



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757-625-1953

www.flcnorfolk.com

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NO. 4



An Invitation to the Entire Congregation and Friends of First Lutheran:

Please come to our Grounds Days this year. (two this Spring and two this Autumn)

The two Saturday events this Spring will be held on March 25th and May 13th. (Makeup days if it's raining are the following Saturdays). We will announce Autumn days later in the year.

Come help us tidy up the church grounds from 9:00 AM until Noon on the above dates. We might also try to find a volunteer to help bring juice, make coffee, possibly order some pizza as well. Many tasks require attention so many hands are needed.

Another great opportunity to serve is by signing up on our mowing sign-up sheet, located next to the Assistant to the Bishop's office. A mower is provided so I ask all

who are able, to please sign up to mow on the Friday or Saturday before any Sunday of the year.

Several other gardening tasks need attention throughout the year (mulching, edging, flower planting, weeding, lots of pruning, some watering), so please call me with questions at 757-404-2888 or E-mail me at DavidRedilla@gmail.com

I also want to thank the Grounds Committee for all their help throughout the year. We are always looking to grow our committee so feel free to inquire about participation.

The Grounds Committee thanks everyone for their support.

Yours in Christ,
David Redilla

7th Day Retreat

This year's 7th Day theme was "Everything We Have", was based on Mark 12:38-44, the story of Jesus praising the poor widow's offering. The message of this VA Synod retreat for the 5th and 6th graders was:

God provides for all our needs and gives us abundance to share to help with the needs of others. No matter how little we have, God helps us find ways to be generous!

Continue reading what participants liked and learned at 7th Day!

"I really enjoyed all of the songs, activities, and the cabin. We had hard movements for the songs and activities regarding the theme of the camp. I also learned that it matters on the amount you have and give. We learned that widows were mostly poor and weren't that well respected. On the other hand, wealthy people were rich and well respected. Once, many rich people put lots of money in an offering and then a widow came. She put in 2 mites (equivalent to 1 penny), and that was all she had. Jesus, who was there, said she gave the most for the amount she had."

— Harrison Kuehl

"I like when we played football. I learned I am a very selfish person."

— Carl Biboum

"I liked meeting new people and making new friends at 7th Day. I also enjoyed cabin time at the end of the day."

— Jenna Humphreys

"I like meeting new people and the experience that you can apply to everyday life. I learned that giving everything is way more sacrificial than giving anything."

— Dana Humphreys

"I liked spending time with the youth group and our cabin-mates, and talking about our days and how to serve God in many ways. I loved meeting new people and bonding with old friends. We had a full understanding about God's work and now we are able to go serve. During 7th Day, I learned about greediness – to put your trust in God and he will come through, and that when you give, God gives back. I also learned that pridefulness is wrong and you should give lots to God and the church."

— Michael Robinson



"I liked giving crafts to the old. I also liked making the Help Packs that I want to track. I learned the temple of God is destroyed, but it's still around. I also learned God's message is to give more and do more."

— Oliver Janik

"I liked the theme because I thought that it gave us lots to learn about and to look at ourselves. It's not a bad thing to be rich as long as you are not haughty."

— Anonymous

"I liked the arts and crafts and meeting new people. I liked them because the crafts were fun in my opinion, and I got to make new friends. I learned that widows in Jesus' lifetime were treated very poorly and were pretty much shunned by all of her family."

— Jacqueline Mims

"I really enjoyed the 'Cabin Conversations'; it was a great opportunity to recap the day's events through the eyes of children (5th & 6th Graders) - The honest dialogue, the unfiltered take-aways. I learned that these retreats have a profound impact on these kids – who learn and establish quick friendships, that are centered around one common theme (God's love), and as a result, they are uninhibited to openly pray in front of their peers, at such a challenging age – peer pressure seems absent, or distant. As adults, can we do that?"

— Nickie Stewart

Connect with Others

Holy Week Children's Sunday School

On **Palm Sunday (April 9th)**, children will meet for music as usual at 9:45 AM. Families should pick up their children at 10:05 AM.

On **Easter (April 16th)**, families are invited to flower the cross in the front yard and make chalk drawings on the back steps from 10:00 –10:25 AM, followed by a puppet show in the Welcome Center at 10:30 AM.

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, April 14th, at 11:00 AM in the Conference Room on the second floor. The program will be Easter Memories. Please bring something that reminds you of your Easter traditions – a bonnet or a bunny, a recipe or a remembrance. We'll learn a lot about each other as we share our stories. Anyone is welcome to attend Lydia Circle meetings. Bring lunch if you want to stay after the meeting to socialize. If you have questions, contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, or pbaynard65@charter.net.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on April 4 at 7:00 PM in the FLC Reception Room for our annual cleaning of silver and assembly of Easter baskets.

Blood Drive Update

It's a wrap!! Our blood drive on 3/15/17 went well. Although we did not reach our Red Cross goal of 64 units, we collected a great number, 53, and know we helped many needing the gift of life. 25 donors were from First Lutheran Church! A "high 5" and thanks to all donors and all people who do their part to make the drive work. Without each of you, the drive could not happen. A special salute to new member Jorge Gonzalez who donated for the very first time and gave double red! Please welcome Bob and Liz Ritchey who are the new blood drive coordinators for FLC. They jumped right in to learn the ropes, and they are going to be great!! We thank you for your support over the last 9 years when the blood drive has been our ministry.

