



The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

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www.flcnorfolk.com

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NO. 7

Chrismons in July

The term “chrismon” is a portmanteau of the words “Christ” and “monogram” and is most often associated with the ornaments which adorn the trees in the church at Christmastide. Chrismon trees have their origin at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, where Frances Kiku Kipps Spencer, a former student at Lenoir-Rhyne College, designed a Christmas tree befitting the sacred setting of a church. This tradition was brought to First Lutheran by Frances “Faye” Herbert Drinkard, who so lovingly crafted the chrismons we still use to this day.

Unfortunately, despite careful packing by our decorating teams, many of these precious items have fallen into disrepair over the years. Ryan-Michael Blake is coordinating an effort to restore them in time for Advent 2020, which begins early this year on November 29. He has also offered to give a presentation on the symbolism of the chrismons and other symbols at a time to be determined. To inquire how you may support this project, you are invited to contact Ryan-Michael by email at rmlake@flcnorfolk.com.



Wearing Red for Pentecost



Bread for the World

As a member of Bread for the World, our congregation is being reminded that the coronavirus is not just making people sick. It is a pandemic, creating a hunger crisis both here and throughout the world. It is estimated that 54 million Americans will become food insecure by the end of this year. Globally, the number of people experiencing hunger could nearly double to 265 million by the end of 2020, according to the U.N.

World Food Program. What can we do? We can email our members of Congress, urging them to make nutrition investments a priority in the next stimulus package. It is a most significant way for us to heed the call of Jesus to care for the “least among us.” Don’t forget, too, that you can expand the power of your witness through social media, spreading the word to your friends, family, and other followers.

FLC Foodbank Contributions

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matt. 9:36)

Each day we see the heavy toll of the Covid19 virus on those who have been hit hard by layoffs and unemployment. In addition to our weekly lunch ministry, our First Lutheran Service committee discussed the best way for our congregation to take on a project to assist in feeding people. We feel the best way to do this is through our local Foodbank. The Council has donated \$1,000 from the Council discretionary fund to the Foodbank.

The Service Committee has set up an account with our local foodbank at fundraise.foodbankonline.org/team/292998 for your hands to share in God’s work to the hungry. At this time, we’ve already raised \$3,138 but how high could we really go? We believe we could reach \$5,000 or more! The need is great. Thank you for your gift, large or small, in giving to this urgent need in our community.



First Lutheran – Basilica Of St. Mary Activities

Members of First Lutheran and the Basilica of Saint Mary haven’t let the coronavirus prevent them from “getting together.” A Zoom coffee hour was enjoyed on June 6 by a dozen people from the two churches who are active in Christians United for Social Change (CUSC). It was a welcome break to the enforced isolation we are experiencing, enabling members to chat in a relaxed mood and to catch up with each other – a “small group” affair.

The activities of CUSC will resume soon under (we hope) better circumstances, including attention given to the July 7th public hearing concerning the Norfolk City Council’s plan to remove the Confederate monument on East Main Street. If you are interested in participating in this group please contact Eric Peterson at 757-636-9219.

July 2020

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 Charlie's American Café, 4024 Granby Street,
 Corner of 41st Street
 Women's Bible Study: 2 PM Wednesdays, Please contact Pastor Mims for more information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study	2 5 PM Fellowship Time via Zoom	3 <i>Church Office Closed for 4th of July Holiday</i>	4
5 10 AM Worship Service online 12 PM FLY Zoom Lunch	6 10 AM Fellowship Time via Zoom	7	8 7AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study	9 5 PM Fellowship Time via Zoom	10	11
12 10 AM Worship Service online	13 10 AM Fellowship Time via Zoom	14	15 Contact Deadline 7AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study	16 5 PM Fellowship Time via Zoom	17	18
19 10 AM Worship Service online	20 10 AM Fellowship Time via Zoom	21	22 7AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study	23 5 PM Fellowship Time via Zoom	24	25
26 10 AM Worship Service online	27 10 AM Fellowship Time via Zoom	28	29 7AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study	30	31	

*** 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 ***

Congregation Council Summary

At our June meeting, the Congregation Council

- Opened with devotions using *My Life Flows On In Endless Song* (ELW 763), noting that in uncertain times God's presence and peace leads us into the refrain for our lives, "No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"
- Encouraged Committees and Ministry Groups to begin planning for 2021 and submitting requests for the Spending Plan for Ministry by the end of summer
- Discussed Gathering Again for in-person worship and ministry; Agreed that the VA Synod flowchart for Gathering Again was a helpful guide; gave direction on the composition of a Planning Team to give dates and direction for Gathering Again at First; agreed that online

worship will continue for some time after we begin to gather again in person

- Identified Water Infiltration and Organ Renovation as our next Capital Improvement projects, and asked Finance to recommend avenues for funding
- Shared experiences from calling and checking on all our congregational members
- Discussed systemic racism and decided to put a Black Lives Matter banner in our courtyard
- Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners

The Congregation Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. July's meeting will be on June 29. The meeting is open to the congregation.

