



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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## Stewardship in Action

*“Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God”*

*Isaiah 40:1*

While attending a funeral in our church several weeks ago, it occurred to me that I always see Lorette Horsball at funerals. As chair of our Comfort Committee, she organizes and manages receptions held at First following funeral services. I met with Lorette and her husband Paul to learn more about how she became involved and how she manages the multi-step process of bringing a reception together.

Lorette has an extensive background in hospitality, marketing, sales, and food and beverage service. She was an early employee of the Omni Hotel in Norfolk, and also played a key role in the openings of the Greenbriar Country Club in Chesapeake and Two Rivers Country Club in Williamsburg.

Lorette has been in charge of the Comfort Committee for over 18 years. Pastor Jim Cobb and then volunteer coordinator Lynda Hartman (now Falkiner) saw that she was the perfect person to oversee this essential ministry. When Lorette began, she was the contact person who coordinated several teams of volunteers. Pastor Cobb notified her when a death occurred and gave her information about the date of the funeral and an estimate of people who might attend. Lorette then contacted one of the team leaders, who contacted members of her team to provide food. There were enough people that she didn't have to be present herself for every funeral.

The teams have fallen away, and many of the volunteers have passed on themselves. Lorette now is the contact person and sole leader. She plans and carries out almost every funeral

reception held at First Lutheran, helped by Mary Zelasko, Pam Hiner or Pam Baynard on the day of the funeral. Her email list still usually provides her with enough volunteers to bring food. She is most grateful for the faithful members who can always be counted on to bring cookies, sandwiches, fruit, vegetable dip, etc.



The funeral receptions are one of the most gracious things we do for our members. At a time when families are truly vulnerable, members of First step forward to relieve them of a small part of their stress. The reception is intended as a “celebration of life” of the person who has died. Often family members bring pictures to display, and everyone enjoys seeing and learning more about the person's life. Lorette related that over the course of 18 years, she cannot recall a family failing to express their appreciation.

*Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort:  
deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn, that, casting  
all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation  
of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

Chuck Baynard  
Council Liaison - Stewardship

*just a friendly reminder...*

**Sundays in August - One Worship Service at 10:00 AM**

**The second-floor Adult Sunday School class meets at 8:30 AM in August – all other Sunday School classes will resume with Rally Day on Sunday, September 9th.**

# National Youth Gathering

**T**he National Youth Gathering in Houston was an inspiring, faith-growing, mind-expanding experiencing for the 19 youth and six adults who attended the event. We are so grateful for all the support from the congregation which made this trip possible! While we have lots of stories to tell and are creating opportunities to share them with you, several of our youth have written statements that begin to demonstrate the impact of this event on their lives:



I liked the National youth gathering because it allowed me to connect with other Lutherans and talk freely about my faith. I met many new people and bonded more with the people in my youth group. One of the things that I loved was hearing the speakers each night and their inspiring stories about their faith.

— Lani Silsdorf

The National Youth Gathering was an experience that was unlike any other. I enjoyed being able to see some of my friends that live in other parts of the state while also making new friends that live in different states. Hearing people speak about various issues and their experiences helped me to have a better understanding of God's love. My faith was impacted because I learned that even though everyone has something that they are recovering from, God is there and there's grace for that. Knowing that, I have become more open with my friends and been more willing to turn to God.

— Natalie Schaus

What I learned at the 2018 ELCA NYG is that God's grace is more than a second chance; it is a third, fourth, and fifth. It is an undeserved, unearned, unmerited, love from God that keeps on giving regardless of our past. I also learned that we are all broken, imperfect, people yet we are all worthy of God's love, he comforts us through our troubles so that we can comfort others. What I most enjoyed about the Gathering was making new friends both in the ELCA church and the residents of Houston. I am very grateful for the opportu-

nity I had to go on this trip, it has deepened my relationship with God and with those around me.

— Emily Weeks

I had such a great time at the National Youth Gathering! It was an amazing time to bond with my church friends and make new ones from other churches and states. My favorite days were synod day and our service day. It was so much fun to interact with the kids at the Joy Mission Center and I'm so glad our church partnered with them!! I am so excited for the next National Youth Gathering.

— Jackie Velotas

I was so blessed to be able to go on the national youth gathering trip to Houston. It caused me to connect with other Lutherans from around the US that I wouldn't have met otherwise. The trip definitely helped me grow closer to God and showed me how Gods work is done through the thousands of children in Houston. Going to do our service work, was one of the best experiences of my life. I got to see kids, that had almost nothing, laugh and have fun playing with us. It made me realize that in the future I would like to do missionary work and help children. I got to spend time with people I love and make memories that will last forever. So, because of this trip, I thank God and am extremely thankful I was able to have this opportunity.

