



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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**SPOTLIGHT  
ON THE:**

## Finance Committee

This month's spotlight on ministry is devoted to the Finance Committee. Talking about money in general can be very uncomfortable for many people, and when that conversation takes place in the context of the church, it can be downright off-putting. This is ironic because Jesus had no such qualms. I remember the first time a pastor told me that in scripture Jesus talks more about money than about anything else except the Kingdom of God. I was absolutely floored to hear that statistic, but after considering it for a bit it made perfect sense: money is the tool in this world that channels resources, and if we are going to channel resources to do God's work during our lives on this earth, we have to be familiar with this tool and use it to glorify God. Our church's Finance Committee is charged with understanding all of the aspects and uses of this important tool, and making the best possible recommendations for using it to further our ministry.

The day-to-day financial operations of our church are perhaps mundane, but are also quite important and must be carried out correctly and in a timely manner. Bills must be paid, payrolls must be properly administered, and the gifts provided in worship must be recorded and properly accounted for in records. These are some of the hundreds of transactions that take place each month to keep our church in a stable and solvent financial situation. We are blessed to have volunteers who count offerings after worship, and we are even more blessed by the hard work of our talented bookkeeper, Cathy Jones. Each year our church is subject to an Annual Compliance Review by our accounting firm of Zukerman & Associates. This year's review, completed in May, found no flaws whatsoever in our financial procedures and accounting, and that has been the case for many years running. We are indeed blessed to have an individual with Cathy's skills and diligence helping to ensure that the financial operations of our church are carried out faithfully and accurately.

The work that the Finance Committee does that is most visible to our congregation is its work in support of our annual Spending Plan For Ministry (SPFM). Each fall the Finance Committee collects input from all of the committees charged with carrying out the various areas of our ministry, and it uses that input to build a proposed SPFM for the next year. As you might imagine, the Stewardship Committee's assessment of expected gifts for the upcoming year plays a large role in constructing the annual SPFM. The congregation sees the fruits of this work each November at our Annual Congregational Meeting. That meeting also gives the Finance Committee an opportunity to report on how the congregation did in executing our past year's SPFM, and also to examine how we are doing in the final months of the current year's SPFM. The important thing for each of us to remember as a congregation member is that our voices are important. The time to help shape next year's SPFM is now. If you have a concern or idea to share concerning an area of ministry, please make your voice heard by contacting one of the members of the committee that oversees that particular area. Any one of us can provide input at any time during the year, but we are fast approaching the time when the church council must consider and forward the 2017 SPFM for consideration and approval by the congregation. All who have attended an Annual Congregational Meeting know how difficult it can be to make changes in that particular setting, so it is best to try to get your input included in the proposed plan before the November meeting. This is not to say that input is not desired during the annual meeting, because that meeting is also the one opportunity we have each year to gather together and discuss both our financial challenges and our financial opportunities, and we need everyone's voice to help us discern God's will for us in this place.

Another, perhaps less visible, aspect of the Finance Committee's work is its role in working with other areas of

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## "Finance Committee"

*continued from page 1*

ministry to develop long-range plans that require financial resources. Our congregation was recently blessed to be able to retire a building loan that was used to provide us with the updated facility in which we worship and enjoy fellowship, and which supports all of the ministries in which we are engaged. Past generations have bequeathed us a unique and beautiful worship space, and all who enter its doors find a space that can bring them closer to God. Our responsibility is to nurture what we have been given while we are here to use and preserve it, and then pass it along to the future generations of Lutheran Christians who will continue God's work in this place. In coming months the Finance Committee will be working closely with other committees, including Property and Stewardship, to ensure that we can continue to meet that responsibility while we share our time together in this place.

As faithful servants of Christ and as members of First Lutheran Church we all share in the responsibility to shape our church's ministry. A large part of that shaping process

consists of developing a financial program that reflects our mission to do God's work in our broken world. Money and God's church are not incompatible. Together they create incredible opportunities to bring God's message of Love and Grace into our world. The Finance Committee is blessed to do the work that helps us to spread that message together.

