



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757 625 1953

www.flcnorfolk.com

VOL. XXXII

APRIL 2018

NO. 4

A Message from Pastor Mims

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12:23-24

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green. (ELW 379)*

As I write this, we have just come through Second Winter, with cold biting winds and even a layer of snow...in March!! I am hopeful that this influx of cold weather will not harm the blossoms and buds and new growth that have been springing up around us. Yet even this brisk cold hasn't prevented Pastor Scott (my husband) and me from planning our garden. We are looking forward to tilling up the garden and planting seeds so that in late spring we can enjoy varieties of lettuce and kale and spinach, and this summer we'll grow cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers. Buds bursting on the trees, bulbs blooming, grass turning green I am eager to say farewell to winter and move fully into spring, with signs of life and newness surround us. It reminds me that God is on the side of life and that every year I have played out for me, in creation, God's promise that life is stronger than death.

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green. (ELW 379)*

Death is powerful and so final. When Jesus died, it seemed like the end – the end of the disciples' hope and the end of joy and promise.no wonder the disciples went back to fishing. But anyone who plants seeds knows how deceptive death really is. Anyone who plants seeds knows how seeds must be buried under the soil, in order to reach their true potential, in order to blossom and bear fruit, in order to be what God intended them to be. No one should have more confidence and trust that God is on the side of life than the

one who plants seeds – the one who puts a little seed in the ground, who buries it, in the confident expectation that it will live and grow and bear fruit (or herbs or vegetables or flowers!)

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green. (ELW 379)*

The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate sign that God is on the side of life, that God will give life to his people. The forces of death, the forces of evil and sin, do their worst, but...resurrection means that the worst thing in life is never the last thing! God is victorious! God wins! Life triumphs! The resurrection of Jesus is our promise that as the farmer may confidently expect the buried seed to live and grow, so we may confidently expect the servant of Christ to be raised to new life. God desires life, not death, for his people. The God who brings the seed to life, who raises Jesus from the dead, will bring his faithful people to life as well.

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green (ELW 379)*

Even in the darkest days of winter we know that the creation is really rushing toward life. We know that spring will eventually come and that once more the earth will be bursting with life. Sometimes it may seem in our world that the powers of death are just too powerful. We may despair of God's love and power. When that happens, Jesus says, look around you, look at creation, at its constant rush towards life, at the evidence it gives of God's love and care. When that happens, look at the empty tomb, the resurrection Jesus, the living Lord. Remember that God is on the side of life, that God over and over again demonstrates his power to bring life out of death. Remember that the end of those who love Jesus is...LIFE!

Peace,

Martha Circle Continues Traditions

Martha Circle joined together for its annual cleaning of the church silver and continued its tradition of assembling Easter baskets for area children. This year's donations were delivered for Union Mission families.



Thank You Notes

Dear siblings in Christ of First Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your generous support of my seminary journey through the financial gifts shared in our Christmas offering! I am so blessed to count this worshipping community as part of my great cloud of witnesses, surrounding me. It was a joy to share in the Epiphany season with you all. Thank you again for your continued support.

Peace,

Alyssa Kaplan

To the Pastors and members of First Lutheran Church,

It is indeed a privilege to be a member of First Lutheran with all the benefits a sick person receives. First, John and Mary Bissey brought communion to me, beautiful altar flowers given by Jeanne Walters and Jay Gill were delivered by Don and Clara Strehlow, and last, but certainly not least, the carolers came and sang beautifully. Many thanks to all who participate in these activities. These acts are greatly appreciated by those who are unable to attend church.

Very sincerely yours,

Joann Klotz

APRIL 2018

Worship every Sunday at 8:30 and 11 AM. Nursery available.
 Sunday School at 9:45 AM with classes for children, youth and adults. Nursery available.
 Office Hours: 9 AM—4 PM Monday, Thursday, 9 AM—1 PM Friday
 Weekday Men's Bible Study: 7 AM Wednesdays at 21st Street IHOP

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Natl. Youth Gathering	2 Easter Monday Office Closed	3 11 AM Lydia Circle 7 PM—Martha Circle	4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study	5 7:00 PM Service Committee	6	7
8 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Worship Committee	9 7:00 PM Church Council	10 6:00 PM 125th Committee	11 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	12 10 AM—Quilt Group 5:30 PM—Refugee Ministry (800 Colonial Ave)	13	14
15 Contact Deadline 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Youth 12:30 FLY	16	17	18 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	19 5:30 PM Laundry Love (at Soap 'N Suds)	20	21 7 PM Contra Dance Group (3rd Floor)
22 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM New Member Class 11:00 AM Worship	23	24 9:30 AM Christian Service	25 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	26 10 AM—Quilt Group	27	28
29 Quilt Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM New Member Class 11:00 AM Worship	30					

