



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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VOL. XXXII

NOVEMBER 2018

NO. 11

Working for Tomorrow

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November is here, and with it comes the end of our church year and the promise of Advent just around the corner. I want to take this opportunity to update you on some of the ongoing work of our council, and to provide you with information to help you prepare to exercise your role in leading our congregation by your attendance at our Annual Congregational Meeting on November 18th. On that day we will have a single worship service that will begin at 10:00 AM, and immediately following the worship service we will gather in the 3rd floor Fellowship Hall to eat lunch and carry out business that requires the participation of our entire congregation. Two important tasks that must be completed during the meeting are electing 5 members to serve on our congregational council and approving our 2019 Spending Plan for Ministry (SPFM). In this issue of *The Contact* you will find information about our fellow members who have agreed to be considered for service on our congregational council. This year we are blessed that 7 individuals have agreed in advance to participate in this election. The current council solicited these individuals to offer themselves for service, knowing that not all will be able to take a seat on the council. Providing more names than can be elected is a means to ensure that the current council does not circumvent the role of the entire congregation in selecting its leaders. In addition, we are still able to accept nominations from members of the congregation at any time before we must close nominations in order to vote on November 18th. Prior to our vote, we will prayerfully ask for the Holy Spirit to move us and help us discern those whose service on council is needed at this particular time in our life together, and we must trust in this result.

Our other large task together on November 18th will be to approve our SPFM for 2019. It is difficult for anyone to review the entire proposed SPFM within the time constraints of our annual meeting, so our council will make copies of the proposed SPFM available for pick-up in the welcome center beginning on November 6th. This is the day after our November council meeting in which we will review and recommend the SPFM for approval by the entire congregation. Our council will also hold a discussion forum in Strickler Hall

immediately following the 11:00 AM worship service on November 11th, during which members of the congregation may meet with members of the council to discuss specific items within the SPFM. As always, we will also have time for discussion of the SPFM before we vote upon it at our meeting.

There is a great deal of activity going on at FLC as we prepare to celebrate 125 years of ministry in this place. Some of it is physically apparent, as we are about to complete the much-needed replacement of our heating and cooling system. More important are the things we are doing to listen to and connect with God, each other, and the world around us. Recently our youth hosted a “thank you lunch” to express their appreciation for the congregation’s support of their attendance at the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston this past summer, and we saw in their pictures and heard from their words how God’s grace changes everything. Our ministry of partnership with the members of St. Mary’s Catholic Basilica continues, and we have been fortunate to have members of St. Mary’s join us in Paul Jersild’s Sunday School class on racism in America. The discussions in the class have been enlightening and from the heart, and if you have not participated in this class I hope you will consider attending. Our Congregational Vitality project also continues, and we are poised to move on to the next step in this process. In the weeks after Christmas we will begin meeting in small groups within our congregation so that together we may discuss the book “Unbinding Your Heart.” Please consider joining in this process and taking part in this important effort to discern God’s plan for our ministry as we look forward to the next 125 years and beyond.

As the year draws to an end, it is helpful to consider all that we have seen God do in our world and in our lives during the past year, and reflect upon the important role of our ministry together plays in shining light into a world that too often seems dark and hopeless. I hope this reflection brings you as much joy as it does to me! May God bless your month!

Eric Peterson
Congregational Council President

2018 Council Election

The nominees for Church Council this year are: Barbara Chapman, Kathleen Foster, Sarah McGinnis, Eric Peterson, Bill Robinson, Karen Seigel, and John Wittman. Nominees were asked to submit responses to several questions. As of the Contact publication date, these are the submissions received.

Barbara Chapman

Occupation: Principal Harp for the Virginia Symphony and the Virginia Opera

A professional musician, Barbara has experience participating in a variety of worship styles and sacred music offerings which give her a broad understanding of worship options. She is project-driven, able to see multiple possibilities, and set clear priorities. When asked to describe First Lutheran's major strengths, Barbara writes, "The FLC leadership values and offers a beautiful, thoughtful liturgical worship service. The church is well positioned in a diverse area which provides opportunities for social ministries and community engagement."

Barbara has offered harp music for various worship services throughout her 15+ years of membership at FLC. Additionally, she participates in various ministries at FLC by setting up for communion, baking communion bread, signing FLC account checks, and supporting the lunch ministry and blood drives with necessary tasks.

