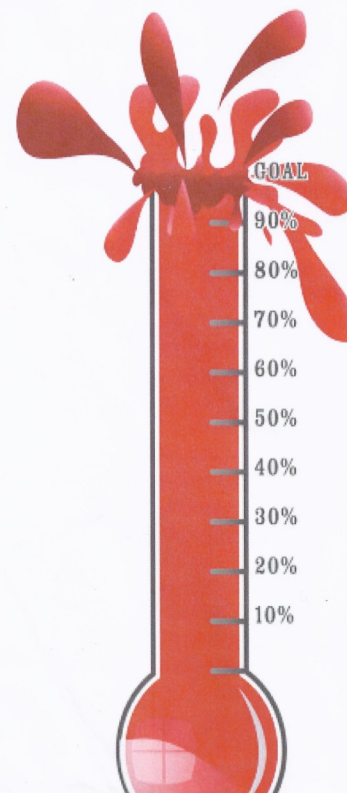
Sunday, November 16

Illumine Trio Concert

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

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Congratulations First Lutheran – We Reached Our Goal!



Gods Work Our Hands Day of Service on Sunday, Sept. 7th accomplished the following goals:

1 – Hand packed boxes of handmade blankets, diapers, onesies, PJ's and bibs for the Department of Children & Families (DCF) Attleboro/Taunton office as well as the Transitional Living Program (TLP) of Attleboro.

- 150 handmade fleece & crocheted blankets were created.
- Over 2,000 diapers, 46 onesies, 12 PJ's and 15 bibs were collected.

2 – Visited three Senior Centers in the area and brightened the day of those residents by handing out handmade origami flowers and organizing a sing-a-long of gospel hymns.

- 112 handmade origami flowers were handed out.
- Centers visited included the Colony House of Abington, Easton Rehab Center of Easton and the Emmanuel House of Brockton.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!



Some scenes from
God's Work,
Our Hands Day.

Photos by
Abby Rovaldi



VOX POPULI

A brief quote from a Pastor in the Mid-west.

“As a parish pastor, I often noted that generous people are wired differently than people 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.

Pr. Glenn Taibi

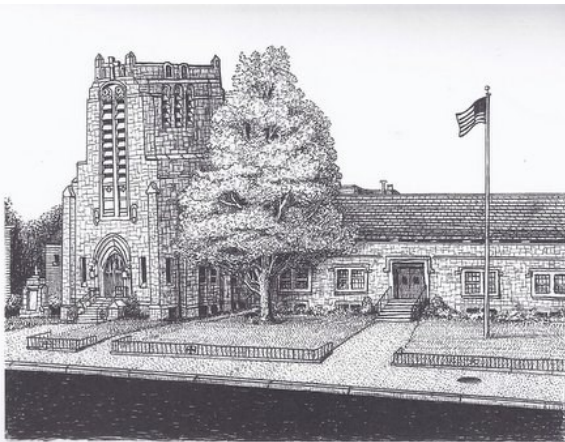
Book of Faith

The Book of Faith group is moving right along in the Book of Ephesians study program.

In fact we are already in the process of selecting our next and future texts. Options being surveyed are: Matthew, First Timothy, Second Timothy, Hebrews, James, First Peter, Second Peter, First John, Second John, Third John, Selections of Groups of Psalms. If any, or a few happen to interest you- I’ll post the list on the Bulletin Board and you may sign your name beside those that interest you with a contact phone or email and we can discuss when and how to connect with the study and learn how we process scriptures for our spiritual benefit. All aboard!

Pr. Ken Bjorklund

Church Art



CORNERSTONE EVENT

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 Brit-

ain, 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



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 x 7 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



Baptisms

Chloe Ann Weatherbee

Deaths

Frances K. Ramsden

Robert E. Johnson

Shirley M. Williams

Carl E. “Rick” Pearson

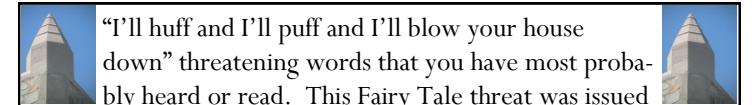
Biblical Grounding for Living as a Christian Steward

Reflections on Stewardship in the Bible

Surely, everyone is aware of the fact that Jesus never conducted a pledge program for his itinerant ministry, however, there were many patrons and patronesses who financially supported his ministry. They volunteered, on their own, to give whatever was needed to feed and shelter Jesus and his followers. Judas Iscariot was the treasurer of Jesus’ team of disciples. When Mary, on her own, spent her contribution for expensive perfumed lotions, Judas blew up, she had spent her contribution on just Jesus, instead of the whole group.

