

The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757 625 1953

www.flcnorfolk.com

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NO. 10

Thank you at Retirement

Dear Beloved of God,

Thank you for your abundant contacts, communications and expressions of thanksgiving for our life together at my retirement. I am embraced by each moment of remembrance and delight in the dance that the future holds.

The pictures express the completion of one journey and the beginning of another. My last journey at First mirrored my first when I walked down the center aisle 10 years ago to kneel and pray as I joined the life-giving work of the Holy Spirit in this place. My last act as Pastor took me to my knees in thanksgiving for our mutual ministry on the walk with Jesus and your continuing involvement in the story of God at First before walking down the aisle and out of the nave on my last day. The outdoor pictures are of our first walk in a National Park during retirement. Both treks hold cherished memories.

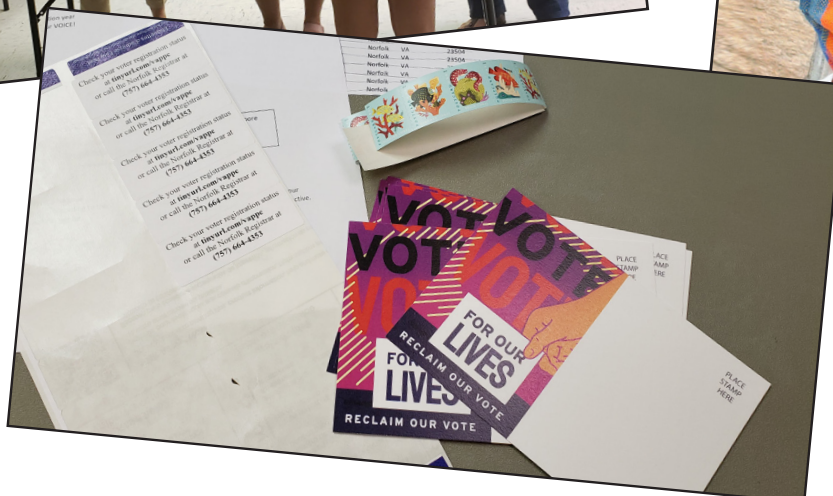
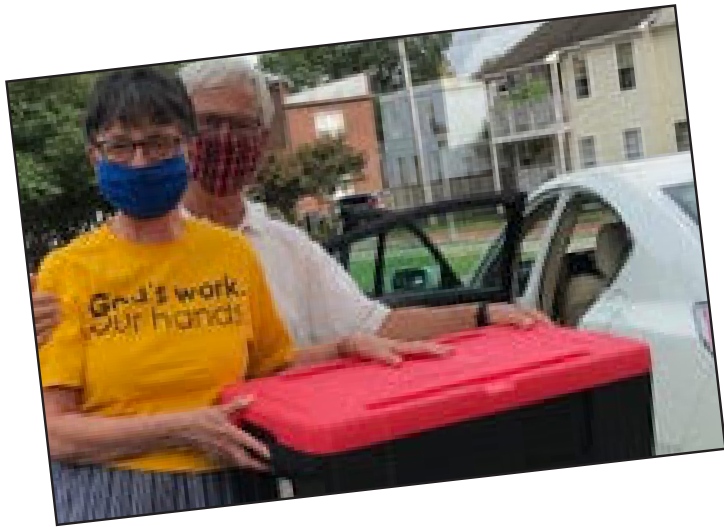
I give thanks for the many and various ways in which the light of Christ Jesus beams off of your hands, faces and words. You have touched my heart with indelible fingerprints. May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hold you dearly this day and forever more.

With abundant gratitude,

Pastor Rick Goeres



Week of



Service



Thank You Note

I would like to thank Pastor Goeres, Pastor Mims and the congregation for their cards, prayers and concern during my illness.

— Grace Ridenhour

All Saint's Day

All Saint's Day is a time to remember those who have died in the last twelve months. It is a time to give thanks for our ancestors in the faith and to remember our responsibility as heirs to share the faith with others. Normally we record names in our beautifully bound book located in the Welcome Center. However, this year, we are asking everyone to email their names to kminnick@flcnorfolk.com so that they can be included in All Saint's Sunday worship and we will record their names in the book. Those remembered may or may not have been members of First Lutheran Church.

Blessing of the Animals



This year, due to Covid, we'll be partnering with Good Shepherd to do a virtual blessing of the animals. We ask that you share pictures of your pets with us by sending them to office@flcnorfolk.com so that we can include as many as possible in a special video for the day. Please send your photos to us as soon as possible.



by Ryan-Michael Blake,
Director of Music

Singing the Lord's song in a strange land

I keep coming back to a statement I made a few months ago: "The way we do church music is about to be very different because the way we do church is going to be very different." And that is most certainly true. Every aspect of our daily lives has changed and we've all had to quickly overcome any deficiencies in our awareness of technology, so that we may continue to function in our schools, our workplaces, among distant relatives, and our society. But despite the tendency to focus on how things are not the same, I am still amazed at the ways God is still creating and in the ways that God is making all things new.

