

The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

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www.flcnorfolk.com

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NO. 3

Our Journey

*Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.*

The forty days of Lent are often described as a journey leading us not only towards the cross of Christ but also towards our own growth in faith as we discover, through prayer, fasting, sacrificial giving and acts of charity, that Christ alone is our life and peace and love. We grow towards a deeper awareness and appreciation of God's love for and presence in our lives.

*Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

March 2021 brings us to the one-year mark of when much of life was shut-down because of COVID-19. The virus has taken a toll on our nation and on our faith community. It has affected communities of color and the working poor disproportionately than the rest of society. It has caused trauma and despair through our isolation and lack of human contact, the loss of economic stability for millions of families, the millions who have contracted the virus and the hundreds of thousands in our country alone that have died from it. We long to be together to raise our voices and hearts in praise and joy – especially with Easter coming soon – but right now, joy and praise may seem hollow...flat...forced.

*As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
To carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus make me your servant.*

So let us cling to the cross of Christ, where Jesus enters most fully into our human experience – betrayal, judgment, abandonment, loneliness, loss, pain, death, separation from God. Let us cling to the cross of Christ, where Jesus joins us in the deepest tragedies of our lives and bears our heartache in his own being. Let us cling to the cross of Christ, where we are never forsaken by God, for Jesus is with us.

*I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
But courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the fam'ly you saved by your love,
We'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.*

Yes, let us cling to the cross of Christ, but let us also not lose sight of the dawn, for the journey to the cross leads us also to an empty tomb.

In Christ,

Pastor Mims

ELW 808 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

FLC's Red Cross Blood Drive

Calling ALL Blood Donors!! Wednesday March 10th, noon to 6PM, FLC will be hosting OUR annual Blood Drive. This is the one time each year that we host the Red Cross in collecting the Gift of Life for so many in need. Medical conditions and emergencies don't stop for a pandemic. YOU are somebody's blood type.

The Red Cross follows all CDC guidelines to screen and interact with donors. Please sign up to donate at www.redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code GHENT, or contact Bob Ritchey at 962-8921 or ritchey.bob@gmail.com for sign up or any questions.

Live in the Abundance that God Provides

“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:8

The heart of Christian faith is gratitude. The heart of Christian hope is gratitude. The heart of Christian love is gratitude. The heart of Christian life is gratitude. That gratitude is rooted in a sense that life is a gift, that life is good, that life is worth living.

God’s goodness is the reason to be generous. That conviction does not come from a Pollyanna view of life, from overlooking the difficulties or pretending they do not exist. That conviction comes from a sense that God gives us what is really important, what really matters, what we really need: the sense that life is worth living, that we are here for a purpose, that we are instruments of a loving God. What a difference that can make each day in how we live this life!

How might your days be different if you started each morning with a prayer of thanksgiving?

How does your faith bring you joy?

When have you experienced delight in giving a gift?

Generous God, whose giving is beyond our asking and imagining, give us such joy in our lives and in your creation that we may by our generosity bring joy to you and to others. Amen.

Adapted from “More Than Enough” Stewardship Resources

“Troubling the Waters”

Given the polarization that plagues our society today, and indeed the whole world, it is a relief to hear a voice like that of the Episcopal Archbishop, Desmond Tutu, of South Africa. He is often “troubling the waters” because he has a habit of speaking truth to power, but his message is one that brings healing because it lifts up the ideals of community and understanding, appealing to “the better angels of our nature.” We thought you would appreciate these prophetic words that he wrote back in 2004:

In God’s family, there are no outsiders. All are insiders. Black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight, Jew and Arab, Palestinian and Israeli, Roman Catholic and Protestant, Serb and Albanian, Hutu and Tutsi, Muslim and Christian, Buddhist and Hindu, Pakistani and Indian -- all belong...God’s dream wants us to be brothers and sisters, wants us to be family...In our world we can survive only together. We can be truly free, ultimately, only together. We can be human only together, black and white, rich and poor, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Jew.



Hello, My name is Pastor Phyl

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Whenever I attended meetings (pre-COVID), the standard blue and white sticky nametag was handed out as a way to introduce yourself to the other participants in the meeting.

It seems like a suitable way to introduce myself to you, the saints at First Norfolk.

Some of you may remember me from my time with the Virginia Synod. Five years of providing leadership in the area of faith formation with the ministries of ACTS and Roots and Wings. Some of you may remember me from my time with the Christian Education Network of the ELCA as Region 9 Advocate.

Presently, I am “on leave from call”, having served from 2013-2021 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and School in Hampton, as their Vicar/School Chaplain, Associate Pastor, Pastor, and for the last 2 ½ years, as their Interim Senior Pastor and Head of Staff.

Now I have been asked to assist Pastor Cathy as she shepherds this congregation in a most important season in the life of this church.

