



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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NO. 6

## A Busy Year For Global Concerns Committee

During the past year the primary focus of the Global Concerns Committee (GCC) has been the worldwide plight of refugee families. Our original intent was to sponsor a Syrian family in cooperation with Catholic Charities in Newport News, but with the change of administrations in Washington, that intent was stymied. Three and one-half months into 2018, the United States had accepted just 11 Syrian refugees. In 2016 the number was 15,479 (NPR). We had made available one of the units in the apartment building next to the church for a refugee family, but after three months of waiting that plan was abandoned. Nonetheless, we have found ways to be involved. Committee members have participated in the formation of an interfaith group, With Open Arms, meeting monthly at First Presbyterian Church in Ghent. Its focus is meeting the needs of refugees already here as they seek resettlement in a strange land. It has been a helpful and rewarding activity.

On May 20 and 27, the GCC sponsored a “Refugee Sundays,” in which FLC members are invited to write a letter to their Representative and Senators in Congress, urging a more open policy in accepting refugees. There is hardly a more inhumane and devastating crisis in the world today than that of the refugee; our Christian convictions compel us to make our voice heard.

Another initiative of the GCC, just begun, is to establish a relationship with an African American congregation as a way of addressing the blight of racism in our society. We have reached out to St. Mary’s Catholic Church, east of downtown Norfolk, and at this point

several meetings have been held with members of the congregational councils. Steering committees have been formed and are beginning to meet together to plan ways of facilitating a fruitful relationship. A class on racism in our society is scheduled for Strickler Hall beginning in September. Any ideas that FLC members may have about activities involving the two churches are welcome. John Faircloth chairs the GCC and Eric Peterson is chairing the steering committee. On Sunday, April 8, a carload of FLC members attended the worship service (Mass) at St. Mary’s, and we look forward to welcoming their members to our worship service on June 3rd.

Paul Jersild  
Global Concerns Committee



## Stewardship in Action

# “A Moveable Feast”

It's the highlight of worship, the time during the service when the Lord takes over from us and the tables are turned. It is the Eucharist, when we come to the table and receive Christ's ultimate gift, the forgiveness of our sins, the unburdening of our consciences, and a showering of grace that we struggle to understand.

To arrive at this point, we will have moved from the beginning of the service with the gathering of the congregation and the confession, through the readings of the Word and the message from our Pastors, to our communal statement of faith, and the prayers of intercession. The liturgy is dynamic, with the back and forth statements and responses between the ministers and the congregation and is enriched by music and the poetry of the psalms and prayers. This is worship, the work of the people, something that we do together. And then comes the time of communion and the Lord takes over, offering us the bread and cup. Think how precious this is for us, this experience of worship, this connection and inclusion in a community of faith. But what about those who may have become unable to attend services due to health, age or mobility issues? How do we help them continue to participate?

To address this need, our Lay Eucharistic Ministry program was introduced approximately eighteen months ago by Pastor Mims who brought the idea from her previous parish, Good Shepherd in Virginia Beach. The program ensures

that members of the congregation to whom getting to church has become difficult will continue to receive communion through home visits. A group of about twenty people, usually in pairs, using kits with the same bread and wine blessed at our worship services, visit in homes and share communion with shut ins. The visits are in the truest sense, an extension of the congregation's gatherings on Sunday mornings, with many of the same elements, like liturgy, Word and Communion. And as it often seems to turn out with church, those serving feel that they have benefited as much or more than those being served.

In one of our early training sessions Pastor Mims asked the group why we had been attracted to participate. Several people related their experiences of having had a member of their family being visited in this way, and how much it had meant to their loved one and to themselves. Having a feeling of continued inclusion and connection can be so important.

We are stewards of all with which we have been entrusted, and this most certainly includes caring for our own.

