



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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## Expanded Activities and Opportunities

### A Message From the Adult Ministry Committee

**P**salm 71:9 and 18-19: "Do not cast me off in times of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent. Even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come. Your power and your righteousness, O God, reach the high heavens."

This is the mission statement for the Adult Ministry Committee.

The Adult Ministry committee is best known for the over 80's luncheon, but this committee has expanded activities to all adults--- not just our Seniors.

The committee is made up of a creative team of members who explore ways we can involve adults of all ages in the ministry of our congregation. This committee continues to offer new opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth throughout the year.



of Art. We also sponsored an architectural guided tour of the new Slover Library this year.

A regular event that we sponsor is the Over 80's luncheon on Maundy Thursday. After a delicious meal, all attendees move into the sanctuary for the service. This is a well-loved tradition in our congregation.

We have sponsored a tour of the beautiful Norfolk Botanical Garden and visited the recently renovated Chrysler Museum

In December of each year, the Adult Ministry Committee provides a reception for the Night Time of All Souls Service which provides support to those who have lost loved ones.

A fairly new activity is caroling to home bound members. We begin the year as the Epiphany Singers, then become the Emerald Singers and then the Hallelujah Singers! You get the picture! This is a rather spontaneous ministry since we eat lunch after service on Sundays and then go out to sing with those who are eager to be visited! This is a very heart-warming experience for both singers and those who are being visited.

Our upcoming Ice Cream Social on August 13 after the 11 am service will also include lots of singing. This social activity has expanded to serve as an outreach to the community. Because it takes place in our Courtyard, it makes our church family visible to those who walk by or live nearby.

The Adult Ministry Committee would welcome you to assist in this important ministry of our congregation!



# Synod Assembly 2017

“Ambassadors for Christ: Forwarding Faith Globally, Ecumenically, into the future and into our daily lives” was the theme of our 2017 VA Synod Assembly, June 9-11, at Roanoke College. The Assembly included many joyful times to celebrate being the church together. Below are comments from our members who were in attendance.

The Assembly provided us wonderful opportunities to thank Bishop Mauney for his years of gifted ministry, participate in the Call Process that resulted in identifying Pastor Bob Humphrey as our Bishop-Elect, and celebrate the global church and the Commissioning of Samantha DiBiaso as a Young Adult in Global Mission.

— Pastor Rick Goeres

The Saturday evening service was amazing! The thank you dinner for Bishop Emeritus Mauney was very nicely done! And of course, the election process for the new Bishop was quite exciting. Thank you First Lutheran for an amazing experience!!

— David Redilla

Synod Assembly was quite the whirlwind this year! I was honored to be asked to address the assembly as a candidate for Bishop; I am more greatly relieved to remain at First! I so appreciated Pastor Malpica-Padilla's call to travel the dangerous roads (like in the Parable of the Good Samaritan) and to go where we are at first afraid to go, and in so doing, to encounter those whom God has called us to love, invite, include, and care for. He was very specific in his call to care for refugees, who have themselves traveled dangerous roads to find safety and security. I also appreciated the sermon Saturday morning in which we were reminded that the Spirit of God goes before us into any situation, making a way for us so that our work, our conversations, our interactions will be fruitful. I am so thankful for Bishop Mauney's dedicated service to our Synod and to the Church over the past 18 years; the banquet in his honor was a worthy celebration of such a great yet humble man.

— Pastor Mims



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I first want to thank you for the privilege of representing First Lutheran Church, Norfolk at our Virginia Synod Assembly. For me it was a personally fulfilling weekend, with opportunities to worship together, enjoy fellowship, learn about and discuss the work of our synod as well as the entire ELCA, and contemplate the future. As I think back on the weekend and all that transpired, one word keeps coming to mind—Leadership. As you know one of the important items of business for this year's assembly was to elect a new bishop to lead our synod. Over the course of the weekend, however, I was struck by how much leadership First Lutheran Norfolk has provided, and continues to provide, for our synod. On Friday evening, I attended a lovely banquet to honor our outgoing bishop, the Rev James F. Mauney, a son of First Lutheran Norfolk, and among his family attending the banquet was a pew-full of FLC members. On Saturday, I participated in a voting process that, when it had been narrowed down to 6 candidates, included both of our pastors, and our senior pastor was one of the final 3 candidates. Yes—the entire assembly affirmed the amazing talents and leadership qualities of our two pastors. On Sunday during our final worship service, our synod commissioned one young person to participate next year in the ELCA's Young Adults