July Birthdays

1 July Adam Levensalor	9 July Jim Brady	17 July Samantha Farpour	24 July Darrell Kristo
2 July Lauren Willis	10 July Thomas Douglas	17 July Randy Milner	25 July Lauren Kaplan
3 July Joel Ostrout	10 July Debbie Porter	17 July David Perron	25 July Matthew Nordan
4 July Cathy Delaney	11 July Sean Duffy	18 July Marilyn Jersild	25 July Christopher Powell
4 July Benjamin Farpour	12 July Mary Boardman	18 July Julia Siik	26 July Ivana DiNini
5 July Margaret Ackley	12 July Emily Davidson	19 July Annika Fox	26 July Donna Mangubat
5 July Hannah Duffy	12 July Patrick Seaman	19 July John Lewis	28 July Debra Acors
5 July Virginia Temple	14 July LeeAnn Azar	19 July Sophia Phillips	28 July Judy Basco
6 July Jennifer Echea	14 July Connie Kaiser	19 July Rebecca Poston	28 July Mimi Hill
6 July Parker Gates	14 July Helen Parker	20 July Ethan Hutchings	28 July P. Fay Rogner
6 July Rebecca Poston	15 July Alex Loope	20 July Ella Kopf	28 July Lauren Silsdorf
7 July Julyiet Kuehl	15 July Jane Van Wolkenten	21 July Janine Brown	28 July Anna Wood
7 July Lani Silsdorf	16 July Barbara Chapman	21 July Kathryn Haugen	29 July Nolan Ferguson
8 July Katie Buckley	16 July Sarah Delaney	21 July Anna Mason	29 July Vicki O'Rourke
8 July Kiersten Hilton	16 July Joelle Griffith	21 July Marilyn Melchor	30 July Lynda Behnke
8 July Mark Torbert	16 July D.T. Hurdle	23 July Adam Clifford	30 July Joy Kelly
8 July Lee VandeWater	16 July Jonathan Miller, MD	23 July Bill Seaman	31 July Isa Zamani
9 July Jennifer Boykin	16 July Anna Willis	24 July Madelyn Baker	

Connect with Word and Body

Prayer Concerns for July

Holy and righteous God, you created all of us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us to use our freedom to bring justice among peoples and nations, to the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Give joyful thanksgiving

- ...for the 91st birthday of Jim Ilardi.
- ...that God was aroused to be compassionate to us so he sent us Jesus.
- ...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 be the light of God to the whole world.
- ...to see others with compassion and act in merciful ways to all our brothers and sisters in this world.
- ...to learn about God's love for all, reflect on his call to us and help us use our voices to proclaim his love.
- ...to pray for one another and to actively inquire of others how we may pray for them.
- ...to work toward identifying and rectifying systemic racism.
- ...be kind and 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

- ...the congregation of Mother Emmanuel AME church in Charleston, SC.
- ...the family and friends of Joseph Martin.
- ...peace and comfort for the family and friends of Pastor Dwayne Westermann upon his death.
- ...peace and comfort for the family and friends of George Floyd and all African-Americans who have died because of the color of their skin.
- ...Sherry and George Turner-Graveson and their children, Matthew, Timothy and Abigale.
- ...our country and our world.
- ...open-mindedness and sensitivity to confront our own prejudices and biases.
- ...all who are making decisions during this pandemic to keep us safe.
- ...all who are working diligently to make a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus.
- ...our neighbors who are working as essential personnel to keep us safe, healthy and fed.
- ...those furloughed or unemployed.
- ...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/or in need of shelter and food.
- ...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.

Margaret Ackley, Alvene Buckley, John Faircloth, Roger Fuller, Jay Gill, Joelle Griffith, Kelley Minschke, Emily Mitchell, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Betty Phillips, Fay Rogner, Dick Temple, Deb Thompson, Jeanne Walters, Joan Werner, Dallas Williams, Aiden and Emily, Mary and Earl Barbour, Betty Lou, Stewart Bowden (father of Janine Brown), Richard Brown, Jr. (father of Rick Brown), Dave, David, Eva, Glen Fox (brother of Steve Fox), Gail, Gert, Greg, Jana, Jim, Joan, Joel, Katrina, Mark, Theresa Smith Milne, Cathy Moye, Peggy, Rachel, Rema, Sandy, Aurora Spencer Sharp, Jim Southard (Beth Silsdorf's dad), Suzy, Stan Willis

Those dealing with cancer

Larry Atkinson, Jo Brouwer, Iris Corbin, Dave Guelcher (father of Beth Zaletski), David Kelly, Vickie Mack, Mark, Phil, Rob, Sandy, 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, Nick Masters, Ted Peterson, Brian Becker, Avatar Boardman-deployed (son of Mary Boardman), Alex Diaz and shipmates in the Horn of Africa for a year-long deployment. (Dec., 2019), Jonathan Goeres, Amy Harbower, Nicolette Huntley, Tim Kelly, Ian Logan, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for July

July 5th

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12th

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

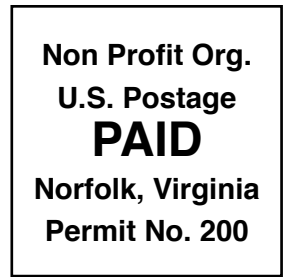
July 19th

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26th

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