Kathleen Foster

Occupation: High School Health & PE teacher; Athletic Trainer for CHKD

Kathleen brings a younger perspective to the council which is helpful in ensuring that the council represent all aspects of the FLC congregation. She is passionate about rejuvenating our youth programs and increasing membership of younger families, so the church can stay alive and relevant. When asked to describe First Lutheran's major strengths, Kathleen writes, "First, our openness to all is a major strength. We welcome anyone who comes in our doors with open arms. Second, I love our family-spirit. People look out for each other, help each other out, lift each other up, pray for each other and take care of each other. Third, our location is a huge strength that we need to capitalize on. We are blessed to have a beautiful building to worship in that is located in a vibrant neighborhood."

Kathleen has spent almost 10 years involved with the middle school and high school youth groups here at FLC. This included attending many Lost and Found, Winter Celebration and Kairos retreats. Additionally, she chaperoned three National Youth Gathering trips, taught middle school and high school Sunday School, and was involved with the weekly youth group events. More recently, she has volunteered as a worship assistant, communion assistant, and lector.

Sarah McGinnis

Occupation: Civil Engineer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Naval Station Norfolk

Sarah enjoys meeting individuals where they are, while keeping an open mind, and enjoys getting to know an individual's train of thought to understand where they are coming from. She feels this enables her to better relate to people across the board and build stronger bonds. As a young professional that grew up at First Lutheran and experiences life through the lens of a pastor's child, Sarah brings a unique perspective as the world is constantly, unpredictably, changing and the knowledge that we need to evolve along with it. Sarah is disciplined, driven, and dedicated to First Lutheran, having served the church in a variety of capacities over the years from helping with communion clean up and serving, to teaching the high school Sunday School class and working with our youth, to serving on various committees while growing as a young woman with a good knowledge of who she is and what she stands for.

When asked about First Lutheran's strengths, Sarah writes, "One of First Lutheran's major strengths is our longevity in the community, we have built ties throughout Norfolk, Virginia, the ELCA and the world. I also see the family ties we share with each other as a major strength. Our congregation is comprised of many different members from different walks of life with different perspectives who are one body in this one church. From actual generations of a family in a pew to friendships that have grown so close over the years that a second family has formed."

Sarah is a member of the Congregational Vitality Leadership team which is responsible for leading First Lutheran through the vitality process following the survey taken over the summer. Additionally, Sarah serves on the 125th Anniversary Committee, responsible for celebrating 125 years of First Lutheran and sharing FLC's past, present, and a little future with the congregation.

Eric Peterson

Occupation: Project Manager, MAT, Inc.

Vice President, Board of Directors for the
Sarah Michelle Peterson Foundation

Eric has served on the Council for the past three years and brings extensive experience as a leader. In his 30 years with the Marines, he was the beneficiary of a great deal of coaching and mentoring in the area of leadership. Eric has been working hard to bring that experience into his service on the Council and use it to further God's work here at First Lutheran. He also has experience in strategic planning and "visioning." He strives to use his talents in those areas to further the Council's work here at First Lutheran.

When asked to describe First Lutheran's major strengths, Eric writes "We are blessed with many strengths, but first I must highlight our pastors and their work in our ministry together. Many churches today struggle to support a sufficient staff of rostered

leaders, and here at First Lutheran Norfolk we are fortunate to have two who are both immensely talented, both acknowledged as leaders in our synod, and who work well together as a ministry team. We are also blessed with a wonderful location for the beautiful building that houses our ministry here at 1301 Colley. Worshipping together with you in this space helps me in my own quest to open my heart to God, and I know it does the same for so many others. By virtue of our location we also have opportunities to touch others whose souls cry out for our Lutheran message of God's grace given freely, and my hope is that our effort to renew our mission and ministry here will lead us to more ways to bring those people through our doors. I am also grateful that we are a strong Christian family together, and that we surround with love those who need it most. My own family and I have been the recipients of that love, and it is so comforting to know it is there."

Eric enjoys singing in the First Lutheran choir, serving in worship and teaching Sunday School. However, he feels that his most important activity for the past three years has been serving the congregation as a member of the Church Council. During the past year, Eric has served as Church Council president and has expressed his gratitude for that honor. He pledges to do his best to serve diligently and faithfully, to listen for God in the voices of those around him, and to strive to find and follow God's path for First Lutheran as a congregation if returned to serve on the Council for another term.

Bill Robinson

Occupation: Manager, Engineering Services, Virginia Natural Gas

A self-described hard-worker, good listener, and collaborator, who is experienced in working with all types of individuals, Bill promises to put those skills to good use during his tenure on the Church Council. Not prone to impulsive decision making, Bill prefers to listen to all parties involved and study the issues carefully before drawing conclusions. When asked to describe First Lutheran's major strengths, Bill writes "First Lutheran Church is blessed with a beautiful church facility in a vibrant and popular area of the city. First Lutheran has always been blessed with strong and talented Pastors and leadership. The congregation at First has always been welcoming, gracious, and faithful."

