



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757-625-1953

www.flcnorfolk.com

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NO. 10

## Do you know The 6 senses??

**Y**ou are now probably asking yourself, “No, there are 5 senses and I learned about them in Kindergarten!” Well, I haven’t completely let the craziness of September get to my head because I am truly asking the question about *The 6 senses* from the Witness committee point of view. What we are has everything to do with the “The Witness 6 senses”.

1. **Seeing** – It is noticing those new faces in our congregation, walking up to them, greeting them with a smile and a handshake. We at First have a gift in seeing those members and visitors and greeting them each and every Sunday.
2. **Doing** – We at FLC are known for doing many acts of kindness as well as helping others discover their own hidden talents. It is about inviting them to be part of what we are about and using our gifts.
3. **Hearing** – How many times have you been asked, “Where do you go to church?” I can tell you that I answer that question quite frequently and at the same time will add in, “Would love to have you come with us!” I have given my number to familiar waitresses and colleagues in hope that I will get that Saturday or Sunday morning text saying “I would love to come today.” Hearing God’s message and sharing the good news is a gift that we have at First. I encourage you to invite a friend or stranger to join us for worship. It is all about sharing our grace with others.
4. **Speaking** – Greeters are a huge part of our worship service. They are the smile and the voice that welcome members and visitors into our church. Just by their presence at our doors, they are setting the tone to share the good news of Christ with others. If you

have the time before worship services, I encourage you to become a greeter. Become a welcoming presence to others whether they are a lifelong member or a first time visitor. It is a great way to meet and connect with members and visitors!

5. **Receiving** – It is the receiving of God’s grace, and experiencing God together that makes us Disciples of Christ. Receiving visitors into our homes, communities and church is sharing the faith in both word and action. It is about reaching out with kindness into all places and circumstances. It is about reaching beyond your comfort zone. What we receive from First, let’s take our hope and faith and share with others. You know the saying, “It is better to give than to receive” .... In our case at First, we receive God’s grace, forgiveness, unending love and then, we in turn can give, and GIVE BIG and GIVE BOLDLY!
6. **Giving** – Which I just mentioned in the sentences above. As Pastor Mims stated in one of her sermons that some things are so good, it is worth saying again. .... In our case at First, we receive God’s grace, forgiveness, and unending love and then, we in turn can give, and GIVE BIG and GIVE BOLD!

So, you see, now you know the 6 Senses of the Witness committee. I encourage you to practice these senses in your daily living through Christ. It brings to mind a favorite hymn that I can still hear my dad and Grandma Tootz singing around our piano, “I love to tell the story; I’ll sing this theme in glory and tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.” Go share your First Lutheran story!

Kirstin New,  
Council Member  
Witness Committee

# From the Stewardship Committee:

In October, we will have a combined stewardship drive that will allow us to apportion our gifts between the operating budget and the building fund. A building fund is still necessary to help fund costly maintenance of our facility, especially with the challenges of an aging Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system which is at or beyond its expected life span. Our Property Committee, Finance Committee and Congregational Council are considering a long range plan for updating our building systems and exterior restorations. With the challenges of an aging building, we all need to continue giving to the building fund as we have over the past 12 months in addition to our spending plan (operating budget). As members of First Lutheran Church, our generosity in stewarding our time, talents and money

is an expression of love for God and for our neighbor. We give abundantly because God has provided for us in abundance. We urge you to prayerfully seek God's guidance as you fill out your Intention Card for 2017.

Join us at the church Saturday, October 29th at 5 PM for the 3rd annual FLC Stew and Brew! What's a Stew and Brew? A fun way to try your fellow Lutherans favorite stews and brews and enjoy some fellowship.



Sign up in the Narthex. Bring your favorite fall dish, or homebrewed or commercial beers. Not everyone needs to bring a stew, we need sides too! Evening includes games and entertainment

for the kids. Looking forward to seeing you there! Contact Jacob Weber with any questions. (jaweber@vt.edu).

## Blessing of the Animals

A Blessing of the Animals will take place at 3 PM in our Colley Ave. courtyard on October 2nd. This service witnesses to the love, care, and concern for creation expressed by God through the Church. We invite you to celebrate the joy of God's gift of creation – especially our pets – as we acknowledge God's gracious care for all creatures, great and small. We welcome all animals, whether they walk, slither, fly, or swim! Consider extending an invitation to friends, neighbors and co-workers. Please note that bringing an animal is not a requirement to rejoice with us!



*Weather back-up plan: Meet at the stairs under the portico on the parking lot side of the building.*

# Model Behavior

As Pastor Goeres mentioned in his sermon on September 18<sup>th</sup>, our Estimate of Giving cards this year include space for our children to write in how they would like to respond to God's goodness to them through a regular financial gift to First Lutheran. We don't often think about inviting our children to put something in the offering plate, nor do we often talk to our children about money. But both activities foster the knowledge that our faith is connected with our daily lives, including how we use and understand money. Training our children to be good stewards of God's gifts begins with our own habits, attitudes and values, as we model, in word and deed, trust in God's promises, gratitude for all that we've been given, and generosity towards others.