— Grace Collins

I enjoyed connecting with other youth from other states and getting to know them, especially how their daily lives differ from mine, as a youth from Virginia. I learned the extent to which the Lutheran church affects our world in foreign countries like South Sudan and how it connects people during rough times; for example, their civil war. The National Youth Gathering impacted my faith via the speakers that spoke at each evening gathering. Their talking points sparked personal reflection on how to better myself as a Christian.

— Lauren Silsdorf

What I learned on this gathering Houston 2018

1. Grace changes everything
2. You have no limit to God's grace
3. There's grace for everything- "there's grace for that"
4. You may not understand something but there's grace for that
5. We all are recovering from something
6. Our God knows to bring beauty out of broken things and broken people
7. Your current reality isn't your ultimate reality.

— Morgan Brown

This gathering kind of affirms that what you believe in is something that other people, other kids believe in. It brings people from everywhere to be able to bring their story and share. This event isn't just about God and his love, but about being able to love yourself and other people unconditionally. My faith has been strengthened by simply listening to other people's stories and see how God has helped them.

— Cho-Cho Williams

The main theme of the trip was God's grace changes everything. The first few nights we discussed what is God's grace and where we see it. God's grace is a gift that we could never earn. Due to God's love we will never escape his grace and the first speakers found their way to God despite incredible hardships. This shows us that all are equal and redeemable in the eyes of God. The next step is to help others to spread the grace and opportunities that were given to you. This was exemplified by our service day where we helped a congregation in a low income area pick up new members and support their community.

— Brett Hogan

As it being my first national youth gathering I did not know what to expect. My favorite part of the whole week in Houston were the mass gatherings, especially the guest speakers. We got to hear from different people about their faith experiences and how it shaped them as the person they are today. One of the speakers said "You have to be the drop of hope in this empty bucket world." This reached out to me and it showed me that all hope in the world come from the people who are in it. Houston was an experience I will think about everyday and that I will be forever thankful to have attended.

— Ella Kopf

I had a blast! I can't wait to go to Minneapolis for the next NYG gathering. I learned that it was really hard for some of those families and how they only have maybe two grocery stores within three miles of that so it is hard to get meals because they don't have cars to get there. So it was really nice playing with those kids and having fun with them! I grew even more in my faith and am way closer to more Lutheran kids just like me!

— AJ Collins

My experience at the national youth gathering in Houston was very eye-opening. The amount of energy and love throughout the whole week was something you could not find anywhere else. On service day we got the opportunity to help out immigrant families by supporting and showing God's love to them. Overall the event was a 10 out of 10 experience and I cannot wait to go in the next three years to Minneapolis!

— Maggie Kelly

I loved traveling with our amazing group and connecting with them throughout the week. I loved meeting new people from out of state and meeting people during synod day. I also thought that many of the speakers were very impactful and thought provoking and that each of the songs was a joy to sing to. One of the most impact parts of this trip though was Service Day. I had so much fun with the books and playing with kids, especially a little girl named Evelyn. Working at the mission party also helped me practice some Spanish I had previously learned. I wish I had gotten to do more in the community though. I really liked your idea of helping out Joy Mission here in Norfolk and can't wait to start helping! I'm glad that you came as one of the three pastors.

— Meghan Velotas



# Connect with Others

## ATTENTION FLC SHOPPERS!

Back-to-school sales are starting soon AND the Virginia tax-free event for school supplies is August 3-5. It's the **perfect** time to buy school supplies to fill 150 bags for Lutheran World Relief. Items needed are: blunt tip scissors, 2 ½ inch erasers, blue or black ink ball point pens (no gel ink), pencil sharpeners, 30-centimeter rulers or rulers with one side inches and one side centimeters, crayons (24 per box), and spiral notebooks (single subject, 70 sheets, either wide or college ruled.) A box will be in the Welcome Center to accept donations. The Christian Service Committee is thankful for each of you who contribute to this amazing project. Questions? Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, or pbaynard65@charter.net.



## God's work. Our hands.

The annual Week of Service will begin Sept. 16. This is your opportunity to display God's Grace thru your hands! The Service Committee invites EVERYONE to take advantage of at least one of available projects. Free Week of Service t-shirts will be available in the Welcome Center in September. Planned projects and their corresponding point of contact(s) are as follows:

- **Grace car wash:** Steve Delaney
- **Blessing of implements and of service providers and recipients:** Pastor Goeres
- **Backpack school supply assembly** (*a good project for children to participate in*): Pam & Chuck Baynard

### On Sept. 16 & 23:

- **Collection of fresh produce for the foodbank:**  
Merrie Jo Milner Produce needs to be limited to food that can be left unrefrigerated for up to 2 days.

