



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK



1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757 625 1953

www.flcnorfolk.com

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Rejoicing in Service for 125 years...

Service has been an integral part of the mission of First Lutheran since the congregation's founding. Although short on details, early church records reference efforts by the congregation to help the needy in Norfolk. Dr. Luther Strickler, while guiding the design of our present building, felt the importance of service so strongly that he incorporated the theme of "Unselfish Service" into one of the clerestory windows. That window (next to the balcony on the courtyard side of the sanctuary) depicts Christ washing the feet of the disciples and Dorcas distributing clothes to the needy.

How have we remained mindful of the importance of service to those in our community over the past 125 years? This congregation has cared for those in need through lunch ministry and NEST. Our members have worked with Meals on Wheels, delivering food to the sick and to the elderly. We have built or improved homes through Habitat for Humanity and A Brush With Kindness. A longtime tradition during December was to fill Christmas goodie bags at the Seamen's Center for those sailors who found themselves far from home during the holidays. At Thanksgiving, we have filled food bags for Ghent Area Ministry. The Prayer Shawl Ministry knitted or crocheted prayer shawls for those who were ill or in crisis.

For over forty years, First has participated in the Ghent Area Red Cross Blood Drive, making it one of our longest running service projects. In contrast, Laundry Love, hosted by several churches in Ghent, is one of newest. For the last two years, a few volunteers have enjoyed getting to know our neighbors while providing them with laundry debit cards, detergent and fellowship.

There have indeed been a wide variety of programs and opportunities for service over the past 125 years. Recognizing the many opportunities for service both through our congregation



and through other organizations in our area, the Anniversary Committee is challenging the congregation to perform 125 acts of service during the month of March. The blood drive on March 13 is a perfect opportunity to serve, either by giving blood or by volunteering. Many of you already aid others by cooking or serving meals for Lunch Ministry. Others may want to help Christian Service on March 26 by tying knots in quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

The acts of service don't all need to be done through our church, however. Our members serve as volunteers in schools, in local hospitals like King's Daughters and Lake Taylor, and with organizations such as the Rotary Club and scouting. Civic leagues certainly host worthwhile service projects like recycling and food drives that need volunteers.

Help our younger members find ways they can serve, possibly by helping others with school assignments or taking cookies to an elderly neighbor. Even a simple act of service can be a huge help to someone else. Be creative! Look for opportunities to serve.

Once you have completed your act of service, fill out one of the sheets available in the Welcome Center with your name and what you did. The sheets will be posted on the doors to the sanctuary or around the Welcome Center. By the end of March, we hope any blank spaces in our building will be covered!

If you need more inspiration, look at the bulletin board in the Welcome Center for ideas and also read these words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?" Members of First Lutheran have been answering that question for 125 years. How will you answer it during March?

Winter Celebration

“Faith in Action,” based on I John 3:18 – “Little children, let us love not in word and speech, but in truth and action” and Luke 10:25-37 (The parable of the Good Samaritan), was presented as a team of independent movie makers who ran into a problem that threatened to end their project altogether. Like those in the parable who crossed by on the other side, the crew members in turn each avoided taking any responsibility for solving the crisis, all the while overlooking one crew member who had been ready to come to the rescue from the beginning.

The goal of our time together at Winter Celebration was, first, for all participants to tell their stories of faith, doubt, and action in light of the Good Samaritan parable, and second, for them to reflect on the gospel’s call to reach out to those who are marginalized, uncertain, or hurt.

Continue reading to see what our youth learned and liked at Winter Celebration.

— Pastor Goeres

I loved meeting new people and being able to talk about my faith with kids my age that I didn’t know who were open and understanding. I learned about how the Good Samaritan showed God’s love through actions and that actions speak louder than words, especially concerning stories in the Bible.

— Meghan Velotas

I liked seeing Synod friends that I get to see at these events. I learned sometimes God answers you in people you meet and sometimes we are the Good Samaritan.

— Cho-Cho Williams

What I liked about Winter Celebration this year was spending time in smaller groups and talking about our faith in God. I learned that even though it can be hard, we should try to be the Good Samaritan every day.