*** NA: Sunday 8 PM, Tues 5:30 PM, Fri 12 PM, Sat 5 PM AA: Mon 5:30 PM, Fri 8 PM, Sat 8 PM SAA: Thurs 7:30 PM Women's AA: Tues 6 PM, Thurs 6 PM ***

Connect with Others

SAVE THE DATE for Vacation Bible School

Summer is coming! FLC will host Vacation Bible School on the mornings of July 30th - August 3rd. Mark your calendars for this annual week of learning and fun for children ages 3-grade 4.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 3rd, at 7:00 PM at the home of Clara Strehlow, 5037 Smith Farm Road, Virginia Beach. All are welcome! Please join us for fellowship, food and a presentation by Susan Stones on "Negotiating Your Way Through Life's Transitions". Questions? Contact Paula Cook at pbcook513@icloud.com or 793-0551.

Ghent Area Ministry (GAM) Underwear Drive

It's not too late! If you have forgotten to contribute to the GAM Underwear Drive, there is still time! GAM desperately needs men's underwear, sizes medium and up. Please put any contributions in the laundry basket by the water fountain by April 8 and THANK YOU!

FLC Blood Drive

MANY THANKS to all who donated blood or helped in any way with our March 14 Blood Drive at FLC!! The Red Cross collected 47 units of blood that will help three times that many people in need. Whether you donated blood, contributed refreshments, helped at the registration or canteen tables, prepared the video that ran during sign-ups, or helped clear and then reset the reception room, we could not have done it without YOU!

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, April 3, at 11:00am in Strickler Hall. We will be discussing how Bible stories can mean different things to different people. Remember to bring a lunch if you would like to stay after the meeting to chat. We love having visitors, so please consider joining us even if you've never come to a meeting before. Questions? Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net.

FLC Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet Sunday, April 8th at 6:30 at church to discuss *News of the World*, by Paulette Jiles. This **National Book Award Finalist** is set after the civil war. A seventy-year-old man named "Captain" goes to small towns in Texas to read important newspapers to the people for an admission of ten cents. Along the way he is given the responsibility of returning a white girl who was kidnapped at age six by Indians to her family in San Antonio. She is now ten and has forgotten her language, so he teaches her and they manage to communicate.

Looking to our May 6th meeting, we will discuss *The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between*, by Hisham Matar. Come to one or both meetings. Join the fellowship and discussion.

Christian Service

On April 29 the Christian Service Committee will display about fifty quilts sewn this year for Lutheran World Relief. Most of the fabric used in these quilts has been donated by members or friends of First Lutheran. LWR will ship the quilts around the world to provide comfort to refugees, the poor, and the sick. Shipping is expensive, \$2.25 per quilt and \$1.40 per school bag. (First has already delivered 150 school bags.) If you would like to donate to this ministry, please put contributions in the white pew envelopes and mark the donation for Christian Service. Thank you and thank you for your enthusiastic support for the work of this group.

New Member Classes

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Lutheran Church? Well, starting on Sunday, April 22nd, FLC will hold New Member classes for anyone interested in becoming a member, or for anyone who would like to learn more about the Christian faith as understood and practiced by Lutherans. The classes will be held April 22nd, 29th, May 6th and 13th during the Sunday School hour (9:45 to 10:45 AM) in the Fellowship Hall on the 3rd floor! (Coffee and other refreshments will be offered.) These classes will be led by Pastor Goeres as well as other FLC members! Come and join us, all are welcome to attend. Any questions about New Member classes can be directed to Pastor Goeres, 625-1953 or rgoeres@flcnorfolk.com

Upcoming First Lutheran Youth Events:

Saturday April 28: FLY YARD SALE

Please support our FLY Yard Sale by donating your no-longer used treasures. We will be selling them at the Silsdorf's home in Larchmont on Saturday, April 28 from 8am-12pm. All proceeds will help us defray costs for the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. To donate items, please contact Lauren Silsdorf at 757-685-6717 to coordinate pickup/drop off.