### On Sept. 22:

- **Backpack assembly at foodbank:** Merrie Jo Milner

There will be online as well as Sunday opportunities to begin signing up for these projects starting in mid-August thru Sept. 16. In addition to the projects listed above, consider signing up for projects that will take place after Sept. 16, such as:

Being willing to address homebound members' needs, such as yardwork, transport, small repairs, organization, housework, to be scheduled at a date that works for both giver & receiver.

Prepare to give and receive the blessing of service! — Julia Siik

Coordinator needed for proposed Help for the Homebound project during the Week of Service:

The Service Committee will be responsible for identifying needs & signing up members who are willing to help meet those needs (yardwork, transport, small repairs, housework, etc). A coordinator for this would simply match up volunteers with the right abilities with the members needing such assistance. If you are willing to perform this role, please call or email or text Julia Siik at 757-375-3105/ [siiker@me.com](mailto:siiker@me.com). Thanks! For more information, or if you would like to propose a service project, please contact Julia Siik at [siiker@me.com](mailto:siiker@me.com)

# Thank You Notes

Dear First Lutheran family,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers from the altar on June 17th. They are beautiful and brought so much cheer and joy! And thank you so much for keeping me in your prayers! God bless you and the work you do.

Love, joy, peace,

Anne Krueck

## FLC Book Discussion Group

Looking for fellowship and faith conversations? Grab a copy of Bart Ehrman's book *"The Triumph of Christianity"* and join First Lutheran Book Discussion Group on Sunday September 9th at 6:30 at the church. This book explores how Christianity grew and why this molded western civilization. The book is very readable and sheds light on Paul's missionary trips, the history of Constantine and so much more that will help us all understand our church and the world. Join us! Bring a friend! We are enriched by many viewpoints.

We will be posting books for the rest of 2018 the first of August so pick up a copy of the list on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center and plan to join us as you are able and interested this fall. For more information, feel free to contact Betty Jean Meyer at [bettyllg1@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyllg1@yahoo.com).

## Taste and see that the Lord is good!

FLC is blessed with freshly baked communion bread each Sunday morning. New bakers are needed for this satisfying way to serve the worship service. The recipe is simple, and the commitment is flexible. Watch the Contact and green sheet for a baking demo to be scheduled in September. If you are interested in baking bread for Sunday communion, contact Barbara Chapman at [harpllover@cox.net](mailto:harpllover@cox.net) or 757-533-5434.



## August Birthdays

Adam Levensalor	1 August	Lee Azar	14 August	Anna Mason	21 August
Lauren Willis	2 August	Connie Kaiser	14 August	Marilyn Melchor	21 August
Joel Ostroot	3 August	Helen Parker	14 August	Doris Wiele	22 August
Mary Delaney	4 August	Alexander Loope	15 August	Adam Clifford	23 August
Benjamin Farpour	4 August	Jane Van Wolkenten	15 August	William Seaman	23 August
Hannah Duffy	5 August	Barbara Chapman	16 August	Madelyn Baker	24 August
Virginia Temple	5 August	Sarah Delaney	16 August	Darrell Kristo	24 August
Jennifer Echea	6 August	Joelle Griffith	16 August	Lauren Kaplan	25 August
Thomas Gates	6 August	Donald Hurdle	16 August	Matthew Nordan	25 August
Margaret Poston	6 August	Jonathan Miller	16 August	Christopher Powell	25 August
Juliet Kuehl	7 August	Anna Willis	16 August	Ivana DiNini	26 August
Leilani Silsdorf	7 August	Samantha Farpour	17 August	Donna Mangubat	26 August
Katherine Buckley	8 August	Randall Milner	17 August	Debra Acors	28 August
Kiersten Hilton	8 August	David Perron	17 August	Judy Basco	28 August
Mark Torbert	8 August	Marilyn Jersild	18 August	Marie Hill	28 August
Lee Van de Water	8 August	Julia Siik	18 August	P. Fay Rogner	28 August
Jennifer Boykin	9 August	Annika Fox	19 August	Lauren Silsdorf	28 August
James Brady	9 August	John Lewis	19 August	Anna Wood	28 August
Thomas Douglas	10 August	Sophia Phillips	19 August	Nolan Ferguson	29 August
Debra Porter	10 August	Rebecca Poston	19 August	Vicki O'Rourke	29 August
Sean Duffy	11 August	Ethan Hutchings	20 August	Lynda Behnke	30 August
Emily Davidson	12 August	Ella Kopf	20 August	Joy Kelly	30 August
Patrick Seaman	12 August	Janine Brown	21 August	Isa Zamani	31 August