## Modeling Trust

What messages about money do you think you are sending your children? Do they hear from you that there is not enough money? Do you convey a sense of anxiety or scarcity? Or do they receive the confidence from you that, even when money is tight, God provides for our needs... we will have enough...we trust that God is good...

Such a perspective of faith can be very challenging at times, but it forms the foundation not only for our relationship with money and possessions but also that of our children. Believing that all good things that we have come through the gracious hand of God and trusting that God will provide for us (maybe not everything we want but certainly what we need) frees us to be generous ourselves.

## Modeling Gratitude

One of my least favorite things to do when I was younger was write thank-you notes for any gifts I had received, but my mother was persistent in her insistence that the task be accomplished. It reminded me that I did not deserve anything I had received, but was the recipient of another's generosity and love.

How does one model gratitude? By being thankful! Share around the dinner table or in the car on the way to the next activity something you are thankful for. Be lavish in giving thanks for the people in your life. Take a moment to recognize those times when people have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make something easier in

your life – and thank them. Acknowledge the thoughtful – and perhaps unexpected – things your children do: maybe it's a show of responsibility that you hadn't seen in them before, maybe it's an act of kindness, or an extra effort in their chores.

Expect gratitude from yourself and your children, and your children will follow your example.

## Modeling Generosity

When we possess a grateful heart, when we become truly aware that all we have is pure gift, it is easy to be generous, to share from our abundance so that others may be blessed. There are many practical ways to engage our children in living generously: do service projects as a family; donate clothing, toys, or food to organizations that can use them or sell them; adopt a child or family during the holidays; buy extra school supplies to help out teachers; pay for the meal of a police officer or rescue worker in a restaurant; adopt grandparents who can be a part of your family's life; find a charity and raise money to donate to it. Even within our homes we can practice generosity – secretly doing someone else's chores for them; letting someone else have the last Oreo or bit of ice cream; doing what the other person wants to do; offering to wash the dishes, etc. Putting into practice the act of generosity is easy, but sharing *why* we're generous can be a bit more difficult even as they are important conversations to have.

As you contemplate what your financial gift to First Lutheran will be in the upcoming year, invite your children, regardless of age, and talk with them about what you are doing. "We give to the church because...." "We've decided to give this much because...." What values in your life motivate you to give to others? How does your faith inform how you use the resources and gifts that you have? These can be fun conversations, and you may be surprised at how quickly – and how generously – your children want to give!

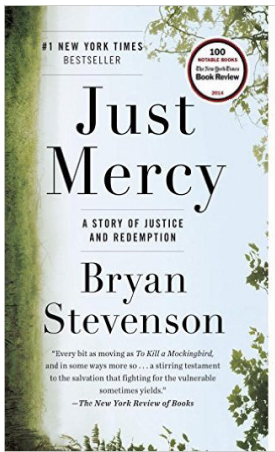
**Next month:** Share, Save, Spend: teaching children a responsible use of God's gifts!

— Pastor Cathy

# First Lutheran Book Discussion Group

First Lutheran Book Group kicked off its thirteenth season with great fellowship and a fascinating discussion of Ann Patchett's novel The Patron Saint of Liars. It would be even better with you there!

If you are looking for fellowship and great discussions of important books for Christians to read, look over the upcoming selections, visit your library or bookstore, and join us for any or all of the books. Location of meetings will be in the Sunday "Green Sheet."

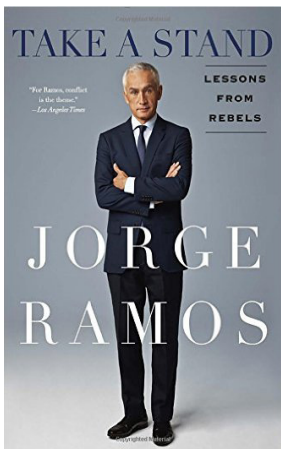


**October 9**

Just Mercy

by Bryan Stevenson at the Meyer / Williams home

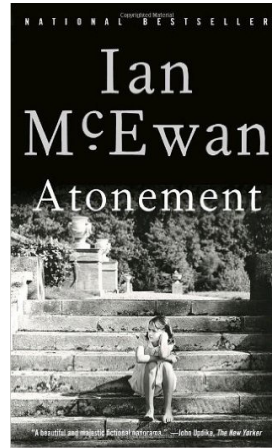
The story of a young attorney dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned, and those trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system—unfairness in the justice system.



