



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757-625-1953

[www.flcnorfolk.com](http://www.flcnorfolk.com)

VOL. XXXI

JANUARY 2017

NO. 1

## 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

500 Years of Evangelical Reformation 1517-2017

When Martin Luther posted his “Ninety-five Theses” on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517, no one expected the breadth of evangelical reforms in Christian teaching and practice that followed. In every dimension of Christian faith a renewed trust in God’s forgiving mercy replaced a reliance on teachings and practices that, like the sale of indulgences, were vulnerable to abuse and corruption.

Preaching a few years later, Luther said, “I opposed indulgences ... but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing. I did nothing; the Word did everything.” When he began to propose reforms in worship, he wrote similar words. “This is the sum of the matter: let everything be done so that the Word may have free course.”

Nearly 500 years later, the results of this evangelical confidence in God’s forgiving and liberating Word are evident today in Christian communities of all types.

In the coming year, we will celebrate what it means to be “Living Lutheran”. Watch for special programs and studies that highlight this important year in history and in our faith.

To learn more, please visit [www.ELCA500.org](http://www.ELCA500.org).

**Freed**  
& RENEWED  
in **Christ**  
500 YEARS OF GOD’S  
**GRACE** IN ACTION

# Luther in the Library

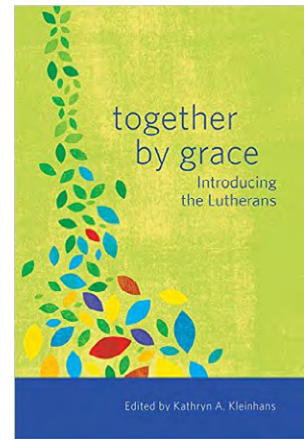
**What:** A display of new books about Martin Luther and the Reformation

**When:** January 8

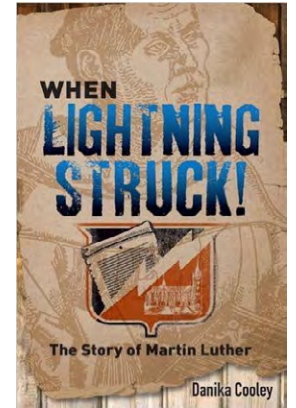
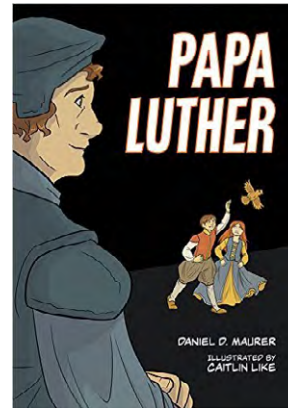
**Where:** Welcome Center

**Why:** Educational resources to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Come browse our new acquisitions! These titles will be available for checkout beginning January 15.



*When Lightning Struck: The Story of Martin Luther*  
*Together By Grace: Introducing the Lutherans*  
*Papa Luther: A Graphic Novel*  
*Resilient Reformer*  
*Martin Luther and the Called Life*  
*Declaration on the Way*  
*Atlas of the European Reformations*  
*Search and Find in the Bible*



# Scenes From Our Christmas Pageant!





# New Members



## Lynn Broman

Lynn is originally from Pittsburgh, PA and she works as a Senior Human Resource partner for Beacon Health Options here in Norfolk. She also participates in the FLC Choir and Handbells, and enjoys playing the flute and the piano.

## Rev. Debra D. Thompson



Born on March 20, 1957 in Johnstown, PA to Harry B. & Marilyn R. (Schaller) Thompson. I was baptized at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Johnstown, PA in April of 1957 by The Rev. Andrew Rebogen. I was Confirmed at Zion Litheran Church in Hollidaysburg, PA on May 14, 1972 by The Rev. Lester J. Karschner. I am a 1975 graduate of Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School. I attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Music Education. I graduated from IUP in 1979. I graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2002 having previously studied theology at the The Lutheran Theological seminary at Gettysburg and Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. I am currently on leave from call in the Southwestern PA Synod of the ELCA. I enjoy playing golf, being on the beach and bike riding. I play both classical and folk guitar and trombone. I like to read, occasionally do crafts, and drive my VW Beetle Convertible! I am currently a member of FLC's choir and enjoy meeting new members!

# Faraja School Update

As Joann Tolmie reported recently in a newsletter, 2016 was a wonderful year for the Faraja Primary School for Children with Physical Disabilities, as it celebrated both its 15th anniversary and its 5th graduating class. All 20 Class 7 graduating students passed the national examination and their scores ranked Faraja in the top 15% of primary schools in Tanzania. Well done!

The generous contributions from members of First Lutheran Church, along with other contributors, allows Faraja to provide education, housing, nutritious meals, medical care, and physical therapy for 95 students who would not have this opportunity otherwise.

