



# The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK



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## Greetings!

The risen Jesus meets Mary Magdalene and Mary outside of the tomb on the first Easter and shares “Greetings!” They were amazed when new life called out to them, took hold of Jesus’ feet, and worshiped him. (Matthew 28:9)

We rejoice in Jesus’ call to new life for us. We worship the One who has called us from death to life. We give thanks for one another on our journey with Jesus to share the resurrection story.

There is no question that we miss seeing each other in person during these days of social distancing.



It is also clear that the congregational vitality of First is evident in many meaningful ways. You all have been marvelous in staying connected in worship online, providing offerings faithfully for the ministry we do together and expressing care for one another. You are living witnesses of God’s love in Jesus through established channels and new ways in these challenging days.

May the risen Christ Jesus and his daily “greetings!” continue to amaze you and fill you with courageous joy.

— Pastor Rick Goeres

*Resurrection window above our altar.*

## Thanksgiving For Baptism

Each household is invited to have a container of water present and use this liturgy at home as we also use it in our Sunday worship during the Season of Easter.

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.**

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

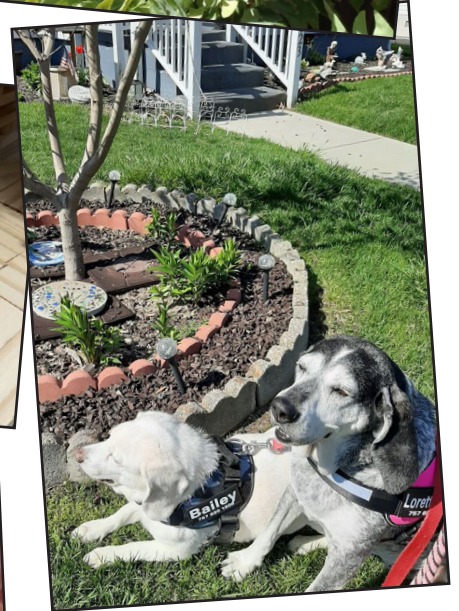
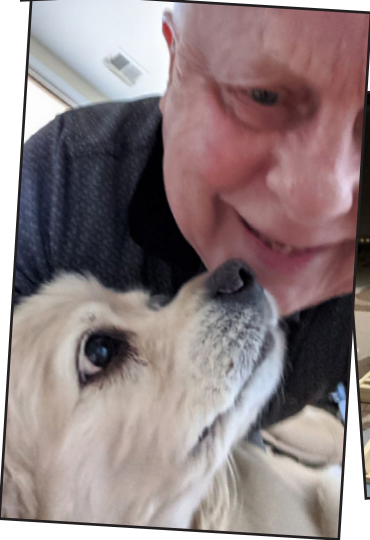
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.  
We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.  
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# Palms in Place



*First Lutheran Church*  
**Vacation Bible School**  
Evenings, August 3rd - 7th  
Classes for Children, Youth & Adults  
Dinner will be provided!

**ON EARTH**  
**AS IN HEAVEN**



# Welcome Center Refinishing



**Before**



**After**

# Easter Morning



## May Birthdays

2 May	Johnny Sackel	10 May	Julie Coffing	16 May	Susan Griffin	23 May	Betty Jean Meyer, PhD
2 May	Katie Sackel	12 May	Brett Hogan	16 May	Angelo Ilardi	24 May	Kenzie Griffin
3 May	Lynn Broman	12 May	Dylan Holbach	16 May	Matthew Thompson	27 May	Max Kelly
3 May	Margaret Fleet	12 May	Brianna Kelly	17 May	Max Carver	28 May	John Bissey
3 May	Scott Silsdorf	12 May	Lori Kintsche	20 May	Eliot Faircloth	28 May	Claudia Burckard
5 May	Rebecca Dozier	12 May	Lindsay Logan	21 May	Angela Hogan	28 May	Paul Jersild
5 May	Megan Hurdle	12 May	Kelley Minschke	21 May	Nick Masters	28 May	Cathy Mims
5 May	Heera Simon	12 May	Gabe Stachour	22 May	Gregg Clifford	30 May	Bruce Johnson
5 May	Jackie Velotas	13 May	Paula Cook	22 May	Jonathan Hund	31 May	Rick Brown
5 May	Meghan Velotas	13 May	Mike Haag	22 May	Erik Kisa	31 May	Sam Erbig
6 May	Carol Swan	14 May	Kirsten Bagans	22 May	Gail Simos	31 May	Sophie Erbig
6 May	Wil Thompson	14 May	Andy Hilton	22 May	Ben Williams		
7 May	Holly Weisenbeck	14 May	Elizabeth Moll	23 May	Reagan Heller		
9 May	Marty Mitchell	15 May	Betty Peterson	23 May	Louise Hill		
9 May	Daniel Pirtle	16 May	Cheyenne Dandrea				

# Connect with Others

## Opportunities & Assistance

If you or someone you know is in need of resources or you are looking for help during this time, here are a few helpful links.

If you are in need of food, Virginia has received USDA approval for the state-wide household disaster feeding program which means our foodbanks can offer emergency food assistance to everyone, not just those who meet income guidelines. For help with food, please visit the VA Foodbanks website at [vafoodbanks.org](http://vafoodbanks.org). If you need help getting food or other services, please call 211. As of April 14th, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and Eastern Shore will begin distributing food at designated YMCA locations once per week. For Norfolk, the Foodbank will distribute food on Fridays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at The Y on Granby, located at 2901 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23504.

