

# The Contact

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757 625 1953

[www.flcnorfolk.com](http://www.flcnorfolk.com)

VOL. XXXV

JANUARY 2021

NO. 1

# Saying Goodbye and Looking Forward

As I write these words, we are still looking forward to the celebration of our Lord's birth, but soon we will be saying good-bye to 2020 and greeting 2021. Few among us will be sad to see 2020 in the rear-view mirror. The past year has been full of tumultuous and turbulent times around the globe, and we pray that 2021 will be a calmer, less death-dealing year. But who knows what 2021 will bring? The future is always shrouded in darkness and the unknown, which can leave us hopeful and expectant or fearful and anxious. We stand perched on the edge of a new year – a time pregnant with its own problems, promise and possibilities, a time which, regardless of what comes, belongs to God.

As we enter into 2021, we in the church also enter the time after the Epiphany. "Epiphany" means an appearance or a revelation, especially of the Divine. It marks a time in the church year in which we celebrate the Savior which the child in Bethlehem is revealed to be. We celebrate Epiphany with the sages from the Far East who read the stars and were among the first to recognize Jesus as the Chosen One of God. In the weeks that follow, God is revealed to us in unexpected ways using unexpected people doing unexpected things. We hear God's voice from heaven; we see Jesus transfigured into shimmering glorious light; sinners and tax collectors and ordinary fishermen are called to follow Jesus and do God's bidding. During these weeks we also hear again God's call to us through our baptism, calling us to follow Jesus and live a life of discipleship and faithfulness.

Practically, the season of Epiphany moves us from the celebration of Christmas toward the Easter-life which is ours in Jesus Christ. Soon, the tinsel and the ornaments, the confetti and noisemakers will all be put away. It will be time to get back to business as usual, to settle into winter routines and get back to normal life. But what is "normal" in a world with COVID-19 (even with a vaccine on the way) and for a congregation in pastoral transition? And what is "normal" for us who believe and trust that our Savior has come and is in our midst? How does God's Gift figure into our lives as we stand on the brink of a

new year? As we at First look with hope and expectation into 2021, how are we called to live differently in response to the God who has come to us? How do our lives reveal the Son of God in our midst? In what ways are we sent back into our communities to bear Christ's light and love to others?

These are crucial questions for us to consider, for we at First are in a time of transition. Can we afford to settle back into "normal" life? Or is God calling us to travel less comfortable paths, so that the Gospel can flourish in, through and around us?

In a world that is changing quickly, where governments are clamping down on democracy and protestors are often killed or harmed in their fight for justice, where people go hungry even though there is plenty of food available, where racism, sexual abuse and slavery, and economic oppression are allowed to flourish, where illness and disease steal the joy and strength out of life, where COVID in particular has changed our lives in substantial ways, where people carry deep wounds and heavy burdens within, the Church – and specifically our own community of faith – provides a light to shine brightly into the darkness, a hope that extinguishes fear, and a peace that surpasses even the most turbulent of times and events.

But the task of bearing that light does not fall to 'other people'. It belongs to you and me. Just as it belonged to the sinners and tax collectors and ordinary fishermen that Jesus called, so too it falls to ordinary people like you and me to take those steps of faith to share the story of Jesus, to take the risk of doing something out of the ordinary in order to proclaim more clearly the Gospel of Jesus, to avoid the trap of the "normal" and instead live on the edge – so that in 2021 we will both experience and share the bounty, the beauty, and the blessing of God more fully and deeply than we could have ever imagined. As we stand ready to face 2021, let us go forth boldly to serve and love Jesus, knowing that we belong, in all times and all situations, to God.

— Pastor Cathy Mims

# “Troubling the Waters”

This month we want to reflect on the meaning and significance of what is called systemic racism, often referred to as structural or institutional racism. In the past, when Whites have discussed the subject of racism, these terms have not played that much of a role, and for several reasons. For one thing, overt acts of discrimination committed by individuals or hate groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan and today’s white supremacist groups, are more obvious and more likely to draw our attention as racist activity. Another reason – let’s face it – is that it lets us conclude that such people are racist and the rest of us are not.