I participated in a series of eight webinars this summer, focusing mostly on strategies for safe engagement within music programs as we begin the regathering process. This included my introduction to new (and in some cases, not new at all) resources which I will be using even past this time of Covidtide. We are able to do things in a different way than we may or may not have "always done," and we are also able to do some things we were previously unable to do. The handbell ensembles are back in rehearsal and the beginning guitar class is making good progress. We look forward to hearing from them in worship in the coming weeks and months. Choir is still a while from coming back, but it will come back, along with other opportunities for music-making.

Music as Spiritual Care will begin on Sunday, October 18, which, coincidentally, is the Feast of St. Luke, the evangelist who was known as a physician. The session will include an introduction to various relaxation techniques as well as demonstrations of ways in which music can be used to relieve tension and anxiety. At this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this session will be recorded.

Still with uncertainty as to the exact particulars surrounding the regathering process, Pastor Mims and I have been discussing how to present All Saints Day and Christmas Eve in a manner that will be modified and distanced, while also being familiar and intimate. If you spend even a few seconds thinking about the traditions, you will appreciate the gravity of the challenge before us. The worship committee met recently via Zoom to explore some options which included a combination of recorded and in-person possibilities. If you have ideas, please be in touch with a committee member, Pastor Mims, or myself.

October Birthdays

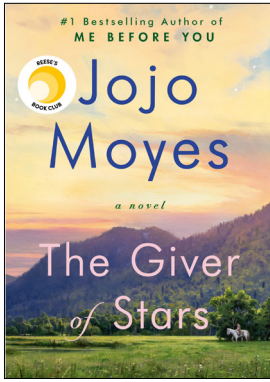
2 Oct Don Strehlow	11 Oct Julie Erwin	18 Oct Beckett Hutchings	27 Oct Alexandra Cook
3 Oct Callan Stopa	12 Oct Mollie Mae Ammons	18 Oct Cole New	27 Oct Donna Koch
4 Oct Dena Strong	12 Oct Samantha DiBiao	18 Oct Sadie Porter	27 Oct Cheryl Weeks
4 Oct Joan Werner	12 Oct Kerry Kisa	19 Oct John Azar	27 Oct Vicki Wittmann
5 Oct Jo Ann Hughes	13 Oct Gail Anthony	20 Oct Jenn Holbach	28 Oct Frieda Grimball
7 Oct Marilyn (Stephens) Booker	13 Oct CJ Mendelson	20 Oct Al Pedersen	28 Oct David Kuehl
7 Oct Cassie Elverum	14 Oct Jack Curran	21 Oct Lynda Falkiner	29 Oct Kristin Bourcier
7 Oct Jim Koch	14 Oct Harrison Kuehl	22 Oct Jeff Hood	29 Oct Tammy DiBiao
9 Oct Katie Alexander	14 Oct Joanne Lundquist	25 Oct Mary Lou Anderson	29 Oct Felix Janik
9 Oct April Carver	14 Oct Lelia Milner	25 Oct Dana Benson	31 Oct Tyler Fisher
9 Oct Olivia New	15 Oct Matthew Faircloth	25 Oct Ginny Fox	31 Oct Bernard Sutton
9 Oct Linda Perron	16 Oct Grady Erwin	25 Oct Andrew Hund	
10 Oct Joe Peterson	17 Oct Carrie Saich	26 Oct Judy Biboum	
11 Oct Debbie Affeldt	18 Oct Jim Harvey	27 Oct Irene Brady	

October 2020

Office Hours: 9 AM—4 PM Monday-Thursday, 9 AM -1 PM Friday
 Men's Bible Study: 7 AM, Wednesdays, IHOP, 114 E. 21st, Norfolk, VA 23517
 Women's Bible Study: 2 PM Tuesdays online, please contact Pastor Mims for more information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5 PM Fellowship Time online	2	3
4 10 AM Worship Service online 12 PM Fly Lunch with Pastor Mims via Zoom	5 7 PM Congregation Council	6 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	7 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	8 5 PM Fellowship Time online	9	10
11 10 AM Worship Service online	12	13 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	14 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	15 5 PM Fellowship Time online 5:30 PM Laundry Love <div>Contact Deadline</div>	16	17
18 10 AM Worship Service online	19	20 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	21 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	22 5 PM Fellowship Time online	23	24
25 <i>Reformation & Confirmation Sunday</i> 10 AM Worship Service online	26	27 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	28 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	29 5 PM Fellowship Time online	30	31

Connect with Others



FLC Book Discussion Group

Set in Kentucky and based on a true story about the Packhorse Librarians, Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

Novel of women's friendships, true love and what happens when we reach beyond our group. [388 pages.] Plan to join us Sunday, November 1st at 6:30 for a discussion of a movement that made a difference in American history and what that might mean for us today.

Reminder: The book discussion for October 4 is *For All Who Hunger: Searching for Communion in a Shattered World* by Emily M. D. Scott. For questions, contact Betty Jean Meyer.

