



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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NO. 3

The Global Missions Committee

The Global Missions Committee has an important and challenging purpose: To keep our congregation alert to issues in our society and world that compel an informed, Christian response. A particularly urgent issue that we have addressed in the fall of each year is the scourge of poverty and hunger both here and abroad. Recognizing the indispensable role of government in combating hunger, we work with the Christian organization, Bread for the World, in advocating appropriate legislation in Congress. BFW was founded by a Lutheran clergyman in 1974 and is now a highly effective organization in the battle against hunger.

Each fall we conduct our letter-writing campaign directed to members of Congress, and we encourage FLC members to participate in that activity. According to recent data, there has been a decrease in the percentage of the population living in poverty and struggling with hunger, both here and abroad. We are thankful and encouraged by that, and pleased that we can channel our efforts in contributing to this humane effort.

Recognizing the immense challenge of the current refugee crisis, the Committee last fall met with a representative of Commonwealth Catholic Charities, a government-authorized organization for resettling refugees in Hampton Roads. This led to our meeting with several other area congregations at First Presbyterian Church, who are now organizing as an interfaith refugee support

group, called “With Open Arms.” Given the many things that are involved in hosting refugee families, it makes sense to pool our efforts with other people of

faith. At its meeting on February 6, the Church Council received the Committee’s report on these developments, and encouraged us to continue our participation.

In the coming months, FLC members will be hearing more about preparations for receiving a refugee family in our area. There are many ways in which volunteers can help: collecting furniture and preparing an apartment for housing a family, providing transportation, tutoring in the English language, and much more. A volunteer survey form will be available in coming weeks; for those who would like to respond electronically now they can go to this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53HQBKXQ>. All of our efforts are a part of “welcoming the stranger,” and in this case, a family that has suffered tremendous dislocation and extraordinary physical and mental distress. It is our blessing that we are able to help them begin a new life.



Faith in the Home

“Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops and priests to their children, if they make them acquainted with the gospel. In short, there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal.”

-Martin Luther

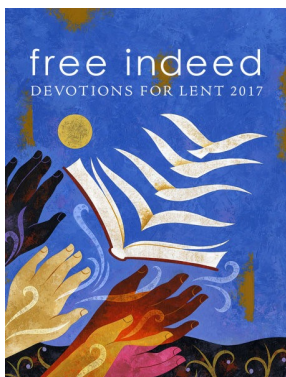
Martin Luther held the role of parents in high esteem, comparing them to apostles and bishop and priests to their children. He believed that parents held the most responsibility for sharing the Gospel of Jesus with their children and passing on to them the love of God. Most parents, however, both in Luther’s day and in ours, feel inadequate to the task. “I don’t know the Bible well enough.” “What if they ask me a question I can’t answer?” “I don’t have time to add one more thing to

my family’s schedule.” And yet the truth is that parents have the most influence in shaping their children’s faith, values, and views of the world – over peers, social media, and other adults – even for teenagers. The role of parents in their children’s lives cannot be overstated.

Equipping parents to nurture the faith of their children is an area of ministry I am passionate about and one which was discussed at length during my call interviews. So, the Learning Committee and I are working to host a series of “Faith in the Home” seminars designed to give parents, grandparents and other interested adults tools for talking about their faith and nurturing faith in the children they love. Seminars will occur approximately once a quarter, with the first one taking place on March 12 following the 11:00 service. Lunch and childcare will be provided. The seminars are appropriate whether your children are 3 months old or 17 years old. You will learn something to take home with you, and will also meet other parents/guardians with some of the same questions and concerns that you share!

Please email Pastor Mims at cmims@flcnorfolk.com if you are planning to attend so we make adequate arrangements for lunch and childcare.

Lenten Devotionals for Adults and Children will be available in the Welcome Center



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 March 1st

Mid-week Lenten Services

Lenten worship is held at 1:00 and 7:00 PM every Wednesday, beginning Ash Wednesday, from March 1st and ending April 12th.

NEST Week at First Lutheran

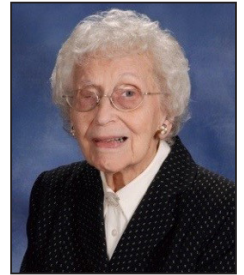
Each day, we provided a delicious dinner, a warm, safe place to sleep, breakfast, and a sack lunch to 40+ guests. It was a team effort, and we logged over 700 volunteer hours! Thanks to the cooks and volunteers who came to help, as well as those who donated money, food, and needed items. A special shout-out to individuals who served multiple days and to those who worked the night shifts — It couldn't have happened without all of you!

— Merrie Jo Milner, Rebecca Dozier,
Jeanne Lampton
NEST Coordinators



Longtime Member Celebrates 100th Birthday!