in Global Mission program, and that one young person coming from the Virginia Synod is our own Samantha DiBiao. Over the course of the weekend I heard calls for all of us, as Lutherans, to lead during these troubling times when so many individuals and nations are turning away from Jesus' commandment to love one another. The Rev Rafael Malpica-Padilla, ELCA Executive Director of ELCA Global Mission, inspired us with these words: "It is for a moment such as this that we have been called." In her message to our assembly ELCA Presiding Bishop, the Rev Elizabeth Eaton, reminded us that "we only have this ministry for a season, and this is our season." During this year while we celebrate the anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses and his role in starting the Reformation, we can be proud that 500 years ago the Lutheran Movement changed the world. In celebrating, however, we also need to remember that our Lutheran Movement is still going forward, and that by being part of this movement we can continue that transformation. As First Lutheran Norfolk, we have been called to lead that change for our community and our synod. Being a leader will not be easy. It will require sacrifice and hard work, and there may be few "thank you" moments along the way, but this is our season, and we will not get another.

May God bless you today and every day,

— Eric Peterson

Pastor, you asked us what most impressed us about the Thirtieth Annual Virginia Synod Assembly we attended on June 9-11, 2017. WOW where would you start. Being a part of 400 plus Delegates, Ambassadors for Christ, the Holy Spirit was among us. The opening services were so up lifting that you felt if you stumbled there were 400 willing to lift you up. We were so proud of our Pastors being nominated for Bishop and their following speeches. Saturday's Holly Communion and Ordination at Saint Andrew's Catholic Church was unbelievable. You cannot imagine the up lifting 400 voices saying the Lord's Prayer and singing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" gives you. If you can walk out of that service and not feel the Holy Spirit, you were asleep which would have been impossible. I believe everyone, if they could, should attend a Synod Meeting. Discussions with Pastor Jean Bozeman, Elena Ilardi, David Redilla, Eric Peterson and our youth representative Orion Posey and Ministerial Student Alyssa Kaplan both at the Synod Meeting and the car journey to and from Norfolk, formed new relationships going forward.

— John Bissey



To me synod assembly is incredible worship and praise, family reunion, mystery, joy, awe and just plain fun – yes, there are also some boring moments. I love seeing the Spirit alive and well in business sessions, in offerings, in people's faces and especially in the call process of the Bishop. I always learn anew the many ways in which we are church together around the world. We are so blessed!

— Pastor Jean Bozeman

Two highlights from Synod Assembly. First, it was a joy to be present for the commissioning of Sam DiBiao before the Synod for her upcoming YAGM experience. Second, it was so powerful to listen to the words of the candidates for Bishop who addressed the assembly. Our Synod is blessed with dynamic Pastors, visionaries, and prophets who will all shepherd our church forward in this next era.

— Alyssa Kaplan

I loved the opportunity to get to know our own delegation and Alyssa Kaplan better. I learned that the leadership of our Synod, and not just First Lutheran, focuses on the importance of God's Grace – the love God has for everyone and the willingness our church has to show this love for others all around the world.

I loved seeing how our church is evangelizing through helping others wherever we can. I was impressed by Bishop Mauney's sincere joy in and appreciation for everyone and everything. He will be missed.

— Elana Ilardi

# Reformation Faire



## Letters of Appreciation

Dear Friends,

There are not enough words in my vocabulary to express how touched we have been by the kindness of the wonderful First Lutheran family. The gifts of food were not only helpful, but delicious. The flowers, visits and many cards warmed our hearts and have been so comforting. Thank you for being there for us. We are so grateful and appreciative.

Blessings,

Jane and Megan van Wolkenten

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$270.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Thank you for faithfully joining together with the whole church to distribute your gifts and tithes to people whose lives and communities have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world, giving thanks that, even after the dust has settled and the headlines have changed, the church stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Dear Pastor Goeres and Mims and members of First Lutheran, The alter flowers arranged and delivered by Ginger Van de Water were beautiful. I was also the recipient of a beautiful Easter lily delivered by David Redilla. My heartfelt thanks to all who arrange

and deliver flowers to shut ins. These flowers are much appreciated. Also, I want to thank all who sent a birthday card. My daughter contacted Pastor Mims, asking members to send cards for my 90th. The response was overwhelming. I received 88 cards. It was a great deal of fun opening them. I really miss attending church; every Sunday finds me wishing that I were there.