So that you may know a little bit more about me, I will share the usual information:

I was born in Levelland, Texas and graduated from Levelland High School in 1971, South Plains College in 1973 and Morgan State University in 1976 with Highest Honors.

I have graduate degrees in Business Education from Georgia State University and Christian Education from Bethel Seminary, San Diego, CA. My doctorate is in Church Leadership Development and Organizational Systems from Bethel Seminary in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. I completed my Lutheran studies at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC.

I have owned my own Christian education consulting ministry presenting workshops on multi-sensory teaching and learning. I have also served as adjunct faculty, teaching practical ministry courses for Diploma and Master’s level students at the John Leland Center for Theological Studies.

I presently serve as a member of the Virginia Synod’s Candidacy Committee and as an ELCA Coach with the Virginia Synod’s Renew 145 Church Vitality Initiative and Council Launch 2021.

I have been married for 46 years to Chaplain Nathaniel Milton (Captain, USN, Retired) and live in Newport News. We have two adult children and three granddaughters.

And yes, my license plates do say “Dr. Phyl”.

I look forward to meeting you, whether virtually and/or in-person, when we are able. But until then,

Blessings,

Pastor Phyl

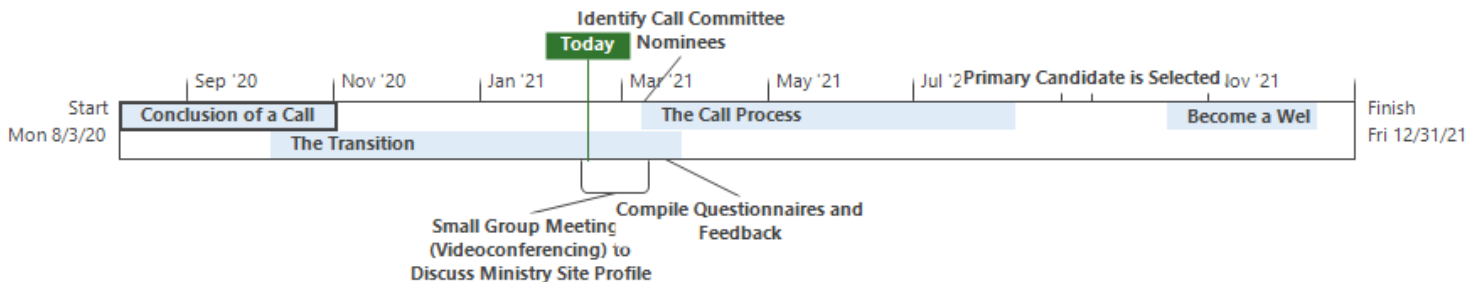
Pastor Phyllis Miilton will be joining our staff as a second interim (part-time), beginning March 1st.

Ministry Site Profile Meetings

An important 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?” We have begun this process by sending each household a survey which each confirmed member was invited to complete. Thank you to the 100 members who have sent in your thoughts.

We are now gathering in small groups to talk about our sense of mission and our vision for First Lutheran. These are hosted on Zoom so you can join by computer, tablet, phone or call in. There are meetings March 4th 7:00PM -8:30PM; March 7th at noon – 1:30; and March 14th 3:00PM-4:30. To join the meeting, contact Betty Jean Meyer at bettyllg1@yahoo.com. Your input is needed to provide a completed picture of who we are and who we want be.

Looking Ahead: The Call Process (Phase 3)



Phase 3 – The Call Committee & Extending a Call

The Call Committee will be selected and appointed by the congregation council. The Call Committee will be 5-6 members that represent different demographics in the congregation. (For example, the Call Committee could be comprised of a Youth representative, a representative for families with young children, a representative for young adults and college students, a representative for retired or older adults, a representative for middle age adults, and a Call Committee Chairperson.) Council’s goal is to have a Call Committee identified for approval at the April meeting of the Congregation Council. The Call Committee will be installed in a service to be held as soon as possible after Council has approved the Call Committee membership.

The Call Process is a CONFIDENTIAL process but should not be secretive. The Congregation Council and the congregation will be kept up to date as key milestones are accomplished in the Call Process. As noted in the Call Process Handbook, ‘The careers of rostered ministers may be jeopardized if news of their consideration is prematurely divulged. Because a rostered

minister agrees to respond to a call committee does not mean that they are looking to leave the parish they currently serve. They may, however, believe it to be a possible leading of the Holy Spirit.’

Call Committee members will not be able to answer direct questions of who has submitted their name for consideration until a Primary candidate has been selected and approved by the Call Committee.

Once a Primary candidate has been selected, they will be presented to the Congregation Council for approval. The Congregation Council will hold a Special Meeting to decide whether to recommend the Primary candidate to the Congregation for approval.