Naming systemic racism helps us to see that racist attitudes and practices function throughout society in ways that create a privileged white class. We are all part of a long history of racism, going back to our enslavement of Blacks. And now we are living within that heritage, with prejudicial attitudes and practices so embedded in our psyches and daily life routines that we are prone to take them for granted. It is a situation which makes it difficult for Whites to recognize how our stratified society works for the benefit of majority Whites and at the expense of minority Blacks and other people of color.

Whites may protest that our history as a nation does reveal progress in race relations, but we are still far from attaining the kind of equality we want to identify with our nation. One is impressed with how discrimination succeeds in adapting to new circumstances. Yesterday’s poll tax laws repressing the Black vote may be illegal today, but more subtle ways have been devised – such as gerrymandering –

which achieve the same purpose. In any event, there’s little reason to be proud of where we are today.

Systemic racism takes many forms, contributing to the severe economic inequality which burdens the lives of so many Blacks. Let’s name a few:

1. Limited access to quality schools and safe neighborhoods
2. Unreliable transportation, complicating one’s work life
3. Redlining by real estate companies, restricting freedom of choice in where to live
4. A criminal justice system which incarcerates Blacks at a much higher rate than Whites, for the same crimes
5. Extra hurdles in getting approved for mortgages
6. An economic system in which Blacks are often “last hired” and “first fired,” with unemployment rates considerably higher than the national average

And the list goes on. These are all realities that point to an unjust society, but are too easily ignored by majority Whites. Christians should certainly be at the forefront in challenging these inequities. For further insight on systemic racism, visit the ELCA resource at: [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/race\\_ethnicity\\_culture\\_statement.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/race_ethnicity_culture_statement.pdf).



## Tuesday Dinner Ministry

Did you know that First Lutheran has begun a new service ministry during the coronavirus pandemic? Each Tuesday between 6:00 and 7:00 pm since the beginning of June, we have served a warm grab-and-go meal at the Colley Ave. entrance to Strickler Hall. We chose this day and time in coordination with the Norfolk Community Services Board, to fill a gap in its weekly resources calendar.

On a typical Tuesday afternoon, FLC volunteers drive to the Mercy Chefs community kitchen in Portsmouth, where they pick up trays of restaurant-quality food that are prepared by local chefs donating their time and talents. FLC pays \$3.50 for each nutritious, balanced meal. Around 5:30, our masked volunteers arrive at church and begin portioning the meals into to-go boxes. By 6:00, there are usually

several people waiting for us to open our doors. By 6:30 or 6:45, we have usually distributed all 40 meals. We hope to start serving 50 meals per week in 2021.

We offer this ministry to all members of our community, including members of our own congregation, who would like to receive a Tuesday meal. We have fed students walking home for the evening, families with children who have been directed to us by the City, guests at the nearby Ronald McDonald House, people doing their laundry at Soaps N Suds, and others experiencing temporary or longer-term homelessness. All are welcome!

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, or how to volunteer, please contact Merrie Jo Milner.

# NEST Update hosted at FLC February 17 – February 23 (Norfolk Emergency Shelter Teams)

On December 3rd representatives from Norfolk Community Service Board division of Housing and Homeless Services met with Pastor Mims, Betty Pittman (FLC Sexton), Trina Winfield (Office Administrator), Merrie Jo Milner and Gail Plauka (NEST co-coordinators) at FLC to determine the feasibility of hosting overflow NEST guests in Strickler Hall. The majority of the city's homeless folks will be housed in hotels. It was determined that approximately 17 guests can be accommodated in Strickler Hall. Housing and Homeless Services, in compliance with CDC guidelines, will provide plexiglass dividers, mapping of the space for one-way flow of traffic, all sanitation supplies, including an electrostatic sanitizer, and all personal protective equipment/supplies. Through the generosity of an FLC member a bi-polar ionization device will be installed in the HVAC unit. This device will eradicate the coronavirus within 30 minutes of treatment and continually treat the space. The goal is to have the same 17 guests occupy their designated space for the entire week. Our guests will have their temperatures taken each day upon arrival and must comply with mask wearing and social distancing. In addition, the health department will administer 2 rapid COVID-19 tests during the week. Also, we anticipate the Health Department to make unannounced visits to monitor compliance. This plan is evolving; however, First Presbyterian Church, who is hosting 40 overflow guests from December 2nd – January 12th, has reported no unusual problems thus far. We will need volunteers for Strickler Hall duties and meal preparation

(dinner dispensed in individual “clam shell” containers, bagged lunches, and bagged breakfasts). Be on the look-out for sign-up opportunities via electronic Sign-Up Genius and sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center.