Previously Bill has served on the Church Council, with a prior term ending in 2014 and formerly served as the chair of the Grounds committee. Currently Bill serves as an usher, which he has done for over 25 years, and is on rotation for communion clean-up.

Karen Siegel

Occupation: IT Project Manager

Karen brings organizational skills, a willingness to serve, and a willingness to work with others to help them find ways to serve this congregation and our community. When asked to describe First Lutheran's major strengths, Karen writes, "I believe our strengths are worship, learning and witness; our emphasis on the traditional Lutheran liturgy, our emphasis on life-long learning through Sunday School, ACTS, Power in the Spirit and other learning opportunities, and our witness to the surrounding community and larger Lutheran church are hallmarks of First's history and future."

Karen has served on Congregational Council in the past (2011-2013, 2016-2018); currently serves as Council Secretary and Liaison for the Worship Committee, coordinates worship volunteers for both worship services, and has recently taken over the Lunch Ministry volunteer coordinator role.

John Wittman

Occupation: Government lawyer (retired) and consultant

John believes he would be able to help the Council discuss various issues facing First Lutheran today such as Campus Ministry, social issues, youth, FLC property concerns and an aging population. When asked to describe First Lutheran's strengths, John writes, "A.) The commitment of the Congregation in the wide variety of endeavors undertaken by First Lutheran, including, but not limited to: mission support, educational support, NEST, Food Bank, school supplies, Christmas Angel tree and many more. B.) The commitment of the congregation to our youth group."

John joined First Lutheran with his wife Vicki and their son Blake when the family relocated to Norfolk from Madrid, Spain, in 1989. John served on the Property Committee and spoke to the congregation regarding the need to make physical improvements to the church. In 2000, his family moved to Hawaii and upon reaching his retirement in 2009, they returned to Norfolk. John and his family feel that First Lutheran is a great "home" for their spiritual needs and the feeling of warmth they've experienced here is something they want the community at large to experience as well.

"Additional nominations may be made by any voting member of the congregation by submitting the nominee's name in writing to the Senior Pastor or the President of the Congregation Council at or before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Congregation Council. No nomination made by a voting member of the Congregation shall be accepted unless the nominee's written consent is also submitted with the nomination." (CRBL3.01.A01)

Connect with Others

Children's Chapel:

Worship for our Little Faithful

Children's Chapel is an opportunity for our 4-year-olds (turning 4 in the coming year) through second graders to worship together during the Bible readings and sermon. Following the Children's Sermon, they will meet the leader at the side door and walk down the hall to Room 102. For the next 20 to 30 minutes, they will listen to a reading from a children's story Bible, talk about the story, and participate in a related craft or activity. The goal is to help children experience worship at their level and build faith. Currently, we offer this program at 8:30 AM and can always use new volunteers. "Roots and Wings" and "Sermons4kids" are great online resources for easy preparation. If there is enough interest and volunteers at 11:00 AM, would love to see us get this going at this service as well. Please contact Penny Powell at pepowell@cox.net to learn more or to volunteer. Many thanks!

Christian Service

Christian Service will be working on quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Tuesday, November 23, at 9:30 AM in Strickler Hall. Anyone who can tie a knot is welcome to join us. Questions? Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net.

More Than Sad and Talk Saves Lives Offered on November 4 – Sunday School Hour

Depression isolates and hurts many of our friends, family and community members. Particularly as we head into the holiday season, risks associated with depression rise leaving loved ones in pain and alone. Have you ever wanted to know how you can recognize the signs and help? In partnership with the Sarah Michelle Peterson Foundation, First Lutheran is offering the "More Than Sad" program for 7th through 12th graders on November 4, 2018 in Strickler Hall during the Sunday School hour. Sunday School classes are also taking a hiatus on November 4th so that adults can attend the "Talk Saves Lives" program in the sanctuary at the same time. You are encouraged to attend and invite friends, family and neighbors.

Advent Sunday School

Come get excited about Christmas! Children of all ages and their families are invited to attend Advent Sunday School during the Sunday School hour, 9:45 -10:45 AM, on November 25th. We will meet on the 3rd floor for Advent crafts, cookies, and coloring.

