



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK



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NO. 9

What exactly is the “Hymn of the Day”?

Anyone who has worshiped in a Lutheran church since 1978 has seen this term. Over the past 40 years, several liturgical scholars have used a lot of sophisticated words to describe what makes this particular hymn unique. In the transition from *Lutheran Book of Worship* to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, these scholars seem to have made an almost 180° turn in their definitions. A workshop on the topic was offered at the last national conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM), and I was hopeful that it would provide more insight. Alas, I am still stuck with the question: “What makes this hymn different from any of the other hymns in the service?”

Historically, what we now know as the Hymn of the Day comes from the tradition of the *de tempore* hymn which provided specific texts (both canonical and catechetical) to each Sunday and festival of the church year. This tradition predates Luther’s reforms, but he is credited with its renewal and revitalization, authoring many new hymns himself. J.S. Bach, always having to be “extra” (as the kids say) took this a few steps further, composing an entire cantata for every service, incorporating many chorales which Lutherans sing to this day, although most have escaped the American Lutheran repertoire.

Traditionally, at least among Lutheran churches in the American South, this hymn is often erroneously referred to as the “sermon hymn,” (because it is usually sung either before or after the sermon) and was selected by the pastor(s) as a complement to the preaching. Conversely, in concept, the Hymn of the Day is selected by the churchwide body (in this case the ELCA), much like the lectionary readings. At present, Augsburg Fortress alone publishes four lists for Hymn of the Day plans which seem to contradict one another. For the past year we have been following the one on the *Church Year Calendar* with occasional diversion for pastoral discretion.

Carl Schalk, noted Lutheran composer and author, articulated the following among many practical outcomes that the regular use of the Hymn of the Day plan provides: 1) it protects the congregation against too-frequent subjectivism and one-sidedness in the use of the hymnal, and 2) it helps the church musician plan far in advance so that he does not have to wait until

shortly before Sunday to find out which hymns are to be sung.

I regard this as an extension of what Bach considered “a well-ordered church music.” I’ve put a new spin on it by trying to create a balanced diet to suit the palates of those who worship at FLC. Some of you have heard me use the term “musical buffet” to describe the many and various styles and genres. Lutheran chorales (including the more obscure ones), English hymns, Taize chants, gospel songs, Asian melodies, African rhythms, jazz, and more are all included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and, appropriately, all are welcome as candidates for the Hymn of the Day. Rather than attempt these pieces as solo presentations during communion as we have done, over the next year we will be using the time after the sermon as an opportunity to:

- find our voice in the expression of other cultures and languages;
- explore some of Luther’s historic chorales and other hymns of the time;
- discover texts and tunes which have been penned in recent decades; and
- enjoy refreshment in some old favorites which may have become stale.

Some of these require some instruction or guidance which is more feasible to provide than any of the other opportunities in which hymns are sung in worship. I will also include more detailed information and sometimes even recordings in the weekly *Notes on Music* email, resuming this month.

My hope is that you will taste something new at this banquet and still come back the next week for something different. Sometimes you might even ask for the recipe! And remember that sometimes in life we have to take “no thank you” bites.

— Ryan-Michael Blake, Director of Music

Endnotes

- 1 Schalk, Carl ed. Church Pamphlet Series “The Hymn of the Day and Its Use in Lutheran Worship,” Concordia Publishing, 1983.
- 2 From Johann Sebastian Bach, “Short but Most Necessary Draft for a Well-Appointed Church Music” (1730). Translated from Bach-Dokumente, Vol I (1963).

Junior High Servant Event – 2019

At this year's Junior High Servant Event (JHSE) in July, four youth from First Lutheran joined 29 others from around the synod to spend a week in the Tidewater area learning, serving, worshiping God, and having a great time. We learned about the causes of homelessness, the obstacles and hardships faced by people living in homelessness, and what services are available to help them. As we heard the stories of people whose lives were turned upside-down, often by situations that were out of their control such as unexpected illness and high medical bills or job loss, we also gained empathy for their situation and for the difficulties they face in finding food, shelter, health care, and community. One of the places we served, PIN (People in Need) Ministry, provides community and care for those who are living in homelessness or struggling with poverty by serving meals, providing basic health care and assessments, and offering many other services such as a clothing closet, recovery groups, and opportunities for worship. We served dinner there one evening, and many youth preferred to sit with the guests and talk with them. The laughter and smiles which followed were a joy to witness as our youth interacted with these guests as people and individuals with dignity who are loved and precious and not as a stereotype.