# Confirmation Camp 2018

Confirmation Camp is a week-long learning opportunity that takes place each summer at Lutheridge, outside of Ashville, NC. Our Cluster of pastors has worked together for more than 30 years to develop and tune the program. Many of us went to seminary at the same time. The Confirmation Camp program includes an in-depth exploration of the Gospel according to Luke and participation in all of the regular camp activities at Lutheridge. Below are the expressions of this year's youth to the question, "What did you like and learn at Lutheridge?" Enjoy reading their responses!

With every blessing,  
Pastor Rick Goeres

## Dana Humphreys

**Learned:** You can always call to Jesus if you're hurting.

**Liked:** Everything

## Cole New

**Learned:** I learned a lot about the Gospel of Luke and that we all need a savior.

**Liked:** Little sliding rock, arts and crafts

## Michael Robinson

**Learned:** I learned about Jesus' incredible sacrifice for our sins and about Jesus' teachings.

**Liked:** I liked meeting new people and going to the pool and arts and crafts.

## Jenna Humphreys

**Learned:** I learned about the Gospel of Luke and Jesus' teachings.

**Liked:** I liked meeting new people and making new friends.

## Harrison Kuehl

**Learned:** I learned more about the Gospel of Luke and more about Jesus.

**Liked:** I liked the counselors, food, arts and crafts, party, people, and staff.

## Oliver Janik

**Learned:** I learned about Luke, Jesus, and how we all need a savior.

**Liked:** I liked little sliding rock, the counselors, and the food.



## Prayer Concerns for August

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

...that God's strength carries us when we are weak and low.  
...that God's tone is grace.  
...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 know that you fill us with your presence so that our hearts may overflow with your love.  
...to acknowledge First Lutheran as our authentic community where we see God--full of hope and love.

### Pray for

...the family of Anna Nielsen Walker. +  
...Pastor Joanna Gregg on her ordination and ministry in the North Carolina Synod.  
...the Rippy Family.  
...those affected by the flooding in Japan.  
...those affected by the wildfires in the western part of our country.  
...children separated from their parents at the border.  
...family and friends who are traveling this summer.  
...world leaders.  
...**Pastor Goeres, Pastor Mims** and all pastors.  
...world leaders.  
...all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.  
...the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.  
...those struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

**Grady Erwin, Roger Fuller, Brinkley Goransen, Susan Griffin, Ray Hinton, Al Miller, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Deb Thompson, Howard Warren,** Tommy Baker, Jonathan Balk, Buzzy, Anja Dabelic and Family, Dot, Gail, Rose Marie Griffin (mother of **Ivana Dinini**), Hannah, John, Greg McCorkindale, Theresa Smith Milne, Cathy Moyer, Patty, Rachel, Rob and Katrina, Ruth and Carl, Sheila, Annie Stewart, Jim Webb

### Those dealing with cancer

Bobbi Jean, Mike Gates, Jo, Wade Marlow, Phil, Ann Wilson Rose

### Military and their families:

**Austin Davidson, Mason Fox, Dan Kelly, Beth Silsdorf,** Jonathan Goeres, Amy Hardbower, Tim Kelly, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman  
Pray for all our service men and women throughout the world.

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Readings for August

### August 5th

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15  
Psalm 78:23-29  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

### August 12th

1 Kings 19:4-8  
Psalm 34:1-8  
Ephesians 4:25--5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

### August 19th

Proverbs 9:1-6  
Psalm 34:9-14  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

### August 26th

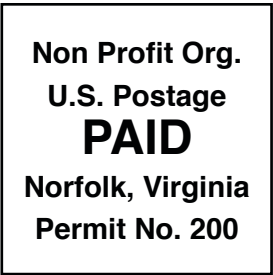
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

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

\*\*\* NA: Sunday 8 PM, Tues 5:30 PM, Fri 12 PM, Sat 5 PM  
AA: Mon 5:30 PM, Fri 8 PM, Sat 8 PM  
SAA: Thurs 7:30 PM  
Women's AA: Tues 6 PM, Thurs 6 PM \*\*\*



First Lutheran Church  
1301 Colley Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23517



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