Thank you,
Ken and Melissa Zaletski

Ghent Area Ministry Report for 2016

At the Ghent Area Ministry (GAM) annual meeting in February, director Bernadine Brown reported that GAM was able to aid those in our community more than 2000 times during 2016 by offering food, clothing, bus passes, utility assistance, prescription assistance, and help obtaining ID cards. The Thanksgiving Food Basket program exceeded GAM's goal of helping 200 families. Ghent congregations supplied 327 food bags (complete with grocery gift cards) which were distributed among 282 families. Our church provided 18 food bags with gift cards for Thanksgiving as well as \$275 in cash for that project. First Lutheran annually contributes \$4000 toward the GAM operating budget, and our donations of peanut butter, jelly, pasta and canned tuna help keep the Food Pantry well-supplied. If you have questions about GAM, please contact Rebecca Dozier or Pam Baynard.

Quilt Display

On April 23rd, more than 30 quilts, the result of this year's work by the Christian Service Committee, will be displayed. A letter from Lutheran World Relief reported that some of the quilts from last year went to India, where they will be used by CASA, a service arm of 24 local churches there. "CASA will receive 49,500 Mission Quilts that will be distributed to hospitals, orphanages, schools, and homes for the elderly. The quilts will provide much needed bedding, allowing institutions to use limited resources for other necessities. In addition to something warm to sleep under, the beautiful, bright colors and handmade quality of the quilts are a tangible expression of God's love and care for each person who receives one. For individuals who feel that society has forgotten them, this is a precious reminder, and a reason for hope." Not on view will be the 150 school kits that were packed by the committee and which will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief this month. Many thanks to all of you who donated school supplies, fabric, and money. Thanks to all of who worked to pack school kits, sew quilt tops, tie knots and bind quilts. You are truly God's hands in the world.



Thank You Notes

Dear members of First Lutheran,

Your words of consolation, whether delivered by email, card, or in person, along with the beautiful altar flowers delivered to our home, have given us strength and peace as we mourn the loss of Chuck's sister. Your kindness has truly been a blessing and we are most grateful for your love and support.

Sincerely,

Pam and Chuck Baynard

Thank you for sending the church bulletin every week. I also enjoy the Home touch you send each month.

God Bless you all,

Marion Kiligas

Dear Pastors Goeres and Mims and members of First Lutheran Church,

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to those who sent well wishes and prayers during my recent illness. Prayers are being answered. Thank you.

I also want to express my thanks to those who provided the beautiful flowers from the altar that were brought to me. For me, flowers are always a reminder of God's blessings in the beauty of His creations and they are a reminder to me of Him and my First Lutheran family. My special thanks to Joann Klotz for donating the flowers that day. They were beautiful. Thank you also to Ginger Van de Water for her creative talents to rearrange the flowers into a beautiful and long-lasting arrangement, and for her time given to do so and to bring them to me.

I spend time each Sunday admiring the beautiful altar flowers and so I want to include my thanks to all of the altar flower arrangers who share their gifts and talents with us each week. It is wonderful to be able to be back at church again.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Walters

Council Summary

At our March 6th meeting, the Council:

- Participated in the opening prayer led by Simon Scott.
- Approved the Minutes of the February meeting after clarifying discussion regarding the prioritization of spending requests. All items should go to the Property Committee as part of a larger capital improvement plan.
- Unanimously approved the following motions from the Finance Committee:
 - Transfer the sum of \$35,000.00 out of the currently available excess funds in the real estate checking account to the restricted Building Fund account.
 - Transfer the amount of \$1,370.15 from the Operating Account to the Restricted Account to clear the imbalance in Accounts 8069 and 8070 for the deficits in the Altar Flowers and Festive Decorations accounts that have accumulated.
 - Transfer the amount of \$38,846.36 from the Operating Account to the BB&T Investment Savings Account which represents the excess from 2016 operations, less the transfer to the Restricted Account of \$1,370.15 above.
 - Increase the Pledge account by \$1,770 on the 2017 Spending Plan for Ministry to reflect the actual amount pledged to date, with a corresponding reduction in the Non-Pledge Offerings account.
- Identified the following representatives for Synod Assembly: Eric Peterson, Charles Poston, Elena Ilardi, Rebecca Dozier, David Redilla (Alternate)
- Held a mini-retreat using some of the items planned from January session that was cancelled due to the snow.

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

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 thanks

...for God's grace and mercy.

...for family and friends.

...that God has found us, found out all about us, forgiven us and sends us out into the world to do His will.

...that "God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:17)

...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.

Help us

...to pause, ponder and pray each day to seek your will for us and to guide us in our daily endeavors.

Pray

...peace and comfort for the family and friends of David Dennis upon his death.

...guidance and strength for those who are caregivers of persons with dementia.

...the safety of students on spring break.