Trudy Hill was born in a small town near Stuttgart, Germany, March 29, 1917.



When she was eight years old, she came to the United States with her mother and siblings to join her father in Baltimore, Maryland. Although her father had hoped to go to Argentina in the years after World War I, a relative had convinced him to join him in Baltimore. Trudy met her future husband, Andy, in a Lutheran church in Essex, Maryland. Andy worked in civil service and faced a choice between going to Hawaii or Norfolk. He chose Norfolk, where he worked at the Naval Air Station. They settled in the Norview area, where they raised their three children. Trudy and Andy joined First Lutheran in May 1940 and both were faithful, active members. An excellent seamstress, Trudy used that talent to make the junior choir robes, which she also kept laundered. She taught in the Beginners Sunday School department and was a longtime circle member. She and Andy, who passed away in 2004, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at First Lutheran. Although she still maintains her membership here, Trudy moved several years ago to Ashland to be closer to her daughter. In remembering Trudy and her years at FLC, a friend said, "She was a sweet person and everybody loved her." Trudy, you are loved and remembered. Congratulations and best wishes to you on your 100th birthday!

Council Summary

At our February 6th meeting, the Council:

- Participated in the opening prayer and devotions led by Pastor Mims.
- Approved Consent Agenda items.
- Voted to utilize Council Discretionary Funds to make up the difference between the identified Memorial Funds and the remaining funds needed for the new choir robes.
- Voted to request that the Finance Committee develop a recommendation for a process to prioritize Unfunded Expenses (not Capital Expenses).
- Voted to create a committee to identify and prioritize Capital Improvements and determine a time-frame for phased implementation.
- Voted to participate in a new ministry with other area churches to support resettling refugees.
- Shared blessings and prayer concerns.

The Council meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. The meeting is open to the congregation.

Connect with Others

First Communion Class

First Communion Class is Forming! The class will meet twice, after the 11:00 services on March 26th and April 2nd, in preparation for taking first communion during Holy Week. Pastor Goeres and Pastor Mims will lead the classes which will meet for lunch followed by discussion with the students and children's parents in Strickler Hall. Students are then invited to take their first communion with their families and the congregation at any service during Holy Week. You can sign up for the class or get more information by contacting Amy Hood at rhoad7@cox.net.

Emerald Singers

On Sunday, March 12th, the "Emerald Singers" will visit and sing with our home bound members. Lunch will be provided. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. All are welcome to participate in this important ministry!

Any questions? Call Ginny Fox (481-0242) or Merri Jo Milner (226-7962)

Red Cross Blood Drive

Calling ALL Blood donors, returning folks and NEW donors!!! Wednesday, March 15th is our annual blood drive. One time each year we do our part to both host and support the Red Cross as they work so hard to give the Gift of Life to many in need. We have a challenging goal this year...WE NEED ALL OF YOU.

Sign up will be in the Welcome Center on Sunday, March 5th and March 12th. Or, you can sign up on line NOW at www.redcrossblood.org. Use the Sponsor Code, GHENT. We have snacks for you in the Canteen and friendly Volunteers to help make your time go well. PLEASE help your congregation to have a SUPER DRIVE!

Thank you,

Ken and Melissa Zaletski

ACTS 2017 SPRING COURSE Introduction to the Old Testament

Dates: Saturday, March 11, 2017, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
& Saturday, April 1, 2017, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Leader: The Rev. Dave Delaney, Grace Lutheran Church, 500 South Wayne Avenue, Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Description: Introduction to the Old Testament This course will be held on March 11 and April 1, 2017 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM. You have the option of registering to attend at Grace Lutheran Church in Waynesboro or our simulcast locations at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wytheville or Grace Lutheran Church in Chesapeake.

Reformation Book Fair

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Learning Ministry committee is sponsoring an Augsburg Fortress/Sparkhouse Family Book Fair from March 12-26. Educate yourself on the history of the Reformation, Martin Luther's writings, and their impact on Christianity today. In addition, children and families will enjoy a variety of Bible storybooks and videos. You will be able to browse the displays and place your order through FLC to receive a 50% discount plus free shipping. Watch for signs in the Welcome Center for more details.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on March 7 at 7:00 PM at the home of Susan Stones.

Prayer Concerns for March

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

...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.

Help us

...to set appropriate boundaries in our lives.

...to choose life...to know we are forgiven and blessed by God...and to be a blessing to others.

Pray

...comfort and peace for the family and friends of Leigh Rogers upon her death (niece of **Steve** and **Sharon Asam**)

...peace and comfort for the family and friends of Debbie Wright upon her death.

...Julie Sutera, her mother and family.

...the family and friends of Hilda Gonzalez.

...the family of Jim Vambell.

...comfort and peace for the Baynard family upon the death of Judy (sister of Chuck Baynard).

...immigrants.

