



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757-625-1953

www.flcnorfolk.com

VOL. XXXI

MAY 2017

NO. 5

Greetings from the Congregation Council

Greetings on behalf of the First Lutheran Church Congregation Council. Since my unexpected election as president of council immediately after the annual Congregation Meeting, I have been working closely with FLC Administration, Officers, and the rest of the Council to further the good works of this amazing church. I wish to offer heartfelt thanks for your faithful participation in the life of our Congregation! We all give thanks for the spirit of generosity that permeates our congregation.

We continue to be blessed with new opportunities for worship and service while strengthening the ministries we have come to appreciate. We have seen who else serves in our worldly areas of expertise as we celebrate Living Our Baptism in worship on a monthly basis. Lay Eucharistic Ministry teams have joined our pastors in taking Holy Communion to our members who are homebound, in nursing homes, or the hospital. Faith in the Family has given us opportunities to gather around tables and explore ways to strengthen our religious disciplines at home. The Book Fair gave us a hands-on exploration of books to purchase that celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Martin Luther's Small Catechism and writings have been the focus of our Midweek Lenten Journey as well as illustrations in sermons and classes throughout the year.

The congregational picnic will be enjoyed on June 3rd at Lafayette Park, Confirmation Camp and Kairos are on the horizon for our Youth to grow in faith. Our new Website, www.flcnorfolk.org, is up and running. Did you know that you can hear sermons as well as find pictures and information on the site? I would ask that you visit the site

often and encourage those who are considering FLC as a church home to do the same.

On the financial front, your faithful participation allowed us to finish 2016 with contributions above expenses of \$38,846.36, rather than the projected shortfall we anticipated going in to last year. What a blessing! We occupy an old building with significant big ticket items on the horizon, but I have no doubt that together we will meet and exceed those challenges just as we always have.

It takes literally dozens of individuals working diligently to put on our church services each Sunday. A handful of us are pulling a great deal more than their fair share. For those of us who are not, me included, I would pose one question: "How would you like to deepen your involvement in the life of our congregation?" If you are anything like me, you considered becoming more involved long before making an actual commitment to do so. Please believe me when I say it is absolutely worth getting more involved. Getting to meet and work with wonderful people of faith while sharing in the blessings of the Lord is so very rewarding. I would encourage you to speak with me, or any member of the Congregation Council, so that we can support you in finding your rhythm at First. Our pictures, contact information, and areas of ministry are on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

Simon H. Scott, III
Congregation President

Maundy Thursday Luncheon



Palm Sunday Activities



Connect with Others

Come to the Reformation Fair!!

May 28 and June 4 during the Sunday School hour on the 3rd Floor

Music, Games, and Skits for all Ages

Children will have craft and story stations in addition

Adults will have Rick Steves' Reformation video in addition

You are invited to wear Lord/Lady, Prince/Princess, or Peasant Garb

Please save and turn in old cereal boxes to the Sunday School office on 2nd floor

Please contact Amy Hood with questions or musical/juggling/acting talents at rhoud7@cox.net

New Member Classes

Are you a visitor at First Lutheran who's interested in becoming a member, or hoping to learn more about the Lutheran faith? First Lutheran's 2017 new member classes will start **Sunday, May 7th** and continue through **Sunday, May 28th**. The classes, led by Pastor Goeres are held in the Fellowship Hall on the 3rd floor during the Sunday school hour. After the completion of the classes, all new members will be received by the congregation on **Sunday, June 4th**.

May Blood Drive

Celebrate Spring by giving the Gift of Life at the Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, May 10th, at Saint Andrews Episcopal Church. Hours of donation are from 1:00PM to 7:00PM. Saint Andrews is at 1009 West Princess Anne Road in Norfolk. Visit redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code GHENT to select an available time slot.

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, May 2, at 11:00am in the Conference Room on the second floor. All are welcome to come for study and fellowship. Bring lunch if you can stay after the meeting for more social time. Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, or pbaynard65@charter.net, if you have questions.

Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

If you saw the quilt display on April 23rd, you already know that Christian Service has had quite a productive year. Fifty quilts and 153 school kits have been shipped to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Thank you to everyone who helped with these projects, especially Mary Bissey, Susan Griffin, Dolly Hinton, Marilyn Jersild, Anne Krueck, Joanne Lundquist, Mana Masters, Kaye McGinnis, Sarah McGinnis, Sarah Mckean, Julie Moberly, Grace Ridenhour, Evelyn Robinson, Wilma Robinson, Gail Stenberg, Crystal Wass, Joan Werner, and Mary Zelasko. These people sewed, stuffed, displayed and/or donated fabric. There were also many anonymous donors of fabric and school supplies. A special thank you goes to Chuck Baynard for hauling boxes to Hampton and Richmond for shipment to LWR. Look for announcements this summer about school supply collection for next year's effort. And if you would like to sew quilt tops, contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net.