For domestic violence services, please call 800-838-8238.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) released the NAMI COVID-19 Resource and Information Guide to answer frequently asked questions regarding the intersection between Coronavirus, or COVID-19, and people affected by mental illness, their caregivers and loved ones. The guide features FAQs on a variety of topics from managing anxiety and social isolation to accessing health care and medications. Download a pdf version here: [www.nami.org/covid-19](http://www.nami.org/covid-19).

If you or someone you know is experiencing financial difficulty due to Covid-19 and needs help affording their medications, please contact Rx Outreach, a non-profit that helps provide affordable medications by mail. To learn more, please visit [rxoutreach.org/covid19](http://rxoutreach.org/covid19).

## Congregation Council Summary

At our April meeting, the Congregation Council

- Met by Zoom and opened with devotions
- Gave thanks for technology that allowed us to meet virtually and maintain social distancing
- Shared personal updates on how our individual households were coping with the realities of COVID-19
- Received updates on how the household of God at First was making Ministry adjustments related to COVID-19 in the areas of Worship, Learning, Witness, Service, Support and the wider church
- Gave thanks for the faithfulness of our members in attending worship online, giving offerings online and through the mail, and connecting with one another through established avenues and new ways
- 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.

## First Communion Class

We are sorry that we were not able to have the First Communion classes in March as planned. We plan to schedule a new class in the fall for anyone interested in attending.

## What's up with Laundry Love?

According to the current directive from Governor Northam, laundromats are essential businesses. Therefore, First Lutheran and St. Andrew's have staffed Laundry Love in March and April and plan to host again in May. Changes have been made in order to make this endeavor as safe as possible. There are fewer volunteers, and those volunteers wear masks. Laundry supplies are spread out in different parts of the laundromat to limit people congregating. Only nine people are allowed into the laundromat at a time and there is no line for people while cards are distributed. These are challenging times for all, but please know that because of your financial support the Laundry Love ministry is still providing assistance to our neighbors in need. Thank you!

# Connect with Word and Body

## Prayer Concerns for May

Turning our hearts to you, O merciful and gracious God, we pray for the church, the world and all who are in need.

### Give joyful thanksgiving

...for the birth of Grace Victoria Mayfield, granddaughter of **Marty and Johanna Bradley**.

...for spring and the renewed life we see in all of nature.

...that God is our refuge and strength in the chaos and uncertainty of the world.

...that God listens and brings hope, healing, love and new life to our broken spirits and hearts.

...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

...use some of the solitude in which we find ourselves to breathe in the aroma of Christ.

...to be keenly aware of this Holy Week and what it means for us.

...to be patient with the necessary precautions we need to take to curb the coronavirus.

...let the peace of God permeate our hearts and minds.

...care for one another and pull back the veil to further expose racism, bias, and injustice.

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

### Pray for

...peace and comfort for **Susan Stones**, family and friends of **Norm Stones** upon his death.

...peace and comfort for **Randall Wiele**, family and friends of **Doris Wiele** upon her death.

...Lenae Osmondson and family upon the death of her brother-in-law.

...peace and comfort for Lance Henderson and family upon the death of Lance's father.

...medical personnel and researchers caring for all the persons in this world.

...those affected by the corona virus and those working on the development of a vaccine and medication to treat the virus.

...those who are dying, that they are secure in knowing that God loves them and will welcome them into everlasting life.

...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 in need of shelter and food.

...the unemployed and underemployed.

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

...those mourning the death of loved ones.

...for all who cry out to God in any need.

**Sonya Baker, Alvene Buckley, Roger Fuller, Al Miller, Kelley Minschke, Emily Mitchell, Lorna Moss, Betty Phillips, Fay Rogner, Deb Thompson, Jeanne Walters, Doris and Randall Wiele, Dallas Williams, Chip Broadbent, Richard Brown, Jr. (father of Rick Brown), Dorothy Carney, Joey Comes, William Forts, Frances, Catherine and Will, Gail, Gert, Jim, John, Katrina, Theresa Smith Milne, Cathy Moye, Owen and Linda, Rachel, Rema, Rob, Bobbie Scott Smith, Yvette Wyatt**

### Those dealing with cancer

Larry Atkinson, Jo Brouwer (going through treatments), Iris Corbin, Dave Guelcher (father of Beth Zaletski), David Kelly, Vickie Mack, Phil, Andie Seagraves, Libby Kanipe Willis, Jess WineKing

### Military and their families:

All military personnel around the world.

**Austin Davidson, Mason Fox (deployed), Kyle Hefner (deployed), Dan Kelly, Bobby Masters, Ted Peterson, Brian Becker, Alex Diaz and shipmates in the Horn of Africa for a year-long deployment. (Dec., 2019), Jonathan Goeres, Amy Hardbower, Nicolette Huntley, Tim Kelly, Ian Logan, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman, Syd**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ or Lord. **Amen.**

## Readings for May

### May 3rd

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

### May 10th

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

### May 17th

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-24

### May 24th

Acts 1:6-14

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

### May 31st

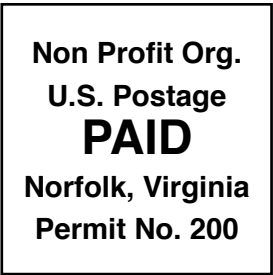
Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

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