...for the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

...a friend who must be strong and brave as her spouse has surgery.

...all those whose human rights are compromised in our own country and around the world.

...all who are retired and for all volunteers who share their time and energy for the sake of others.

Jean Bozeman, Janet Eggan, Roger Fuller, Kristen Gonzales, Brinkley Goranson, Patti Graham, Susan Griffin, Carolyn Meakin, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Caroline Robinson, Deb Thompson, Nancy Thorpe, Jeanne Walters, Howard Warren, Ginny B., Jonathan Balk, Charles Davis, Gale, G'ma Katie, Kiki McKinney, Cathy Moye, Mogens Nielsen, Richard, Gary Skrien, Mary Lou and John Smart, Annie Stewart, Jordan and Katlyn Tackett

Those dealing with cancer

Ray Hinton, Ramona Denny, Larry Griffin (brother of Ivana Dinini), Suzanne Lasseigne

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-deployed, Tim Kelly-deployed, John Marfield-deployed

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings for March

March 5th

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

March 12th

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 19th

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 26th

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Worship Volunteers for March 2017

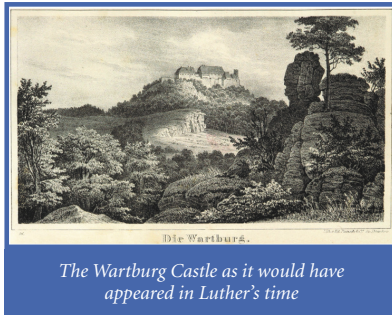
	MAR 5	MAR 12	MAR 19	MAR 26
ASSISTING MINISTERS	(8:30) Karen Siegel (11) Lynn Utecht	(8:30) Steve Velotas (11) Don Buckley	(8:30) Gail Plauka (11) Kat Kussart	(8:30) Chuck Baynard (11) Don Buckley
LECTOR OT	(8:30) Eric Peterson (11) Cathy Whittecar	(8:30) Don Lundquist (11) Neva Goeres	(8:30) Karen Siegel (11) Judy Basco	(8:30) Don Lundquist (11) Janet Eggen
LECTOR NT	(8:30) Diane Newlon (11) Rich Whittecar	(8:30) (11) Jim Seagraves	(8:30) Karen Siegel (11) Don Buckley	(8:30) Lawrence Carr (11) Frank Minschke
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	(8:30) Pastor Goeres (11) Pastor Goeres	(8:30) Lorette Horsboll (11)	(8:30) (11)	(8:30) (11)
CRUCIFER/	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
TORCHES	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
ACOLYTES	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	(8:30) Jane van Wolkenten (11)	(8:30) John Bissey (11) Kat Kussart	(8:30) Steve Velotas (11) Denise H.	(8:30) Robert Green (11) Charles Poston
BREAD	Kaye McGinnis	Mary Bissey	Jeanne Walters	Barbara Chapman
COFFEE HOUR	(8:30) Lorette & Paul Horsboll (11) John Faircloth / Merrie Jo Milner	(8:30) (11) Debbie Duffy	(8:30) (11) Barry & Frances Halcrow	(8:30) (11) Joelle Griffith
COMMUNION SET-UP	(8:30) Jane van Wolkenten / Schaus Family	(8:30) Chuck & Pam Baynard	(8:30) Dolly Hinton	(8:30) Barbara Chapman / Jonathan Miller
COMMUNION CLEAN UP	(8:30) Jane van Wolkenten / Schaus Family (11) Jennifer Moll / Elizabeth Moll	(8:30) Williams Family (11) Jennifer Moll / Elizabeth Moll	(8:30) Williams Family (11) Jennifer Moll / Elizabeth Moll	(8:30) Barbara Chapman / Jonathan Miller (11) Jennifer Moll / Elizabeth Moll
FLOWERS	Joy Kelly	Janine Brown	Julie Moberly	Kirsten New
FLOWER REARRANGING	Julie Coffing / Mary Fox	Julie Coffing / Mary Fox	Julie Coffing / Mary Fox	Julie Coffing / Mary Fox
FLOWER DELIVERY	Barbara Cordrey			
GREETERS	(8:30) Lorette & Paul Horsboll (11) John Faircloth / Merrie Jo Milner	(8:30) (11) Ginger Van de Water	(8:30) (11)	(8:30) (11) Elizabeth Moll
USHERS	(8:30) Team One (11) Tim Hund, Steve Fox, Barry Halcrow, Joe Leafa, Charles Poston, Bill Robinson, Ginger Van de Water	(8:30) Team One (11) William Wattai, David Basco, Linda Braaten, Gregg Clifford, David Redilla, Dick Temple	(8:30) Team One (11) Don Strehlow, Marion Ingersoll, Mark Utecht, John Wlittmann	(8:30) Team One (11) Bruce Johnson, Steve Asam, Bob Braaten, Don Buckley, Chris Coffing, Gail Plauka
VIDEOGRAPHER				

Martin Luther's German Bible

What version of the Bible do you hear and read? Just in English, we have many to choose from. They range from translations that aim to be as accurate as possible (such as the New Revised Standard Version) to others whose main objective is to be easy to understand, even if certain details get lost.