Yours in Christ,

Joann Klotz

To my brothers and sisters in Christ,

In December of 2016, I was diagnosed with cancer. My treatment for this specific type of cancer was to have surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

I want to thank those at FLC who took time out of their Sundays to deliver church flowers to me. The flowers were beautiful and so appreciated. I also received beautiful cards signed by numerous people. All these cards lifted my spirits very much and again were greatly appreciated.

At this point, I have one more chemotherapy treatment to go and a CAT scan and then I will be finished with my treatments hopefully.

Thank you very much and blessings.

Nancy Thorpe

# Connect with Others

## With Open Arms - Interfaith Coalition for Refugees

Members of First Lutheran continue to work together with other area congregations in support of refugees who have been resettled in the Hampton Roads area. The group is currently coordinating with Commonwealth Catholic Charities to provide additional support for a single Eritrean man who moved to Newport News in April, and an Eritrean family with small children (scheduled to move to Norfolk at the end of June). Like to get involved? Here's how:

- Attend the next With Open Arms meeting on Thursday, July 13 at 5:30 pm. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month, on the second floor of 800 Colonial Ave. (house next to First Presbyterian).

- Volunteer to assist With Open Arms with games and activities for kids at a Newport News picnic (to be held on Saturday, July 15) for recently resettled refugees in our area. For more information, contact Elizabeth Janik at [ejanik@outlook.com](mailto:ejanik@outlook.com)
- If you're interested in helping resettled families in our area on a regular or occasional basis in the future, please fill out the attached survey and return to Elizabeth Janik's mailbox in the welcome center, or submit the online version at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53HQKXQ>, so With Open Arms can contact you as needs arise.

## Sign up now for Vacation Bible School! August 7-11, 9 am -12 pm

There will be music, crafts, games, Bible stories, and even an opportunity to learn more about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Kids age 3 through rising 5th graders are welcome to participate (and bring along friends!). Registration forms are available in the welcome center, or can be downloaded at [www.flcnorfolk.org](http://www.flcnorfolk.org)

VBS also needs adult and youth volunteers -- If you're interested in helping, please contact Elizabeth Janik at [ejanik@outlook.com](mailto:ejanik@outlook.com)

## Harbor Park Outing!

Join First Lutheran for an afternoon at Harbor Park on Sunday August 6th, at 4:00 PM. The Tides will take on the Durham Bulls. Tickets are \$10. Please pay David Kuehl or Jacob Weber by July 26th. Hope to see you there!

## Nursery Staff Opportunity at FLC

First Lutheran is currently looking to expand our nursery staff with an employment opportunity for an adult nursery staff member. The position pays \$10.00/hour and requires availability one or two Sundays a month, from 8:15-12:30 AM. Please contact Lisa Geiger at [lgeiger@flcnorfolk.com](mailto:lgeiger@flcnorfolk.com) if you or an adult you know would be interested in this opportunity!

## Laundry Love

Despite a slow start to the evening, the Laundry Love event on June 15 was a big success. Thirty \$15 cards were distributed (along with detergent), and refreshments were shared with our Colley Avenue neighbors. Thank you to all who supported this new project with your financial contributions, and thank you to those who willingly volunteered, especially Robert Green, Julie Moberly and Jackie and Meghan Velotas. We will keep the congregation informed as this ministry grows and develops. Sincerely, Merrie Jo Milner, Chuck and Pam Baynard.

## Council Summary, June

At our June 5th meeting, the Council:

- Participated in the opening prayer and devotions led by Scott Silsdorf.
- Approved the Minutes of the May meeting.
- Approved a motion from the Executive committee to accept the Capital Improvement prioritization list with a next step for the Executive Committee to meet with representatives from Finance, Real Estate, Stewardship and Property to pursue funding options.
- Approved a motion from Stewardship to combine the VA Synod's Forwarding Faith campaign with our yearly stewardship campaign which will allow us to capitalize on the professional resources from the Forwarding Faith materials that are adaptable for congregational use.
- Approved a motion from Property to increase SPFM by \$1000 to purchase a new dishwasher for the Welcome Center kitchen and provide additional funds for any other repairs needed in 2017.
- Approved a motion from Worship to have 1 service on Sundays in the month of August at 10:00 AM. Worship will assess the impact of a single worship service to inform future recommendations of a combined service in August.

The Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. There will be no meeting in July. The meeting is open to the congregation.



## 2017 Virginia Synod Assembly Update

Synod Assembly is our annual opportunity for the 150 congregations of the Virginia Synod to come together and be reminded what it means to be a part of the wider church. Our theme during our June 9-11, 2017 gathering was “Ambassadors For Christ: Forwarding Faith.”

During the weekend, **The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla**, the Executive Director of the Global Mission program, represented the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, bringing good news from the wider church.

The Rev. Malpica Padilla also served as election representative for the Virginia Synod Bishop Election. **The Rev. Robert Humphrey** pastor at Muhlenberg in Harrisonburg was elected on June 11<sup>th</sup> to serve a six-year term as bishop. Humphrey was elected on the fifth ballot with 217 votes to 167 votes for **The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick**, associate pastor of St. Philip Lutheran Church of Roanoke.

Testimonials from campaign leadership, **Stephanie Hamlett** of Epiphany Lutheran in Richmond, **The Rev. Jean Bozeman** of First Lutheran in Norfolk, **Jonathan Hornbaker** of Grace Lutheran in Winchester, and Bishop James F. Mauney were given in support of the ForwardingFaith campaign and the many ministries this endowment aims to support. The campaign has raised over \$2.2 million thus far. The congregational phase is when we welcome and provide the opportunity for our congregations to come together and support faith formation in the Virginia Synod.

One resolution was passed with a standing ovation, recognizing the great work in the life of our synod by Bishop Mauney, naming him Bishop Emeritus at his retirement on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Elections for Synod Council also took place over the weekend. We welcome newly elected lay member **Judy Castele** of Good Shepherd in Lexington. **The Rev. Paul Pingel** of Grace Waynesboro was elected to continue his appointment to serve. **The Rev. Meredith Williams**, pastor of Ascension Lutheran in Danville, **The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick**, **The Rev. Chris Carr** pastor of Christ the King in Richmond were all reelected to serve as Ministers of Word and Sacrament on Synod Council.

**The Committee of Discipline** and the **Consultation Committee** were also elected over the weekend. Both were elected by acclamation.

**The Rev. Alex Zuber** was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA during Saturday evening liturgy at St. Andrew's in Roanoke. He will serve as pastor of the **Stony Man Lutheran Parish** made up of **Beth Eden** and **Grace Lutheran** in Luray, Virginia.

One young woman was commissioned for Young Adults in Global Mission. **Samantha DiBiao** has accepted a one-year appointment as a YAGM to Southern Africa.

**Michaela Loving** of Mt. Zion in New Market, president of the Lutheran Youth Organization, presented the Youth Assembly report, centered on the Youth Assembly theme of “To Faith and Beyond.” She spoke to the immeasurable value of youth events, and also expressed the gathered youths’ vision for the new bishop of the Virginia Synod. The next LYO Board president will be **Isaac Wilson** of Christ Lutheran in Fredericksburg.

## July Birthdays

Adam Levensalor	1-Jul	Sean Duffy	11-Jul	David Perron	17-Jul	Darrell Kristo	24-Jul
Lauren Willis	2-Jul	Emily Davidson	12-Jul	Marilyn Jersild	18-Jul	Lauren Kaplan	25-Jul
Mary Delaney	4-Jul	Patrick Seaman	12-Jul	Julia Siik	18-Jul	Matthew Nordan	25-Jul
Benjamin Farpour	4-Jul	Robert Masters	13-Jul	Annika Fox	19-Jul	Christopher Powell	25-Jul
Hannah Duffy	5-Jul	Lee Azar	14-Jul	John Lewis	19-Jul	Ivana DiNini	26-Jul
Virginia Temple	5-Jul	Connie Kaiser	14-Jul	Sophia Phillips	19-Jul	Donna Mangubat	26-Jul
Jennifer Echea	6-Jul	Helen Parker	14-Jul	Rebecca Poston	19-Jul	Debra Acors	28-Jul
Thomas Gates	6-Jul	Alexander Loope	15-Jul	Ethan Hutchings	20-Jul	Judy Basco	28-Jul
Margaret Poston	6-Jul	Jane van Wolkenten	15-Jul	Ella Kopf	20-Jul	Marie Hill	28-Jul
Juliet Kuehl	7-Jul	Barbara Chapman	16-Jul	Janine Brown	21-Jul	P. Fay Rogner	28-Jul
Leilani Silsdorf	7-Jul	Sarah Delaney	16-Jul	Anna Mason	21-Jul	Lauren Silsdorf	28-Jul
Katherine Buckley	8-Jul	Joelle Griffith	16-Jul	Marilyn Melchor	21-Jul	Anna Wood	28-Jul
Kiersten Hilton	8-Jul	Donald Hurdle	16-Jul	Lauren Schultz	22-Jul	Nolan Ferguson	29-Jul
Lee Marfield	8-Jul	Jonathan Miller, MD	16-Jul	Doris Wiele	22-Jul	Vicki O'Rourke	29-Jul
Mark Torbert	8-Jul	Anna Willis	16-Jul	Adam Clifford	23-Jul	Lynda Behnke	30-Jul
Jennifer Boykin	9-Jul	Samantha Farpour	17-Jul	William Seaman	23-Jul	Joy Kelly	30-Jul
James Brady	9-Jul	Amy Larson	17-Jul	Holly Wittmann	23-Jul	Marion Kiligas	31-Jul
Debra Porter	10-Jul	Randall Milner	17-Jul	Madelyn Baker	24-Jul	Isa Zamani	31-Jul

