



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

Moving Forward in Faith *As a Congregation and Synod*

It's that time of year! The end of summer is upon us and the beauty of fall is approaching. For some it means a new school year, and others the excitement of professional and college football along with the anticipation of the changing season and the unique gifts that autumn gives.

It is in this spirit that the Stewardship Committee presents, **MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH** as this year's campaign theme to grow our worship, witness, learning, service, and support the building care funds to maintain our church so we can continue **MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH** within our lives and community.

Our Virginia Synod is holding a parallel campaign called **FORWARDING FAITH**. This campaign seeks to ensure the sharing and growing in faith from generation to generation through ministries for youth and adults. Our Synod is known across the ELCA for our

vibrant youth retreats and adult faith gatherings. We all know youth and adults in our congregation who benefitted from those ministries. Some have become leaders and representatives within the congregation and Synod. **MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH** and **FORWARDING FAITH** present giving opportunities to consider and fit harmoniously in our mutual ministries to grow our faith.

In the coming weeks information and inspiration in the form of temple talks, mail, and literature will provide additional enlightenment as you prayerfully consider your giving at home and within our Synod in anticipation of Commitment Sunday, October 22, 2017.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship as we continue **MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH**.

— Shelagh Humphreys



Rally Day: Forwarding Faith Through Lifelong Learning

From the learning committee: Thank you so much to every-

one who provided food, helped with last minute preps, set up, serving and cleanup for the Rally Day breakfast. Thanks also to everyone who came to our program. We had a great kickoff to our new Sunday School year. We are truly appreciative for all you did to help make Rally Day a great success!

Some Favorite Memories of Sunday School:

- Fun songs- "Zacchaeus", "Rise and Shine", "I am a C", and "Brightly Gleams Our Banner"
- Watching videos
- Planning the youth service
- Playing games
- Crafts
- Mrs. Merrie Jo's guinea pigs
- Snacks- animal crackers
- Spending time with church friends
- Reformation Fair

- Taking youth to Elliott's Fairgrounds
- Food and fellowship
- My first class as youth teacher
- Riding to church with older cousin through snowstorm and the lesson was Jesus calmed the storm
- As the children's Sunday School teacher
- Playing the man who had to be lowered through the roof to hear Jesus's sermon
- When we colored eggs

The Majority of Favorite Memories were teachers:

- Andy Hill leading songs at opening
- My wonderful teacher Merrie Jo
- Mrs. Brockenborough my 3rd grade teacher, took us on really fun trips
- Carol Eighty my 10th grade teacher let me practice driving stick shift on snowy hills
- Sam Ross! - lively and insightful conversation
- My 5th-10th grade teacher taught well and was generous with gifts

- Mr. Holiday took us to a facility for hydrocephalic babies and to spend the night in an orphanage
- Mrs. Etheridge-a dear woman, taught me the Lord's Prayer
- Marion Kiligas- brought us gifts from travels
- Bonnie Bucholtz, my children's choir director
- Ms. Kaye and Ms. Joy's 3-year-old class and Noah's Ark
- Many wonderful dedicated Sunday School teachers that made an impression on me and my life
- My mom making instant pudding, something none of us had seen in the early 60's
- Mrs. Sammon, who turned out to be a wonderful, warm and friendly teacher
- Mrs. Edna Gade who gave me *Come and See the Symbols of My Church*
- Jo Klawitter who taught me that God is love
- Great teachers!

Come to Sunday School and make some more wonderful memories!!

God's Work Our Hands Sunday/

Many members of First Lutheran used their hands (and voices) to make God's Work Our Hands Sunday and the Week of Service a success. A variety of age groups participated in projects for Lutheran World Relief. The third and fourth grade Sunday School class bundled pencils for school kits, while Lydia Circle augmented the children's efforts by removing all the packaging from the remaining school kit supplies. Teenagers tied a fleece blanket that will be shipped to LWR. The Service Committee provided lunch for those volunteers who stayed after church to participate in various activities. In the courtyard, dog biscuits

were given out to the canines along Colley and lemonade was available for their owners and others. Seed packets (with invitations to join us for worship) and fresh herbs were distributed to eager gardeners and chefs. Willing hands weeded beds on the church grounds and picked up trash, generally improving our church's appearance. Seventeen folks went to John Knox Towers to get to know our neighbors there and to participate in a sing-a-long, with refreshments, of course! Everyone who came enjoyed being part of the ELCA effort to do God's work in the world. Thank you to all who helped!



