

The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

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Black Lives Matter – Let’s Talk Mutual Conversation and Consolation

“According to Martin Luther’s listing in the Smalcald Articles, Mutual Conversation and Consolation of the Brothers and Sisters is a form of the gospel alongside: Preaching/Proclamation; Baptism; Holy Communion; Confession and Forgiveness

Mutual Conversation and Consolation is connected with Confession and Forgiveness, and finds its particular focus in formats where Christians convey to each other the Gospel’s Word of forgiveness of sins.

What does Mutual Conversation and Consolation look like in concrete practice? To show its pragmatic nature, in the Smalcald Articles, Luther cites Matthew 18:15-20, especially verse 20, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

One might say that we can recognize an experience as Mutual Conversation and Consolation by its effects.

That is to say, like each means of grace, God uses Mutual Conversation and Consolation as a vehicle to communicate the realities of the Gospel, namely:

- Awareness of the claims of the Law on us via truth-telling with love
- God’s love in claiming us even amidst our sin
- Forgiveness of sins
- Grace-filled awareness of our justification by grace
- Bringing us to faith and/or renewed faith

When we experience such qualities and effects in conversation, then we might conclude that such is an occasion of Mutual Conversation and Consolation.” (excerpted from writings by Dr. Jonathan Lindman)



The Black Lives Matter sign has been an issue for which we as a congregation need to come together in a spirit of mutual sharing, lament, learning and growing together. Support for the sign as well as questions and concerns have all been expressed in our congregation. Some of us thought that long before now we would be able to talk face to face. However, that time is not likely to come any time soon; thus Pastor Mims is offering a conversation time, via Zoom, so that we can come together for mutual conversation and consolation.

Pastor Mims will offer two Zoom forums in which there will be a brief presentation followed by small groups for all participants to have an opportunity to share and listen to our community. Pastor Mims has invited Pastors Paul Jersild, Deb Thompson and Jean Bozeman, members of our congregation, to join her for breakout sessions to enable all participants to speak.

The forums will be held on Sunday, November 8th at 4:00 p.m. and on Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link will be sent out in upcoming editions of Life Together. All are invited to come and participate in this time of mutual conversation and consolation of the saints to listen, to be heard, and to share in God’s grace.

2020 Church Council Nominees

The nominees for Church Council this year are: Jo Ann Hughes, Christina Carroll O'Neill, Maynard Schaus, Julia Siik, and Nickie Stewart. Nominees were asked to share where they have served in this and other congregations and communities that would help them in their works as a Congregation Council member.



Jo Ann Hughes

Occupation: *Detective*

Jo Ann Hughes, member of First Lutheran Church for 30 years and during her tenure has volunteered with Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Children's Choir, and the coffee hour. She has also helped advise the church on many safety and security issues through the course of her job as a Norfolk Police Officer. Jo Ann is a Norfolk native (born and raised). Before becoming a police officer, she taught physical education at Trinity Lutheran School for 10 years. Jo Ann writes, "It is my firm belief that my life experiences, my knowledge of the city and my connections to the citizens of Norfolk will benefit my service as a First Lutheran council member and I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve."



Christina Carroll O'Neill

Occupation: *Homemaker, Attorney*

Christina has served as the Chair of the First Lutheran Stewardship Committee and also on the Endowment Committee. Additionally, she has served as a Board Member on community organizations such as Occasion for the Arts and Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance, as a Risk Management Specialist for Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Risk Management Advisor for Beta Delta Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega Foundation, Senior Associate Director for Muscarelle Museum of Art, and Associate Compliance Counsel for the PRA Group. Christina has been instrumental in providing the weekly Stewardship readings for Life Together and an active member here at FLC.



Maynard Schaus

Occupation: *Vice President for Academic Affairs at Virginia Wesleyan University*

Maynard Schaus has been a member of First Lutheran Church since 2004 and has previously served on the Congregation Council for five years. He has participated in several committees including youth, service, and stewardship. Maynard enjoys helping with NEST, chaperoning youth events, and participating in various service projects. He especially enjoys the variety of adult Sunday school offerings here at FLC. Prior to joining FLC, Maynard helped with the youth and college-aged group at previous congregations. In his role at VWU, Maynard oversees the Academic Affairs Division, in addition to teaching and serving the campus in various leadership roles. His current role involves listening to different campus constituents, presenting a clear vision for the campus, and providing strategic planning to help implement those goals. Recently, his work on campus involved adapting to the COVID pandemic which required working during difficult circumstances in order to plan for an uncertain fall semester so that the institution could continue to thrive.