# Connect with Word and Body

## Prayer Concerns for July

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 Pastor Mims' leadership of the women's Bible study.
- ...for the health of Loyd Rawls.
- ...for Nano.
- ...for God's constant presence in our lives.
- ...for God's grace and forgiveness.
- ...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

- ...Marty, Jenna and Nathan Mitchell (son-in-law and grandchildren of **Donna Kopf**) upon their baptisms.
- ...Jeanie Wright and John Phillips who were married at First on June 17, 2017.
- ...Sarah Christianson and Christ Stennett who were married at First on June 17, 2017.
- ...our new Bishop-Elect, Pastor Bob Humphries, and Barbara as they begin their new adventures in the Virginia Synod.
- ...Pastor Brett Davis and the congregation at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg.
- ...our Bishop Emeritus, James Mauney, and Linda as they transition into retirement.
- ...Gavett Clay Arthur on Tuesday to Gloria Goeres and Clay Arthur (and grandparents, **Pastor Goeres and Neva**).

### Pray for

- ...comfort and peace for the family and friends of Sharon Taylor upon her death.
- ...the family and friends of Philandro Castille.
- ...the family and friends of Larry Cook.
- ...the crew of the USS Fitzgerald and for the family and friends of those who died.
- ...the Perry Family.
- ...our mindfulness in letting God open our eyes to know what he is calling us to do in his name.
- ...that we work for peace, justice and hope to all in this world.
- ...for victims of terrorism and for refugees.
- ...for all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.
- ...for the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

**Marty Bradley, Roger Fuller, Patty Graham, Susan Griffin, Carolyn Meakin, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Nancy Smith, Deb Thompson, Nancy Thorpe, Jody Unruh, Howard Warren, Jim Allgood, Jonathan Balk, Gavin Brickhouse, Steve Coleman, Jason Dorsey, Gale, Deb Gross, Hannah, Howard, Devin Hubert, Janice, Greg Jank, Don Jones, Katya's Oma, Lenard, David Lindsey, Mike and Barbara, Linda Moretz (aunt of Judy Biboum), Cathy Moye, Rob and Marty, Johnnie Sadler (father of Blythe Scott), Shirl, Annie Stewart, Theo, Richard Van Syckle, Vera, Wendy**

### Those dealing with cancer

Adele Andrews, Meg Miller, Michelle Caulley, Larry Griffin, Yvonne Gulick, Joan Sutera, Shirley Roesler Whitson

### Military and their families:

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

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

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Readings for July

### July 2nd

Jeremiah 28:5-9  
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42

### July 9th

Zechariah 9:9-12  
Psalm 145:8-14  
Romans 7:15-25a  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### July 16th

Isaiah 55:10-13  
Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

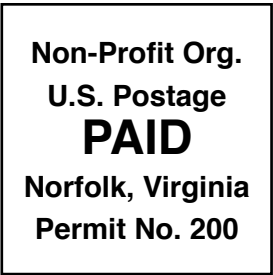
### July 23rd

Isaiah 44:6-8  
Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### July 30th

1 Kings 3:5-12  
Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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