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

...for the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

Jean Bozeman, Paula Cook, Roger Fuller, Kristen Gonzales, Brinkley Goranson, Patty Graham, Susan Griffin, Lynn Hayden, Alice McCoy, Carolyn Meakin, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Caroline Robinson, Deb Thompson, Nancy Thorpe, Howard Warren, Al, Suzanne Arthur, Jonathan Balk, Richard Ballard, Margo Bavry, Charles Davis, Cy Dearie, Pat Gann, Brendalee Jackson, The Jones Family, Breain Joyner, Bill Kraiger, Coral Lee, Pan Leonard, Linda, Gale, Ronnie Hill, Howard, Devin Hubert, Jean, Kiki McKinney, William McKinney, Megan, Cathy Moye, Ellece Murphy, Mr. Oldenburg, Philippe, Mike Powell, The Family of Laura Rankin, Richard, Brian Saunders, Gary Skrien, Katherine Stanley, Pat Stanley, Annie Stewart, Susie, Ernest Theodorovich, Toddy

Those dealing with cancer

Ray Hinton, Joyce Glover, Larry Griffin (brother of Ivana Dinini), Don Jones, Jessica, Amy Riberdy, Jenny Squires

Military and their families:

Austin Davidson, Erica Flanagan, Mason Fox, Kelly and Eric Keiser, Dan Kelly-deployed, John Kennard, Joseph Milner, Roland Sanchez, Bill Seaman, Beth Silsdorf, Kevin Foster-deployed, Jonathan Goeres-deployed, Tim Kelly-deployed, John Marfield-deployed

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings for April

April 2nd

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

April 9th

Procession with Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

April 19th

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

April 23rd

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

April 30th

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35



Over 80s — Maundy Thursday Luncheon

Where: First Lutheran Church

When: Thursday, April 13, 2017

Time: Lunch at 11:45 AM followed by Service at 1 PM

Call the Church Office at 625-1953 by April 6th to RSVP.

Please indicate how many will attend and whether transportation will be needed.



Sponsor an Easter Lily

Easter lilies will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The cost to sponsor a plant is \$10.00. Printed forms are available in the Welcome Center, or you may call the Church Office at 625-1953.

**FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED
BY APRIL 5th.**

New Member Classes in May

Interested in learning more about what it means to be Lutheran and a member at First? Join Pastor Goeres on the 3rd floor during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45) for our New Member Classes beginning May 7th, and running through May 28th. New members will be welcomed on June 4th. Coffee and snacks will be served as we discuss more about basic Lutheran theology and worship, as well as the ways in which people can be involved in the various ministries at FLC. It is also an opportunity to meet some of our staff and Council, as well as other New Members!

Luther's Small Catechism

Of all the things Martin Luther wrote, he is probably best known for two things: the hymn “A mighty fortress is our God” and the Small Catechism. Interestingly, Luther himself was ambivalent about the lasting value of most of his writings, with two exceptions—and one of them was this little pamphlet, the Small Catechism. And this from someone whose writings changed the whole landscape of the Western religious world.

Most of us know the Small Catechism well. Many spent hours memorizing it as teens. But how did it come to be, and what is it that makes it so helpful?

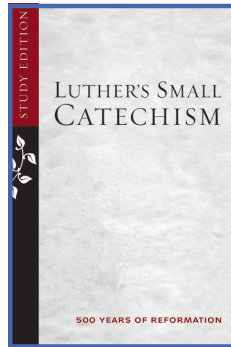
In 2017 we are observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation's start, when Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses. If that was the act of a passionate young man, a decade later he was facing the needs of the church he was reforming. If it was no longer enough just to go through the motions, following the lead of a Latin-rite priest, then what was at the heart of what people needed to know—and how were they to learn that? To meet that need, Luther the pastor and teacher created two catechisms—the Large (primarily intended for pastors) and the Small (for use in the home).

A catechism is a document that lays out the basic ideas of religion in a simple question-and-answer format. For the Small Catechism, Luther chose to open up some of the basics of Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments of Holy Baptism

and Holy Communion, and the Office of the Keys and Confession. It's worth noticing that he based this teaching document on what already existed rather than starting from scratch and inventing a whole new system. Luther was committed to the church catholic.

His genius is shown in the way he opened up these statements of faith. The famous question in each case was, in German, “*Was ist das?*” In English, most of us know this as “What does this mean?” but a literal translation would be “What is *that*?” And then he proceeded to tell, in beautifully simple language, what each commandment, each part of the creed, each petition of the Lord's Prayer, tells us about God and about us as God's children. These explanations set out a God who is not the stern judge of Luther's own childhood, but a loving parent who offers us unconditional grace and only then invites us to live accordingly.

How profound was Luther's achievement in writing the Small Catechism? A mark of it can be seen in the simple fact that nearly five hundred years after its first publication in 1529, and after being translated into hundreds of languages, it is still one of the most effective tools for learning and teaching what the Christian faith is all about.

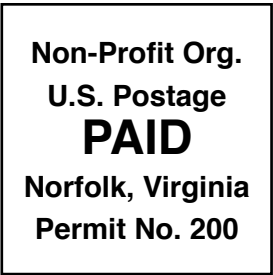


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April Birthdays

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

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