Julia Siik

Occupation: *Registered Nurse (retired)*

Julia has been a member of First Lutheran Church for twenty-two years. Last year she served as the Vice President of the Congregation Council in addition to being a member of both the Personnel and Service committees. Julia has also participated in the adult choir, NEST program, assisted with children's Sunday School, Health Ministry and is a member of Christians United for Social Change. Additionally, she is a recent graduate of Troubling the Waters (a white privilege study group). She has also helped to revise the FLC welcoming statement, volunteered in the Welcome Center, served as the "Tree Lady," participated as an usher, was a previous organizer for the home-based church dinners, and even a luncheon driver during the 80's. In addition to attending various adult Sunday School classes, Julia is a "volunforcer" for spousal participation in the Lunch Ministry.



Nickie Stewart

Occupation: *Food Operations Manager*

Nickie has been leading VBS at First Lutheran for the past two years and looks forward to it every year. She has participated in numerous ways at FLC such as Confirmation Camp in Lynchburg, NEST, Lunch Ministry, and Stewardship Committee. Nickie enjoys the amazing fellowship to be found at various social events such as Christmas caroling and even won the 1st place trophy for the First Annual Stew & Brew contest. She has been a member of FLC since 2011, shortly after she and her family relocated to the area. Nickie writes, "We were searching for a 'spiritual home' and knew the minute we came to First Lutheran we had found our new 'home.' We were received with open hearts and open arms which is something I hope to give back to our congregation and new members. Nickie has been married to her wife, Julie, for 9 years, though the pair have been together since 2003. In 2012, they welcomed their son, Levi, who is now almost 8 years old and was baptized here at FLC in 2015. The family enjoys camping, boating, sporting events, and spending precious time with family friends. Nicki believes her personal experiences have always been spiritually guided and that God has given her this opportunity to serve the church and her community.

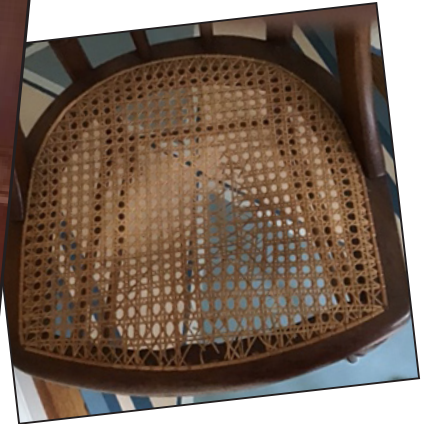
A Pandemic Project

Throw stuff out. Binge watch TV shows. Learn a new skill. Bake some bread. Banish clutter. These have been just a few of the numerous suggestions for how people could fill their time during the pandemic.

Retired physician Jonathan Miller took these suggestions to heart. By combining two of these ideas, he achieved an unexpected result. Jonathan had several cane and rush seat chairs in his attic, some needing repair and all needing new seats. Having tried unsuccessfully in the past to locate someone to repair the chairs, Jonathan set to work to fix them himself by using YouTube videos for guidance. In the last few months he has woven cane seats and just recently did several rush seats. His next project will be pressed cane. He found the weaving instrumental in catching up on his podcasts and at times, meditative. As the pictures make clear, Jonathan was a good student and became a pretty skilled craftsman.

He repaired and resealed one chair for a relative. When asked whether or not there was a charge for the materials, he suggested a contribution to the Tuesday night Mercy Chefs dinner ministry. By learning a new skill, Jonathan was able to banish some clutter from his attic. The unexpected result was that his project helped feed people in his neighborhood facing hardships during this time of crisis.

If you have such a chair in need of repair, Jonathan says that he would be delighted to consider repair for a donation to this ministry. Contact Jonathan by email (ggitwjwn@cox.net) or phone (757)533-5434. If you would like to support the Tuesday night Mercy Chefs meals, make checks out to First Lutheran and include Tuesday meals on the memo line.



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

The Zoom link for our Annual meeting will be sent out in the Life Together Weekly Edition on Wednesday, November 11th and the Worship Edition on Saturday, November 14th.

ANNUAL
MEETING

November 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 10 AM Worship Service online 11 AM Worship 12 PM FLY Lunch via Zoom	2 7 PM Congregation Council	3 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	4 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	5 5 PM Fellowship Time online	6	7
8 10 AM Worship Service online 11 AM Worship 12:30 PM Drive-Thru Communion 4 PM Black Lives Matter Forum	9	10 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> Church Office Closed 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	12 5 PM Fellowship Time online 7 PM Black Lives Matter Forum	13	14
15 10 AM Worship Service online 12:30 PM Annual Meeting via Zoom Contact Deadline	16	17 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	18 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	19 5 PM Fellowship Time online	20	21 Affeldt Wedding
22 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 10 AM Worship Service online 11 AM Worship 12:30 PM Drive Thru Communion	23	24 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	25 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Church Office Closed	27	28
29 10 AM Worship Service online 11 AM Worship	30					

