

### 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)

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First Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Brockton, MA

A Congregation of the



#### 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: Jeffrey 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*

### THANK YOU WEST BRIDGEWATER



Thank you to Dr. Patricia Oakley, Superintendent of Schools and the West Bridgewater School Department for donating two nearly new glass basketball backboards with hoops and nets. These backboards were going to be scrapped when the current high school is demolished later this month. They will replace the old wooden backboards in the Hilston Gym. Thank you to FELC member Evelyn Bandlow for suggesting we look at the possibility of getting them and to Jim Benson for working with Dr. Oakley to procure the gift.

### Save the Date August 12



The Shareholder's Dinner for those who invested in our youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit will be held on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30 pm. More information will follow.

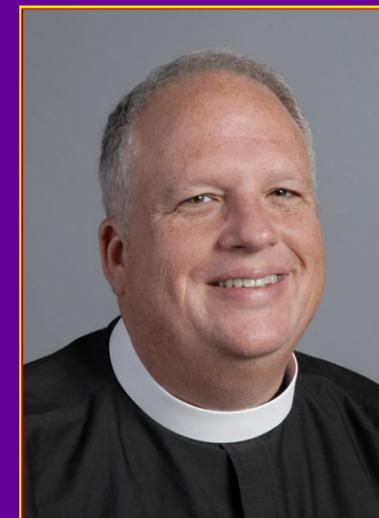
### WANTED

SUNDAY SCHOOL teachers are needed for the fall. If you are interested please speak to Lynn Madigan, Mark Richardson or the church office.  
Thank you!



### Save the Date August 23

On Sunday, August 23 following the 9 am service there will be a Farewell Reception for Pastor Edward Sproul as he closes out his transitional ministry here among us.



**Our New Pastor,  
Jeffrey Johnson**

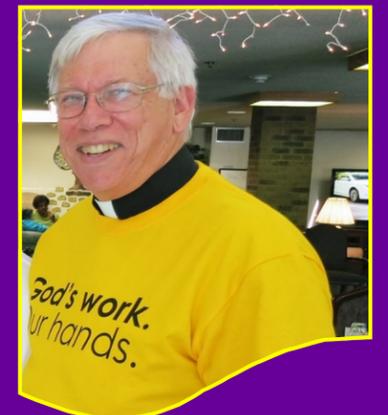
### 25th Annual Golf Tournament

**Monday, August 3  
at Brockton  
Country Club  
More details  
inside**



### Farewell Reception for Pr. Ed Sproul

**Sunday,  
August 23  
at 10:30 am**



# SUMMER TIDINGS

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

If this were baseball, we would be entering the ninth inning with an inning being a quarter year. Presuming all goes well, we will not need the bottom of the ninth. It looks like my last Sunday with you will be August 30. That means the home team (that's us!) must be ahead.

To complete the metaphor, we need to remember that one game is not a season. The Church is called into its mission for the whole season, in our case for all that time between Christ's ascension and his return. It is summer so our team cannot go on vacation.

The excitement about the election and arrival of the new pastor is surely energizing. This energy will be spent on getting ready - on clarifying various pieces of our ministry and on putting things in place ready to go.

I plan to do everything I can to help you be ready for that day and to cover whatever pastoral needs may arise during these final weeks together. Please feel free to keep calling me until that day when we part with mutual blessings for the journeys

ahead. May God continue to bless our mutual work and the mission beyond.

*Pr Ed Sproul*



## FROM OUR NEW PASTOR

Dear Friends,

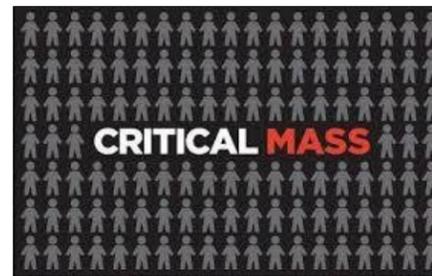
"This is the day that the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!" I quote Psalm 118 in that nothing could more adequately express my joy in being elected your new pastor at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brockton, MA. Let me first thank you all for your extraordinary hospitality during my recent visit. Special thanks goes out to the Call Committee, the Council, the Staff, and all who made my the Saturday "meet and greet" so very special. Sunday was equally glorious in the fine service prepared by Mr. Jim Benson and all the worship assistants, acolytes, and lecturers. It was also grand having Pastor Sara Anderson there with us. I am also deeply grateful for all the hard and loving work that Pastor Ed Sproul offered during his time as your interim pastor. We all owe him a hearty round of thanks. Thank you for a truly memorable and blessed day in the life of the church.

I have a very busy summer with the National Youth Gathering and Vacation Bible Day Camp at my church in California. In the midst of this I also have a command performance wedding I must attend, begin packing and moving, and finding living accommodations in Brockton, Oh yes, please let me add that I also get ordained on Thursday, August 20 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Panama City, FL. Whew! With all this said, I will be joining you as pastor on September 1 with my first Sunday being September 6. I truly look forward to this!

