



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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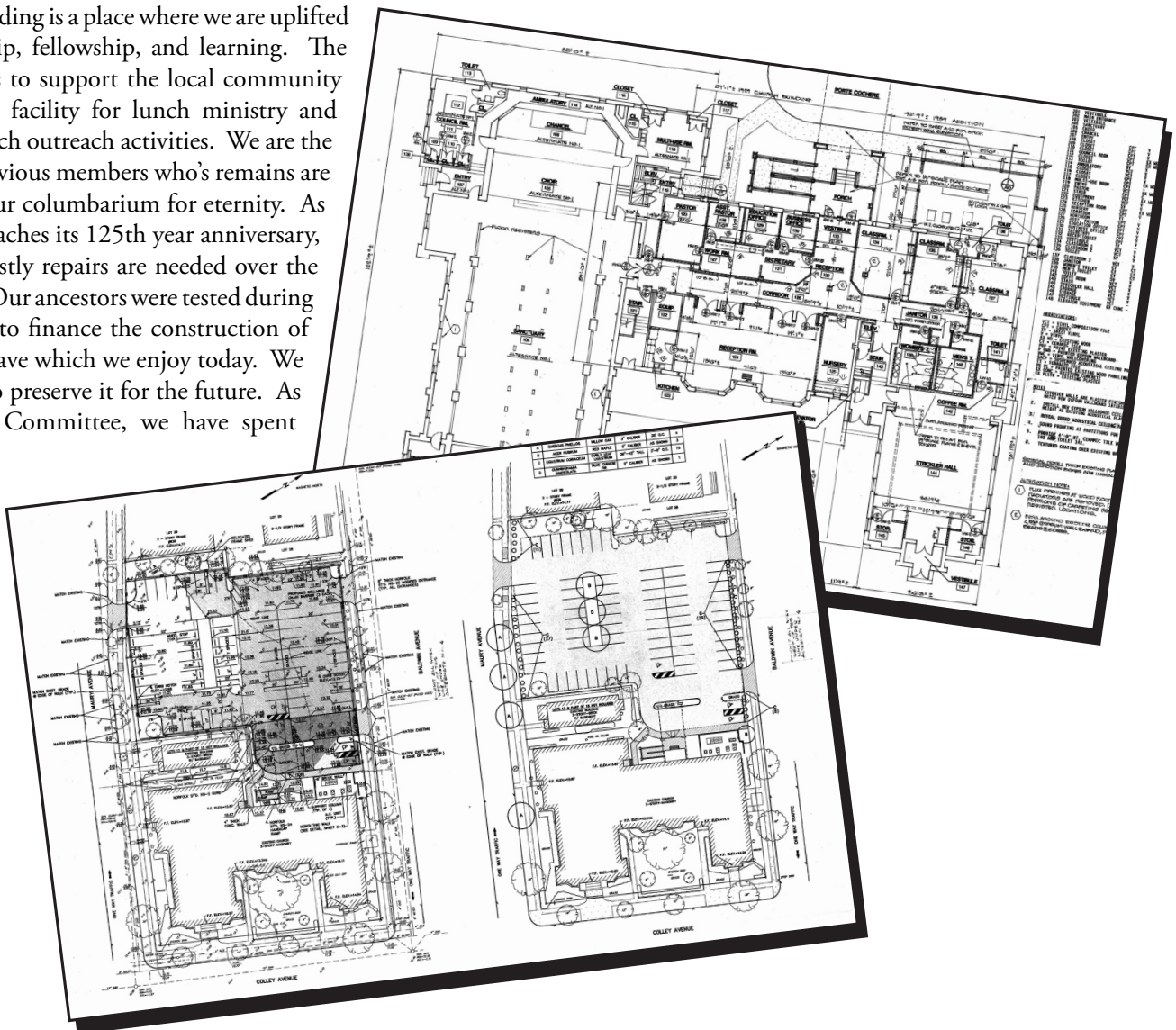
DECEMBER 2017