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

Chuck Baynard  
Council Liaison – Stewardship



# June 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
3 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting & Lunch	4 7:00 PM Church Council	5 11:00 AM Lydia Circle 7:00 PM Martha Circle	6 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 7:00 PM Service Committee	8 <b>Synod Assembly</b>	9 11:00 AM Kreft Funeral
10 <b>Synod Assembly</b> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Worship Committee	11	12	13 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	14 10:00 AM—Quilt Group	15 <b>Contact Deadline</b>	16 7:00 PM Contra Dance Group
17 <b>Fathers' Day</b> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4 PM Evening Prayer	18	19 6:00 PM 125th Committee	20 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	21 5:30 PM Laundry Love	22	23
24 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	25	26	27 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	28 10:00 AM—Quilt Group	29	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

## Laundry Love

Another opportunity to serve! First Lutheran will be hosting another Laundry Love event on Thursday, June 21, from 5:30-6:30 PM at Soap 'n' Suds, 2515 Colley Ave. Come join us as we get to know some of our neighbors in Ghent. You may also help by donating money (checks made out to First with memo line Laundry Love), laundry detergent pods, or dryer sheets. There will be a laundry basket in the Welcome Center to collect any laundry product donations. Please contact Merrie Jo Milner (560-0781, merjomil@cox.net) or Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net if you would like to come or if you have questions.



*Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## Synod Assembly

Please pray for our First Lutheran voting members and all those who gather from across the Synod as they meet June 8th – 10th at this year's Synod Assembly. Those going from First include Eric Peterson, David Redilla, Karen Siegel, Jason Shea, John Bissey, Pastor Bozeman, Pastor Mims, and Pastor Goeres.

## Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on Saturday, June 16th, at 7:00 PM at the home of Paula & Chris Cook, 106 Belvedere Road in Norfolk. All are welcome for our annual summer party with spouses & friends! Please bring an appetizer or dessert and beverage to share. RSVP to Paula Cook at pbcook513@icloud.com or 793-0551.

**Let's Do Lunch!**

## Lunch Ministry

Lunch Ministry is one of FLC's longstanding service ministries with a dedicated team of volunteers, serving Wednesday lunch to 30+ visitors every week. Please contact Pastor Mims (cmims@flcnorfolk.com) if you would like to learn more about sharing your talents with this important ministry. Attendance on site every Wednesday is not essential—key responsibility is general oversight and coordinating volunteers.

## Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle June extravaganza! Our last meeting before the summer break will be June 5th at 11:00 AM in the Reception Room. JoAnn Hughes, a Norfolk police officer and a member of First, will be talking to us about personal safety and will also tell us about police community outreach efforts in Norfolk. Following her program, we will have our annual luncheon, with food provided by several circle members. You don't need to bring your own lunch for this meeting. Guests are welcome! If you have questions, contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, or pbaynard65@charter.net.

# Thank You Note

Dear friends at First Lutheran,

Thank you so much for the pretty bouquet of flowers I received. Also, thank you to the ladies of the two circles. They remember me with so many beautiful cards. You make my days so cheerful with your gifts.

God bless all of you.

Marian Sever



## Tides Game

Come out and join us for a Tides Baseball game. Congregational Life is organizing an afternoon at Harbor Park. We will be attending the Tides game on July 15th with a 4:05 PM start. Tickets are \$12.00 each. All money must be received by July 8th in order to reserve a ticket.

# Council Summary May

At our May meeting, the Council

- Received an update on activities being planned for our 125th Anniversary year in 2018
- Heard a thank you note from Will Altman, Seminarian, for the funds he received from our scholarship fund at Southern Seminary
- Gave thanks for four baptisms last month
- Discussed the Congregation's Annual Picnic at Lakewood Park on May 19 and *God's Work. Our Hands* activities for the week of September 16
- Approved the transfer of \$20K from Savings to Checking to insure cash flow during the summer and up to \$70K to replace the flat roofs on our building
- Completed the ELCA Congregational Vitality Questionnaire that the congregation will fill out the week of May 13-20.
- Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners

The Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. The meeting is open to the congregation.