In Christ,

Eric Peterson on behalf of the Finance Committee

Frank Minschke - Chairperson  
Jeff Steckroth - Council Liaison & Financial Secretary  
Eric Peterson - Council Liaison  
Norm Stones - Treasurer  
Cathy Jones - Bookkeeper  
Mark Utecht  
Don Buckley  
Tammy DiBiaso

## Wittenberg English Ministry

**O**ld town Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany, is a picturesque restored cobblestone street city on the Elbe River stretching a mile from Martin Luther's home to the ornate Castle Church where the Reformation began when he reportedly posted the 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. In between is the Town Church, filled with paintings by Cranach, where Dr. Luther composed his Sacristy Prayers and gave over 2000 sermons. It was an honor to serve for two weeks in this setting as pastor-in-residence with Wittenberg English Ministry.

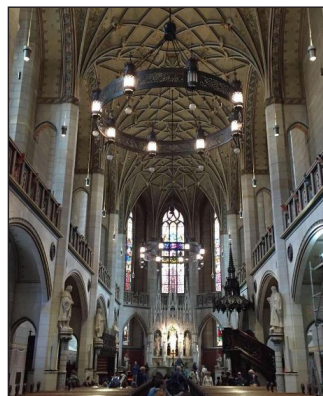
My responsibilities included conducting eight worship services and being available for pastoral care to tourist and residents who spoke English. Chapel Services were held at 4 PM Wednesday-Friday in the Sacristy of St. Mary, the Town Church. Weekend worship services were held at 5 PM on Saturday, once in the Castle Church nave and once in the



nave of the Town Church. Two additional worship services were conducted to meet the time constraints of tour groups. We sang A

Mighty Fortress at all of the worship services.

The world's largest museum dedicated to the Reformation is housed in Martin Luther's former home. Phillip Melancthon's home is three doors down and houses the museum dedicated to his work as the leading layperson who championed the cause with his friend, Martin, through extensive writing and speaking.



Walking and riding bikes are the primary means of transportation in Wittenberg. Miles were consumed as we enjoyed the sites, visited with family and experienced different cuisines each day.

Serving where Martin Luther lived and worked was a deeply enriching way for me to spend accumulated continuing education time and resources, especially as we all prepare for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

— Pastor Rick Goeres



# God's Work Our Hands Sunday and Week(s) of Service

Although the official ELCA God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 11 this year, we're planning service opportunities throughout the week before and the week after, as well as on that day. Here are a few of the things we have lined up so far:

**Police Appreciation:** Lydia Circle will be participating in the Week of Service by taking refreshments and thank-you notes to our local police precinct. If you would like to help in this effort, you could bring cards, bottled water or cookies (homemade would be much appreciated!) to church on **September 4**. Items will be delivered on September 6. Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, [pbaynard65@charter.net](mailto:pbaynard65@charter.net).

**Luther Manor:** Members of First are invited to join members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, donating treasures of time, talent, and materials to paint the hallways and assemble care packages for the residents of Luther Manor. These activities are being very well planned and organized by Wes Latchford of Emmanuel Lutheran. Painting projects are scheduled for **Sunday, 9/4/16, 1:00-6:00 pm** at Luther Manor, and care package prep will take place **Saturday, 9/10/16, 9:00 am to noon** at Emmanuel. Donations of materials are also greatly needed. Visit <http://www.elvb.org/week-of-service-2016> for more information and to sign up.

**Jail and Prison Ministries:** Baylake United Methodist Church is hosting a four-hour workshop led by Lynn Litchfield of Grace Inside from **9:30 am to 1:30 pm on Saturday, September 10**, 4300 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23455. Come learn about these important ministries and find out how you can help. Registration requested.

**Out of the Darkness Community Walk:** This is a tremendous outreach event to promote awareness and help so many who have experienced depression or suicide. The Hampton Roads walk takes place at Mt. Trashmore, Virginia Beach, **Saturday, September 10, 2016, 8:30-noon** (*severe weather date: September 17, 2016*). Register online at <http://www>.