What you can do now:

- Pray for the health, safety, warmth, and well-being of our homeless guests and volunteers.
- Volunteer at First Presbyterian Church. Go to [fpcnorfolk.org](http://fpcnorfolk.org) and once on their website, place the cursor over “serve.” When the drop-down menu appears click on “NEST.”
- Collect hygiene items, clothing, coats, socks, scarves, gloves, underwear, hats. Supplies will be collected in the Welcome Center.
- Donate HRT bus tickets as we will not have buses this year. Monetary gifts are gladly accepted, just designate “NEST” with your gift.

Please call NEST co-coordinators Merrie Jo Milner (560-0781) or Gail Plauka (619-9667), with any and all questions or concerns.

Blessings to you this Advent Season as we await our Savior's arrival and a return to a more normal life!

## Global Concerns news: Next meeting and Just Mercy movie discussion

“The ELCA is a church energized by lively engagement in faith and life, a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.” (<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Social-Issues>)

The Global Concerns committee supports the ELCA in its work on behalf of peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, racial justice, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease. We work together with other faith-based groups, including the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the Basilica of St. Mary's/Christians United for Social Change, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, ReconcilingWorks, and Bread for the World.

If you're interested in learning more about our church's engagement with social justice issues and other opportunities for advocacy, please

join our committee at its next monthly meeting via Zoom on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 pm.

In 2021, our committee will be sponsoring occasional movie discussions for the entire congregation. On Sunday, January 31 at 7:00 pm, please join us via Zoom to discuss *Just Mercy* (2019), based on the book by Bryan Stevenson. The movie is available on DVD, or can be streamed on various platforms. Depending on current Covid restrictions, we will host an optional screening on the third floor at FLC on Saturday, January 30 at 7:00 pm (masks and social distancing required!).

For more information, please contact Merrie Jo Milner or Elizabeth Janik.

# Stewardship

*“When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he did not know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, ‘Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you have saved the best till now!’”*

*John 2:9-10 (The Message)*

Jesus demonstrates the abundance of God when he changed the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. He showed forth God’s power to bring something new and amazing where there appeared to be only not enough and not very good. Throughout Scripture we are told of God’s abundance – A God who provides food in the wilderness. A God who makes a jar of meal and a little bit of oil last through drought and famine. A God who takes five loaves of bread and two fish and feeds not just 5000 men but also the women and children with them – and there are leftovers. A God who can turn a lousy night of fishing into a catch of fish that breaks the nets. A God who turns water into wine. A God who can even bring life out of death.

We receive from God’s abundance, too. Sometimes it can be hard to see, especially during times of financial strain, illness, or

personal hardships. Sometimes all we see is scarcity, not enough and not very good. 2020 has offered us many opportunities to fall into a scarcity mindset, to focus on what we cannot do, what seems impossible, on what we have lost. Which means that as followers of Jesus, we need to lean even more fervently on the promises of God to sustain, renew, strengthen, and provide.

When life comes at us hard, with its setbacks, failures, surprises, and losses, faith steps up to say: God is here. And where God is, there will be abundance. God’s abundance might come in the community that surrounds us, in the prayers that are lifted up for us, in the gifts given at the opportune time, in the rainbow off in the distance, in the candle that reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World, in the stark beauty of the barren tree, or in the food set before us. God’s abundance becomes evident as we, in faith, see the ways that grace touches our lives every day.

Where do you see God’s abundance in your life? What do you give thanks for? When in your life have you felt like you had run out of wine, only to discover that Jesus has taken your emptiness and filled you with his life-giving love and abundance?

*Gracious and Holy Jesus, help us to see your abundance and sufficiency in our lives. Give us faith to trust you always. Amen.*

## What Is Our Ministry Profile For First Lutheran?

The first step prior to calling a new rostered minister for our congregation is to answer the question “As First Lutheran Church, what is God leading us to do in the world and in our community?” Beginning in January, and for the next several months, we will complete a document called a ministry site profile (MSP). This document provides a description of the congregation’s vision, sense of mission, goals, context for ministry and its relationship to the whole Church. It is used by the call committee, the synod, and potential candidates for ministry at First Lutheran to find the person to shepherd us in the future.