Connect with Others

Altar Flowers

Since we have resumed in person worship, we are resuming the practice of dedicating the weekly altar flowers. Those signed up for Sundays in November should contact the church office (if you have not already done so) to confirm to whom you would like your flowers dedicated. Additionally, we are going to open slots

for every Sunday in December to dedicate altar flowers. The cost to dedicate flowers is \$50. If you would like to sign up, please contact Kate in the church office at (757) 383-0814. Dates are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

November Birthdays

1 Nov Riley McElligott	8 Nov Lindsay Reavis	13 Nov Jody Unruh	25 Nov Christopher Keplar
1 Nov Craig Stopa	9 Nov Julie Basco	14 Nov Sharon Asam	25 Nov Karen Siegel
2 Nov Hartley Rowan	9 Nov Blythe Scott	16 Nov Eva Dulong	25 Nov Rob Siik
2 Nov Ken Zaletski	9 Nov Cadence Vera Cruz	16 Nov Julie Heller	26 Nov Bernie Duffy
3 Nov Harry Kenyon	9 Nov Julianne Whittecar	16 Nov Sara Jane Honaker	26 Nov Debbie Duffy
4 Nov Chad Fuhrman	10 Nov Lorette Horsboll	19 Nov Sydney Brown	26 Nov Joanna Griffin
4 Nov Sarah McGinnis	11 Nov Taylor Westerveld	19 Nov Mandy Porter	26 Nov Brick Hill
5 Nov Debra Barry	12 Nov Bob Weisenbeck	20 Nov Michael Dandrea	26 Nov Christen Homan
5 Nov Julie Sutura	13 Nov Denise Boyd	20 Nov Madison O'Rourke	26 Nov Frank Minschke
6 Nov Vivianna Ruggiero	13 Nov Marty Bradley	21 Nov Julianne Hood	28 Nov Chris Hogan
7 Nov Charlie Anderson	13 Nov Paul Hutchings	21 Nov Linda Turner	29 Nov Laura Mattson
7 Nov Bill Newlon	13 Nov Stacy Hutchings	22 Nov John Faircloth	30 Nov Richard Cannan
7 Nov Jack Smith	13 Nov Elizabeth Krenzke	22 Nov Oliver Janik	30 Nov Austin Davidson
7 Nov LeeAnne Stachour	13 Nov Davis Scott	22 Nov Frank Stachour	
8 Nov Sarah Humphreys	13 Nov Nancy Smith	25 Nov Ellie Ilardi	

Congregation Council Summary

At our October meeting held October 5th via Zoom, the Congregation Council

- Welcomed our 2020 Confirmands, their family and faith mentors. The Confirmands shared their Confirmation verses and Faith symbols.
- Received a Thank You letter from Lutheridge and Caroline Furnace for our support/gift
- Approved the Youth Committee request to pay two (2) college students to lead Sunday School.
- Water Infiltration – signed contract and work in progress
- Organ Restoration – Anticipating a signed contract by October 20, 2020
- In-person service began on October 04, 2020. Please register, seating is limited due to COVID-19.

- BLM banner will be displayed until January 2021
- Facilitating small group conversations around BLM. Giving congregants a place to listen, learn, heal, and grow
- Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2020 @ 12:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Shared blessings, prayer concerns and prayer partners
- Interim Pastor has been appointed and the Call Process is in process

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 November

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Give joyful thanksgiving

...For those who open their hearts and accept your invitation
...For the saints of every time and place

Help us

...Live out our faith, active in love
...Establish good and just governments who will work for the well-being and health of all people
...Work together for the good of our society: feeding children, speaking out against racism and hatred, strengthening education, caring for the vulnerable among us, and protecting life.
...Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities

Pray for

...thanksgiving for the birth of Bria Marie
...peace and comfort to the family and friends of Maggie White
...peace and comfort to the family and friends of Glenn Broman (father of **Lynn Broman**)
...peace and comfort to the family and friends of Khaled Sakhel upon his death
...Justice for the victims of racial oppression & violence
...President Trump and the First Lady; and 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, David Basco, Don Buckley, Douglas sisters, Roger Fuller, 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, Jane Van Wolkenten, Rich Whittecar, Mary Zelasko, Betty Lou, Brooks, Cindy, Dave, Gert, Gloria, Jimmy, John, Julie, June, Justin, Katrina, Mark, Ralph, Rema, Rob, Rocko, Roderick, Ron, Tim

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, Dallas Williams, Jess WineKing

Military and their families:

All military personnel around the world.

Fox family and all those reunited following deployment, **Austin Davidson, Kyle Hefner, 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

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for November

November 1st

November 1st –
All Saints' Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 8th

Amos 5:18-24

Psalms 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

November 15th

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

November 25th

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalms 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22nd

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

November 29th

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