Blessings on your summer travels and your activities. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers as we begin this wonderful journey together. Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers also. I look forward to meeting you all again soon and getting to know you personally.

Blessings and Peace,  
*Jeff Johnson*

**Please Call Me:** In response to the question that many have asked—what do we call our new pastor? He would like to be called "Pastor Jeff"



**On August 31** we will be joined for a food packaging event by incoming Stonehill College students in their day of community service. We will be packaging Mac & Cheese and Beans & Rice here for our Food for friends Food pantry and for Brockton's "Blessings in a Backpack". We need to raise funds to pay for the material costs of what we package—if you would like to donate to this project you may mail your gift to the church or place it in the offering plate in an envelope marked August 31 Packaging Event. See Jim Benson for more information

Critical Mass

How many synods, districts, or United Ways does it take to package a million meals?

Now that we've partnered with over 1,400 groups in 175 counties throughout the Northeast, MN, and NW OH, some major players have started to emerge:

1. Our 7th Lutheran Synod just did our 5th biggest event ever: 110,000 meals. We've packaged meals within 16 synods....
2. Our 7th Rotary District booked an event for late September. We've packaged meals within 23 districts.
3. Our 6th United Way is celebrating their 100th anniversary on Saturday by packaging 100,000 meals. Who will be our 7th!?!?

...and on Sunday, we'll hit our quickest million meals yet: 3 MONTHS!

Saturday's Berks County PA United Way event involves mostly corporate sponsors, pushing them onto the medal stand for the most committed groups. 18 of our 67 categories have involved double digit churches, service clubs, businesses, schools, etc:

- Lutherans (565)
- Rotarians (160)
- Businesses (96)
- United Methodists (75)
- United Church of Christ/Congregationalists (66)
- Colleges & Universities (55)
- High Schools (52)
- Episcopalians (33)
- Non-denominational/Interfaith groups (30)
- Catholics (27)
- Kiwanians (23)
- Non-profits (21)
- Banks (20)
- Lion's Clubs (18)
- Baptists (15)
- Veterans (13)
- Jewish synagogues (12)
- Food Pantries (10)

## ENDHUNGERNE

All denominations on the above list, could you get your synod/district involved? Thrivent Financial for Christians will give every one of their member \$250 seed money for a fundraiser toward a packaging event twice per year (I know, because I've already gotten mine twice in 2015). A hundred churches within a synod/district could raise a lot of money pretty fast that way for an annual/bi-annual event. Thrivent has blessed us with nearly \$104,000 already! Check out the details here: [thrivent.com/making.../living-generously/thrivent-action-teams](http://thrivent.com/making.../living-generously/thrivent-action-teams)

We've worked with one Kiwanis, one Lion's, and four school districts too. The more, the merrier!

# MARTHA GUILD 2015



**Barbro Ireland with her granddaughter, Caroline Gordon**

Caroline Gordon is the recipient of the Martha Guild Scholarship for 2015. She is the daughter of Christina Ireland and James Gordon. She is a faithful member of First Lutheran, and has been an active youth working with the Food Pantry, the Kaffe Stuga and with "God's

Work, Our Hands" blanket project.

She is a 2015 graduate of East Bridgewater High School and has served on the Executive Committee as well as being a member of the National Honor Society. Caroline has been the recipient of many awards throughout her high school career. She has continually demonstrated academic excellence throughout her high school years while holding down jobs at the Brockton Rox and Stop and Shop.

Caroline is also an accomplished figure skater having achieved the highest level in Senior Figures. Many have tried to accomplish this goal but few have achieved this honored level. She has shared her love of figure skating with some of our youngest children in the Learn to Skate Program at the Bridgewater Rink.

It is her plan to attend Bridgewater State University, majoring in Criminal Justice in the fall. Her options are open as to which direction to pursue in this ever-growing field.

We wish her well as she begins this new and exciting direction in her life. It is our hope at First Lutheran, that she will continue to grow and flourish in her chosen field.

*Congratulations!*

## WHAT IS WDD? CURIOUS?

### What investments are you planning to make soon?

Having the sense of investing or investment is very important for a Christian to have. Jesus taught it! It is quoted in Luke 19:26 when Jesus clarifies a parable story by saying, "That's what I mean, risk your life and get more than you ever dreamed of, play it safe and up holding the bag!" [Scripture text from Eugene Peterson's Bible The Message in Contemporary Language]

When God created each of us he placed in us gifts 'to enjoy'. If we invest them we find the joy and an increase in our life's meaning. If we just go with the flow of our times we end up never finding the confidence and the outcome of the purpose for our place on this planet earth.

In other words, finding the 'Treasure' buried deep within us that gives us our 'Riches' to invest for our Lord Jesus and his Church.

