



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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VOL. XXXII

JANUARY 2018

NO. 1

A Message from the Congregation Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In November as the new Congregation Council met to organize itself for the coming year, my fellow council members elected me to serve as Council President. I am both honored and humbled by their trust, as I am by your actions in electing me to serve on our Council in the first place. With God's help, and by trusting him to lead us, I am confident we will continue to point others to his great love and do his work in this time and place.

I have no illusions concerning the challenges that are before us in the coming months and years. As those of you who attended our congregational meeting in November may remember, a number of our brothers and sisters expressed concern over the declining number of people who join us for worship each Sunday. To say that our situation simply reflects the reality for all mainline Protestant denominations in our country today is true, but I do not believe we need to accept decline and ultimate dissolution as inevitable. God's church is eternal, and what happens to us and our ministry in this place is ultimately in his hands. We must, however, do our best to discern his purpose and ensure that we prayerfully and intentionally follow his voice.

This concern over numbers represents a challenge, but it also represents a gift of opportunity. In that spirit our congregational council will come together on March 17th, 2018 to spend at least an entire day to discuss ways to address our declining numbers in worship. With God's help we know we can reverse that trend and once again fill our pews with voices raised in praise to God and his great faithfulness. I know that many of you have thoughts on this topic, and I encourage you to seek out members of council between now and March 17th and engage them in discussion. We—I—need to hear your thoughts and listen to your voices. God speaks through all of us in different ways, and the more voices we hear the more likely we will be to hear his message. The names and photos of our congregational council are posted on a bulletin board as you enter the Welcome Center, and we all are looking forward to this opportunity to have honest conversations about our future ministry opportunities in this place.

We also face some challenges with respect to our physical plant, our worship home here at 1301 Colley Avenue. For almost 90 years it has provided a place for God's people to gather and proclaim his glory, and experience the message of love, hope, and grace that permeates our Lutheran movement. As we have all noticed recently, our heating and air conditioning system is in need of replacement, and for a building of the size that we inhabit, this is done at no small cost. We face this need for a major system replacement during a time when our Spending Plan for Ministry (SPFM) cannot be fully executed within our annual contributions. I want to assure you that our congregational council is fully engaged in finding the right solutions to address the issues associated with our building, to include the challenge of funding necessary repairs. This financial deficit is, of course, related to the concern I have noted above with respect to numbers of worshipers. I also want to assure you, however, that our financial situation at present is secure. We have been blessed through the years with first fruits given by the faithful saints who have gone before us, and we have the financial ability to weather this challenge and many others. God will provide for his church. This does not mean that we are relieved of doing our part. We must continue to give our gifts not because God needs our money, but because we need to give. All that we have and are comes from him who gave it to us in the first place. Providing earthly gifts for God's ministry here is how we show our gratitude and grow in spiritual communion with God.

I was privileged to attend our Synod Assembly last June, and I hope each and every one of you will have an opportunity to do the same during your lifetime (just as I hope that at some point each and every one of you will accept an opportunity to serve on our congregational council). During the assembly we were shown a message from our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. Bishop Eaton reminded us that the Lutheran Movement is strong and vibrant and growing throughout the world. Even though our numbers may be in decline in the United States, we are still part of a growing church, and for that we should all be grateful and know that God's face shines upon us still. Bishop Eaton also reminded us of something so important that it bears repeating: "We only have this ministry for a short time, and this is our time." With Bishop Eaton's message in mind, and with the recent celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ in our hearts, let us together set out to do God's work in this place.

May God bless your month,

— Eric

NEST 2017

During the week of December 6th-13th at FLC, we served a hot dinner, provided a warm, safe place to sleep, served breakfast, and gave out sack lunches to an average of 45 homeless guests per night, a total of 87 different individuals. That involved nearly 800 volunteer hours. Thanks to all who came to help, as well as those who donated needed items, especially warm clothes, and to those who made financial contributions.

— Jeanne Lampton and Merrie Jo Milner



Over 80s Luncheon

The Lydia circle and Over 80s group had a fun and lively Christmas luncheon on December 6th. Pollards provided the delicious food, Evelyn Robinson made the wonderful table decorations, Ginny Fox led us in singing and Sue Stones told us a beautiful Christmas story. Sue dedicated her story to Marion Kiligas, another amazing storyteller. This was a luncheon to remember!!!



Martha Circle Bids Rebecca Dozier Farewell

Martha Circle honored Rebecca Dozier with a farewell poem and song thanking her for her tireless ministry at FLC.