Annual Meeting set for Nov. 18th

First Lutheran will celebrate only one worship service on Sunday, November 18th, to be held at 10:00 AM. During this service we will welcome new members to the congregation. The service will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the membership. Members will review and vote on candidates for church council, and the spending plan for ministry, as well as hear the recipient of the Nesting Dove Award. New members are welcome to attend and participate in the Annual Meeting.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on November 6th at 7:00 PM at the home of Debbie Acors, 515 Country Club Blvd. Chesapeake. All are welcome! Please join us for fellowship, food and conversation about "All Saints", led by Jean Bozeman. Questions? Contact Paula Cook at pbcook513@icloud.com or 793-0551.

Lydia Circle

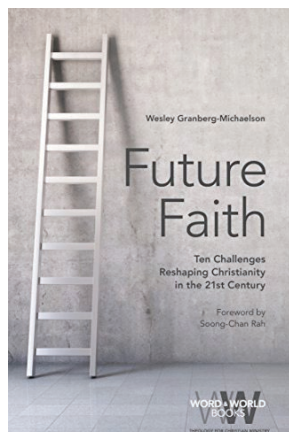
Lydia Circle invites everyone to its meeting on November 6, at 11:00 AM, in Strickler Hall. Barbara Chapman, member of First Lutheran and principal harpist with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, will be playing for us. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a lunch if you would like to stay after the program to chat. Questions? Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net.

N.E.S.T.

We, along with about forty churches and synagogues in Norfolk and Chesapeake are part of the NEST team. We provide meals and shelter for our homeless neighbors during the winter. The week of December 5th through December 12th is First Lutheran's time. How can you be a part of this ministry? Sign-up sheets will be displayed on Sunday, November 11th. Gail and I will be available for questions in the reception room after the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services. There are so many different ways to help: cooking, serving food, registering folks, staying part of the night, donating food and supplies, playing checkers and card games--and so on. Come and join us--it's God's work, our hands! If you have questions, please contact Merrie Jo Miler, 560-0781 or Gail Plauka, 619-9667.

FLC Book Group

The Book Discussion Group will prepare for the new church year by discussing the very relevant book *FUTURE FAITH: Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century* by Wesley Granberg-Michaelson.



The author provides a lucid view of how the top ten winds of change blowing through global Christian faith are reshaping the practice of Christianity today. Drawing on the stories, examples, and personalities of pastors and congregations from throughout the United States, as well as those from Africa, Asia, Latin America, who are the faces of Christianity's future, *Future Faith* is designed to inform and empower followers of Jesus to seek new ways of becoming the face of Christ to a rapidly changing world.

Join us December 2nd at 6:30 PM at church.

Can't make the December session but want to join us another time for faith dialogue and fellowship? Pick up the reading list on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center and join us. Everyone is welcome to one or all our gatherings!

Council Summary October

At our October meeting, the Council

- Opened with prayer
- Received thank you notes from the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund for Leaders and Lutheran Family Services for our support of the "Astronaut" adventure
- Welcomed our 2018 Confirmands, their families and faith mentors, and heard about their faith symbols and Confirmation verse
- Approved changing our Sexton's title to Hospitality Coordinator and to look for someone to help care for our building including doing light repairs
- Continued our discussion about re-visioning the Welcome Center
- Learned that Bishop Humphrey and his Staff will be at St. John, Norfolk, on October 21st at 3 PM for a gathering of our Tidewater Conference. All are welcome to attend
- Explored how we might re-structure our Congregation's committees to walk together more efficiently into the coming years
- 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.