A new class of students will be entering Faraja in January 2017 and there are opportunities to help provide these new students with shoes, clothes, or school supplies with a monetary donation or by sponsoring a child. To learn more about Faraja School and how you can help support, visit [www.farajaschool.org](http://www.farajaschool.org) or talk to Mike or Denise Haag. Donations can be made either online at the above web site or through checks written to First Lutheran Church and marked for Faraja. Or, by sending a check made out to the Faraja Fund Foundation and mailed directly to Don Tolmie at 8919 Park Road, Suite 249, Charlotte, NC 28210.

Thank you or "Asante sana"

# Thank Your Office Volunteers!

Please take a moment to thank the office volunteers who work tirelessly each week to help prepare the Church for worship on Sundays. This amazing team helped fold, collate, assemble, and staple more than 1200 bulletins for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services!!

They are: Pam Martin, Clara Strehlow, Catherine Wass, Barbara Cordrey, Pam Hiner, Gail Stenberg, Wilma Robinson, and Evelyn Robinson.

# Connect with Others



## Pearl Harbor Remembrance Luncheon

Forty people gathered in the Reception Room on December 6th, the day before the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, to listen as some attendees told about experiences related to World War II. Highlights were those memories shared by Nancy Smith, who was living on Oahu during the attack on Pearl Harbor, and by World War II veteran, Lew Biddle, a self-described dairy farm boy who served in the Air Force in Europe. Many people remembered hearing Franklin Roosevelt's address to the nation on the radio announcing the Pearl Harbor attack. Others shared stories of family, friends and neighbors who served during the war. Although the event was originally planned for the Over 80's group, several people who have not yet achieved that milestone attended to hear firsthand experiences of those who lived during those difficult years. The program and the delicious lunch were organized by the Adult Ministry group and Lydia Circle with help from many cooks in the congregation. Thanks to all who helped make the event such a success!

## Thank You Volunteers for "Hanging the Greens"

Thanks to some hard-working volunteers, our sanctuary was beautifully transformed on Saturday (12/3). Other areas that received a touch of Christmas were the Reception Room & the entrances to the church. Even the members working in the gardens, helped by erecting the 25-ft. tree! Also, a special thanks to Pastor Mims who provided a wonderful devotional & hymn for us.

Thanks!  
Elizabeth Moll & Rebecca Dozier  
Worship Decorating Committee



## Mark your calendars for N.E.S.T.

From January 25 to February 1, 2017, First Lutheran will again be hosting the homeless in our community as part of the NEST (Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team) program. We will provide hot meals and a warm place to stay overnight during our designated week. Your help is essential to making this happen, so please put it on your calendar. A list of items needed will be on the bulletin board, and the volunteer signup sheet will be available January 1st in the Welcome Center.

Please direct any questions to MerrieJo Milner (merjomil@cox.net, 560-0781) or Jeanne Lampton (jmlampton@aol.com, 724-6843).

Jeanne Lampton.

## Blood Drive

Start the New Year in a great way!!! Give the Gift of Life when the Red Cross is set up at ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 201 St. Paul's Blvd, Norfolk, on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11. Hours of donation are 1-7pm. Select an open donation time at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Use the sponsor code, GHENT. Blood donations are ALWAYS needed. Thanks for giving yours at this Drive and ours which will be in March.

## Christian Service Quilt Distribution

First Lutheran quilts were distributed in Mali in September.

## Lydia Circle

Just a reminder that Lydia Circle will

**NOT** meet in January.

# January 2017

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM. Nursery available.  
 Office Hours: 9 AM—4 PM Monday-Thursday, 9 AM - 1 PM Friday  
 Weekday Bible Study: Youth at 7:15 AM Tuesdays at Chesapeake Starbucks, Cedar Road  
 Men at 7 AM Wednesdays at Charlie's Cafe, 4024 Granby Street, Norfolk, 23517

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	2 <b>New Year's Holiday Office Closed</b>	3 12:30 PM Adult Ministries 7 PM Martha Circle	4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	5 10 AM Quilt Group	6	7 <b>Council Retreat</b>
8 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	9	10	11 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	12	13	14
15 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	16 <b>Martin Luther King Holiday Office Closed</b>	17	18 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	19	20	21
22 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	23	24	25 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Choir	26 <b>NEST</b>	27	28
29 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	30 <b>NEST</b>	31				

# Connect with Word and Body

## Prayer Concerns for January

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.  
...that in our places of change and vulnerability, God is constantly with 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.

### Give thanks and pray

...for those who provide for the needs of others through material goods--secretaries, retail workers, realtors, salespersons, business persons, servers, cleaners, bankers and financial advisors--that they may see themselves as vessels of God's grace.  
...that we are called not to only come to church, but to BE the church.  
...that we will live with joyful anticipation of who is to come and who is already here.

