

The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757 625 1953

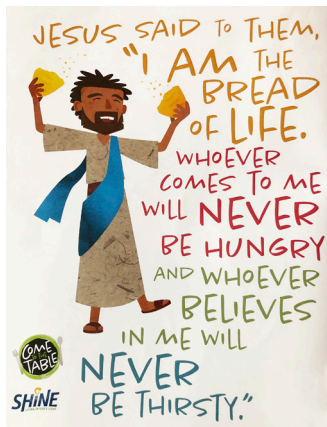
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SEPTEMBER 2021

NO. 9

Come to the Table – Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School was an exciting week of fun and fellowship for about 70 participants. Children, youth, and adults all enjoyed gathering for crafts, stories, music, and games centered on our theme “Come to the Table.” Each night began with a delicious meal- pizza, barbeque, lasagna, burgers, and tacos- followed by the story of the day told by our MC, Amy Hood.

Jesus welcomed everyone to join him at the table, and we heard the stories of inclusion at the banquet feast, Zaccheus, feeding the 5000, and the Last Supper. Adults enjoyed ice-breaker games led by Cathy Whittecar which related to the daily theme. Informative sessions on the topic of the Eucharist, hymns, and our liturgy were led by Ryan-Michael Blake. The feeding ministries at FLC were highlighted with guest speakers Gail Plauka, Jim Cobb, Don Strehlow, and Robert Green sharing details about Lunch Ministry, Tuesday dinners, and Grace Pantry. Children had fun singing and dancing with Pastor Phyl and her granddaughter Brianna. Merrie Jo Milner and Gail Plauka led the outdoor games with lots of assistance from our youth. Lanier Williams planned a wonderful craft project for all the children, so they took home a portable personalized placemat. Registrars Linda and Bob Braaten kept the records of all participants. Co-directors Nickie Stewart and Julie Sutera organized a wonderful week with many adult and youth volunteers.

Thursday's finale featured the children sharing their songs and craft project, a reflection on the activities from adult participants, and a PowerPoint presentation of photos throughout the week. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered in this year's VBS!



"Troubling the Waters"

As Lutherans, many of us may not be aware that our church sponsors one of the most significant church-related organizations involved in providing immigration services. Its name is Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services with headquarters in Baltimore, MD. Its work today, at a time of crisis involving an extreme number of displaced persons throughout the world, is particularly important. In a recent message, aimed primarily at Lutheran congregations, the LIRS lifts up the Christian imperative:

"Refugees are children, women, and men who have been forced to flee the only home they have ever known, desperately hoping to find safety and stability once again. We believe that every human being should be afforded the same protection we would want for our own loved ones.

That is why LIRS is dedicated to offering newly arrived refugees a warm welcome and a firm footing, in the hopes that our newest neighbors might find peace and prosperity once again.

"Together, we can recreate an America that welcomes families and vulnerable children with open arms and knows we're better and stronger because of it."

"Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." Psalm 82:3-4.



Blessing of the Backpacks

Students of all ages are invited to wear their backpacks to church on Sunday, September 5th, as we seek God's blessing upon them and the start of the school year. This blessing will include those backpacks and school supplies collected by the Christian Service Committee for Lutheran World Relief.



Hope for the Holidays - Day of Caring

Please join us

Sunday, September 12th

immediately following the morning
worship service in the Reception Room to
create Christmas Cards for immigrant
families in detention.

Dios le bendiga! (God bless you!)



Save the Date

Academy of Music Concert
October 24, 2021 @ 4:00pm
FLC Courtyard



September 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
General Deadlines: 12 PM Tuesdays—Life Together Weekly Edition 3 PM Tuesdays—Altar Flowers 4 PM, 15th of every month—The Contact Email kminnick@fclnorfolk.com with your articles & information.			1 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	2 3 <div>Pastor Mims' Day Off</div>	4 11	
5 10 AM In-Person & Online Worship 12 PM FLY Luncheon	6 Labor Day Church Office Closed	7 11 AM Lydia Circle 12 PM Adult Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Ministry 7 PM Martha Circle	8 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	9 10 11		
12 Rally Day 9:00 AM Sunday School for children, youth & adults 10 AM In-Person & Online Worship 11 AM Day of Caring/Christmas Cards 11 AM Grace Car Wash 6:30 PM FLC Book Club	13	14 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Ministry	15 <div>Contact Deadline</div> 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	16 5:30 PM Laundry Love	17 18	
19 9:00 AM Sunday School for children, youth & adults 10 AM In-Person & Online Worship 11:30 AM Funeral Planning Forum 11:30 AM Youth Committee Meeting	20	21 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Ministry	22 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	23 7:30 PM Social Justice Committee	24 25	
26 9:00 AM Sunday School for children, youth & adults 10 AM In-Person & Online Worship 11:00 AM Social Justice Meeting 11:30 AM Funeral Planning Forum	27	28 9:30 AM Christian Service 10 AM Quilting Group 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Tuesday Night Dinner Ministry	29 7 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 12 PM Lunch Ministry	30		

Community Groups (Strickler Hall): Mixed Groups—Sun. 7:00–9:30 PM; Happy Hour AA Home Group—Mon. 4:30—6:30 PM; Happy Hour AA—Mon. 5–7 PM; SAA—Mon. 7–8:30 PM; Thur. 7:30—9:30 PM; Just For Today—Tue. 10–11:30 AM; Continuing Quest—Fri. 12–1 PM; Candlelight—Fri. 8–9 PM; SNL AA—Sat. 7–9:30 PM

Mark Your Calendars For September 19th:

What Does Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mean For First Lutheran?

