



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

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NO. 2

## Stewardship Stewardship?! In February? What's up with that?

While the word “stewardship” is commonly used during annual giving campaigns in the fall, the term encompasses much more than financial resources. Consider this definition: “stewardship is the responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” Think of all that has been entrusted to us as a congregation—our members with all their talents, our building and property, and, of course, money. God has entrusted us with caring for others, our brothers and sisters in the congregation and those in our local community. We are also to care for those in the wider world who need our help.

Next year marks the 125th anniversary of the formation of this congregation. With that in mind, now is a good time to reflect on the stewardship shown throughout our church’s history and to celebrate the faithfulness of generations of members who have lived lives committed to Christ. Our members have always served one another through worship, education, fellowship, visitations, and support during times of blessings as well as times of challenges.

Previous generations have commended to us a remarkable building that is a blessing to us as well as to our neighbors. To our members, it is a place of worship, where we gather to glorify God, to receive forgiveness, and to be assured of His promises. But it is also a place of refuge and care for those facing problems with addiction, homelessness, or hunger. Each Wednesday, faithful stewards prepare and serve meals to our lunch ministry guests. During the coldest months of the year, we join with other area churches to offer a warm place to sleep and meals for the homeless through NEST. Weekly in Strickler Hall, some seven different groups provide support for people struggling with addiction.



First Lutheran uses its resources to work in the world. Last year, people in India, Georgia and Serbia received quilts and school kits made by our Christian Service Committee with donations received from the congregation. The Global Concerns Committee works through Bread for the World to advocate for the poor and hungry both here and abroad. Despite political uncertainty about immigration policy, the members of this committee attempt to provide aid to refugees in our area whenever possible.

These are just a few examples of our congregation’s faithful stewardship in response to God’s abounding grace. Whether we give a smile to a visitor, serve a meal to the homeless, or give money in support of the church’s many ministries, we are all stewards. As such, we join other stewards who have come before us, those who have shaped this congregation for 125 years.

Over the coming months, I’ll be interviewing stewards here at First and sharing more information on specific programs and ministries they support. Like me, you’ll probably already be familiar with some of them and the work they do. But also like me, you may learn that there is much work being done by people we hear little about. Look for their stories in future Contact issues.

So, again, stewardship in February? You bet!

Chuck Baynard,  
Council Liaison, Stewardship

# Happy Birthday Pastor Goeres



Pastor Goeres and his daughter Gloria celebrated their December 26th birthdays!



## A Message from Sarah

After nearly two years of working with the First Lutheran Church family, it is with great sadness that I must share that I will be leaving my position as Administrative Assistant. My husband and I feel that the Lord has called us to provide better care for his parents, so we will be relocating from the Tidewater area. My last day at First Lutheran will be Thursday, February 8th.

I have truly enjoyed being a part of this congregation, and feel extremely blessed by all of the relationships I have formed. It has been my privilege to assist in the goings-on of FLC, and to ensure that each and every event and meeting is shared in our weekly announcements. This has been a wonderful opportunity, both professionally and

personally, and I am excited to apply all of the lessons I have learned and skills I have honed into my future endeavors. I am also forever grateful to the congregation for sharing with me in celebration of my wedding and graduation last year. Your cards, messages, and prayers have been so appreciated.



With every thanks and blessing,

Sarah (McKean) Mahnke

# February 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
4 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Natl. Youth Gathering	5 7 PM Church Council	6 11 AM Lydia Circle 7 PM—Martha Circle	7 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	8 10 AM—Quilt Group 12:30 Adult Ministry 5:30 PM—Refugee Ministry (800 Colonial Ave)	9	10
11 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Worship Committee	12 <b>Presidents' Day Office Closed</b>	13	14 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	15 <b>Contact Deadline</b> 5:30 PM Laundry Love (at Soap 'N Suds)	16	17 7 PM Contra Dance Group (3rd Floor)
18 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 FLY	19	20 6 PM 125th Committee	21 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	22 10 AM—Quilt Group	23	24
25 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	26	27 9:30 AM Christian Service	28 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			

\*\*\* 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

## FLC Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet Sunday, February 11th at 6:30 PM at the church to discuss a thought-provoking book *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

In *Accidental Saints*, Bolz-Weber invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls “a religious but not-so-spiritual life.” Tattooed, angry and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people—a church-loving agnostic, a drag queen, a felonious Bishop and a gun-toting member of the NRA.