Imagine, though, if there were no Bible available in English—if such a thing didn't exist. What if the only Bible was in a language most didn't know and we had to rely on priests and scholars to tell us what was in the Bible? That was the situation in the Germany of Martin Luther's time. The Bible was most commonly found in Latin, though scholars could read it in the original languages of Hebrew and Greek. An important part of Luther's reforms was recognizing that a German Bible was needed—and then actually creating it!

Sometimes things happen because it's the right time, and that seems to be the case with Luther's Bible. Johannes Gutenberg's invention of printing with movable type had come along a few decades earlier and was coming into widespread use. Luther recognized the need to provide a Bible that ordinary, literate people could read. The many dialects of the German people were beginning to coalesce into a form that was widely understandable. Luther even had an artist friend, Lucas Cranach, who could provide illustrations for the Bible, aiding people's



The Wartburg Castle as it would have appeared in Luther's time

finally, Luther had the time to devote to the project.

The dispute with the Roman Catholic hierarchy that had begun with indulgences and Luther's Ninety-Five Theses had expanded and now came to a head with the imperial council (or "diet") held at Worms. Luther strongly defended his writings but still was condemned as an outlaw (in addition to already being named a heretic). He could have been arrested and executed, but his prince, Frederick the Wise, "kidnapped" him in April 1521 and hid him away in the Wartburg Castle. There the reformer had little to do, so he set out to begin his translation of the Bible.

He started with the New Testament. He had learned New Testament (*koiné*) Greek, the original language, and so began with that, not Latin. Since the German language was still evolving, Luther would make trips into nearby towns to hear how people actually spoke. Luther returned to his home in Wittenberg in 1522, and within six months, his New Testament was published. After that he worked with other pastors and scholars to prepare the Old Testament. The complete Bible, with 117 woodcut illustrations, was first published in 1534. He revised it several times up until his death.

Luther's work on a German Bible was a landmark achievement. It influenced others in many countries, including England, to do the same. He brought the scriptures into the language of his people, and in so doing spread the gospel.



Title page from an early printing of Luther's translation

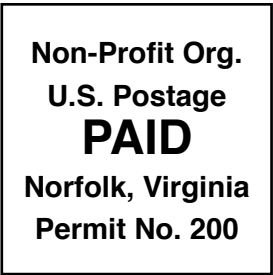
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March Birthdays

Christopher Holbach	1 Mar.	David Redilla	9 Mar.	Albert Burckard	15 Mar.	Maggie Utecht	23 Mar.
Carolyn Meakin	2 Mar.	Evan Vera Cruz	9 Mar.	Jeff Willis	15 Mar.	Jacob Weeks	24 Mar.
Antoinette Sires	2 Mar.	Matthew Badgett	10 Mar.	Nathaniel Masters	16 Mar.	Hope Fischer	25 Mar.
Donna Kintsche	3 Mar.	Jason Shea	10 Mar.	Vickie Zelasko	16 Mar.	Jeanne Walters	25 Mar.
Wyann Kaiser	5 Mar.	Charlene Loope	11 Mar.	Patrick Beck	17 Mar.	Sarah Ammons	26 Mar.
Stephen Griffin	6 Mar.	Velloma Davis	12 Mar.	Frances Halcrow	17 Mar.	Donald Fisher	29 Mar.
Esther Williams	6 Mar.	John Poston	12 Mar.	Norman Stones	17 Mar.	Trudy Hill	29 Mar.
Courtney Faircloth	7 Mar.	Chuck Baynard	13 Mar.	Lynn Utecht	17 Mar.	Zachery Posey	30 Mar.
Margel Fisher	7 Mar.	James Benson	13 Mar.	Emma Ammons	18 Mar.	Howard Warren	30 Mar.
Jay Gill	7 Mar.	Rhiannon Smith	13 Mar.	Linda Joella	20 Mar.	Dawn Richardson	31 Mar.
Kathleen Kussart	7 Mar.	Caroline Asam	14 Mar.	Steven Velotas	20 Mar.	Gary Weeks	31 Mar.
Lorna Moss	7 Mar.	Johnathan Buckley	14 Mar.	Antoinette Sires	21 Mar.		
Norma Moss	7 Mar.	Sylvia Bourcier	15 Mar.	Anthony Echea	22 Mar.		
Christian Asam	9 Mar.	Caroline Boykin	15 Mar.	Amanda Affeldt	23 Mar.		

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