In the illustration above, the Call Process is depicted as going through the summer of 2021. **Please be aware there is NOT a definitive timeline for the completion of a call process.** We must seek God’s guidance and prayerfully consider who will lead First Lutheran through the next portion of our journey; let the Holy Spirit be with us all as we wait expectantly for the process to unfold.

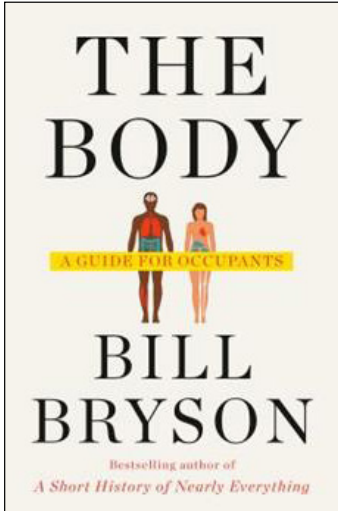
March 2021

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
	1 7PM Congregation Council	2 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry 7 PM Martha Circle	3 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 7 PM Lent Mid-week service	4 7 PM Ministry Site Profile Forum	5	6
7 8:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10 AM Worship Online 11 AM Confirmation Class 12 PM FLY Lunch via Zoom 12 PM Ministry Site Profile Forum 6:30 PM FLC Book Discussion Group	8	9 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	10 7 AM Men's Bible Study 10 AM Blood Drive 12 PM Lunch Ministry 7 PM Lent Mid-week service	11 7 PM Fellowship Time online	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time Starts 8:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10 AM Worship Online 11 AM Confirmation Class 12 PM Drive-Thru Communion 3PM Ministry Site Profile Forum 3 PM High School Sunday School Class	15 Contact Deadline	16 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	17 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 7 PM Lent Mid-week service	18 5:30 PM Laundry Love 6:30 PM Christians United for Global Change 7 PM Fellowship Time online	19	20
	22	23 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	24 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 7 PM Lent Mid-week service	25 7 PM Fellowship Time online	26	27
21 8:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10 AM Worship Online 11 AM Confirmation Class	29 Palm Sunday	30 2 PM Women's Bible Study 6 PM Dinner Ministry	31 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 7 PM Lent Mid-week service			

Connect with Others

FLC Book Discussion Group



The Body: A Guide for Occupants by Bill Bryson is the Book Discussion book for April 11th.

Bill Bryson helps us explore the human body, how it functions and its remarkable ability to heal itself. Full of extraordinary facts and astonishing stories, *The Body: A Guide for Occupants* is a

brilliant, often very funny attempt to understand the miracle

of our physical and neurological make up. This book will have you marveling at the form you occupy and celebrating the genius of your existence. A perfect book to discuss as we mark the first year of COVID.

Grab this book and join us at 6:30 on April 11th to reflect on how amazing our bodies really are. Contact Betty Jean Meyer for the Zoom link for the meeting.

Reminder: The book for March 7 book is *The Girl You Left Behind* by JoJo Moyes Top of Form

Women's BIBLE STUDY

Would you like to read and discuss the Book of Mark?

Join the SOUL SISTERS every Tuesday at 2:00 PM via Zoom to learn, laugh, wonder, and pray together.

Contact Pastor Mims at cmims@flcnorfolk.com for your virtual link.

March Birthdays

1 Mar Chris Holbach	7 Mar Norma Moss	12 Mar John Poston	16 Mar Vickie Zelasko	24 Mar Jake Weeks
5 Mar Wyann Kaiser	9 Mar Christian Asam	13 Mar Chuck Baynard	17 Mar Frances Halcrow	25 Mar Hope Fischer
6 Mar Stephen Griffin	9 Mar Nathan Pitsch	13 Mar Rhiannon Smith	17 Mar Lynn Utecht	25 Mar Jeanne Walters
6 Mar Esther Williams	9 Mar David Redilla	14 Mar Caroline Asam	17 Mar Mike Westerveld	26 Mar Sarah Ammons
7 Mar Courtney Faircloth	9 Mar Alex Vera Cruz	14 Mar Johnathan Buckley	20 Mar Linda Joella	28 Mar Julia Callahan
7 Mar Margel Fisher	10 Mar Ellis Curran	15 Mar Sylvia Bourcier	20 Mar Steve Velotas	28 Mar Grasea Pulliam
7 Mar Kat Foster	10 Mar Jason Shea	15 Mar Caroline Boykin	22 Mar Tony Echea	29 Mar Don Fisher
7 Mar Jay Gill	11 Mar Charlene Loope	15 Mar Bert Burckard	23 Mar Mandy Affeldt	30 Mar Zachery Posey
7 Mar Lorna Moss	11 Mar Jemma Mitchell	16 Mar Ellie Porter	23 Mar Maggie Utecht	31 Mar Gary Weeks

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Mid-week Lenten services are held every Wednesday at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Our theme is "Perfect Love Casts out Fear." Join us for prayer, praise, and reflection.