# June Birthdays

Phillip Shore	3 June	Maya Zamani	12 June	Lynn Hayden	22 June
Emily Young	3 June	Mary Sever	13 June	David Gillotte	23 June
Elizabeth Acors	4 June	Rachel Jordan	14 June	Kaye McGinnis	23 June
Mana Masters	5 June	Steve Fox	15 June	Tucker Gates	24 June
Kolby Seese	6 June	Kinsley Nordan	15 June	Sarah Hilton	24 June
Charles Sikorski	6 June	Simon Scott	16 June	Michelle Fenley	26 June
Bonnie Elverum	7 June	Ray Hinton	17 June	Kenzie Levensalor	27 June
Jeanne Lampton	8 June	Mia Levensalor	17 June	Henrietta Evenson	28 June
Danusia Mason	9 June	Richard Whittecar	17 June	Grady Erwin	29 June
James Weeks	9 June	Stephen Asam	18 June	Julianna Schaus	29 June
Kelly Hogan	10 June	Karen McGinnis	19 June	Dallas Williams	29 June
Eric Peterson	10 June	Anne Krueck	20 June	Pei Williams	29 June
Lawrence Carr	11 June	Bob Ritchey	20 June	John Wittmann	29 June
Barry Halcrow	12 June	Kerri Seaman	20 June	Molly Kenyon	30 June
Taija Medley	12 June	Grace Moore	21 June		
Emily Mitchell	12 June	Margaret New	21 June		

# Mission and Ministry Renewal

We distributed over 300 Congregational Vitality Questionnaires and the results will be shared at a congregational luncheon on June 3rd! Pastor John Mocko, our Mission and Ministry Renewal coach, will be with us on Sunday, June 3rd, for our one worship service at 10 AM and luncheon at 11:30 AM. He will share the results and guide the conversation about the data. Thank you to all who participated in the process and pray for fruitful conversations as we move forward in Mission and Ministry Renewal.



## Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my “First family” for all your love and support throughout my entire process of becoming a Deacon. Most especially, I thank you for the beautiful stole presented by Pastor Goeres and Pastor Mims at my consecration service, and for all of you who were able to join me for my special day.

Deacon Lisa Geiger



## Prayer Concerns for June

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

...for the deep love Jesus has for each of us.

...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.

### Lord help us

...as we pray to you that we move from the struggles of our lives to the promise of our baptisms.

...as we navigate our worldly journey which is both beautiful and sometimes brutal at the same time.

### Pray for

...Kaltouma and her family.

...comfort and peace for Nicole Houston and Family upon the death of her aunt, Juanita Watson.

...family and friends of **Mary Diehl** upon her death.

...**Pastor Goeres, Pastor Mims** and all pastors.

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

...the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

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

**Bonnie Elverum, Grady Erwin, Roger Fuller, Susan Griffin, Dot Krehft, Al Miller, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Deb Thompson, Ginger Van de Water, Howard Warren,** Andy, Jonathan Balk, Gavin Brickhouse, Steve Coleman, Winky Kennedy Friedrich, Bill "Sweet William" Geiger, Hannah, Elizabeth Hogue, John, Keoi, Hayden Miller, Theresa Smith Milne, Cathy Moye, Holly Nitke, Patty, Rachel, Rob and Katrina, Sheila, Bobbie Smith, Hilah Steenrod, Annie Stewart, Susie, Tasha, Harry Thompson (father of **Deb Thompson**), Malcolm VandeWater, Sr. (Father of **Malcolm Van de Water**), Vanshawn, Jim Webb

### Those dealing with cancer

Bobbi Jean, Connor, Willie Edwards, Wade Marlow, Frank Nalipinski, Ann Wilson Rose, 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, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman

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

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Readings for June

### June 3rd

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Psalm 81:1-10

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23--3:6

### June 10th

Genesis 3:8-15

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1

Mark 3:20-35

### June 17th

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

[11-13] 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

### June 24th

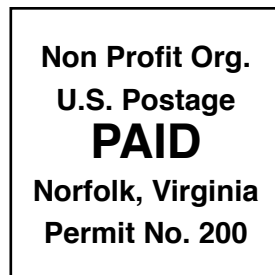
Job 38:1-11

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

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