Don't let the description of the author keep you from reading this book and joining the discussion. She may be a different voice, but it is all about Gospel. This can be a great springboard for a discussion of how the church should communicate with those outside the church who are seeking God's grace in today's world. Bring a friend and join us.

## Lydia Circle

We FLC! Come to Lydia Circle's next meeting, February 6th, at 11:00 AM in the Reception Room to learn what more there will be to love at First in 2018. As a Valentine treat, Pastor Mims will be making lunch for us. We're sure to love that! Be sure to let Pam Baynard (757-638-4812, [pbaynard65@charter.net](mailto:pbaynard65@charter.net)) know if you can come.

## Another opportunity to serve!

Ghent Area Ministry needs men's underwear, especially sizes medium and larger. If you can help, drop your donations in the laundry basket by the water fountain in the Welcome Center during Lent, from Ash Wednesday, February 14th, through Easter Sunday, April 1st. Thank you!

## Laundry Love

You can keep the love going ... the day after Valentine's Day (Thursday the 15th) is Laundry Love! Join us at Soap & Suds, located at 2515 Colley Avenue, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. If you have any questions, please call Merrie Jo Milner or Pam Baynard.

## Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on February 6th at 7:00 PM at the home of Diane Newlon, 1530 Bordeaux Place, Norfolk. All are welcome! Please join us for fellowship, food, and conversation with Ryan-Michael Blake, FLC's Director of Music about the music of Lent. Questions? Contact Paula Cook at [pbcook513@icloud.com](mailto:pbcook513@icloud.com) or 793-0551.

## 8:30 AM Coffee Hour Hosts

Do you normally attend the 8:30 AM Worship Service? Do you enjoy visiting with members of the FLC family during the post-service coffee hour? Why not host one morning a month! If you are interested in volunteering for this special congregational role, please contact Paula Barwick at [paula\\_barwick@yahoo.com](mailto:paula_barwick@yahoo.com), or call or text 804-513-4551 for more information. Thank you!

## Blood Drive

Please mark your calendars! Wednesday, March 14, is First Lutheran's annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Save the date and give the gift of life. Hours for donation will be 1PM-7PM. We will do sign-ups at church on Sundays March 4 and 11. Online sign-up will also be available at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) (use the sponsor code GHENT). Please do your part to help change the life of someone in need.

## A new Sunday School class: Worship Matters

Worship Matters is a new Sunday School class that begins on February 18th for those who want to dive more deeply into the story of faith expressed in the texts for each Sunday. Readings for Real Life will be our focus as we explore Scripture selected for the day. Hymns, seasonal liturgy shifts and the changing appointments in the chancel will all be discussed as we gather for information and inspiration. Please join Pastor Goeres and Pastor Mims in the front of the nave at 9:45 AM, and feel free to bring your coffee hour refreshments.

## Prime Timers Super Bowl Party

6:00 PM at Lundquist's on February 4th. Sign-up sheet in Welcome Center or let us know you're coming. —Don Lundquist

# Council Summary January

At our January meeting, the Council:

- Opened with a devotion on Stewardship
- Discussed the new Evening Prayer worship service that will take place with candles and chanting on the third Sunday of each month at 4 PM
- Gave thanks for the Facebook Live feed of Pastor Mims' devotion on January 7th when worship was cancelled due to snow/ice
- Voted to replace our entire HVAC system with savings from Endowment distributions and previous years when contributions exceeded expenses. Notes: Our HVAC challenges have been shared over the years. Many of our HVAC components are 5-10 years past their life expectancy. Designs and bids were received ranging from \$442K - \$693K. A professional HVAC Engineer Consultant was engaged to analyze the proposals and make a recommendation. The Council accepted the Consultant's recommendation and signed a contract with Chesapeake Controls for \$442K. The work will start in the next few weeks once the permits have been secured.
- Discussed building relationships with the congregation of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Norfolk.
- Shared poinsettia distribution stories, blessings and prayer concerns

The Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 5th. The meeting is open to the congregation.



*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter....During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. —Sunday and Seasons*

## Ash Wednesday Services

With Imposition of Ashes

1:00 and 7:00 PM February 14th

## Mid-week Lenten Services

Lenten worship is held at 1:00 and 7:00 PM every Wednesday, beginning Ash Wednesday, Beginning February 14th and ending March 21st.