Laundry Love

“Love never ends. Neither does laundry.” This Laundry Love saying could describe life during the pandemic. Love of family, friends, and our faith community has helped many of us endure these last few months as much of our “normal” life ground to a halt. But, although routines were disrupted, the laundry still had to be done. Since the initial shutdown in March, First Lutheran and St. Andrew's have faithfully hosted Laundry Love at the Soap n Suds every third Thursday of each month in order to help others keep their clothes clean. We've reduced the number of volunteers and shortened the timeframe to minimize risk. We've given out dozens and dozens of masks to help people there stay safe. We have truly looked out for our neighbors.

The need has been great, and it has increased as the shutdown has dragged on. Now our money and supplies are almost depleted. Any help you can give through donations of money or detergent pods and dryer sheets will be put to good use. Even small financial donations can add up quickly. Checks can be made out to First Lutheran with Laundry Love on the memo line and supplies can be placed in the laundry basket by the water fountain. Please know that your gifts will be deeply appreciated by our friends at the laundromat.

“Love never ends. Neither does laundry.” That reminder might help all of us weather the remaining days of this pandemic.

Congregation Council Summary

At our September meeting held August 31st via Zoom, the Congregation Council

- Opened with devotions by Mary Fox: Creating Space and Justice & People of God
- Received a Thank You letter from Lutheridge for our \$1,000.00 support/gift
- Acknowledge funeral of James Edward Southard
- Approved the Congregational Vitality Coaching Contract with Pastor John Mocko for 12 months @ \$1,800.00
- Approved the Personnel Committee recommendation to extend all employees term contracts for 3 months after a new Senior Pastor is called.
- Nominating Committee has selected candidates for the Congregation Council and Trustee

- Reviewed Gathering Again Planning Team's work and encouraged their ongoing development of recommendations towards in-person worship; tentative date for in-person worship is September 20th
- Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick lead the Thanksgiving for Ministry with Pastor Goeres
- Reviewed the Interim period, Call Process, and guided conversation with Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick
- Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners

The Congregation Council normally meets at 7 PM on the first Monday of each month. The meeting is open to the congregation.

Connect with Word and Body

Prayer Concerns for October

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Give joyful thanksgiving

...our faithful and dedicated Learning Committee, Sunday School teachers, Confirmation mentors, teachers, Service Committee and Steve Delaney for all their hard work in preparation for Rally Day and God's Work, Our Hands
...for a great start to the Fall program year
...that we are forgiven our sins
...the beauty of this world
...for stories of faith that shape our lives

Help us

...draw deeply from your well of mercy, that we too might be merciful
...to protect fragile habitats and make judicious use of our natural resources
...face the future with courage and hope
...continue to think creatively about how to do things differently

Pray for

...peace and comfort to the family of Margaret Miller (**Julie Coffing's** mother) on her death
...peace and comfort to Wayne Goodwin and family on the death of his wife
...peace and comfort for the friends and family of Ginny Irwin
...peace and comfort to the Paul Dean Nelson family
...peace and comfort to Donna & John Kennard who lost their home in a fire
...Ilardi Family
...safety and help to those affected by wildfires out west and the dangerous smoke
...Portland, Kenosha, and all other cities experiencing civil unrest to bring peace to our streets
...Justice for the victims of racial oppression & violence
...residents of Harbor's Edge
...all who are impacted by the COVID-19 virus.
...all who are working diligently to make a vaccine for the COVID-19 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/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.

Alvene Buckley, Don Buckley, Douglas sisters, Margaret Fleet, Roger Fuller, Pastor Goeres and Neva, Joelle Griffith (mother of Paula Barwick), Maggie Kelly, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Betty Phillips, Grace Ridenhour, Fay Rogner, Shirley Skees, Yolanda Shea, Deb Thompson, Rich Whittecar, Mary Zelasko, Alex, Betty Lou, Tamarris Bohannon, Gabriel Chapel, Nancy & Albert Coleman, Dave, Gert, Gloria, Grace, Harriette & Dave, Jim, Jimmy, JoAnn, Karen, Katrina, Lynn Joines (cousin of **Linda Perron), Margaret, Mark, Cindy Olson (mother of **Pastor Mims**), Phil, Rema, Rob, Roderick, Russ, Thomas, Weber family**

Those dealing with cancer

Larry Atkinson, Jo Brouwer, James Collier, Iris Corbin, Dave Guelcher (father of Beth Zaletski), Jenn, David Kelly, Vickie Mack, Mark, Phil, Rob, Sandy, Andie Seagraves, Gerald Stover, Jess WineKing

Military and their families:

All military personnel around the world.

Fox family and all those reunited following deployment, **Austin Davidson, Dan Kelly, Bobby Masters, Nick 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

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for October

October 4th

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11th

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

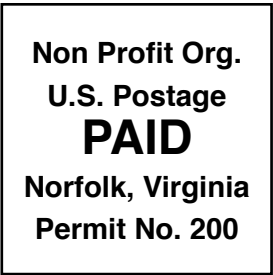
October 18th

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25th

Reformation Sunday
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

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