In January, each household will receive a survey asking every confirmed member to share priorities for a rostered leader. It is important

that every voice is heard so the call committee will reflect on those responses in their work.

In February, we will hold small group meetings (via Zoom) to talk about our sense of mission and our vision for First Lutheran. These meetings will provide the context for much of the mission site profile and we hope that many of you will join these meetings to share your perspectives. We are blessed with a variety of voices at First Lutheran and each voice is important in forging a vision for our future.

The call of a rostered leader is an exciting time for a congregation. It is one that requires prayer and commitment to being a part of the conversation. Please join us in prayer and commitment.



# Tuesday Work Team

Our Tuesday work team has been super busy recently on the second floor – painting, removing old carpets (and getting the wood floors refinished!), cleaning out spaces, changing out lights, fixing and repairing and replacing and making our spaces look amazing! They have put in motion sensor lights in all the bathrooms so there is no more searching for light switches in dark

places, including the upstairs women's bathroom which has gotten a much-needed overhaul. Kudos to our regular workers John Bissey, Jim Harvey, and Mike Haag and to those who come in on occasion to help out. We are so grateful for the maintenance and improvements you are making!



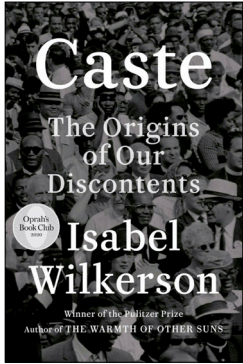
# January 2021

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
3 8:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10 AM Worship Online 11 AM Confirmation Class 12 PM FLY Lunch via Zoom 6:30 PM FLC Book Discussion Group	4	5 6 PM Dinner Ministry 7 PM Martha Circle	6 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry <i>Epiphany Service</i>	7 7 PM Fellowship Time online	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 9 AM Congregation Council Retreat
10 <i>Baptism of Our Lord Sunday</i> 8:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10 AM Worship Online 11 AM Confirmation Class 12 PM Drive-Thru Communion 3 PM High School Sunday School Class	11	12 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	13 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	14 7 PM Fellowship Time online	15 <i>Contact Deadline</i>	16 FLY Movie Night in the parking lot
17 8:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10 AM Worship Online 11 AM Confirmation Class	18 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	19 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	20 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	21 5:30 PM Laundry Love 6:30 PM Christians United for Social Change 7 PM Fellowship Time	22 <i>Winter Celebration</i>	23
24 8:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10 AM Worship Online 11 AM Confirmation Class 12 PM Drive-Thru Communion 3 PM High School Sunday School	25	26 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	27 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	28 7 PM Fellowship Time online 7:30 PM Global Concerns Committee	29	30 7PM "Just Mercy" Screening (tentative -subject to COVID conditions)
31 8:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10 AM Worship Online 11 AM Confirmation Class 7 PM Global Concerns "Just Mercy" Discussion						

# Connect with Others

## FLC Book Discussion Group



*Caste: The Origins of our Discontent* by Elizabeth Wilkerson is the chosen book for discussion Sunday, February 7th at 6:30 PM.

In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and

throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Plan to join us for this important discussion about America today. Contact Betty Jean Meyer for the Zoom link for the meeting.

Reminder: The book for discussion on January 3, 2021 is *Once We Were Brothers* by Ronald H. Balson,

## Hope for the Holidays

Feliz Navidad (Merry Christmas), Amor y Paz (love and peace). These are some of the Spanish greetings we wrote inside our handmade cards for immigration detention centers. Last year and a few of us this year, made holiday cards for refugees and immigrants in detention. It is a project of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

Please save your old holiday cards, you may cut off the greeting inside, for this project. Last year we were grateful to have many old cards to choose from. You may bring them to the desk at church or give them to Kate. Please write "Attn: Mary Grubb" so we will know it is for this project. You will hear more about this in coming weeks and after Christmas. Thank you! Dios le bendiga! (God bless you!)