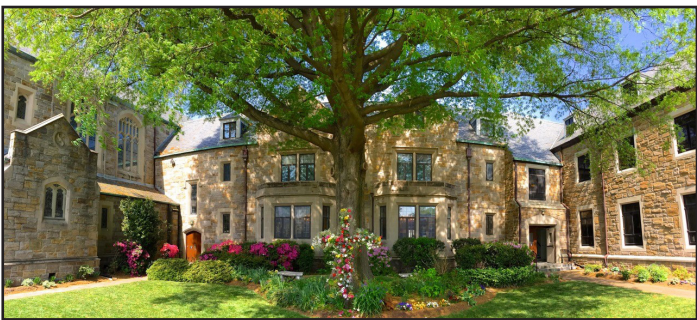
Thank You First Lutheran Teachers!

We would like to thank all First Lutheran Teachers for their service in the past year. We appreciate you sharing your time, knowledge, creativity, and love of Jesus with others. We will be recognizing all First Lutheran teachers at both services on Sunday, May 21. Also, a donation in their honor will be made to send pastors' children to school in Papua New Guinea.

Communion Assistant and Assisting Minister Training

Here Ye. Here Ye. Have you ever wanted to be a Communion Assistant or Assisting Minister, but just didn't know how it all worked within the service? Are you in need of a quick refresher on which is the wine and which is the grape juice? Or maybe you are just interested in finding out about the burse and the pall. :-) Please come to the Communion Assistant and Assisting Minister Training class on May 21st at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. No experience is required and we are looking for new assistants. The class will walk through the roles and activities of both the Communion Assistant and the Assisting Minister throughout the service. Come learn the ropes of either or both roles. To quote Michael Jackson, "It's as easy as 1, 2, 3." See you **May 21st**!

Easter Sunday at First Lutheran!



Meet Randy Trevethan!

Randy is the most recent addition to the FLC family, serving as our Member Contributions Manager. A hard-core Pittsburgh Steelers fan, Air Force “brat,” and grandmother of two (soon to be three!) beautiful granddaughters, Randy has over 12 years of training and experience with church financial software, such as ACS. She can be reached at rtrevethan@flcnorfolk.com to help answer any of your contribution questions or concerns!



Flower Rearranging Demonstration

Do you love flowers? Who doesn't? Would you consider helping out with our Flower Ministry? It's such a wonderful way to connect with our members who are shut in, experiencing illness, or celebrating significant milestones. Each Sunday, the flowers on the altar are rearranged into 3 or 4 smaller arrangements and delivered by members of the congregation. We are in need of more rearrangers as well as delivery coordinators. You don't need experience – we'll train you! If you're interested at all, please stop by our demonstration table after the late service on Sunday, May 21 in the Reception Room. You can see how it's done, and learn what's involved in the rearranging as well as the delivery coordination. We're hoping to strengthen this ministry with additional volunteers, as well as streamline the process.



Congregation Picnic

Our annual picnic will be Saturday, June 3rd at Lafayette Park. We hope to see you there. Please watch the Green Sheet and Life Together announcements for more information.

Martha Circle



Polishing the silver



Easter Baskets for the Union Mission

Connect with Word and Body

Prayer Concerns for May

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 the baptism of Annika Grace Fox (daughter of Mason and Mary Fox and “big” sister of Johanna) and pray that as her First Lutheran Family, we will support her and pray for her in her life in Christ.

...that the stone covering the tomb was not moved to let Jesus out, but to let us in.

...that after the pain of Good Friday and the emptiness of Saturday, our hope has been restored by the resurrection of Christ.

...for God’s love, mercy, grace and forgiveness.

...for the FLC community of faith.

...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 we

...seek to know where and how in this world of pain that Jesus is sending us to spread his love.

Pray for

...comfort and peace for the Roode Family upon the death of Arland (husband, father, grandfather).

...comfort and peace for Tina Gordon and Family upon the death of Tina’s mother.

...the family of Bob Farley.

...the Egyptian Christian Church.

...the people of Syria.

...the family of Virginia Tech.

...all those with mental illness.

...the Pantas Family.

...first responders.

...for all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

...for the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

...for the persecuted, prisoners, victims of violence and abuse, the mentally ill and sufferers of all forms of addiction.

Becky Baldwin, Roger Fuller, Kristen Gonzales, Patty Graham, Susan Griffin, Carolyn Meakin, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Nancy Smith, Deb Thompson, Nancy Thorpe, Jody Unruh, Howard Warren, Amanda, Brian, Steve Coleman, Dave, Charles Davis, Jerry Foster (father of **Debra Duffy**), Gail, Gale, Gary, Evan Guyton, Hannah, Janice Hoffman (sister of **Jody Unruh**), Howard, Devin Hubert, Jack, Felicitous Janik (mother of **Marcus Janik**), Kathryn, Kerry, Leigh Anne and Dean, Michelle McCaulley, Bonnie Pettett, Colleen Prosser, Steve, Annie Stewart, Theo, Will