### Pray for

...peace and comfort for the family and friends of Merle Fleet upon his death (husband of **Margaret Fleet**).  
...peace and comfort for the family of William McKinney upon the death of his sister, Yvonne Brooks (sister-in-law of **Rita Crusott-McKinney**).  
...all those unable to be with family and loved ones this Christmas.  
...all those persons in the LGBT community.  
...immigrants.  
...those who are sick, those who mourn and those who struggle in the midst of holiday joy.  
...our military members and first responders who sacrifice for our freedoms, security, peace and justice.  
...peace and comfort for the family and friends of Jason upon his death.  
...for the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

**Jean Bozeman, Janet Eggen, Jennette Franklin, Roger Fuller, Susan Griffin, Carolyn Meakin, Marilyn Melendy, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Betty Phillips, John Poston, Rick Pougher, Debra Thompson, Howard Warren,** Charles Davis, Deb, David Dennis, Gale, Glenn, Devin Hubert, Jean, Julia, Ellen Michel, Cathy Moye, Mary Redilla (mother of **David Redilla**), Steve, Annie Stewart, Brenda Swindell, Vilja Thompson, Debbie Wright

### Those dealing with cancer

**Ray Hinton,** Betty M., Chris, Ramona Denny, Larry Griffin (brother of **Ivana Dinini**), Don Jones, Kim, Suzanne Lasseigne, Betty Mansolf, Betty Moore, Hope Norris, Rose Peluso, Dick Price, Greg Reep, Amy Riberdy, Shirley, Stephanie

### 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, Tim Kelly-deployed

Merciful God, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you stand with us in the shadows, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then guide us in ways that seem best to you, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Readings for January

### January 1st

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

### January 8th

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

### January 15th

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### January 22nd

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

### January 29th

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

# January Birthdays

Tracy Fisher	1 Jan	Suzanne Biboum	13 Jan	Maria Silsdorf	22 Jan
Kirby Stiening	1 Jan	Melissa Zaletski	13 Jan	Denise Stage	22 Jan
Jacob Weber	1 Jan	Michael Adkins	14 Jan	Richard Bauer	23 Jan
Matthew Bourcier	3 Jan	Katherine Sikorski	14 Jan	Natalie Schaus	23 Jan
Robert Cabe	3 Jan	Crystal Wass	14 Jan	Ainsley Erwin	24 Jan
Caroline Griffin	3 Jan	Merrie Jo Milner	15 Jan	Mary Fox	24 Jan
Jeffrey Steckroth	3 Jan	Keith Winstead	15 Jan	Richard Pougher	25 Jan
Sally Hurdle	4 Jan	Anders Bishop	16 Jan	Pam Baynard	26 Jan
Richard Bagans	5 Jan	Christopher E. Cook	17 Jan	Dolly Hinton	27 Jan
Kenneth DiBiaso	5 Jan	Jacqueline Kisa	17 Jan	Justin Bellott	28 Jan
Mary Grubb	5 Jan	Kristin Kisa	17 Jan	Phyllis Hund	28 Jan
Virginia Alexander	6 Jan	Sydney Sutton	17 Jan	Nancy Thorpe	29 Jan
Andy Schultz	6 Jan	Patrick Young	17 Jan	David Basco	30 Jan
Shirley Leafe	7 Jan	Abigail Stachour	17 Jan	Don Buckley	30 Jan
Cathy Whittecar	7 Jan	Nancy Fuller	18 Jan	Neva Goeres	30 Jan
Wilma Robinson	8 Jan	John Kintsche	19 Jan	Linda Braaten	31 Jan
Adam Saich	9 Jan	Lewis F. Bidle	19 Jan	Robert E. Davis	31 Jan
William Wattai	9 Jan	Alexandra Hiser	20 Jan	Lori Wilkins	31 Jan
Kristen Gonzalez	11 Jan	Grace Ridenhour	21 Jan		

## F.L.Y. (First Lutheran Youth) Christmas Party!



*At their Christmas Party, the F.L.Y. members created their own custom-made "Ugly Christmas Sweaters!"  
A fantastic time was had by all! Great job!*

## Epiphany Singers

On Sunday, January 8th the Epiphany Singers will sing carols with some members who are shut ins. We do this periodically during the year and we welcome any members who are interested to join us!

We will gather after the late service to eat lunch together before we go out to sing and visit. This experience is a blessing for both those who visit and those who are visited. Mark your calendar and plan to join us! The sign-up sheet will be on adult ministry -congregational life board.

Any questions? Ask Merrie Jo Milner or Ginny Fox.

First Lutheran Church  
1301 Colley Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23517



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

---