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Hosted by FLY

On Tuesday 13 February at 6:00 pm, the First Lutheran Youth will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Please join us for a fun night of food and festivities as we kick off the Lenten season. All free will offerings will go toward the National Youth Gathering fund. We look forward to seeing you. Sign-up sheets will be on the Youth Board.



## February Birthdays

John Porter	1-Feb	Jeanie Wright Phillips	11-Feb	Chase Williams	20-Feb
David Weisenbeck	1-Feb	Tina Dulong	12-Feb	Lauren Kuehl	21-Feb
Noah Fisher	2-Feb	Sydney Holbach	12-Feb	Alexandra Miller	23-Feb
Evelyn Robinson	2-Feb	Elena Ilardi	14-Feb	Kathryn Schaus	23-Feb
Timothy S. Hund	4-Feb	Gabriel Dulong	15-Feb	Mark Utecht	24-Feb
Joseph A. Leafe	5-Feb	Lillian Gammon	15-Feb	Randi Dandrea	25-Feb
Michael Robinson	5-Feb	William Jordan	15-Feb	William Gammon	25-Feb
Stephen Azar	6-Feb	James Ammons	16-Feb	Kathleen Prendergast	25-Feb
Jeffrey Ross	6-Feb	Blake Boykin	16-Feb	Thomas DiBiao	27-Feb
Waverly Douglas	7-Feb	Marcus Janik	16-Feb	Robert Masters	27-Feb
Marley Fenley	7-Feb	Deborah Mansfield	16-Feb	Holly Milner	27-Feb
Donna Kennard	7-Feb	Yolanda Shea	16-Feb	Kylie Williams	27-Feb
Sean Rowan	7-Feb	Julie Moberly	18-Feb	Ivy Peterson	28-Feb
Arthur Ilardi	8-Feb	Christian Fenley	20-Feb	Michael Stachour	28-Feb
Caroline Echea	11-Feb	Ed Grogan	20-Feb		
Wyatt Logan	11-Feb	David Loope	20-Feb		

## Prayer Concerns for February

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 an epiphany is not just light, but a way of helping us to see more clearly.  
...that God plunges into our lives no matter where we find ourselves.  
...for the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., and all persons who have and who continue to work for racial justice.  
...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 that

...knowing it is Jesus who does the convincing that we feel free to invite others to come and see.  
...we cry out at injustice and inequality among your people until vindication comes and righteousness prevails.

### Pray for

...Baby Pierce, Aunt Alyssa and Uncle Grant.  
...comfort and peace for **Steve and Ginny Fox** on the death of Steve's mother.  
...for peace and comfort for the Holtfreter Family on the death of Lillian.  
...Sheila and Barb as they go on a mission trip to India.  
...safe travels From Costa Rico for Caulay Strehlow.  
...the family of Jenny Thornburg.  
...those who are traveling.  
...our neighbors, especially those who differ from us, and draw us together in common service to those who are hungry, poor and oppressed.  
...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, The Jersilds, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Deb Thompson, Howard Warren,** Alvene, Jonathan Balk, Gavin Brickhouse, Briggs, Chris, John Clifton, Steve Coleman, Barbara Gaines, Gale, Bill "Sweet William" Geiger, John, Bill Kraiger, Lawrence, Anna Mason, Michael, Jemma Mitchell, Cathy Moye, Ralph Munsey, Patty, Rachel, Rob and Katrina, Daniel Roby, Tameika Sawyer, Julia Silsdorf, Gary Skrien, Kyla Stephens, Annie Stewart, Vera and Lenard, Jim Webb

### Those dealing with cancer

Adele Andrews, Connor Ewing, Greg Reep, Sheila, 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-deployed, Tim Kelly-deployed, Kelly Mackenzie-deployed, John Marfield-deployed, Nikki Parkman-deployed

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

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

## Readings for February

### February 4th

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

### February 11th

- **Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

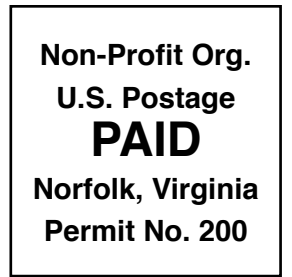
### February 18th

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

### February 25th

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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