## God's work. Our hands.

[sos-walk.org/sos/register.htm](http://sos-walk.org/sos/register.htm) Can't make it that day? How about the Virginia Peninsula walk? It's their first year having their own, and it will take place **Saturday, October 15, 10:00 am -1:00 pm**, at the Newport News Park in Newport News, one of the most scenic parks in the state. Registration link will be provided in Life Together e-mail.

**First Responders Appreciation & Get Well Cards:** Between services on **Sunday, September 11**, a card-making station will be set up on the Third Floor for anyone wishing to make ThankYou cards for our neighborhood First Responders as well as Get Well cards to be delivered with pastoral visits.

**Park Place Community Garden:** After late service on **Sunday, September 11**.

**Community Trash Pick-Up:** After late service on **Sunday, September 11**.

We hope at least one or more of these worthwhile activities will appeal to you. **Please see the Service Ministry Committee bulletin board or the Reception Room for sign up sheets** or send me an e-mail at [RebeccaD66@cox.net](mailto:RebeccaD66@cox.net) for more information. And don't forget to wear your bright yellow t-shirts! If you don't have one, please let me know – we will have a variety of youth and adult sizes available, limited quantities.

Rebecca Dozier  
Service Ministry Committee Chair

## Ice Cream Social



# Chrysler Museum Outing!

**O**ur tour is entitled "SAINT'S ALIVE"! We will discuss how artists through the ages have depicted saints contained in the Chrysler's collection.

We will see how they use personal appearance, clothing, attributes or symbols to help us identify the saints, "read" their stories, and understand the artist's message.

Randy McDaniel has been a lifelong resident of the Tidewater area. After graduating from Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia law school, he served on active duty in the U.S. Navy. He then returned to Tidewater where he was engaged in private practice in Norfolk.

Upon retirement he took the training to become a docent at the Chrysler Museum of Art. He has been a touring

docent there for twenty years. He and his wife Katherine have lived at Harbor's Edge for more than nine years.

The outing is Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 AM. For rides to the museum, meet at the church at 10:00 AM. We will have lunch immediately following the tour in the Wisteria Café at the museum.

The sign-up sheet is on the Congregational Life Bulletin Board. For questions or more information, contact Jean Bozeman at [pastorjean61@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjean61@gmail.com).



## Join Us for FLC Rally Day 2016!!

Our theme this year is Living Lutheran as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation! Everyone is invited to kick off a new year of learning. Breakfast begins at 9:30am on the 3rd floor.

Program begins at 10:00am:

Singing, Living Lutheran Activities, Meet Sunday School teachers, Hear about Adult classes for the fall and more!

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

## Jail and Prison Workshop

Join us on Saturday, September 10th, from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM at Baylake United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach, for a workshop led by Lynn Litchfield of Grace Inside. For more information, please contact Merrie Jo Milner at 226-7962.



## Happy Birthday, Marion Kiligas!

Marion Kiligas celebrated her 101st birthday on July 31st! Marion has been a member of First Lutheran since 1929, and was in the first confirmation class held in this building in June of 1930. We give thanks to God for her witness to the Gospel and her faithful membership at First Lutheran.



## Blood Drive

Fall is in the air!!! Blood Donations are needed regardless of the season. The Red Cross will be set up at First Presbyterian Church, 820 Colonial Ave, for our next Ghent-Downtown Churches Drive on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th. Hours to donate are 1 PM – 7 PM. If you have an appointment, many thanks. IF NOT, please go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), use the Sponsor Code, GHENT, and select an open time. OR you can Walk-in!! Every donation counts and helps those in need. THANK YOU!

## Connect with Others

### Date change for Christian Service!

We will meet Monday, September 26th, at 9:45 AM in Strickler Hall to fill school bags and tie quilts. Anyone is welcome to come and help. No special skills are required! Contact Pam Baynard at 638-4812 or pbaynard65@charter.net if you would like more information, or have any questions.

### Circles

Feel like you're running around in circles? First Lutheran has a fix for that! All women of the congregation are welcome to attend either Martha or Lydia Circle for a time of leaning and friendship, rest and renewal. Both circles meet on the first Tuesday of the month, September – June. Martha Circle meets at 7:00 PM in various homes. Lydia Circle meets at church at 11:00 AM. If you have questions, contact Phyllis Hund (757-489-1762, phyllishund@gmail.com) about Martha Circle or Pay Baynard (757-638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net) about Lydia. We will look forward to seeing you on September 6th.