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our lives in so many ways, and unfortunately, the impact is not going away soon. As we all try to deal with the disruption and lack of normalcy in our lives, our church has, and continues to be, a consistent source of nourishment for our lives. Through all this, we can all agree that our First Lutheran home should always be a welcoming environment where everyone feels they can be their authentic self.

Please join us on the third floor, Sunday, September 19th at 9:00 AM as Beth Silsdorf leads a dialogue on diversity, equity, and inclusion at First Lutheran and what those terms mean for our present and future. Beth and her family (Scott, Lauren, Leilani, and Thomas) have been members at First Lutheran for over 20 years. She served in the Navy for 25 years and now serves as the Director of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Diversity at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Here are a few basic definitions to whet your appetite: (<https://dei.extension.org>)

Defining diversity, equity and inclusion

Diversity: The presence of differences that may include race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic status, language, (dis)ability, age, religious commitment, or political perspective.

Equity: Promoting justice, impartiality and fairness within the procedures, processes, and distribution of resources by institutions or systems. Tackling equity issues requires an understanding of the root causes of outcome disparities within our society.

Inclusion: An outcome to ensure those that are diverse actually feel and/or are welcomed. Inclusion outcomes are met when you, your institution, and your program are truly inviting to all. To the degree to which diverse individuals are able to participate fully in the decision-making processes and development opportunities within an organization or group.

Call Committee Update

Status as of August 1st:

The Call Committee continues to be in close contact with the Synod Office. The Synod's Call Process Coordinator supplies us with names and background information about the rostered ministers applying for our senior pastor position.

The Synod requires that we interview at least three candidates, and we have already interviewed two candidates, and have a third scheduled this coming week. The Synod is sending us a fourth candidate, but that interview has not yet been scheduled.

The call process itself is not secretive but is confidential as to "who" is applying. That's because their applying could potentially compromise their positions at the churches where they are presently serving.

The call process continues as follows:

- Once all interviews are conducted, a Primary Candidate is selected
- The church schedules a second interview for the Primary Candidate with the Council and the congregation.

- If the second interview is successful, the Call Committee recommends the Primary Candidate to the Council
- The Council makes the recommendation to the congregation
- There is a Special Congregational Meeting called to approve the selection and extend the call

Your Call Committee meets weekly, except for extenuating circumstances, so we continue to be very active and engaged. With the Holy Spirit guiding us, the Call Committee remains committed in finding a new Senior Pastor for our church as soon as possible.

All questions or feedback for the committee should be addressed to the attention of the Call Committee Chair, Mr. Ed Grogan, at office@flcnorfolk.com, or you can reach him as listed in the Church Directory.

Organ Installation Underway

The crew from R.A. Colby began their work on Monday, August 30. They will stay for about two weeks, working 10-hour days, six days a week. After the crew leaves, a team of voicers will come in to complete a process called “tonal finishing,” a meticulous procedure of regulation for each pipe in the organ. Since ours is a hybrid instrument, there will be two tonal finishing teams, one for the pipework and another for the digital stops. Praying that all goes according to schedule, we expect to be able to use the organ in worship by the first of October.

A dedication program has been planned to include not only a lot of singing, but also a tour explaining the sounds and capabilities of the instrument. Look in the October issue of The Contact for the details.

Keep watching for updates to the Organ Project 2021 album on Facebook. Pictures are added every Tuesday.



CALLING ALL CHILDREN, YOUTH &
ADULTS

Rally Day!

JOIN US AS WE KICK OFF THE NEW
SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH
9:00 AM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ON THE
3RD FLOOR
MEET YOUR TEACHERS & HEAR
ABOUT CLASSES!

“Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace...”

When someone dies, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At the funeral, we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise at baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

The death of a loved one can be a disorienting time for the bereaved family of the deceased. When an individual has a funeral plan, including insurance policies, legal documents, and preferences for the service, it can make this part of the process a bit easier for those left to make decisions. Pr. Mims and Ryan-Michael are hosting a forum at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays to facilitate conversations about end-of-life legal matters, mortuary services, and options for the funeral like the selection of scripture readings and music. A brief outline:



Sunday, September 19

What do we believe about death?

Sunday, September 26

A history of Christian funeral rituals

Sunday, October 3

End-of-life decisions and advance directives

Sunday, October 10

What is palliative and hospice care?