Choir Retreat

Members of the choir gathered at Richmond Hill Retreat Center on the last weekend in August. Workshops included a music therapy session, an introduction to the Alexander Technique (ask a choir member what that is), and a presentation on the literary devices used in psalms and hymns. In addition to the worship opportunities and delicious meals, participants most enjoyed the time in the gardens.



Blessing of the Animals

A Blessing of the Animals will take place at 3 PM in our Colley Ave. courtyard on October 8th. 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!



October 2017

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
1 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	2 7 PM Church Council	3 11 AM Lydia Circle 7 PM Martha Circle	4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	5	6	7
8 Blessing of the Animals 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	9 <div></div>	10 Gathering of the Ministerium <div></div>	11 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	12 10 AM—Quilt Group 12:30 PM Adult Ministry	13	14
15 Contact Deadline 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	16	17	18 77:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	19	20	21
22 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM New Member Class 11:00 AM Worship	23	24 9:30 AM Christian Service	24 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study @ Charlie's Cafe 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Choir	26 10 AM—Quilt Group	27	28
29 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM New Member Class 11:00 AM Worship	30	31				

Reformation Celebrations!

Roanoke College presents, *A Mighty Fortress: Luther in Music* (A celebration of music inspired by the Reformation). Join us Monday, October 16th at 7:00 PM as we host the Choir and Ensemble from Roanoke College for this special musical event.

Joint Reformation Service: The Tidewater Conference of the Virginia ELCA Synod invites you to a service of Holy Communion, celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The service will be at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 29th at 4:00 PM.

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION

Dr. Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Distinguished Professor in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and a former professor at the ELCA's Augustana College, Rock Island, will be the presenter at a Reformation event sponsored by the History Department at Old Dominion University. The date is Thursday, November 2nd, at 12:30 PM in Room 1106 of the new Education Building at the corner of Hampton Blvd. and 43rd Street. Dr. Wiesner-Hanks will speak on the topic, "To the Ends of the Earth: Religious Transformations in the Age of the Reformation." The public is invited

A miracle indeed!

Each year the Christian Service Committee has two goals: to fill 150 school bags and to sew at least 25 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If all of the supplies for those projects had to be purchased, the bags would cost at a minimum about \$750 and the quilts would cost at least another \$500. LWR also asks that we contribute to shipping costs, which total another \$300. Our budget from the SPM at First is \$450. Even with a \$250 Thrivent grant this year, you can easily see that a miracle must take place for the committee to accomplish its goals. That miracle does happen because of you, the congregation of First Lutheran, and your enthusiastic support for these projects.

You donate school supplies, fabric and money to supplement the funds we receive from the church. Our school supply collection at the end of August was so successful that we have enough supplies for all the bags. We also have 25 quilts ready to be tied and bound, which means our goals this year will be met. Thank you for making money the least of our worries. If you have any interest in providing labor for these projects, join us on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am in Strickler Hall. Much of the work can also be done at home. Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net, for more information on how you can help. Again, thank you!

Thanksgiving Bags

Ghent Area Ministry hopes to provide 300-350 Thanksgiving bags for hungry families in our area. As one of twenty-member churches, First Lutheran has committed to filling 15 bags. Each one is to contain the following: 1-2 boxes stuffing mix, 1-2 packets gravy mix, 1 family-sized box of instant mashed potatoes, 2-4 (14-16oz.) cans of vegetables, 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 box of roll mix or package of rolls (with December 2017 expiration date), 2 (14-16 oz.) cans of fruit cocktail or canned fruit, and a bag or tin of cookies or boxed cake mix and frosting. A \$20-25 grocery gift card (from Walmart, Food Lion, or Farm Fresh) is needed in each bag

to purchase a turkey and any other necessities. This is an ambitious commitment for our congregation to make, so we need everyone to help. Food may be placed in the box in the Welcome Center. Cash donations (which will be greatly appreciated!) for gift cards should be placed in the white pew envelopes and put in the offering plate. Please write GAM Thanksgiving on the envelope or check memo line. Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." Working through GAM, we are able to do just that. The deadline for donations of food and money is November 5. If you would like more information, please contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net or Lauren Silsdorf, silsdorf@mac.com.

Connect with Others

Mark your calendars for N.E.S.T.

Put N.E.S.T. (Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team) on your calendar! This organization provides meals and overnight shelter to homeless adults during the winter months. Transportation to the shelter is provided from a pickup site at the Norfolk Department of Human Services. From December 6th through December 12th, FLC will be hosting the homeless in our community, providing meals and a place to stay overnight as part of this program. Keep the space open on your calendar to assist with meals, supervision, or other support for this life-saving program.