**November 6**

Take a Stand: Lessons from Rebels

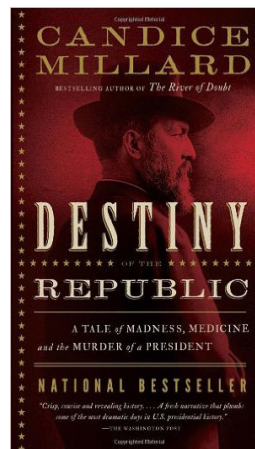
by Jorge Ramos



**December 4**

Atonement

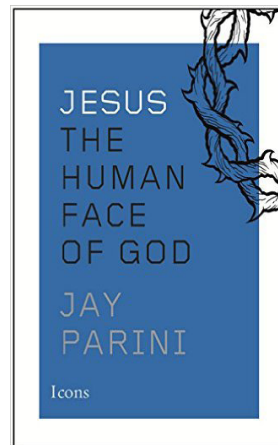
by Ian McEwan



**January 8**

Destiny of the Republic

by Candice Millard



**February 5**

Jesus: The Human Face of God

by Jay Parini.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail group to receive information on upcoming gatherings, contact Betty Jean Meyer at [bettyllg1@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyllg1@yahoo.com).

# Connect with Others

## New Member Class

The New Member/Inquirer's Class will be held for 4 weeks beginning October 23rd during Sunday School (9:45 AM) in the third floor Fellowship Hall. Please join Pastor Goeres as we explore the Christian Faith as understood and celebrated by Lutherans. We will also reveal some of the "mysteries" of our church, including what is behind the mosaic windows in the nave, what a columbarium is and where ours is located, and where we house all the items we use in worship. The class is open to visitors and members, so bring a friend!

## Bible Day

First Lutheran Church would like to present each of its 2nd Graders with a Connect Bible. There will be ceremonies at both services on Sunday, October 23rd, where we will fulfill our baptismal promise to place the scriptures into the hands of our children. Families of the 2nd graders will be invited forward together. Please let Amy Hood know if you would like a Bible for your child and if you will be able to attend the Bible Day ceremony October 23rd, rhoo7@cox.net.

## Adult Sunday Class

### Faith, Sexism, Justice

Be part of the conversation leading to the development of a new ELCA Social Statement concerning sexism. The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice has asked congregations to contribute to the formulation of this upcoming church Social Statement. Discussion sessions will examine materials provided by the task force, and we will respond to them with our comments. This is an opportunity to provide input to our church's message to the world concerning this important topic as well as to explore and expand our own understanding of how Lutheran Christians can shine Christ's light on injustice and do God's work in this world. Led by Eric Peterson, this class will hold its first meeting in the 2nd floor library on September 25th.

## Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on October 4th at 7:00 PM at the home of Paula Cook. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

# October Birthdays

Memphis St. George	2 Oct	Jim Harvey	18 Oct
Donald Strehlow	2 Oct	Beckett Hutchings	18 Oct
Laurie O'Leary	3 Oct	Coleman New	18 Oct
Kara Olson	4 Oct	Sadie Porter	18 Oct
Dena Strong	4 Oct	John Azar	19 Oct
Joan Werner	4 Oct	Graciela Sanchez	19 Oct
Dean Engel	5 Oct	Jennifer Holbach	20 Oct
Jo Ann Hughes	5 Oct	Lynda Falkiner	21 Oct
Sandra Engel	6 Oct	Jonathan Haynes	21 Oct
Connor Farmer	6 Oct	Casie Nash	21 Oct
Marilyn (Stephens) Booker	7 Oct	Emily Pham	21 Oct
Cassie Elverum	7 Oct	Richard Hood	22 Oct
James Koch	7 Oct	Eleanor Riggie	22 Oct
Brandon Crawford	8 Oct	J. H. Hackney, Jr.	23 Oct
April Carver	9 Oct	Rhonda Adkins	24 Oct
Olivia New	9 Oct	Mary Lou Anderson	25 Oct
Linda Perron	9 Oct	Dana Benson	25 Oct
Kathryn Robinson	9 Oct	Ginny Fox	25 Oct
Izabel St. George	9 Oct	Andrew Hund	25 Oct
Joseph Peterson	10 Oct	Judy Biboum	26 Oct
Deborah Affeldt	11 Oct	Aimee Crawford	26 Oct
Julie Erwin	11 Oct	Irene Brady	27 Oct
Ryan Muschnski	11 Oct	Alexandra Cook	27 Oct
Mollie Mae Ammons	12 Oct	Donna Koch	27 Oct
Samantha DiBiao	12 Oct	Mary Moberg	27 Oct
Kerry Kisa	12 Oct	Cheryl Weeks	27 Oct
Kevin Lunday	12 Oct	Vicki Wittmann	27 Oct
Gail Anthony	13 Oct	Jennifer Collins	28 Oct
Clint Mendelson	13 Oct	Frieda Grimbball	28 Oct
Harrison Kuehl	14 Oct	David Kuehl	28 Oct
Joanne Lundquist	14 Oct	Katherine McCullough	28 Oct
Lelia Milner	14 Oct	Kristin Bourcier	29 Oct
Matthew Faircloth	15 Oct	Tammy DiBiao	29 Oct
Donald Schloeder	15 Oct	Felix Janik	29 Oct
Grady Erwin	16 Oct	Graham Herbert	30 Oct
Nathan Bellott	17 Oct	JoAnne Petry	30 Oct
Carrie Saich	17 Oct	Tyler Fisher	31 Oct
Jill Anne Bailey	18 Oct	Bernard Sutton	31 Oct
Eric Engel	18 Oct		