### School Kilts and Quilts

We want to let you know that the school kits and quilts made by our Christian Service committee have been distributed by Lutheran World Relief! The school kits and some of the quilts went to Angola, while the rest of the quilts were sent to Georgia (the country). Funds for the distribution of the school kits were given by our Learning Ministry Group in honor of our teachers at First. We give thanks for all the work on these items and for knowing that God's Work, Our Hands have stretched so far!

### Adult Sunday Class

#### My Neighbor Is Muslim

The class in Strickler Hall will begin this fall with a course on Christianity and Islam. It is entitled, "My Neighbor Is Muslim," led by Paul Jersild. Dr. Jersild conducted a similar class in 2012, focusing on the history and teachings of Islam. This course will focus on contemporary issues and the challenges they pose for both church and world. It will begin on Sunday, September 11. All are welcome!

## September Birthdays

Rita Crusott-McKinney	1 Sept.	Kyle Cummings	16 Sept.
Scott Graham	1 Sept.	Stefanie Levensalor	16 Sept.
Steven Gross	1 Sept.	Richard Prendergast	16 Sept.
Allen Petry	1 Sept.	Tamara Sauter	16 Sept.
Clara Strehlow	2 Sept.	Leslie Trower	16 Sept.
Roger Fuller	3 Sept.	John Hogan	17 Sept.
William Grimball	3 Sept.	Jennifer Moll	17 Sept.
Jennifer Horkey	3 Sept.	Orion Posey	17 Sept.
Gail Plauka	3 Sept.	Robert Affeldt	18 Sept.
Barbara Ross	3 Sept.	Ginger Van de Water	18 Sept.
Derrick Stanfield	3 Sept.	Lanier Williams	18 Sept.
Cameron Williams	3 Sept.	Claire Elverum	19 Sept.
Grady Bryson	4 Sept.	Michael New	20 Sept.
Carter Ammons	5 Sept.	Margaret Kelly	21 Sept.
Ross Echea	5 Sept.	Caroline Robinson	21 Sept.
Andrea Hoover	5 Sept.	Gayle Pougher	22 Sept.
Ray W. Hughes	5 Sept.	William Sauter	22 Sept.
Elise Riggie	5 Sept.	Juliet Larson	23 Sept.
Joseph J. Powers	7 Sept.	Harrison Moore	23 Sept.
Paula Ross	7 Sept.	Sherry Scheib	23 Sept.
Jackson Edwards	8 Sept.	Sarah Christianson	24 Sept.
Kyle Crawford	9 Sept.	Anita Poston	24 Sept.
Ann Hughes	10 Sept.	Sheri Zanke	24 Sept.
Dorothea Krehft	10 Sept.	India Pougher	25 Sept.
Alana McElligott	10 Sept.	Huaqiu Williams	25 Sept.
Michelle Peterson	10 Sept.	Nicholas Fernandez	26 Sept.
Michelle Vera Cruz	10 Sept.	Johanna Fox	28 Sept.
Emma Graves	11 Sept.	Denise Haag	28 Sept.
Ryan Diduk-Smith	13 Sept.	Paul Horsboll	28 Sept.
Nicolas Miller	13 Sept.	Joseph Meads	28 Sept.
Elizabeth Vihnanek	13 Sept.	Dirk Wilkins	28 Sept.
Seth Cummings	14 Sept.	Janet Eggen	29 Sept.
Cheryl Gebler	14 Sept.	John Wass	29 Sept.

### Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on Sept. 6th at 7:00 PM at the home of Cathy Whittecar. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.



## Prayer Concerns for September

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 God's Word, like fire and hammer, that warms us and shapes us to live according to God's plan for us in his Kingdom.
- ...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

- ...for peace and comfort for the family of Lynn Geiger upon her death (sister-in-law of Lisa Geiger).
- ...for peace and comfort for the family and friends of Velloma Davis (wife of Bob Davis) upon her death.
- ...for peace and comfort for Susie Toothman and family.
- ...for peace and comfort for the family and friends of Jessica Bryant upon her death.
- ...for comfort for those who mourn.
- ...for students (and their parents) who are preparing for or returning to college.
- ...for world leaders and world peace.
- ...for the homeless and unemployed.