Those dealing with cancer

Ray Hinton, Bethann Adams, Ramona Denny, Larry Griffin, Suzanne Lasseigne, Amy Riberdy, Jenny Squires, Joan Sutera

Military and their families:

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

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings for May

May 7th

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

May 14th

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 21st

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 28th

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

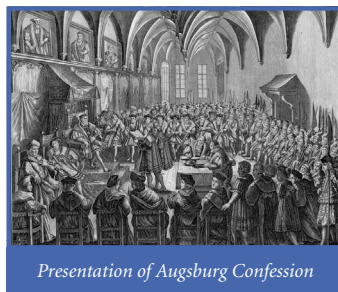
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

The Augsburg Confession

The Augsburg Confession, written in the midst of the Reformation tumult, is the core statement of what Lutherans believe. It was produced in 1530, thirteen years after young professor Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses in Wittenberg. A lot had happened in those thirteen years. Thanks to Luther's creative exploration of the gospel and its implications, his colorful personality (opponents had other adjectives), and the availability of the printing press, his views on religious matters as well as the politics of the day had been widely distributed. In many parts of central Europe, people were responding favorably, to the consternation of the Church of Rome, which had been accustomed to being the single expression of the Christian church in that region.

In the sixteenth century there was no nation called Germany. Rather, the various duchies and electorates made up a key part of the Holy Roman Empire, a remnant of the European territory once governed by ancient Rome. For much of Reformation times, Charles V governed as Holy Roman Emperor. He had watched his empire become increasingly fractured by divisions among princes favorable to Luther and other reformers, and those who kept their loyalty to Rome and the pope. The emperor needed the princes to be unified, not least because a Turkish invasion of Europe had reached the gates of Vienna. And so, in January 1530, the emperor called for a diet, or general assembly, in the German city of Augsburg. He asked the German princes and imperial cities to explain their religious convictions.



Presentation of Augsburg Confession



Philipp Melancthon

And so, reforming theologians and the rulers who supported them headed for Augsburg—among them, Luther's colleague Philipp Melancthon and his pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen. Luther himself could not accompany them because he had been named an outlaw at a previous diet. He had also been excommunicated by the pope. He was, however, consulted on the final text via mail.

Upon their arrival in Augsburg, Melancthon, consulting with previous preliminary documents, composed the final text of the confession. The German princes who favored the Reformation viewpoint agreed to it and signed it. On June 25, 1530, the Augsburg Confession was read aloud in German before the emperor and presented in written form in both German and Latin.

The Augsburg Confession (sometimes called Augustana from its Latin title) is now found in a larger collection of Lutheran confessional writings called *The Book of Concord*. It contains twenty-eight parts, or articles. The first twenty-one of these stress points of agreement with the Roman Church of the time, though sometimes with crucial differences. In the last seven, the writers lay out what they see as abuses committed by the church.

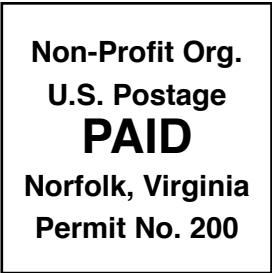
The Augsburg Confession continues to guide the teachings of Lutheran churches to this day. Though a product of troubled times, it is filled with witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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May Birthdays

Jonathan Sackel	2-May	Sonja Baker	9-May	Elizabeth Moll	14-May	Charles Williams	22-May
Kathryn Sackel	2-May	Daniel Pirtle	9-May	Betty Peterson	15-May	Reagan Heller	23-May
Lynn Broman	3-May	Julie Coffing	10-May	Susan Griffin	16-May	Louise Hill	23-May
Margaret Fleet	3-May	Brett Hogan	12-May	Angelo Ilardi	16-May	Betty Jean Meyer, PhD	23-May
Scott Silsdorf	3-May	Dylan Holbach	12-May	Matthew Thompson	16-May	Mackenzie Griffin	24-May
Rebecca Dozier	5-May	Brianna Kelly	12-May	Max Carver	17-May	Lawrence Kelly	27-May
Megan Hurdle	5-May	Lori Kintsche	12-May	Roland Sanchez	18-May	John Bissey	28-May
Jaclyn Velotas	5-May	Lindsay Logan	12-May	John Faircloth	20-May	Claudia Burckard	28-May
Meghan Velotas	5-May	Kelley Minschke	12-May	Angela Hogan	21-May	Paul Jersild	28-May
Carol Curran	6-May	Gabriel Stachour	12-May	Nicholas Masters	21-May	John Ridenhour	29-May
Joann Klotz	6-May	Paulav Cook	13-May	Gregg Clifford	22-May	Bruce Johnson	30-May
Willard Thompson	6-May	Michael Haag	13-May	Jonathan Hund	22-May	Richard Brown	31-May
Erin Sanchez	7-May	Kirsten Bagans	14-May	Erik Kisa	22-May		
Holly Weisenbeck	7-May	Andrew Hilton	14-May	Gail Simos	22-May		

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