— Jackie Velotas

I liked reconnecting with old friends and singing Synod songs. I learned that diversity in the church is not as recognized as it should be, but talking about differences is a good step towards a community that God wants us to have.

— Natalie Schaus

I liked how I connected to the people in my small group and made new friends because of our love of Jesus. I learned that sometimes the most unexpected people can be the most helpful.

— Lani Silsdorf

I liked being able to talk about deep issues with my small group and have eye-opening conversations. I learned that even the most “put-together” people have problems and that’s okay.

— Lauren Silsdorf

My favorite part about this weekend was reconnecting with old friends. I learned God loves you in spite of your sin.

— Ella Kopf



At Winter Celebration 2019 I learned what it truly means to be a Good Samaritan. We should never judge someone by outward appearance because they could be the ones helping the most. I learned what it means to put your faith in action and how important it is to stand up for what is right. I love the community these events build. It was a fun and faith-filled experience.

— Emily Weeks

What I liked about this weekend was getting to see my closest friends who I haven’t seen in a while. I learned how to talk to people whom I have never met or talked to before.

— Max Kelly

I learned how to share my faith with my friend’s family. #faithinaction I loved singing with old and new friends!

— Grace McGhee

Honestly this weekend was the best weekend I’ve had in a while. I am super appreciative that you let me come with you. Thank you so much! I learned that people that you don’t ever expect in life to help actually help out—opened my eyes a bit.

— Magnus Dewberry (Holy Communion, Portsmouth)

I have learned how I am able to speak/share my faith not only at Winter Celebration and Kairos with my family and friends and one who I have to come to meet. I loved my small group because when I first got there I didn’t know anyone and within 2 and ½ days I’m leaving with a new friend I can’t wait to see at Kairos.

— AJ

I loved seeing my friends and learning. I’ve learned that everyone has a story and everyone can love.

— Stephen Herman

I really like how everyone came together and loved each other. I learned that its always those you least expect that help you.

— Grace Callins

I had a great time reconnecting with old friends, making new friends, and strengthening friendships. We learned about the parable of the Good Samaritan and that we should be kind to others.

— Lauren Kuehl

I liked hanging out with old and new friends while learning about how to be a better Samaritan in our society.

— Suzanne Biboum

I learned a Samaritan is a person hated by most, but in the story of the Good Samaritan, he helped someone in need. I liked free time and the talent show was awesome. Also, small group and friends.

— Sydney Brown

Music In Our Schools

M*usic In Our Schools* is a campaign, now celebrating its 30th year, by the National Association for Music Education, which seeks to raise awareness of the importance of music education. It serves as an opportunity for music teachers to bring their programs to the attention of the community, and to display the benefits that music brings to students of all ages.

First Lutheran has a unique opportunity for outreach through the music ministry. Ryan-Michael Blake, the Director of Music, also works in the music department for Norfolk Public Schools. In addition, some of the professional singers in the choir are also music educators: Ajeé Church is the chorus teacher at Granby High School and Patrick Garrison is the chorus teacher at Maury High School. Over the past three years, students from both schools have contributed to our worship, and the advanced choruses from both schools combined to present a Memorial Day concert last year. But these are only the outward and visible connections which reflect a much larger initiative between our church and the schools in our community.

We are working to strengthen our relationships with all the schools in our neighborhood; namely W.H. Taylor Elementary, the Ghent Academy, Blair Middle, and Maury High. Other ministry programs at FLC already provide support to these schools in other ways. The relationship with Maury, in particular, goes farther back than anyone realized. Before the congregation moved to the current Colley Avenue location, the church was located at the intersection of 15th Street and Moran Avenue. The streets have been renamed since the 1920s and 15th and Moran is where you will find Maury High School, placing FLC right across the street. At the time of this writing, the extent of collaboration from that period to the present is being investigated.