November Birthdays

Douglas Garrett	1 Nov	Lorette Horsboll	10 Nov	Julianne Hood	21 Nov
Riley McElligott	1 Nov	Taylor Westerveld	11 Nov	John Faircloth	22 Nov
Craig Stopa	1 Nov	Bob Weisenbeck	12 Nov	Oliver Janik	22 Nov
Marty Cabe	2 Nov	Denise Boyd	13 Nov	Frank Stachour	22 Nov
Kenneth Zaletski	2 Nov	Marty Bradley	13 Nov	Elena Ilardi	25 Nov
Harry Kenyon	3 Nov	Paul Hutchings	13 Nov	Christopher Keplar	25 Nov
Chad Fuhrman	4 Nov	Stacy Hutchings	13 Nov	Bryan Porter	25 Nov
Sarah McGinnis	4 Nov	Davis Scott	13 Nov	Karen Siegel	25 Nov
Debra Barry	5 Nov	Nancy Smith	13 Nov	Rob Siik	25 Nov
Julie Sutura	5 Nov	Jody Unruh	13 Nov	Bernie Duffy	26 Nov
Charlie Anderson	7 Nov	Sharon Asam	14 Nov	Debbie Duffy	26 Nov
Bill Newlon	7 Nov	Henry McCormick	15 Nov	Joanna Griffin	26 Nov
Jack Smith	7 Nov	Eva Dulong	16 Nov	George Hill	26 Nov
LeeAnne Stachour	7 Nov	Julie Heller	16 Nov	Christen Homan	26 Nov
Kenneth Wise	7 Nov	Sara Jane Honaker	16 Nov	Frank Minschke	26 Nov
Sarah Humphreys	8 Nov	Jeremy Ross	18 Nov	Chris Hogan	28 Nov
Lindsay Reavis	8 Nov	Sydney Brown	19 Nov	Richard Cannan	30 Nov
Julie Basco	9 Nov	Mandy Porter	19 Nov	Austin Davidson	30 Nov
Blythe Scott	9 Nov	Michael Dandrea	20 Nov	Jessica Stuart	30 Nov
Cadence Vera Cruz	9 Nov	Madison O'Rourke	20 Nov		

Day of Service



Food Bank Day of Service



Naval Base Tour

**Nov. 1, 2018 Rain or shine
All are welcome!!!**

To assist with parking, we will carpool
from the church at 10:15 AM

NAVAL BASE CRUISE ABOARD THE VICTORY ROVER.

Your front row seat to the Naval Fleet. 2 Hour Narrated Naval Base Cruise departs from Nauticus, home of the Battleship Wisconsin. The Captain provides a fascinating and entertaining commentary aboard this Coast Guard inspected vessel. Cruising the smooth waters of the Elizabeth River you will see the sights of one of the world's busiest sea ports including the world's largest naval base, home of the Atlantic Fleet: Destroyers, Guided Missile Cruisers, Submarines, Aircraft Carriers and more. Enjoy plenty

of comfortable seating, enclosed deck, open air shaded upper deck, snack bar and souvenir shop.

Purchase tickets - \$22 - in advance- by putting your check (payable to Jean Bozeman) in an envelope and placing in the Adult Ministry Cubby, Welcome Center. Please speak to Jean if you wish scholarship assistance to attend.

Lunch will be served on board. Bring, or plan to purchase your own beverage.

Prayer Concerns for November

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 baptism of **Samuel Robert Erbig and Sophie Evelyn Erbig, son and daughter of Christian and Andrea Erbig.**

...that we are part of the universe and the universe is in us.

...that all things are made by God for the sake of communion...all things are made by God for the sake of life lived together in joyful love.

...for the visitors that join us for worship each week.

...for the new creation that God is forming.

...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

...live in the abiding love of God.

...not to make everything about our own egos, but to focus on what God is calling us to do.

...work against exclusivity of anyone and be inclusive of all persons.

...to reach out and welcome visitors when they worship with us.

Pray for

...persons who do not have adequate health insurance.

...persons who are homeless.

...the unemployed and underemployed.

...those struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

...those mourning the death of loved ones.

Grady Erwin, Roger Fuller, Susan Griffin, John Hackney, Ray Hinton, Al Miller, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Suzanne Sackel, Carl Spangler, Deb Thompson, Howard Warren, Angela, Jonathan Balk, Stephen Beech and Elaine Lipworth Angela Blue, Carol Carteret, Drew, Stan Fox, Gale, Hannah, Michelle, Theresa Smith Milne, Cathy Moye, Nellie, Mark Opgrand, Patty and Chuck, Rachel, Rob, Roy, Howard and Heera Simon, Frances Sizemore, Mark Skees, Bobbie Smith, Annie Stewart, Jim Webb

Those dealing with cancer

Mark Basco, Ann Fentress, Jo, Ann Wilson Rose, Andie Seagraves

Military and their families:

Austin Davidson, Mason Fox, Dan Kelly, Ted Peterson, Beth Silsdorf, Brian Becker, Jonathan Goeres, Amy Hardbower, Tim Kelly, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman

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

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen

Readings for November

November 4th

(All Saints Sunday)

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalms 119:1-8

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

November 11th

1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalms 146

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 18th

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalms 16

Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18]
19-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 25th (Christ the King)

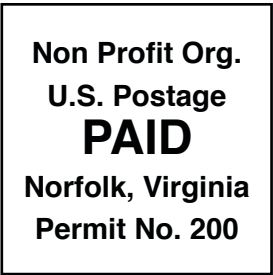
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalms 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