## Congregation Council Summary

At our December meeting held December 07, 2020, via Zoom, the Congregation Council

- Announced the Council Meeting Format Change:
  - Prayer
  - Items for Discussion
  - Report(s)
  - Other Business Items
  - Executive Session
  - Prayers/Concerns
  - Next Meeting
- Devotion by Pastor C. Mims – Abundance & Generosity.
- Approved to cancel in-person worship, effective immediately.
- Approved the Interim Part-Time Associate Pastor to assist Pastor Mims.
- Discussed the Drive-Thru communion.

- Discussed and Defined the Call Process for new Council Members.
- Discussed the Homeless camping and loitering on church property.
- Approved minutes for the November Council Meeting.
- Approved 2020 Annual Meeting minutes.
- Requested that each Council Member submits updated contact information.
- Requested that each Council Member picks which committee they would like to be the Liaison for.
- Announced the January 2021 Congregation Council Leadership Retreat will be on 01/09/2021.
- 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.



# Bio for Karen Siegel

## 2020 Church Council President

**T**o my Brothers and Sisters in Christ, on Sunday, Nov 15 I was elected the new President of the Congregational Council. Many of you are familiar with me and have interacted with me over the past 20 years since I joined First Lutheran, I wanted to provide my background and history for those who may not know me.

I am a lifelong Lutheran. My Mom was raised Lutheran and her cousin, my godfather, was a Lutheran pastor. I was privileged to have my godfather baptize me. My family joined Grace Lutheran Church in Chesapeake when we moved to Virginia. I was confirmed at Grace and was a member there until I joined First Lutheran in 2000.

My first service on FLC Council was in 2010-2013. During my previous term on Council, I was the Council Liaison to the Witness Committee. This was also the period when Pastor Trexler retired, and we completed our calls to Pastor Goeres and the Pastors Carlson.

I was elected to Council for the 2nd time at our annual Congregational meeting in 2015. I have been the Liaison to the Worship Committee since 2015. I also coordinate volunteers each week to serve as Lectors and Communion Assistants (before Covid-19) and Assisting Ministers.

As we enter the process for calling our new Sr Pastor, I will work with Pastor Mims, our Council, and the Synod leaders to keep the congregation informed of our call process timelines. Pastor Mims and I have already discussed publishing a high-level timeline of the call process to share with the congregation. We will routinely

share as much information with the congregation as the call process allows. As mentioned above, I was on Council when Pastor Goeres, Pastor Paul and Pastor Lauren, and Pastor Mims were called. I also served on a Call Committee at Grace when we called one of our pastors there.

Pastor Mims and I are discussing options to provide the congregation an opportunity for conversations on a regular basis to ensure you have an opportunity to ask questions about 1) what's happening at the church, 2) progress on the call process, and 3) general questions and concerns you may have.

The call process may be unfamiliar to many of you. This will be the 4th call process I have participated in as a member of Council while I have been at FLC. I am asking for your patience and support for me, Pastor Mims and the Council as we move through this time of transition. This is another layer of uncertainty placed on top of the changes brought about by Covid-19. I recognize this has created a lot of anxiety and uncertainty. This is also a time of opportunity to explore what the congregation represents to our community and who we want to be in the coming years.

I look forward with great anticipation to the journey we are embarking on. Please join me for the exploration and the discovery.