May 2018: RENT A FLY

As April Showers bring May flowers, our youth will gladly come and help with chores around the home or garden. Just think of something that you would like to task a team or one/two individuals to accomplish (plant flowers, clean porch, cleaning house, etc.) and we will coordinate some youth to come to your home to get it done. Free will offerings are accepted. Please contact Cho-Cho Williams at 757-705-9820.

Council Summary March

At our March meeting, the Council

- Opened with a devotion
- Approved Consent Agenda items
- Approved three motions from Finance Committee to: 1) transfer the sum of \$30,000.00 out of the currently available excess funds in the real estate checking account to the restricted Building Fund account, 2) transfer the amount of \$30,507.21 from the Operating Account to the BB&T Investment Savings Account which represents the excess from 2017 operations, and 3) increase the Pledge account by \$127,736 on the 2018 Spending Plan for Ministry to reflect the actual amount pledged to date, with a corresponding reduction in the Non-Pledge Offerings account.
- Received updates on Week of Service (9/16), sound system installation, 125th anniversary, and the Council retreat.
- Shared blessings and prayer concerns

The Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month.

April Birthdays

Doris Clare	1 Apr	Julie Damman	10 Apr	Shelagh Humphreys	20 Apr
Thomas Silsdorf	1 Apr	Robert Braaten	11 Apr	Debbi Waitzer	20 Apr
Jeffrey Humphreys	2 Apr	Alyssa Kaplan	11 Apr	Barbara Addison	21 Apr
Mary Bissey	3 Apr	Matthew Butcher	12 Apr	Sharon Kneisley	21 Apr
Alvene Buckley	4 Apr	Joseph Miller	12 Apr	Richard Majer	21 Apr
Sean Buckley	4 Apr	Jessica Miller	13 Apr	Richard B. Temple	21 Apr
Betty Petersen	4 Apr	Susan Stones, LCSW	13 Apr	Kevin Ferguson	22 Apr
Sophia Smith	4 Apr	Emily Weeks	13 Apr	Robert Green	22 Apr
Joshua Haynes	5 Apr	Sarah Fuller	15 Apr	James W. Mason	22 Apr
Marion Ingersoll	6 Apr	Alison Stanfield	15 Apr	Mason Fox	23 Apr
Suzanne Forster-Sackel	7 Apr	Oliver Lowery	16 Apr	Kirsten Kelly	23 Apr
Henry Hund	7 Apr	Lori Seaman	16 Apr	Megan Bishop	25 Apr
Charles Bauman	8 Apr	Carl Spangler	16 Apr	Ashley Scott	25 Apr
Santiago Jersild	8 Apr	Claire Schultz	17 Apr	Melissa Sikorski	28 Apr
Charles Poston	8 Apr	Lauren Saich	18 Apr	John Alexander	29 Apr
Georgia Alexander	9 Apr	Mary Zelasko	18 Apr	Carter Alexander	30 Apr
Pamela Hiner	9 Apr	Clark Elverum	19 Apr	Aimee Brinn	30 Apr

Stewardship in Action: checking in with NEST

Many of you are familiar with the NEST program, a consortium of some 40 area churches that provides food and a safe haven during the coldest months of the year for those who have no place to go. You may not know that a few years ago, our support for NEST lapsed for a number of reasons. Merrie Jo Milner, who has coordinated NEST with Jeanne Lampton and Rebecca Dozier, was instrumental in bringing it back. I was curious why she'd taken on such a challenge and how she views the program now. These are some of the highlights of our conversation.



Merrie Jo: After I was elected to church council a few years ago, I just really wanted our church to get involved again with NEST. With the support of council and our pastors, I began trying to find out what we should do. It was pretty chaotic, and I had a hard time getting information. I hit many obstacles until, coincidentally, a Unitarian friend mentioned a NEST meeting coming up the following night. I think it was a God thing- He led me past obstacles and I finally got where I needed to be.

Although there are many challenges, I get a lot back from doing NEST. The experience is both gratifying and humbling. The challenges, of course, are mainly the staffing. Someone has figured it takes 800 volunteer hours to host a NEST week. Somehow, again through God's grace and the Holy Spirit, it all works out. People help in many ways. Staffing from 6:00 PM to about 7:00 AM accounts for most of those hours. Food preparation is also huge. Hot meals are served in the evening, and then we provide breakfasts, snacks, and bag lunches. We get help from the youth group one night, and some families make preparing and serving a meal a family project. We have also gotten help in recent years from Temple Israel, which is responsible for one night during our week. That's another special part of this ministry, getting to know other folks from other area congregations. Another way people help is to give money, which is always appreciated.