**Jean Bozart, Jean Bozeman, Mary Diehl, Roger Fuller, Susan Griffin, Carolyn Meakin, Marilyn Melendy, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Betty Peterson, Betty Phillips, Rick Pougher, Howard Warren, Doris Wiele,** Gary Anderson (nephew of **Henrietta Evenson**), Travis Bacon (great-great nephew of **Henrietta Evenson**), Merle Fleet, Hannah, Deborah Keller, Maureen Knight, Mike McKiernan, Cathy Moye, Loyd Rawls, Sheila, Rich Shelly, Debbie Wright, Zanna

### Those dealing with cancer

**Ray Hinton,** Doug Arthur, Jerry Backus (father of **Linda Kenyon**), Baby William Goff, Don Jones, Patty Lawrence, Colleen Painter, Rose Peluso, Michelle Schrock, Steffy, Wendy, Jess WineKing

### 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,** Jonathan Goeres-deployed,

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Readings for September

### September 4th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 1  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

### September 11th

Exodus 32:7-14  
Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

### September 18th

Amos 8:4-7  
Psalm 113  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

### September 25th

Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
Psalm 146  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

# Council Summary, Stewardship, Letters

## Council Summary

- Opened with prayer
- Heard letters of thanks from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Lutheran World Relief, and the Faraja Foundation.
- Participated in presentation by Mark Utecht on the Endowment Fund and reconciliation of funds as of 6/30/2016.
- Welcomed Alyssa Kaplan who shared her call to candidacy.
- Approved a motion to take the available distribution from the Endowment Fund based on the July 31, 2016 account balance for a total distribution of \$52,107.
- Approved registration of Alyssa Kaplan for the ELCA candidacy process.
- Approved a motion for the Global Concerns Committee to identify options for FLC to participate / sponsor refugees in this area.
- Took time for devotions
  - Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners

The Council meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month, but will meet on August 29th due to the Labor Day holiday. The meeting is open to the congregation.

## Stewardship

### Monthly Recap – Pledged and Non-Pledged Giving Through 7/31/16

Anticipated Giving Receipts	\$331,236
Actual Giving Receipts	\$349,696
Ahead	\$18,460

Dear Rev. Dr. Goeres,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to Lutheran World Relief. Your gift is a blessing and an inspiration. You are helping small-holder farmers and their families from Peru to Kenya to Nepal both recover from emergencies and improve their lives for the long-term.

Blessings,

Kristin Wright, Philanthropic Associate

Dear Pastor Goeres and Friends,

*"I am grateful to God ... when I remember you constantly in my prayers day and night." 2 Timothy 1:3 (NRSV)*

On behalf of those we serve, I thank First Lutheran Church for your recent gift of \$278.00. Your gift has been gratefully and wonderfully received!

Your steadfast commitment offers protection to our brothers and sisters fleeing from persecution around the world. As a committed Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) partner, you are a vital part of God's plan to transform the lives of those fleeing danger.

I am deeply grateful for your commitment to displaced families as we continue to stand together with our hands outstretched in welcome.

In faith,

Mary Lasits, Manager for Donor Development

Dear Pastor Goeres,

Thank you for your donation of \$2,533.83 to the Faraja Fund Foundation. Your generous gift supports the Faraja Primary School in northern Tanzania, where children with physical disabilities receive high quality education, life skills training, and medical care.

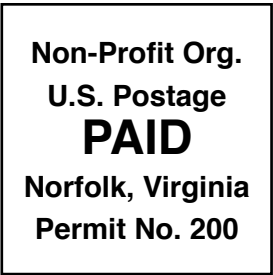
On behalf of the Faraja Fund Foundation, I would like to acknowledge and express my personal appreciation for your contribution and for joining in this important mission.

Yours truly,

Donald M. Tolmie

Secretary & Treasurer

First Lutheran Church  
1301 Colley Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23517



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