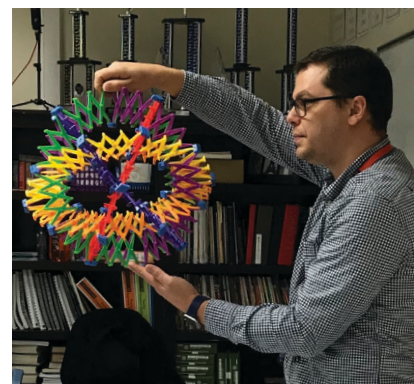
Nowadays, the FLC/Maury partnership is visited four days a week, as Mr. Blake and Mr. Garrison work together in their respective capacities, and each institution benefits from the other's resources. For example, First Lutheran

provides the use of its facilities for lessons and workshops; has donated much-needed office furniture which no longer served the needs of the congregation; contributes to an exchange of instructional resources; and, through the generosity of Mary Davenport Zelasko,

provides for the care and alteration of the chorus dresses and suits. In response, students and teachers from Maury enhance our worship from time to time with glorious music; and the band program provides percussion instruments (timpani, chimes, cymbals, etc) for our festival services, as well as auxiliary instruments and equipment as we explore music from around the world. Did you know that the wreaths which decorate the outside of the church during December come from the Maury orchestra?

Sunday, March 31 will be our first *Music In Our Schools* Sunday. At the 11:00 a.m. service, the FLC choir will be joined by a soloist from Maury High School and accompanied by students from Booker T. Washington High School. After the service, we will host our first *Instrument Petting Zoo*. Mrs. Danielle Roby, Senior Coordinator for Music Education for Norfolk Public Schools, will be in attendance to provide guidance for parents of children who are considering participation in the music program at their local school.

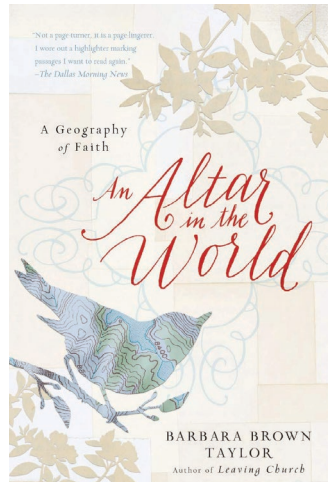
Plans are being made to host an annual concert (presented by faculty, students, and alumni) to benefit the Roby Memorial Fund for Music Education. More information is forthcoming. If you would like to contribute ideas or other gifts to this ministry, or to sponsor a student for *Lutheran Summer Music*, please contact the Director of Music by emailing rmblake@flcnorfolk.com.



Connect with Others

FLC Book Discussion Group

In the *New York Times* bestseller *An Altar in the World*, author Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey by building upon where she left off in *Leaving Church*. Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life and discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in. Join us April 7th at 6:30 PM at church.



If you are unable to join us in April but want to join us in May or June for faith growth and fellowship, the reading list for Spring is on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. Everyone is welcome to one or all our gatherings!

Lydia Circle

Ever wonder what the role of a church deacon is in the Lutheran church today? Our own deacon Lisa Geiger will explain this and more at Lydia Circle's meeting Tuesday, March 5, at 11:00am. Bring your questions- and your lunch- for this interesting presentation. For more information, contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, or pbaynard65@charter.net.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on March 5th at 7:00 PM at First Lutheran in the Reception Room. All are welcome! Please join us for fellowship and food. We will be tying quilts in support of FLC's goal of 125 quilts. No skill required, OJT provided by Pam Baynard along with an update on Lutheran World Relief. Questions? Contact Paula Cook at pbcook513@icloud.com or 793-0551.

Christian Service

Christian Service will meet Tuesday, March 26, at 9:30am in Strickler Hall to work on quilts for LWR. We can use help from anyone who can tie a knot. Bring something to eat if you can stay through lunch. Questions? Contact Pam Baynard, 638-4812, pbaynard65@charter.net.

First Communion Class

A First Communion Class is forming for anyone who would like to begin taking communion. Pastor Goeres will lead this class which meets twice: March 17th and March 31st following the 11:00 service. Attendees are invited to bring a sack lunch. Children should bring a parent/s, grandparent/s, or other sponsor. Once completed, students may take their first communion alongside their families at any service during Holy Week. Please contact Amy Hood with questions and/or to reserve a spot in the class: rhood7@cox.net.