Often, NEST has representatives from Legal Aid or the Community Services Board who come to try to help our guests. Over the years, we have offered showers, haircuts, and movie nights (with popcorn.) EVMS also supports NEST. Their art therapists provided our guests with creative opportunities this year and we displayed their work on our bulletin board.

Although the stories can be heartbreaking, working with NEST reminds me we are all children of God.

At Merrie Jo's suggestion, I contacted some of our people who

have helped with NEST to get their perspectives. Here are some of their responses.

Elena Ilardi: I wanted to help with NEST because I am concerned about the homeless population and wanted a safe and structured way to help. The thing I enjoy most about NEST is interacting with the guests and hearing their stories. I like being a part of a warm welcome for people who may not always be received warmly. I have been struck by the community that I have witnessed amongst our guests. On the coldest nights, I have seen guests all agree to forgo a lottery for limited slots and just

pack in closer together to ensure that no one would be turned away.

I have also taken the opportunity to take my children to NEST on occasion to introduce them to the concept of homelessness and to further their appreciation of their own blessings while also showing kindness to all people. As they grow older, I expect that NEST will trigger even deeper conversations about need and community and the sharing of our blessings.

Robert Green: I began working with NEST in the 1990's, and immediately saw that our congregation was filling a need and that I could help. I have enjoyed my interactions with our guests. Some are quiet and unassuming, others boisterous, and some even a little profane. Yet all persons are treated with dignity and respect, they are our guests, and but for the grace of God go we.

Janine Brown: I work with NEST to help those less fortunate, and to remind myself of all the blessings I have in life and to never take them for granted. I have had the privilege of interviewing many of our guests one on one and have found many of their stories to be heartbreaking. I have been particularly struck and saddened that many of our guests are veterans of our armed forces.

Finally, Merrie Jo described NEST as a calling- Love your neighbor. She said, "It's about following Jesus. If there is a need, BE THERE."

Thank you, to Merrie Jo, Jeanne, Rebecca and the dozens of other volunteers who provide food and shelter for some of those in our community who are less fortunate.

Chuck Baynard
Council Liaison - Stewardship

Prayer Concerns for April

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

Give joyful thanksgiving

...that by grace through faith God forms us to preach, teach and live God's Word.

...that we are so rooted in the Gospel that our lives overflow in worship, witness, service, learning and support.

Pray for

...those working to combat violence and keep students safe.

...those who are traveling.

...all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

...the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

...those struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

Grady Erwin, Roger Fuller, Susan Griffin, Marion Ingersoll, Marilyn Jersild, Marion Kiligas, Frank Krehft, Kacy McGinnis, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Deb Thompson, Howard Warren, Jill-Anne Whitson, Anne, Clay Arthur, Jonathan Balk, Gavin Brickhouse, Katie Catania (daughter of Becky Baldwin), Steve Coleman, Bill Duke, Willie Edwards, Frank and Dottie, Winky Kennedy Friedrich, Bill "Sweet William" Geiger, Karen Grantland (mother of Lori Kintsche), Marlene Hubert (mother of Karen Siegel), John, Ches Kennedy, Kathy Laser, Laura, Cathy Moye, Holly Nitke, Patty, Rachel, Rob and Katrina, Gary S., Brian Sadler, Sheila, Annie Stewart, Vanshawn, Jim Webb, Shirley Whitson, Wilbert, Zack

Those dealing with cancer

Adele Andrews, Eddie, Pat Edwards, Andy Jones, Laurie Jones, Phil, Ann Wilson Rose, Stephanie Troy, Jess Wine-King

Military and their families:

Austin Davidson, Erika Flanagan, Mason Fox, Kelly and Eric Keiser, Dan Kelly, Roland Sanchez, Bill Seaman, Beth Silsdorf, Jonathan Goeres, Amy Hardbower, Tim Kelly-deployed, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman

Pray for all our service men and women throughout the world.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Readings for APRIL

April 1st – Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

April 8th

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1--2:2

John 20:19-31

April 15th

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

April 22nd

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

April 29th

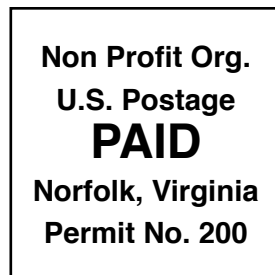
Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