An invitation to the Congregation!

Come help spruce up the church grounds! Our next Grounds Day is October 14th, from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Rain date is the following Saturday (21st). We will have a second Grounds Day on Saturday, November 18th, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Rain date for November is December 2nd. Thanks to all in advance for your interest and assistance!

The Lord's peace be with you!

David Redilla

Lydia Circle invites you...

On Tuesday, October 3 at 11:00am in Strickler Hall, First Lutheran's own Susan Stones, a Clinical Social Worker specialist, will talk to Lydia Circle about changes in relationships as we age. Anyone who would like to come to hear her is welcome to attend. Please bring your questions and a bag lunch if you would like to stay after the meeting to eat and chat. Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net, for more information.

New Member Class

The New Member/Inquirer's Class will be held for 4 weeks beginning October 22nd 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!

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on October 3 at 7:00 at the home of Michelle Peterson, 1522 Bolling Avenue, Norfolk. All are welcome! Please join us for fellowship, food and conversation with Bernadine Brown, Executive Director for Ghent Area Ministries. Ms. Brown will talk about the exciting ways we (First Lutheran is a partner) are part of this ministry sponsored by area churches. Questions? Contact Paula Cook at pbcook513@icloud.com or 793-0551.

Stew and Brew

Attention Brewers and Chefs: First Lutheran's annual Stew and Brew is coming up on October 14th at 5:00 PM! It's time to start brewing. Mark your calendars and get ready for competition. We're looking forward to seeing you all there! Contact Jacob Weber with any questions. (jaweber@vt.edu).

FLC Worship Grid

The Worship Grid is a "living document" and changes frequently. To see the most current version of the monthly Worship Grid go to: www.flcnorfolk.org and select "Worship Assistant Schedule" from the drop-down menu under Worship. Use the link provided in our weekly "Life Together" email.

Many thanks to all those serving in these ministry areas each week!

Council Summary, August

At our August 28th meeting, the Council:

- Opened with prayer
- Received a very positive update on our Endowment's investment allocation and distribution.
- Approved recommendation from Property Committee to hire R. Guy Moffat of RGM HVAC Consulting to evaluate the proposals from Professional Heating and Cooling and Chesapeake Controls, Inc. for design concepts, installation and service experience for the HVAC replacement.
- Voted to modify previous Council motion to increase allowable costs of sound system to \$24,000.
- Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners

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

ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

Lutherans in Social Service

Care for the poor and those in dire need has been a Lutheran concern from the beginning of the Reformation. In 1522, only five years after the posting of the Ninety-Five Theses, the reformers issued the Wittenberg Church Order, something of an outline for how a reshaped church community was to conduct itself. And part of that document was the call for a common or community chest—a fund that would, among other things, provide for poor orphans and children of poor people, provide refinancing of high-interest loans at 4 percent for those who were in financial trouble, and underwrite education or training for poor children. (Tellingly, Luther was challenged on the possibility of abuse, and he responded, “He who has nothing to live on should be aided. If he deceives us, what then? He must be aided again.”) These ideas were soon being put into practice—not just in Wittenberg, but in other cities as far away as Strasbourg. When the pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Wittenberg, Johannes Bugenhagen, became involved, the church orders also took up the cause of health care.



From that time on, Lutherans have keenly felt the responsibility to care for those in need, and that has been addressed in ways suitable for the time. An important step was taken by nineteenth-century German pastor Theodor Fliedner. Assigned to a poor town called Kaiserswerth (now part of Düsseldorf), he began working with inmates in the dilapidated prison there. Once he got a chaplain assigned to that prison, his focus shifted to caring for inmates, especially women, after their release. This, in turn, led to his development of a plan

whereby young women would be trained to care for the sick, since there were few hospitals at that time. In 1836 he opened both a hospital and a school for training women in theology and nursing. He called these women deaconesses.

One of the graduates of that school was Mother Katinka Guldberg, who established a deaconess house in Kristiania (now Oslo), Norway, where one of her students was a young Elisabeth Fedde. After working for a time in northern Norway, Fedde moved to New York City to begin ministry there. In short order, she founded or cofounded the Norwegian Relief Society, a deaconess house, and a small hospital that eventually became the Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn. After a few years, she moved to Minneapolis, where again she founded a deaconess center and a hospital that has now become part of the Hennepin County Medical Center. Hospitals in Chicago and Grand Forks, North Dakota, can also be traced to her work. Other important activity in social services was propelled by Pastor William Passavant.