We also spent a lot of time learning about the immigration crisis in our country. We were visited by Ms. Sharon Powell, an immigration attorney from Williamsburg who is also a member of St. Stephens Lutheran Church. She spoke about how those seeking asylum in our country make up just one component under the umbrella of legal immigration, and she shared stories of families that are seeking asylum not only because of the danger and violence that they face in their home



countries but also because of the economic effects of climate change upon their families. She did a great job in explaining some of the nuances of immigration law which could affect a person's claim of asylum. In thanksgiving for her visit, we donated (through our registration fee and accrued savings) \$1200.00 to cover the court fees of one of her clients.

In keeping with the theme of immigration, we also experienced a simulation created by AAMPARO (<https://www.elca.org/ammparo>), in which youth took on the various roles of people affected by immigration, including migrant families, border control offices, a US Congressman, a teacher, and an aid worker. And finally, to put hands and feet to what we had been learning, we made burritos and care bags for an organization called TITA (Tidewater Immigration Transportation Assistance), which meets immigrants at the bus stop and helps them on the next step of their journey. We realized that we may not be able

to affect the immigration crisis on a large scale, but we can make a small difference locally.

And finally, the Junior High Servant Event is not complete without time near the ocean. We went on a Dolphin Cruise (and saw lots of dolphins, including babies!), and spent an afternoon playing in the surf and sand, with the added bonus of Pastor Dave Delaney and intern Samantha DiBiao joining us!

— Pastor Cathy Mims



God's Work, Our Hands

Our annual Day of Service will take place on September 22nd. Please pick up a “God’s Work, Our Hands” t-shirt in the Welcome Center and join one of the following activities:

- School supply kit assembly for Lutheran World Relief (all ages, Sunday school hour and after the 11 am service) – Contact: Pam (pbayn@aol.com)
- Pew cleaning in the sanctuary (all ages, after the 11 am service) – Contact: Marcus (marcusjanik@gmail.com)
- Grace Car Wash (youth, after the 11 am service)
- Fresh produce collection for the Foodbank: Share your fresh fruits and veggies that can be left unrefrigerated for up to 2 days – Contact: Merrie Jo (merjomil@cox.net).

A pizza lunch will be served for all volunteers.

Additional service activities on other dates:

- Laundry Love (Sept. 19, 5:30–6:30 pm, Colley Ave. laundromat) – Contact: Pam Baynard (pbayn@aol.com)
- Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia (Sept. 28, 9:00 am –12:00 pm) – Contact: Merrie Jo (merjomil@cox.net). Ages 12 and up. Space is limited to 20 participants.

You may also sign up for all activities through Signup Genius, at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45AAA828A4F94-week>. Questions? Ask a volunteer at the “God’s Work, Our Hands” table in the Welcome Center after the services on Sept. 1, 8, or 15.

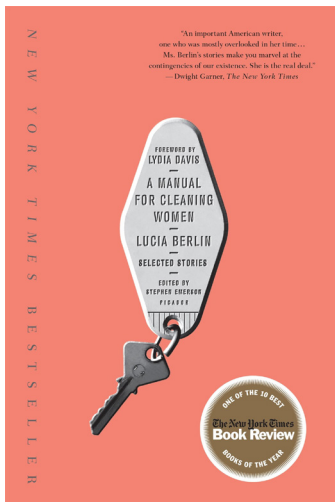
September Birthdays

1 Sep	Rita Crusott-McKinney	13 Sep	Ryan Diduk-Smith	22 Sep	Gayle Pougher
1 Sep	Scott Graham	14 Sep	Seth Cummings	22 Sep	Billy Sauter
2 Sep	Clara Strehlow	14 Sep	Cheryl Gebler	23 Sep	Harrison Moore
3 Sep	Roger Fuller	16 Sep	Kyle Cummings	23 Sep	Sherry Scheib, MD
3 Sep	Billy Grimball	16 Sep	Stefanie Levensalor	24 Sep	Sheri Kanipe
3 Sep	Gail Plauka	16 Sep	Kevin Prendergast	24 Sep	Anita Poston
3 Sep	Barbara Ross	16 Sep	Tami Sauter	24 Sep	Sarah Stennett
3 Sep	Derrick Stanfield	16 Sep	Les Trower	25 Sep	Charles Bauman
3 Sep	Cameron Williams	17 Sep	John Hogan	25 Sep	India Pougher
5 Sep	Ross Echea	17 Sep	Jennifer Moll	25 Sep	Cho-Cho Williams
5 Sep	Andrea Hoover-Erbig	17 Sep	Orion Posey	28 Sep	Johanna Fox
5 Sep	Ray W. Hughes	18 Sep	Bob Affeldt	28 Sep	Denise Haag
7 Sep	Paula Ross	18 Sep	Ginger Van de Water, Ed.D	28 Sep	Paul Horsboll
8 Sep	Jackson Edwards	18 Sep	Lanier Williams	29 Sep	Evelyn Douglas
10 Sep	Ann Hughes	19 Sep	Claire Elverum	29 Sep	Janet Eggen
10 Sep	Alana McElligott	21 Sep	Margaret Kelly	29 Sep	John Wass
10 Sep	Michelle Peterson	21 Sep	Caroline Robinson	30 Sep	Kristin Johns
13 Sep	Nick Miller	22 Sep	Kela Harrison		