NO. 12

## Our Church Property— More Than Just Buildings And Land

Yes, we can view our building and land as just structures and dirt, but the Property Committee challenges you to look deeper and view what those who have gone before us have entrusted this place of worship to be. Our mission is “by grace through faith god forms us to preach, teach, and live God’s word.” our building is a place where we are uplifted through worship, fellowship, and learning. The Spirit moves us to support the local community by providing a facility for lunch ministry and other non-church outreach activities. We are the home to 34 previous members who’s remains are entombed in our columbarium for eternity. As our nave approaches its 125th year anniversary, many major costly repairs are needed over the coming years. Our ancestors were tested during the depression to finance the construction of this beautiful nave which we enjoy today. We will be tested to preserve it for the future. As your Property Committee, we have spent

countless hours in maintenance of our building and reviewing solutions for a new HVAC System, roof replacement, stonework repairs, and other repairs or upgrades. **The future of our building to help support our mission, is now in all our hands.**



# Adult Ministry Halloween Outing

The Adult Ministry Committee made a special return visit to Norfolk's Chrysler Museum of Art on **Tuesday, October 31st** with Docent Randy McDaniel. The group had a great time taking an in-depth look at art with spooky themes! After the tour, they visited the museum gift shop and enjoyed lunch in the Wisteria Dining Room.

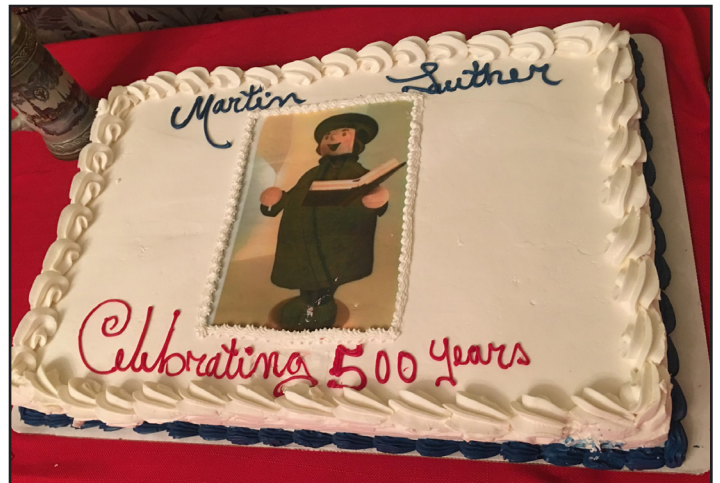


## FLC Member Recognized by NASA

This large display was part of the 100-year commemoration of NASA Langley. Our FLC member Yolanda Shea is featured. We are so proud of her and all she is doing at NASA!



## Tidewater Conference Reformation Service



# December 2017

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	2
3 <b>Bible Day</b> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	4 7 PM Church Council	5 11 AM—Lydia Circle 7 PM—Martha Circle	6 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	7 <b>N.E.S.T.</b>	8	9
10 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	11 <b>N.E.S.T.</b>	12	13 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	14 10 AM—Quilt Group 5:30 PM—With Open Arms (800 Colonial Ave)	15 <b>Contact Deadline</b>	16
17 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM FLY 4:00 PM Evening Prayer	18	19	20 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	21	22	23
24 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM—Family Service 7:30 PM—Candlelight 11:00 PM—Candlelight	25 <b>Christmas Day Office Closed</b>	26 9:30 AM Christian Service	27 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry	28 10 AM—Quilt Group	29	30
31 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	1 <b>New Year's Day Office Closed</b>					



# NEST at First Lutheran Church

**N**EST runs from 7:00 PM—7:00 AM, beginning Wednesday, December 6th through Wednesday, December 12th. Please consider volunteering with this incredible and necessary program to tend to our neighbors in need this Advent season. If you have not already, please be sure to check out the volunteer sign-up forms in the Welcome Center to sign-up for a role that best fits your talent and availability!

**If you are unable to volunteer to assist during First Lutheran's week to host, please consider donating one or more items in need.**

**All items may be placed in the labeled bin in the Reception Room.** Cash or check donations may also be made to help purchase the above necessary supplied by writing "NEST" on a white pew envelope and placing your donation in the offering plate. Please make checks out to FLC, with "NEST" written in the memo line.

Last winter, with the help of over 40 churches and synagogues, more than 500 guests were served, and NEST volunteers accumulated over 29,000 hours of loving assistance to our Norfolk neighbors. Help us to tend to and support even more guests this year!