Thank You Note

I would like to Thank all my First Lutheran Church Family for their thoughts, cards, calls and prayers during my mom's illness and death. I can't tell you how much it meant to me and helped me get thru these difficult times. Mom really enjoyed this church family. There was so much she wanted to do to participate but, was limited by her health and transportation. So many people went out of their way to make sure she was included in the life of the church. And for that, we were both grateful. Thank you for not only carrying God's message but, living it and acting on it. Mom and I have been very Blessed and for that I am thankful.

Trust in the Lord with all your Heart.

Peace be with You,

Alice Ridenhour McCoy

Congregation Council Summary

At our February meeting held February 01, 2021 via Zoom, the Congregation Council

- Devotion by Pastor C. Mims – Colossians Chapter 3.
- Congregants discuss their views on the Black Lives Matter Banner.
- Approved to continue displaying the BLM banner.
- Approved the new Interim Associate Pastor will start on March 01, 2021.
- Approved Endowment distribution as suggested by the Endowment Committee.
- Presentation & Discussion on the First Lutheran Church signage.
- Brief update on the MIF loan for the Organ Restoration and Water Infiltration projects.
- Discussed security lighting for the Colley Avenue side of the church.
- Discussed and Reviewed the COVID-19 metrics and delaying in-person services.
- Discussed the TEAR approval by Norfolk Police. Enforcing No Trespassing.
- Announced possible dates for the Ministry Site Profile small group meetings.
- Announced the dates for NEST (February 17, 2021 through February 23, 2021).
- Announced the congregational meeting on 02/21/2021 to discuss the sale of the Killam property.
- Requested that Council Members submit their 2020 Annual Reports as soon as possible.
- 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 March

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Give joyful thanksgiving

...For the birth of Elias Steven Simos

...For the 9th Anniversary of **Kelly & Frank Minschke**

...For the 60th Anniversary of **Judy & David Basco**

...For our medical personnel, scientists, and those who have worked tirelessly on the COVID pandemic

Help us

...Remain confident of your abiding presence

...Bring healing to lands and waters that are polluted or neglected

...In our ministry and our search for a senior pastor

...Heed your calling, celebrate your goodness, honor one another's gifts, and work together as one

Pray for

...Prayers for the elderly, the vulnerable, those displaced, those without water, and those without power in Texas.

...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of **Richard Ballard**

...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of Nancy & Dave Reeves upon the death of their son, Kyle

...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of Kimberly & Scott McQueen upon their deaths

...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of Landon Cofer

...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of Jude Maloney

...Peace and comfort to **Penny Yarasavich** on the death of her mother, Muriel Freese

...Peace and comfort to **Alice McCoy** and family on the death of her mother, **Grace Ridenhour**

...Peace and comfort to **Linda Perron** & family on the death of Linda's mother, Bonnie Hilton

...All children who have been separated from their parents that they be safe & protected until reunited with their family.

...Justice for the victims of racial oppression & violence

...All who have COVID and for careful management of the pandemic and vaccination process

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

...People fleeing dire humanitarian situations for a better life.

...The sick, that they are comforted and the despairing, that they receive hope.

...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, Pastor Jean Bozeman, Don Buckley, Karen Clifford, Margaret Fleet, Roger Fuller, Steve Griffin, Joelle Griffith (mother of Paula Barwick), Valerie & Jim Harvey, Marion Ingersoll, Joe Kanipe, Joann Klotz, Alice McCoy, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Betty Phillips, Fay Rogner, Julia Siik, Deb Thompson, Mark Utecht, John Wittmann, Jane Van Wolkenten, Aundrea, Betty Lou, Bradley Fielding, Cindy, Dave, David, Gert, Greg, Jim Ilardi, Jimmy, Kathy, Katrina, Kevin, Linda Anderson, Mark, Missy Newman & Family, Neil, Norma Katlas, Rema, Rob, Rondell (Mary Zelasko's brother), Tom

Those dealing with cancer

Bob, James Collier, Iris Corbin, Dave Guelcher (father of Beth Zaletski), Jenn, David Kelly, Vickie Mack, Mark, Phil, Ralph Munsey, Rob, Sandy, Andie Seagraves, Gerald Stover, Dallas Williams, Jess WineKing

Military and their families:

All military personnel around the world.

Fox family, Austin Davidson, Kyle Hefner, Dan Kelly, Bobby Masters, Nick Masters, Ted Peterson, Brian Becker, Amy Hardbower, Nicolette Huntley, Tim Kelly, Ian Logan, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Readings for March

March 7th

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 14th

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

March 21st

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Psalms 119:9-16 (alternate)

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

March 28th

Mark 11:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1--15:47

First Lutheran Church
1301 Colley Avenue
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