"At that hour..."

"At that hour..." is one way we mark events in history. Scripture uses the term repeatedly to identify specific events that happen at a particular time. The Church has used specific times of the day to mark particular events in the life of Jesus. Our Lenten journey this year will explore the Liturgy of the Hours worship services as they help focus our reflection on the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Join us in the nave at 1:00 and 7:00 PM each Wednesday in Lent.

Calling All Singers!

On Sunday, March 17th, the Epiphany Singers will become the Emerald Singers! Following the 11:00 AM service, singers will enjoy a light lunch that will be provided in Strickler Hall. Singers will go together to sing Irish hymns with shut-in members. Our January visits were memorable and greatly appreciated. Mark your calendars and invite others to join us. All voices are welcome! Contact Ginny Fox at 757.481.0242 if you have questions.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Calling ALL Blood Donors!! Wednesday March 13th is OUR annual Blood Drive. This is the one time each year that First Lutheran acts as host for the Red Cross in their effort to collect the Gift of Life for so many in need. Whether you have given previously or not, WE NEED YOU to make this drive a success.

Sign up will be held in the Welcome Center on Sunday, March 3rd and March 10th. You can also sign up at www.redcrossblood.org by using the sponsor code GHENT when you enter the site. If you have any questions or would be willing to help at our registration desk or canteen, please call Bob or Liz Ritchey at 962-8921. Thank you!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday, March 5th, hosted by First Lutheran Youth. Please join us for a fun night of food and festivities as we kickoff the Lenten season. All free will offerings will go toward the Youth Scholarship Fund. We look forward to seeing you. Sign-up sheets will be on the Youth bulletin board.

Congregation Council Summary

At our February meeting, the Congregation Council

- Opened with a devotion using Pastrix by Pastor Nadia Boltz-Weber
- Received a presentation from Officer Jo Ann Hughes on Safety and Security for our building and grounds. Asked Property and Grounds committees to develop a plan based on Officer Hughes' recommendations
- Approved the following motions from Finance:
- Transfer of \$14,336.35 from the Council Discretionary Restricted account to operating cash account which represents the remaining deficit from 2018 operations.
- Transfer of \$35,000.00 out of the currently available excess funds in the real estate checking account to the Building Fund Restricted account.
- Increase the Pledge account by \$76,362.00 of the 2019 Spending Plan for Ministry to reflect the

actual amount pledged to date, with a corresponding reduction in the Non-Pledge Offerings account.

- Approved a motion from Global Concerns to donate \$500 to Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, an ELCA congregation in El Paso, Texas for their work as a Welcoming Congregation.
- Connected projects with committees and asked that they be prioritized and assigned a completion date.
- Identified June 1st as the retreat date for Council and Leadership Team to conclude the Congregational Vitality process.
- Approved a motion to make \$14,000 available from the building fund for the reception room renovation work.
- 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.

March Birthdays

Chris Holbach	1 Mar	Sylvia Bourcier	15 Mar
Toni Sires	2 Mar	Caroline Boykin	15 Mar
Donna Mulder	3 Mar	Bert Burckard	15 Mar
Wyann Kaiser	5 Mar	Jeff Willis	15 Mar
Stephen Griffin	6 Mar	Nano Masters	16 Mar
Esther Williams	6 Mar	Ellie Porter	16 Mar
Courtney Faircloth	7 Mar	Vickie Zelasko	16 Mar
Margel Fisher	7 Mar	Patrick Beck	17 Mar
Kat Foster	7 Mar	Frances Halcrow	17 Mar
Jay Gill	7 Mar	Norm Stones	17 Mar
Lorna Moss	7 Mar	Lynn Utecht	17 Mar
Norma Moss	7 Mar	Linda Joella	20 Mar
Christian Asam	9 Mar	Steve Velotas	20 Mar
Nathan Pitsch	9 Mar	Toni Sires	21 Mar
David Redilla	9 Mar	Tony Echea	22 Mar
Alex Vera Cruz	9 Mar	Mandy Affeldt	23 Mar
Jason Shea	10 Mar	Maggie Utecht	23 Mar
Charlene Loope	11 Mar	Jake Weeks	24 Mar
Jemma Mitchell	11 Mar	Hope Fischer	25 Mar
John Poston	12 Mar	Jeanne Walters	25 Mar
Chuck Baynard	13 Mar	Sarah Ammons	26 Mar
Jim Benson	13 Mar	Julia Callahan	28 Mar
Rhiannon Smith	13 Mar	Don Fisher	29 Mar
Caroline Asam	14 Mar	Trudy Hill	29 Mar
Johnathan Buckley	14 Mar	Zachery Posey	30 Mar



Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter....During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. — from "Sundays and Seasons"

Ash Wednesday Worship

With Imposition of Ashes
March 6th 1:00 and 7:00 PM

Mid-week Lenten Worship

Lenten worship is held at 1:00 and 7:00 PM every Wednesday, beginning March 6th and ending April 10th.

Join us at the Naro as we reflect on the time when we worshiped there while the sanctuary was being renovated during the 1950's.



Please join First Lutheran Church as we celebrate 125 years of Worship, Fellowship & Stewardship.

What: Singin' in the Rain

Where: Naro Movie Theatre

When: Sunday, March 31st, 1:00 PM

Tickets are \$8.00 per person.

March 2019

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
3 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM FLY Lunch	4 7 PM Church Council	5 11 AM Lydia Circle 12:30 PM Adult Ministries 7 PM Martha Circle	6 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	7 7 PM—Service	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Worship Committee	11	12	13 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	14 10 AM—Quilt Group 5:30 PM—Refugee Ministry	15 Contact Deadline	16
17 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	18	19	20 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	21 5:30 PM Laundry Love	22	23
24 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	25	26 9:30 AM Christian Service	27 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Lunch Ministry 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir	28 10 AM—Quilt Group	29	30
31 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship						

*** 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 ***

Prayer Concerns for March

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 comfort and encouragement Jesus gives us.

...that sometimes God gets involved in our lives without our asking.

...for the identified strengths in our congregation of worship, youth ministry and learning opportunities.

...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 hug the details and be hugged by the details of stories in the Bible.

...as we focus on opportunities to strengthen our ministry to families with children, ministry into our local community and communication.

Pray for

...comfort and peace for Norma Warren and family on the death of **Howard Warren**.

...comfort and peace for Alice Twining on the death of her husband (sister of **Mary Grubb**).

...family and friends of Katheryn Dennedy.

...animals that are close to extinction, especially penguins.

...people fleeing dire humanitarian situations for a better life.

...persons who are homeless.

...the unemployed and underemployed.

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

...those mourning the death of loved ones.

Dee Clare, Roger Fuller, Susan Griffin, Ray Hinton, Al Miller, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, David Perron, Betty Phillips, Marian Sever, Howard Simon, Amy Spangler, Stephen Beech and Elaine Lipworth, Joe Brown, Rob Burger, Stan Fox, Al and Mary Guidod, Barbara and Alan Harris, Jillian, John, Katrina, Lane and Patti, Mary, Mema, Bill Metheney (step-father of **Jeff Humphreys**), Theresa Smith Milne, Cathy Moye, Mark Opgrand, Patty, Rachel, Rob, Johnny Sadler (father of **Blythe Scott**), Sarah, Annie Stewart, Frank Tordillos

Those dealing with cancer

Mark Basco, Jo, Ann Wilson Rose, Andie Seagraves, Jess WineKing

Military and their families:

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

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for March

March 3rd -

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

March 10th -

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 17th

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17--4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 24th

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 31st

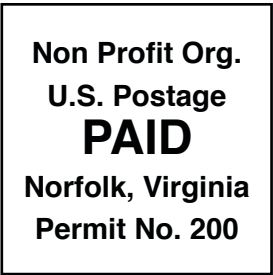
Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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