Connect with Others

FLC Book Discussion Group

Looking for fellowship and great discussion? Join the First Lutheran Book Discussion Group on Sunday, October 6th at 6:30 to discuss *A Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories* by Lucia Berlin. This is an amazing collection of stories about ordinary people and how they deal with life's events. We will select a handful to discuss during the group and will share that list in early September. If you can't get a whole book read, this is a great chance to join us with less reading. These stories are sure to provide a springboard to great discussion. Grab a copy and come join us. Everyone is welcome. The more voices and views, the richer the discussion.



Join in the Fun at Sunday School Rally Day

All children, youth, and adults are invited to attend to Rally Day here at First Lutheran on Sunday, September 8th. We'll begin with a Continental Breakfast on the 3rd floor at 9:30 AM, followed by a program from 10:00-10:45 AM. This is a great opportunity to meet your teachers and kick off another great year of learning!

Fall Picnic with Basilica of St. Mary's!

Come out on September 8th and join the fun for a first-ever Combined Fall Picnic with the Basilica of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception! FLC and the Basilica are engaged in a partnership to work on bridging the racial divide in our country, and this is an opportunity for us all to participate in that ministry. The combined leadership group consisting of members from both congregations, Christians United For Social Change, is asking for the support of both congregations to make this picnic a success and to strengthen our partnership. There will be great food, games (including softball), and fellowship. The picnic will start at 2pm on September 8th in Barraud Park in Norfolk. Merrie Jo Milner, Gail Plauka, and Shelagh Humphreys are planning committee members from FLC, and they will be glad to answer any questions you might have. See you there!

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:00 PM at the home of Cathy Whittecar, 1217 Heathcliff Drive, Virginia Beach. All are welcome! Please join us for fellowship and refreshments. Questions? Contact Paula at pbcook513@icloud.com.

Dancing at FLC

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, there is an opportunity to participate in something new to most of the congregation—Contra Dancing! It is a “called” dance with live music. More fun (we think) than square dance, it's been described as “Jane Austen on speed.” There is a brief orientation/lesson (highly recommended!) beginning at 7:15 PM, following by dancing from 8:00 – 10:30 PM. No partner is needed; admission is waived for FLC members. Please join us on Saturday, September 21st and see what it's all about! If you have questions, please contact Pam Martin at 625-7693.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Bishop Humphrey's comments regarding the 2019 ELCA's Churchwide Assembly and “Sanctuary Denomination” declaration are available at the desk in the Welcome Center. Please join your pastors for a time of conversation on Sunday, September 1, at 9:45 AM in the front of the nave as we explore the actions and decisions of the Assembly.

September 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 Bible Study: Men at 7 AM Wednesdays at IHOP, 114 E 21st Street, Norfolk, 23517
 Women's Bible Study is on sabbatical until Fall.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School & ELCA Assembly Workshop 11 AM Worship 12 PM FLY Lunch	2 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3 11 AM Lydia Circle 7 PM Martha Circle	4 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 7:30 PM Choir Practice	5	6	7
8 <i>Rally Day</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 2 PM Picnic	9 7 PM Church Council	10	11 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 6:30 PM Learning Committee 7:30 PM Choir Practice	12 10 AM Quilt Group	13	14
15 Contact Deadline 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 12:30 PM Worship Committee	16	17	18 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 7:30 PM Choir Practice	19 5:30 PM Laundry Love	20	21 7:15 PM Contra Dancing
22 <i>God's Work; Our Hands</i> 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School	23	24 9:30 AM Christian Service	25 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 7:30 PM Choir Practice	26 10 AM Quilt Group	27	28
29 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	30					

*** 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 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 joyful thanksgiving

...for the marriage of **Barbara Ross** and **Allan Pedersen**.

...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

...follow peace and justice wherever it takes us.

...to hear your call to be radically changed and giving to all in need.

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

Pray for

...**Samantha DiBiao** as she begins her theological studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

...**Alyssa Kaplan** as she begins her pastoral internship year at Breath of God Lutheran Church in Baltimore, MD.

...the persons in Myanmar dealing with landslides from monsoon rains and those whose family members and friends are missing or have died.

...students returning to or starting college and their families.

...our country and our leaders.

...all those traveling.

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

...the sick, that they are comforted.

...the despairing, that they receive hope.