Peace,

Karen

## January Birthdays

Jan 1 Tracy Fisher	Jan 7 Shirley Leafé	Jan 15 Keith Winstead	Jan 20 Lew Bidle	Jan 25 Rick Pougher
Jan 1 John Krenzke	Jan 7 Cathy Whittecar	Jan 16 Anders Bishop	Jan 20 Alexandra Hiser	Jan 26 Pam Baynard
Jan 3 Paula Barwick	Jan 8 Wilma Robinson	Jan 17 Chris Cook	Jan 21 Grace Ridenhour	Jan 27 Dolly Hinton
Jan 3 Matt Bourcier	Jan 9 Adam Saich	Jan 17 Jackie Kisa	Jan 22 Savannah Davis	Jan 28 Phyllis Hund
Jan 3 Caroline Griffin	Jan 9 William Wattai	Jan 17 Kristin Kisa	Jan 22 Krista Puttler	Jan 29 Nancy Thorpe
Jan 3 J.J. Steckroth	Jan 11 Kristen Gonzalez	Jan 17 Sydney Sutton	Jan 22 Beth Silsdorf	Jan 30 David Basco
Jan 4 Sally Hurdle	Jan 13 Suzy Biboum	Jan 17 Patrick Young	Jan 22 Denise Stage	Jan 30 Don Buckley
Jan 5 Richard Bagans	Jan 13 Melissa Zaletski	Jan 18 Karen Grogan	Jan 23 Richard Bauer	Jan 31 Linda Braaten
Jan 5 Ken DiBiaso	Jan 14 Katherine Sikorski	Jan 18 Abigail Stachour	Jan 23 Natalie Schaus	Jan 31 Bob Davis
Jan 5 Mary Grubb	Jan 14 Crystal Wass	Jan 19 Nancy Fuller	Jan 24 Ainsley Erwin	
Jan 6 Virginia Alexander	Jan 15 Merrie Jo Milner	Jan 19 John Kintsche	Jan 24 Mary Fox	



ForKids Achievement Inspired Mentoring Program (AIM)

# Now Recruiting Mentors!



If you have been looking for a volunteer opportunity to help local underserved young people, now is your chance to become involved with in-person, one-on-one mentoring.

Commit to mentoring students third grade through high school, a few hours a day, two days a month.

## Benefits include:

Working with third grade through middle school, you will share fun experiences while building confidence and self-esteem in your mentee.

Working with high school students, your experience will help guide your mentee in best choices after high school graduation.

Volunteer mentors will enhance their skills in coaching, leadership and communication.

## Requirements include:

- 21 years or older
- Must have access to a vehicle
- Minimum one-year commitment
- Criminal background check required
- Training provided

Contact Andrea Wiegard,  
Mentor Coordinator, to learn more.  
(757) 634-3355 or [awiegard@forkids.org](mailto:awiegard@forkids.org)

**ForKids**  
ForKids.org

# Connect with Word and Body

## Prayer Concerns for January

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Give joyful thanksgiving

...For the celebration of Flo Trant's 94th birthday  
...For our volunteers and congregants who faithfully serve Christ and his Church  
...For every generation in whom Christ has been honored and through whom we have witnessed the love of God  
...For the development of COVID vaccine

### Help us

...Continue faithful stewardship of land, air, and water  
...Support all those with COVID-19, their caregivers, and those in the medical field  
...Give strength, hope, and courage to the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed  
...Comfort those in prison

### Pray for

...Help and support for Middle Collegiate Church for damage caused during a fire  
...Peace and comfort for **Kaye McGinnis** and family on the death of her sister, Jo.  
...Peace and comfort for the family of Czeslaw Doniewski, brother of Janusz Doniewski.  
...All of the children who have been separated from their parents. May they be kept safe and protected until that day when they can be reunited with their family.  
...Justice for the victims of racial oppression & violence  
...All who have COVID and for careful management of the pandemic  
...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, David Basco, Don Buckley, Karen Clifford, Bonnie Elverum, Margaret Fleet, Roger Fuller, Steve Griffin, Joelle Griffith (mother of Paula Barwick), Valerie & Jim Harvey, Marion Ingersoll, Joann Klotz, Alice McCoy, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Betty Phillips, Grace Ridenhour, Fay Rogner, Deb Thompson, John Wittmann, Jane Van Wolkenten, Betty Lou, Bonnie Hilton (mother of Linda Perron), Cindy, Colin John, Dave, Faith & Moses, Gert, Jimmy, Joe, Julie, Katrina, Kevin, Margaret, Mark, Ralph, Rema, Rob, Rosanna Blair**

### 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, Ralph, 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), Amy Hardbower, Nicolette Huntley, Tim Kelly, Ian Logan, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Readings for January

### January 3rd

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### January 10th

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

### January 17th

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

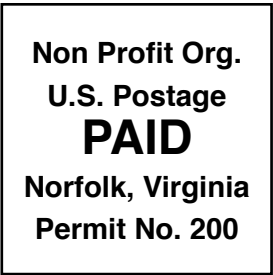
### January 24th

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### January 31st

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

First Lutheran Church  
1301 Colley Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23517



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