### What is life for? Killing time? or Doing what matters?

Wasting the gift of Life or **Creating newness of Life?**

**This an invitation to give yourself the gift of 7 Monday evenings, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in which to experience your life anew. Several of your friends have made the investment already. The name of this adult education program is: WDD, Week-day Discipleship Development.**

**There are registration forms in an envelope in the hallway of the church near the office door. Please come to me with your questions or registrations.**

**Pr. Ken Bjorklund**

## MINISTERIAL ACTS



### Baptisms

Hayley Mae Lagerval

Affirmation of Baptism, Confirmation

Eva Belanger

Gia Kenney

Caroline Pearson

## 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.

Have a great summer!

## Remembering A Friend



Gov. Baker & Tom

On June 28 State Senator Tom Kennedy died at age 63. Senator Kennedy attended many events here at First, had been a Lenten luncheon speaker and a supporter of our concert series and golf tournament. He will truly be missed.

## "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, SEPTEMBER 20**



## NEW PASTOR CALLED

On Sunday, June 28 the members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church voted to call Jeffrey Johnson to serve as our new pastor. The meeting, presided over by Pr. Sara Anderson, Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod also approved a compensation and benefits package for the pastor as well.

Our new pastor will begin his ministry among us in late August or early September after fulfilling other commitments that he has.

Following is a brief autobiographical sketch of Jeffrey Johnson:

**Jeff Johnson** was born in Fort Walton Beach, FL, in July 1962 to Dr. TK and the late Mrs. Carolyn McSwain Johnson. I was brought up in nearby Panama City, FL and I have one younger sister, Ms. Maelinda Johnson, and a nephew, Mr. Kristian Haddock. I was confirmed in at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in 1981.

Upon my high school graduation I pursued a musical education at Florida State University, home of the Florida State Semioles. I received a Bachelor of Music in Organ and Piano Performance and Choral Music Education. Upon graduation from Florida State University, I pursued a Masters in Sacred Music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. While studying at Westminster Choir College, my master thesis was a liturgical reconstruction of the church services of Johann Sebastian Bach while Bach was kapellmeister in Leipzig, Germany. Here began my passion for the Lutheran Theological and Musical understanding of worship.

I decided upon graduation that my musical and theological call was to be a church musician. Over



the last three decades I have worked at several places of worship including two Episcopal Cathedrals, one Roman Catholic Cathedral and two ELCA parishes. I was also the Associate Organist and Director of Children's Ministries at Grace Church in New York in lower Manhattan.

Upon leaving New York in 2004, I moved back to Florida where I was a high school instructor at Rutherford High School, an International Baccalaureate High School and one of the nation's top 500 schools. At Rutherford High School I taught both choral and theatrical arts, as well as Theory of Knowledge, a critical thinking course for high schoolers.

Since the mid 1980's I felt the call for a theological education, and in 2010 I began pursuing that dream. I was accepted by my home synod, Florida-Bahamas, for candidacy in the Master of Divinity Program of the ELCA. In 2011, I matriculated at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA.

Encouraged by professors, I joined the Evangelism and Justice Program at PLTS and pursued my

seminary internship with the San Francisco Night Ministry, a ministry to the people of San Francisco for over 50 years. Night Ministers are on the streets from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m.

365 days a year. The Night Ministry ministers to those especially with deep pastoral care needs. I also lead worship at the Night Ministry's open air services entitled "Open Cathedral" which is a Eucharistic and Preaching service every Thursday and Sunday.

In addition to my Night Ministry work, I am the Director of Music and Youth at Faith Lutheran Church in Castro Valley, CA which is a suburban parish. We have four choirs and a large Children and Youth program.

I have been blessed to see the Church in all of its revelations: the great traditions of our past which inform the present and the Church of the future. I have been blessed to minister to all people of walks of life and to journey with all God's children.

We wish to extend our thanks to the Call Committee for all of their hard work over the past two years. Committee members are: Aaron Rovaldi, chairman, Liz Belanger, Sandy Dunphy, Hans Christensen, Maeghan Christensen, and Dennis Govoni.

Thank you to Pat McAfee for organizing the Meet & Greet for Jeffrey Johnson on June 27 and to all who helped make our introduction to the candidate so enjoyable that afternoon.

## GRADUATES 2015



Children's Ark Preschool Class of 2015



**Erica Suzanne Stults**, daughter of Paula Fedele & Ronald Stults Graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute on May 16, 2015 Earning the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering.** "Minimizing Water Requirements for Electricity Generation in Water Scarce Areas"

**Caroline Gordon**, daughter of Christina Ireland and James Gordon graduated from East Bridgewater High School where she served on the Executive Committee and was a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to attend Bridgewater State University in the fall and major in Criminal Justice.



**Renee Banks**, 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.



**Maeghan Christensen**, 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 in the fall.