## NEEDED ITEMS

- White crew socks (men's & women's)
- Underwear (men's & women's)
- Outerwear (jackets, gloves, warm clothes)
- Games (Bingo, playing cards, Dominoes, Checkers, etc.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Chapstick/lip balm
- Cold cereal
- Peanut butter
- Jelly/jam
- Breakfast bars
- Individual packages of chips & cookies
- Individual packages of pudding & fruit cups
- Individual serving packets of hot cocoa



# Connect with Others

## 2017 Annual Meeting Summary

At our Annual Meeting, the Congregation

- Approved minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting
- Heard the report of the Congregation President, Simon Scott
- Approved the 2018 Spending Plan for Ministry
- Approved the 2018 Real Estate Rentals Budget
- Elected Shelagh Humphreys, Kirstin New, Simon Scott, Jason Shea and Julia Siik to three-year terms on Council
- Elected Don Strehlow and Cathy Whittecar to six-year terms as Trustees
- Heard the State of the Church report from Pastor Goeres
- Presented the 2017 Nesting Dove to David Redilla

Following the Annual Meeting, the Council, with its newly elected members, elected Officers for 2017/18: President-Eric Peterson, Vice President-Chuck Baynard, Secretary-Karen Siegel, Treasurer-David Kuehl, Financial Secretary-Tammy DiBiaso, Executive Committee members at-large-Elizabeth Janik and Elena Ilardi.

## Youth Scholarship Dinner Was a Success!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped make the Youth Scholarship Dinner a great success! To our parents and other adult volunteers who provided guidance, direction, labor, and time; to those who donated items for the silent auction; to those who attended the dinner and gave so generously in their financial and moral support of our youth; and to our youth, who served, cooked, cleaned, sang, spoke, shared faith stories and are just in general quite amazing, thank you! The carpool karaoke entertained us, the food was delicious, and it was an enjoyable evening overall. We raised just over \$3600.00 towards our trip to the National Youth Gathering, so we are on our way to Houston!

## Thank You Note

Dear First Lutheran friends of Faraja School:

We thank you again for your support of Faraja Primary School in Tanzania. The quarterly check was recently received, and as always, will help the school progress with both academic and physical help. Just today we received from the school's excellent therapist the names and surgeries of our 12 students who would not have such care if they were not at Faraja. First Lutheran has been a major supporter, either through individual or small group sponsorships since Faraja's beginning in 2000! We miss you all but keeping with news via the Contact.

Your Friends,  
Don & Joann Tolmie

## Come See *THE FIRST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT*

Performed by the Children's Sunday School on December 17 at 9:45 AM in the sanctuary!! All performers should attend dress rehearsal from 9-11 AM on Saturday, December 16th, beginning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for costuming.

***There will be no Children's Sunday School on December 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.***

## FLC Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet Sunday, December 3rd at 6:30 in the Reception Room to discuss *Stealing the Mystic Lamb* by Noah Charney. This is a true story about Jan van Eyck's painting of the heavenly image of adoration of the Christ as the sacrificial lamb. Since its completion in 1432, it has been looted, forged, censored, hidden, hunted by the Nazis and Napoleon, ransomed, and stolen thirteen times. Charney also explores the history of art crime—and the religious, political, and social motivations that have led so many to covet this one masterpiece above all others. Join us to discuss why this one image of Christ is so compelling!

Looking to January, we will discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles. Come to one or both meetings to enjoy the fellowship and discussion.

## Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer: a liturgy of light and hope in the darkness of our days, will be held on Sunday, December 17, at 4 PM. Amid a season of darkness, Jesus, the light of the world, comes to us. We will include the lighting of candles from our Nighttime of our Souls liturgy and provide a time for fellowship and refreshments following the worship service. Join us for worship and mutual support.

## Council Summary, November

At our November 6th meeting, the Council:

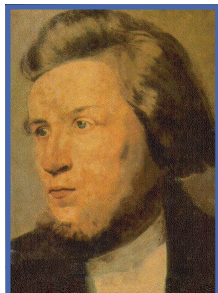
- Eric Peterson gave the opening prayer and devotional.
- Received thank-you notes from the Faraja School and from Don & Joann Tolmie.
- Accepted the recommendation to Council from the Finance Committee for the 2018 SPFM and Real Estate budgets.
- Accepted the recommendation to Council from the Nominating Committee to approve the following slate of persons for Council and Trustee elections; Council: Simon Scott (I), Kirstin New (I), Shelagh Humphreys, Jason Shea, Julia Siik; Trustees: Cathy Whittecar, Don Strehlow.
- 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.

# ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

## Lutheran Church Bodies in America

Family trees and lineages aren't always the most interesting reading—just try to keep your interest up as you read the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles. On the other hand, when looking at a church body like the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a tracing of mergers (and divisions!) can be helpful as we learn where we came from, what issues disturbed us, and thus where we may be headed.



Hans Nielsen Hauge

The Lutheran (or evangelical) movement began, of course, in Wittenberg, Germany. And in European countries the church organizations remained relatively stable, thanks to the tradition of state churches. For a long time, the principle was *Cuius regio, eius religio*—meaning, roughly, the king gets to decide the religion. Even in the “old country,” though, that began to break down in the nineteenth century as some Lutheran leaders, such as Hans Nielsen Hauge in Norway and

the Saxons who would form the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, chafed under rules they felt violated their consciences.

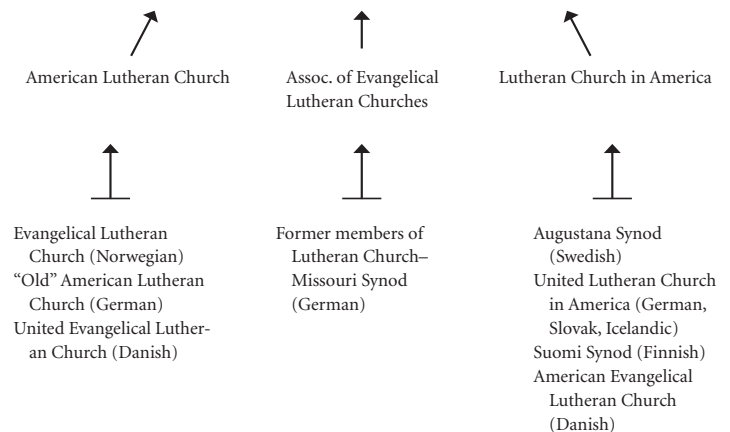
When Lutherans began to arrive in the United States, they came from several countries—early on, mostly northern European and Nordic, each group affiliating with their country of origin. But Lutherans, having foresworn strong centralized control from the outset, kept thinking for themselves. Differences of opinion formed, or were inherited, over issues such as relations with Christians of differing beliefs, membership in lodges, and slavery, and theological matters such as millennialism (whether Christ will reign on

earth for a thousand years), predestination, and ordination. So there are at least seven German groups, three Norwegian ones, and two Danish bodies, plus Swedes, Finns, Slovaks, and Icelanders, that through a series of mergers became the ELCA. A rough family tree can be seen on the other side.

Unfortunately, divisions have continued, more recently over issues like biblical inerrancy, relationships with other church bodies, ordination of women, and ordination and marriage of homosexual members. Today, even though the great majority of Lutherans in the United States belong to the ELCA, the Missouri Synod, or the Wisconsin Synod, there are more than thirty additional groups with ties to Lutheranism.

For Christians who follow the Lord who prayed that his followers might be one (John 17:11), such divisions are a cause for sorrow and repentance. The ELCA, a product of mergers, labors and prays that unity in Christ will continue to grow closer.

### EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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## December Birthdays