January 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
	<i>1</i> New Year's Day Office Closed	<i>2</i> 7 PM—Martha Circle	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 Youth Plannin Mtg 12:30 Epiphany Singers	<i>8</i> 7 PM Church Council	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	<i>11</i> 10 AM—Quilt Group 12:30 Adult Ministry 5:30 PM—With Open Arms (800 Colonial Ave)	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	<i>15</i> Contact Deadline	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	<i>18</i> 10 AM—Quilt Group	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 8 AM—Good Shepherd Council Retreat
<i>21</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 FLY	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 9:30 AM Christian Service	<i>24</i> 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry			

What did Lost and Found mean for you?



I learned about God is always with us. I liked going to the small groups because I met new people and friends and liked large group. Overall, it was a nice little getaway with my church-my church came with me, but no matter where I go, God's with me.

— Harrison Kuehl

This weekend was very interesting especially during small groups because it really made me step out of my comfort zone. I've also learned a lot of new things I never knew about God. When there, I also figured out that God is with you even when you have doubts.

— Cole New

This weekend meant a lot to me. I got to hang out with friends and celebrate God's greatness. I also got to meet new and amazing people. I also questioned who goes with me? God goes with me, I go with me, and the people who choose to come with me. I really enjoyed this weekend. This is also my last Lost and Found, but I get to go to Winter Celebration, Kairos and more. Also, our chaplain for the weekend, Dave Young (P-ditty), gave us a wonderful rap about the Bible for his sermon during our evening worship service.

— Cho-Cho Williams

This weekend was a special experience for me since I didn't really have many very good church friends, in my small group I made one very good friend. I also learned a lot. I learned that no matter what, God is with me as well as my friends who waited for me all the time. In my cabin, I grew closer to my congregation. Also, during worship I understood the sermon since I was very engaged during Pastor Davy Young's sermon rap.

— Reagan Heller

This weekend was about the question and/or statement "who is with you". People are always with you in different places, but God is with you always. This weekend, I made many friends and strengthened old friendships. I felt very independent and in control. I grew closer to my youth group and advisors during cabin conversations. All in all, I loved Lost and Found and can't wait to go again next year!

— Michael Robinson

Lost and Found was awesome! I had such an amazing time learning that God will always be with me no matter what. I especially loved the singing and games in small group. I look forward to coming back next year.

— Riley McEligot

This weekend meant so much to me. I got to hangout with really cool friends and meet new ones who I can't wait to see next year. I love singing, hanging out and the free time, but most of all I loved how it was all fun and we all loved each other.

— A.J. Collins

I enjoyed this trip so much! It meant a lot that all of us could bond and laugh together. I love the jokes and the memories that were made. I can't wait to this again.

— Dana Humphreys

Lost and Found was really fun! The car ride was really fun and the entire event was a blast!

— Jenna Humphreys

Lost and Found was awesome. It was very fun. The car ride was crazy both times, but that is normal.

— Jac Mims

Connect with Others

FLC Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet Sunday, January 7th at 6:30 at the home of Bill and Diane Newlon to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles.

This beautifully written story is of Count Alexander Rostov who, in 1922 is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and a view of the Russian revolution, this novel leads the reader through the count's endeavor to understand what it means to be a man of purpose.

Looking to February, we will discuss *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*, Nadia Bolz-Weber.

These promise great discussions. Come to one or both meetings and join the fellowship and discussion.

Thank You Note

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your participation in GAM's (Ghent Area Ministry) Thanksgiving Food Drive this year. Because of your help, we were able to provide 281 Food Bag Baskets and gift cards that fed 257 families, which consisted of 771 people.

Without you, this could not be done. Thank you so very much!

— Bernadine Brown
and the GAM Team

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will NOT meet in January. Our next meeting will be February 6, 2018. See you then!

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on January 2 at 7:00 at the home of Ginger Van de Water, 416 W. Freemason Street, Norfolk. All are welcome! Please join us for fellowship, food and conversation about "Fierce Women", led by Ginger Van de Water. We will also have our annual White Elephant Exchange. Questions? Contact Paula Cook at pbcook513@icloud.com or 793-0551.

Council Summary December

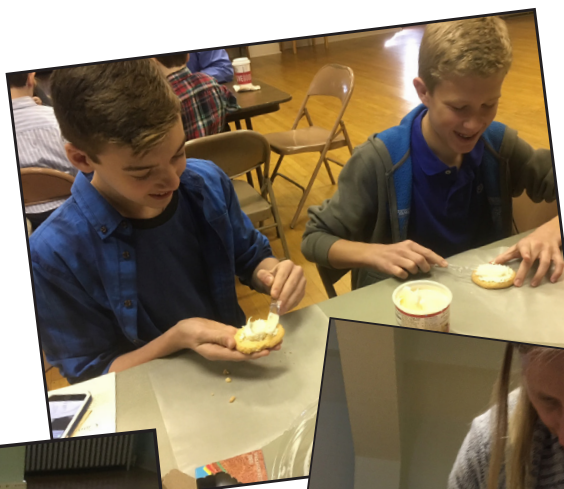
At our December 4th meeting, the Council:

- Paul Jersild gave the opening prayer.
- Received thank-you notes from Chaplain Paul Hendrickson and the Roanoke College Choir
- Explored ideas for topics and presenters for the Council's 2018 Retreat.
- Received update on the Refugee resettlement efforts.
- Agreed to remove two pews in the transept after Epiphany to create space for our piano, bells, and musical instruments.
- Discussed ways to care for safety of people in and around the church building in light of recent shootings.

Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners

The Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. January's meeting will be on the 8th. The meeting is open to the congregation.

Advent Sunday School



January Birthdays

Tracy Fisher	1 Jan
John Krenzke	1 Jan
Kirby Stiening	1 Jan
Jacob Weber	1 Jan
Matthew Bourcier	3 Jan
Robert Cabe	3 Jan
Samuel Diez Fugitt	3 Jan
Caroline Griffin	3 Jan
Jeffrey Steckroth	3 Jan
Sally Hurdle	4 Jan
Richard Bagans	5 Jan
Kenneth DiBiaso	5 Jan
Mary Grubb	5 Jan
Virginia Alexander	6 Jan
Shirley Leafe	7 Jan
Cathy Whittecar	7 Jan
Wilma Robinson	8 Jan
Adam Saich	9 Jan
William Wattai	9 Jan

Kristen Gonzalez	11 Jan
Suzanne Biboum	13 Jan
Melissa Zaletski	13 Jan
Katherine Sikorski	14 Jan
Crystal Wass	14 Jan
Merrie Jo Milner	15 Jan
Keith Winstead	15 Jan
Anders Bishop	16 Jan
Christopher E. Cook	17 Jan
Jacqueline Kisa	17 Jan
Kristin Kisa	17 Jan
Sydney Sutton	17 Jan
Patrick Young	17 Jan
Karen Grogan	18 Jan
Abigail Stachour	18 Jan
Nancy Fuller	19 Jan
John Kintsche	19 Jan
Lewis F. Bidle	20 Jan
Alexandra Hiser	20 Jan

Grace Ridenhour	21 Jan
Krista Puttler	22 Jan
Beth Silsdorf	22 Jan
Denise Stage	22 Jan
Richard Bauer	23 Jan
Natalie Schaus	23 Jan
Ainsley Erwin	24 Jan
Mary Fox	24 Jan
Richard Pougher	25 Jan
Pam Baynard	26 Jan
Dolly Hinton	27 Jan
Phyllis Hund	28 Jan
Nancy Thorpe	29 Jan
David Basco	30 Jan
Don Buckley	30 Jan
Neva Goeres	30 Jan
Linda Braaten	31 Jan
Robert E. Davis	31 Jan

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 joyful thanksgiving

...that in the midst of ALL that is going on in the world today, we are assured of God's hope and promise.
...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.
...we see this advent season as an adventure and an invitation to holy living.
...that we let go of our fears and that we risk and share as God asks us to do.

Pray for

...Kenya, her husband and their family.
...peace and comfort for the family and friends of Ramona Denny upon her death.
...peace and comfort for the family and friends of Arlette Chapin.
...the guests of our NEST program.
...family and friends who are hurting physically and/or mentally.
...persons in need of mending relationships within their families.
...Susan and her mom.
...mother of Terri Sullivan
...the Nielsen Family.
...all affected by the fires in California and the firefighters who are working to contain the blazes.
...college students.
...those who are traveling.
...those who are hungry.
...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, Angelo Ilardi, Shirley Leafe, Danusia Mason, Nano Masters, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Deb Thompson, Howard Warren**, Jim Algood, Gary B., Ginny B., Greg B., Jonathan Balk, Gavin Brickhouse, Jo Brower, Chuck Carlson, Natalie Carroll, Steve Coleman, Ola Ekundayo, Gale, Bill "Sweet William" Geiger, Matt Gross, Hannah, Jeff Joyner, John, Dakota Lane, Lisa, Mu-Chi Lu, Mercia, Leslie Molina, Cathy Moye, Rob and Katrina, Mikayla Shuflat, Annie Stewart, Isela Vazquez, Vera and Lenard

Those dealing with cancer

Adele Andrews, Susie Ellis, Terri 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.

God our shepherd, gather us as lambs in your arms. Forgive our sins so that we may rejoice in your coming.

Amen.

Readings for January

January 7th

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 14th

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

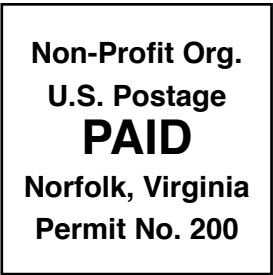
January 21st

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28th

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