...persons who are homeless and need shelter and food.

...the unemployed and underemployed.

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

...those mourning the death of loved ones.

...**Sonya Baker, Roger Fuller, Susan Griffin, Ray Hinton, Al Miller, Kelley Minschke, Emily Mitchell, Lorna Moss, Linda Perron, Betty Phillips, Amy Spangler, Mike Alsbrook, Angela, The Burger Family, Carl, Dave and Susie, Sarah DeLoach, Gale, John, Katrina, Graham Knight, Amanda Kraiger, Bill Kraiger,**

Anna Mason, Mason, Theresa Smith Milne, Mogens, Cathy Moye, Patty, Rachel, Rob, Steve, Annie Stewart

Those dealing with cancer

Larry Atkinson, Rob Burger, Bill Foster (father of **Kevin Foster**), Jo, Ann Wilson Rose, Andie Seagraves, Dave Wildt, Rocco Wilson, Jess WineKing

Military and their families:

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

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before they are spoken. We commend these and all our prayers to you, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Readings for September

September 1st

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

September 15th

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalms 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 22nd

Amos 8:4-7

Psalms 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 29th

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalms 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

Congregation Council Summary

At our August meeting, the Congregation Council

- Received a thank you note from Fair Grounds for allowing their customers to park in our lot
- Discussed the Spending Plan for Ministry development process and identifying the Nominating Committee
- Heard about the 2 PM combined picnic with St. Mary on September 8 at Barraud Park, Norfolk
- Approved financial support of the wider church with \$1000 for Maren Corliss' (St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Norfolk) year with Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), \$1,250 to Lutheridge in honor of Pastors Tim and Mary Canniff-Kuhn's 25 years of service as Program Directors, \$200 for Legal Aid of VA, and \$100 each to Ghent Area Ministry, For Kids and ELCA Good Gifts
- Gave thanks for the accomplishment of many projects on our spreadsheet and provided input to prioritize remaining tasks
- Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners

The Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. September's meeting will be on the 9th. The meeting is open to the congregation.

FLC Goes to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens

SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH!!

Come and smell the roses with us! The Adult Ministry Committee invites all interested church members (and their guests) to join us on a trip to the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

Those interested in carpooling should be at the church by 9:45 AM. Otherwise, meet up with the group at Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA, 23518-5337, at 10:30 AM.

We will be taking a tram ride at 11:00 AM through the Garden, enjoying the fall colors, fall plantings, and the second blooming of the roses. We will also have time for visiting the gift shop and for lunch. For lunch, we plan to buy lunch and eat together in the Garden's Café, with each person responsible for their own meal.

We need all those interested in attending to please sign up, so we will know how many to expect. The sign-up sheet is located on the Congregational Life Bulletin Board in the Welcome Center.

Come join us for all the fun!!

Questions: Contact Karen Grogan 757-472-6501 or Merrie Jo Milner 757-560-0781.

Social Justice Sunday School

"In response to God's gracious love that seeks justice, the ELCA equips and nurtures us for our callings in the world, fosters social service and ministries of mercy, encourages learning and moral deliberation around social and cultural concerns, enacts social teaching and policy documents, interprets and applies social policy, and partners with agencies, organizations and institutions dedicated to service and justice." (www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society)

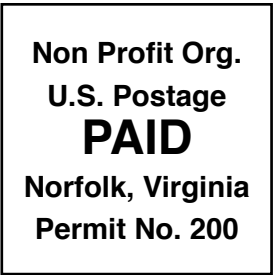
This high school and adult Sunday school series will provide an introduction to some of the social justice ministries that are currently supported by Lutheran congregations and/or other faith partners, spotlighting a different ministry and guest speaker every week. The class will address current social issues that raise concerns for justice, and to which the church can bring an important witness.

The class will meet on the 3rd floor, beginning on September 15. Please join us!

SCHEDULE

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 15 | Suzy Biboum, Bridge Builders (ELCA summer camp to develop young leaders with a raised awareness and understanding of the realities of racism) |
| Sept. 22 | Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, ELCA Virginia Synod – Introduction to social justice |
| Sept. 29 | Rev. Lynn Litchfield, Director of Development, Grace Inside (Virginia's prison chaplain service) |
| Oct. 6 | Ruth Ivory-Moore, Program Director, Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility, ELCA |
| Oct. 13 | Rev. Sandy Wisco, Reconciling Works (welcome/inclusion/celebration for LGBTQIA+ in the Lutheran church) |
| Oct. 20 | Russell DeYoung, Bread for the World |
| Oct. 27 | Rev. David Wangaard, Sr. Advisor for Church and Congregational Relations, Lutheran World Relief |
| Nov. 3 | Amanda Silcox, Economic Justice Program Manager, |

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