Supporters of the Missionary work showed up in Paul’s mission activities. The first convert of Greek descent, Lydia, immediately pressed Paul to accept her hospitality. Sure she was a woman of means, a business woman, but

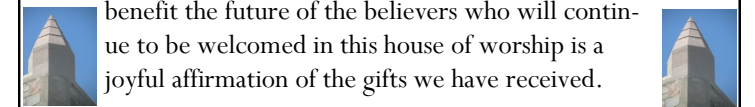
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



“I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll blow your house down” threatening words that you have most probably heard or read. This Fairy Tale threat was issued by the wolf who was successful in blowing down the first house made of straw and the second made of sticks. He was not as successful when he encountered the well planned house of brick. Now what does a fairy tale have to do with First Evangelical Church? Well, planning by the Property Committee, the Congregational Council and your vote at the called congregational meeting is, just that, good planning that results in a well maintained house of worship.

The masonry work on the church is nearly completed, the stones are tight and we are safe from the damaging effects of wind, rain and snow for a projected ninety years. New doors have been ordered to replace aging, rotting units—the main doors open in welcome for more than 90 years will soon be restored. The work of the contractors on the building has been on schedule but our giving commitment is not. We voted to create a capital campaign and pledge cards and envelopes have been made available. Now it is up to all of us to plan our capital gifts and to make our plans known.

Thank you to those who have made their pledges! And to those who have not as yet made your pledge commitment to the Capital Campaign please consider doing so now. Pledge cards are being redistributed in this *Tidings* and the envelopes are available in the corridor outside the office. Planning for and acting to benefit the future of the believers who will continue to be welcomed in this house of worship is a joyful affirmation of the gifts we have received.



when she could focus her generosity on Christian missions she did so with an insistence.

In the days of Jesus preaching and teaching ministry there were no formal congregations to organize his ministry, to have fund raising tasks or formal officers to carry the responsibilities of ministry to the poor, homeless, and disabled. Two thousand years later, from the time of Jesus’ personal ministry in this world, the caring tasks are much larger both locally

and world-wide. It means that the love Jesus experienced then, and now, needs to be generous and also a happy way of living for the sake of our appreciation for the forgiveness of our sins at the ‘beyond love’ acceptance of the cross as a final amen to his words spoken in ministry. People of long ago, and now, find pleasure and fulfillment in their generosity in support of the Good News for all.

PLEASURE IN A FALL CAMPAIGN

Fall Stewardship Campaigns have come and gone, some of them like a visit to the dentist. Most of them wordy and designed to guilt-trip us into making a higher pledge. Say good by to guilt-trips and ‘Hello’ to positive social gatherings.

This fall is geared to positive and much appreciated memories. The kind of memories that generate hope-filled future relationships between Pastor and people, plus developing a warm and hospitable congregation that people will be attracted to experience and join. There is no budget to be discussed. This is a time to hear the words of fellow members, recall the good activities and plan for new ones. We have a ‘Call Committee’ composed of excellent people, (Aaron Rovaldi, Sandra Dunphy, Dennis Govoni, Liz Belanger, Hans “Chris” Christensen and Megan Christensen) who are currently interviewing three Pastoral candidates - searching for our best interest and future ministry.

Our Cottage Meetings are opportunities to socialize with member neighbors. Perhaps increase our relationships while away from the rush of life and deadlines. Nostalgic memories may come to mind. Those memories may help us look toward a new future with new memories created together with a new pastor. We can guess what expectations were put out there and discuss what our hopes are for the new era of our church.

The Cottage Meetings will be held throughout the area from October 19th through November 2nd. If you haven’t already been called to attend a Cottage Meeting in your area, please call to leave a message at the Church office and someone will be in touch to arrange for your participation. Among the various locations, we also expect to hold a cottage meeting at Emanuel House and at Church. The dates for these last two Cottage Meetings will be announced soon so please check the weekly bulletin or call the Church office to confirm the day and time.

The pleasure in this fall’s campaign comes from each of us participating with our presence in one of the households opened to us, listening and relating to one another. Being at worship to hear the Temple talks, contributing our ideas and making plans to support in our way with what we have been given to make things new and workable out of our base at 900 Main St.

On three Sundays, October 19th, 26th, and Nov. 2nd we will hear the words of three of our members speak from their hearts about what First Lutheran means to them. What First Lutheran means to all of us provides the basis from which to lift up our eyes and vision to the future bringing us together in making the future what we want and need to be a successful church in the years that lie ahead.

Following the series of Cottage Meetings will be Pledge Sunday on November 9th. This will be your opportunity to express your gratitude to God and your desire to help other people. As Jesus said in 2 Corinthians 9:11-13, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

As we have done the past two years, First Lutheran will be hosting a **celebration brunch** at no charge following the 9AM church service on November 9th. You will have an opportunity to place your reservation for the brunch when you attend your cottage meeting or, if you are unable to attend, please call the Church office to make your reservation for the brunch. Please join us.

We hope to see you at one of the upcoming cottage meetings. We know you will enjoy them.

Thank you in advance for your participation and support.

KAFFE STUGA

Once again, Martha Guild, WELCA 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

SWEDISH BAKERY

PLANT ROOM

SPECIAL GUEST

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.firstevlutheran.org
All Facilities are Elevator Accessible

For more information contact:
Beth Christensen @ 508-583-2148
Pat McAfee @ 508-580-1558
Karen Christensen @ 508-223-4293

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



KAFFE STUGA

Swedish Coffee House & Christmas Fair