Wallace Barry	1 Dec	Jennifer Wright	10 Dec	Joseph Milner	20 Dec
Morgan Brown	1 Dec	Christian Fenley	11 Dec	Gail Stenberg	20 Dec
Rachel Koehler	1 Dec	Justin Porter	11 Dec	Seth Utecht	20 Dec
William Herman	2 Dec	Levi Sutera	11 Dec	Lucian Clare	21 Dec
Louisa Rowan	3 Dec	Audrey Willis	11 Dec	Nicolas Stopa	21 Dec
Jason Bishop	5 Dec	Megan Willis	11 Dec	Charles Poston	22 Dec
Whitney Faircloth	5 Dec	Judy Shore	12 Dec	Kyle Diduk Gamache	23 Dec
Sarah Stinson	5 Dec	Brendan Kelly	13 Dec	Christine Gammon	24 Dec
Rebecca Roode	6 Dec	Thomas Robinson	13 Dec	Barbara Cordrey	26 Dec
Malcolm Van de Water	6 Dec	Brittany Acors	14 Dec	Richard Goeres	26 Dec
Kathryn Cummings	7 Dec	Leanne Currie McGhee	14 Dec	John Lewis	26 Dec
Brinkley Goranson	7 Dec	Dana Humphreys	17 Dec	Patty Graham	27 Dec
Abby Weisenbeck	7 Dec	Jenna Humphreys	17 Dec	John Heller	27 Dec
Sophia Bourcier	9 Dec	Caleb Warren	17 Dec	Bethany Johnson	28 Dec
Marian Sever	9 Dec	Kirstin New	18 Dec	Diane Laine	28 Dec
Shirley Skees	9 Dec	James Hood	19 Dec	Roger Seese	29 Dec
Jeffrey Charron	10 Dec	Brian McElligott	19 Dec	Gwendolyn Carr	31 Dec
Christopher Coffing	10 Dec	Shea O'Donnel	19 Dec	Edmund Joella	31 Dec
Victoria Gonzalez	10 Dec	Mary Vaughan	19 Dec	John Philips	31 Dec
Stephen Herman	10 Dec	Philippe Biboum	20 Dec	Nathaniel Schaus	31 Dec



## Prayer Concerns for December

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 Luca, the newly adopted son of Nathan Baynard and Robert Marra and grandson of **Chuck and Pam Baynard**.

...for the “baker’s dozen” youth and adults from First who attended the Lost and Found Youth Retreat this past weekend.

...for **Kirstin New** and **Simon Scott** who were re-elected to our congregational council.

...for **Jason Shea**, **Julia Siik** and **Shelagh Humphreys** who were elected to our congregational council.

...for **Don Strehlow** and **Cathy Whittecar** who were elected to be Trustees for our congregation.

...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.

...that God trusts us.

### Pray that

...we focus on who God is to us and that we trust to let God guide our ways.

...that we let go of our fears and that we risk and share as God asks us to do.

### Pray for

...peace and comfort for the family and friends of **Carolyn Meakin** upon her death.

...peace and comfort for the family of Catherine Broman upon her death (grandmother of **Lynn Broman**).

...our congregational council members that they will be fearless and tireless leaders trusting that God will guide them in the ministry of our congregation to one another and outside our walls into the world.

...all who are traveling.

...those who are hungry.

...for world peace.

...leaders of the world in this time of high tension among so many countries.

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

...the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

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

**Roger Fuller, Patty Graham, Susan Griffin, Donna Kopf, Danusia Mason, Jonathan Miller, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Nancy Smith, Deb Thompson, Howard Warren, Annette, Mary-William Baines, Jonathan Balk, Gavin Brickhouse, Steve Coleman, Tyler Davidson, Destinee, Gale, Bill “Sweet William” Geiger, Hannah, Jane, John, Sue Klaus, Joyce Lake, Martha, Cathy Moye, Nellie, Angela Nielsen, Derek Nielsen, Mogens Nielsen, Holly Nitke, Patty, Colleen Prosser, Rachel, Richard Rauschkolb (brother of Betty Petersen), Rob and Katrina, Sheila, Annie Stewart, Vera and Lenard, Jim Webb, Frank Wood**

### Those dealing with cancer

**Adele Andrews, Susie Ellis, Connor Ewing, Larry Griffin (brother of Ivana Dinini), Don Jones, Sheila., Mariel Smutts, Joan Sutura, Amy Thiberdy, Stephanie Troy, Jessica Palmer**

### 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-deployed, Tim Kelly-deployed, Kelly Mackenzie-deployed, John Marfield-deployed, Nikki Parkman-deployed**

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

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Readings for December

### December 3rd

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

### December 10th

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

### December 17th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 24th

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

### December 31st

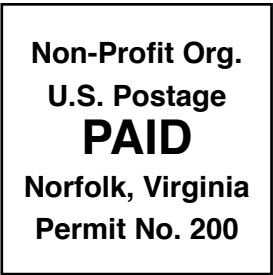
Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

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