## Prayer Concerns for October

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 23rd wedding anniversary of **Lee and Debbie Acors**.
- ...that God seeks and celebrates us!
- ...for the gift we have in Jesus who shows us the ultimate truth.
- ...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 service.

### Pray

- ...comfort and peace for the family of Richard Sutera upon his death (father of **Julie Sutera**).
- ...comfort and peace for the family and friends of Lu Wyatt upon her death (grandmother of **Rebecca Poston**).
- ...comfort and peace for Preston Family upon the death of their father.
- ...the wisdom and courage to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God.
- ...comfort for those who mourn.
- ...for the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

**Sonya Baker, Jean Bozeman, Gwen Carr** (daughter of **Lawrence Carr**), **Mary Diehl, Roger Fuller, Susan Griffin, Carolyn Meakin, Marilyn Melendy, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Rick Pougher, Malcolm Van de Water, Howard Warren**, Suzanne Arthur, Jens Bishoff, Hannah Annika Jersild (granddaughter of **Paul and Marilyn Jersild**), Carla Jones, Judy, Ginny Moberly, Cathy Moye, Christin Newlon, Loyd Rawls, Sean, Sheila, Mary Lou and John Smart, Michael Thomas, Debbie Wright

### Those dealing with cancer

**Ray Hinton**, Jerry Backus (father of **Linda Kenyon**), Martha, Rose Peluso, Greg Reep, 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 Silsdor**, Kevin Foster, Jonathan Goeres-deployed, Tim Kelly-deployed

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## Readings for October

### October 2nd

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
Psalm 37:1-9  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10

### October 9th

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c  
Psalm 111  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

### October 16th

Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 121  
2 Timothy 3:14--4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

### October 23rd

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22  
Psalm 84:1-7  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

### October 23rd

Isaiah 1:10-18  
Psalm 32:1-7  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

# Council Summary, Stewardship, Letters

## Council Summary

At our August 29th meeting, the Council:

- Opened with prayer
- Approved Consent Agenda items
- Had a presentation on the new website design by Lee Troxell
- Heard update on 2017 Spending Plan for Ministry building process
- 2017 Estimate of Giving cards: The Council committed to returning their cards early to kick off the ingathering of cards
- Gave thanks for our Council Nominees: Elizabeth Janik, David Kuehl, David Redilla (incumbents); Scott Cummings, Paul Jersild, John Bissey, and Elena Illardi
- Reviewed Congregation size/structure: Patriarch/Matriarch, Pastoral, Program and Corporate; discussed what the implications for staff, programs and function
- 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.

## Stewardship

### Monthly Recap – Pledged and Non-Pledged Giving Through 8/31/16

Anticipated Giving Reciepts	\$377,690
Actual Giving Reciepts	\$401,170
Ahead	\$23,480

Dear FLC Members:

Bill and I wish to thank both pastors and the wonderful members of FLC who visited in person, called with prayers and inquires, brought food to the house and showed such caring for Bill as we went through his recent heart surgery. We both felt the love we experienced from this kind and caring congregation.

Thank you for all your prayers – they did work! We are thankful for God's many blessings and for each and every one of you.

Much love to you all,

Diane and Bill Newlon

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift given to our synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in May 2016.

This is the year of ELCA World Hunger in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the Evangelical Church in America*, and we are particularly grateful for your gift to this signature ministry of the church! Your generous support provides water and hygiene programs, agriculture and animal husbandry, health clinics and micro loans, and education and advocacy for communities in over 60 countries including the United States.

Until all are fed,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Your generous spirit is a beautiful reflection of God's love. Thank you!

Robin Brown

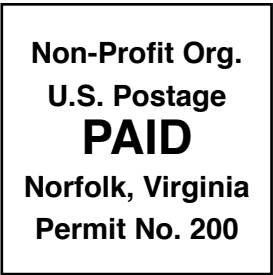
Congregational Support, ELCA World Hunger

Rally Day Breakfast!

Many thanks to everyone who donated food and helped with the setup and cleanup of the event. With everyone's help, Rally Day breakfast was a great success!

Linda Braaten

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