These days Lutheran care for the needy can readily be seen in the work of Lutheran service organizations across the country, often among the most active such agencies in any given area. Worldwide, Lutheran World Relief is known and respected not only for showing up where needed, but for staying there even after the news reports fade away. In 2015 Lutheran World Relief touched over four million people in thirty-six countries.

October Birthdays

Donald Strehlow	2 Oct	Clint Mendelson	13 Oct	Dana Benson	25 Oct
Dena Strong	4 Oct	Harrison Kuehl	14 Oct	Ginny Fox	25 Oct
Evelyn Werner	4 Oct	Joanne Lundquist	14 Oct	Andrew Hund	25 Oct
Jo Ann Hughes	5 Oct	Lelia Milner	14 Oct	Judy Biboum	26 Oct
Marilyn (Stephens) Booker	7 Oct	Matthew Faircloth	15 Oct	Irene Brady	27 Oct
Cassie Elverum	7 Oct	Grady Erwin	16 Oct	Alexandra Cook	27 Oct
James Koch	7 Oct	Carrie Saich	17 Oct	Donna Koch	27 Oct
April Carver	9 Oct	Jill-Anne Bailey	18 Oct	Cheryl Weeks	27 Oct
Olivia New	9 Oct	Jim Harvey	18 Oct	Vicki Wittmann	27 Oct
Linda Perron	9 Oct	Beckett Hutchings	18 Oct	Frieda Grimball	28 Oct
Kathryn Robinson	9 Oct	Coleman New	18 Oct	David Kuehl	28 Oct
Joseph Peterson	10 Oct	Sadie Porter	18 Oct	Kristin Bourcier	29 Oct
Deborah Affeldt	11 Oct	John Azar	19 Oct	Tammy DiBiao	29 Oct
Julie Erwin	11 Oct	Jennifer Holbach	20 Oct	Felix Janik	29 Oct
Mollie Mae Ammons	12 Oct	Lynda Falkiner	21 Oct	Tyler Fisher	31 Oct
Samantha DiBiao	12 Oct	Richard Hood	22 Oct	Bernard Sutton	31 Octxc
Kerry Kisa	12 Oct	J. H. Hackney, Jr.	23 Oct		
Gail Anthony	13 Oct	Mary Lou Anderson	25 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 joyful thanksgiving

...for the costly grace that IS the incarnation of Jesus and calls us to follow Christ.
...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 are genuinely concerned about and caring for others.
...we see that Jesus loves all persons and that through us, he helps others.
...we live out the gospel in a way that brings good news to the poor and liberty to the oppressed.
...families have peace and are understanding of one another.

Pray for

...comfort and peace for the family and friends of Gloria Scott upon her death (mother of **Simon Scott**).
...comfort and peace for the family and friends of Alton Seagraves upon his death.
...Bishop Bob Humphrey and his wife Barbara as Bishop Humphrey begins his ministry this week.
...peace and comfort for the family and friends of Leon Suby (father of Crystal Wass).
...all those who have suffered from storms and severe flooding in Texas, Nepal, India and Sierra Leone.
...recovery efforts in Houston, in Mexico, Florida and the islands and states in the path of Irma.
...all those suffering from the wild fires in our country.
...the Thiberdy Family.
...the Lindsey Family.
...the Lucrezio Family.
...health of grandchildren.
...people who work extra jobs.
...college students.
...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.

Samantha DiBiao, Roger Fuller, Patty Graham, Susan Griffin, Karen Grogen, Pam Hiner, Carolyn Meakin, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, David Perron, Betty Peterson, Betty Phillips, Phil Shore, Nancy Smith, Gail Stenberg, Deb Thompson, Howard Warren, Anna, Jonathan Balk, Douglas Brace, Steve Coleman, Gale, Hannah, Nancy Harding, Howard, Jill and Denny, Cathy Moye, Jane Nicholas and Family, Patty, Ellen Polachek, Rob and Katrina, Gary Skrien, Annie Stewart, Theo, Troy and Gus

Those dealing with cancer

Romona Denny, Susie Ellis, Jessica, Meg Miller, Joan Sutera,

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- predeployment, Tim Kelly-deployed, Kelly Mackenzie-deployed, John Marfield-deployed

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

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Readings for October

October 1st

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

October 8th

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 15th

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalms 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 22nd

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

October 29th

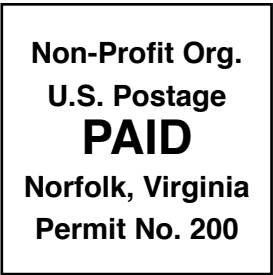
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

First Lutheran Church
1301 Colley Avenue
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