Sunday, October 17

Funeral and burial planning

Sunday, October 24

Liturgical planning for your funeral

So that we may have sufficient materials prepared, please register your interest by speaking to Pr. Mims, Ryan-Michael, or by contacting the office. Considering the time of this offering, participants may wish to pack a lunch.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER!



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL for 9-12 graders.

FLC – Sunday Mornings – 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

(In – Person/ Masks Required)

Explore contemporary social justice issues through the lens of the Christian faith. Learn about loving God and loving our neighbor. We will be using the JustFaith Ministries Youth for Justice series.

At the conclusion of each social justice topic, we will have a study from Faith Lens, that will connect world events with the Bible, faith, and everyday life.

Your leaders will be
Mrs. Julie Moberly, Mrs. Jen Thompson, and Pastor Phyl.

September Birthdays

1 Sep Scott Graham	10 Sep Alana McElligott	18 Sep Ginger Van de Water, Ed.D	24 Sep Charles Poston
2 Sep Clara Strehlow	10 Sep Michelle Peterson	18 Sep Lanier Williams	24 Sep Sarah Stennett
3 Sep Roger Fuller	13 Sep Ryan Diduk-Smith	19 Sep Claire Elverum	25 Sep India Pougher
3 Sep Billy Grimball	14 Sep Seth Cummings	20 Sep Mike New	25 Sep Cho Cho Williams
3 Sep Gail Plauka	16 Sep Kyle Cummings	21 Sep Margaret Kelly	28 Sep Johanna Fox
3 Sep Barbara Ross	16 Sep Stefanie Levensalor	21 Sep Caroline Robinson	28 Sep Denise Haag
3 Sep Derrick Stanfield	16 Sep Kevin Prendergast	22 Sep Gayle Pougher	28 Sep Paul Horsboll
3 Sep Cameron Williams	16 Sep Tami Sauter	22 Sep Bill Sauter	29 Sep Jim Cobb
5 Sep Ross Echea	17 Sep John Hogan	23 Sep Sherry Scheib, MD	29 Sep Evelyn Douglas
5 Sep Andrea Hoover-Erbig	17 Sep Jennifer Moll	24 Sep Sheri Kanipe	29 Sep Janet Eggen
5 Sep Ray W. Hughes	17 Sep Orion Posey	24 Sep Anita Poston	29 Sep John Wass
10 Sep Ann Hughes	18 Sep Bob Affeldt		

Congregation Council Summary

At our August meeting held Monday, August 02, 2021, via Zoom, the Congregation Council

- Devotion by Pastor C. Mims – Lord you are most Wise
- Congregants discuss their views on the Black Lives Matter Banner.
- Discussed Council's Activity - God's Work Our Hands – Coat Drive
 - o Adult Ministry – Christmas cards for refugees
 - o Youth Ministry – Car Wash
 - o Christian Services – School Supplies
 - o Service Committee – Food Pantry
 - o Stewardship – Norfolk Outreach
- Discussed First Lutheran Church landscaping - SOW – four (4) contractors One (1) bid & One (1) proposal from landscapers
- Discussed the maintenance of the ground for the ordination
- Discussed the interviewing process for the Coordinator Youth Ministry employee
- Compiling a list of questions for Financial Reporting
- Discussed the Incorporation task force - Goal is to provide information on Incorporation at the Annual Meeting in November 2021.
- Discussed the completion of the Constitution – in sync with requirements
- Discussed the Ministry Investment Plan – Council completion date November 01, 2021
- Discussed teaming up with Blair Middle School – Evacuation Site in case of emergency
- Discussed Nominating Committee for Council Members rolling off in November 2021
- Discuss Council meeting in person/ by Zoom for the September 2021 Council Meeting – possible hybrid council meetings in the future.
- Requested that the Covid Task Force provide an update on wearing masks
- Approved minutes from June 2021 Council Meeting
- Approved moving the Annual Meeting from November 21, 2021, to November 14, 2021
- Approved distribution recommended by the Endowment Committee
- Approved the Trimming and Maintenance of the Courtyard Oak Tree
- Approved the courtyard signage/banner options – Rotating the signage/banners to create a series of messages that are more inclusive.
- Approved next Council Meeting for August 30, 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.

Connect with Others

FLC Book Discussion Group

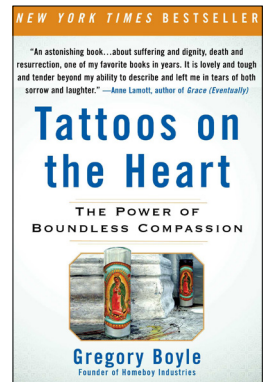
For our October Book Discussion Group, we will discuss *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Gregory Boyle.

Christian Century writes that “Boyle, a Jesuit priest and founder of Homeboy Ministries, has managed to write a memoir of his work that is incandescent, always hope-filled, and often hilarious.” How do you fight despair and learn to meet the world with a loving heart? How do you overcome shame? Stay faithful in spite of failure. Boyle’s sparkling parables about kinship and the sacredness of life are drawn from twenty years working with gangs in LA. *Tattoos on the Heart* demonstrates

the impact unconditional love can have on your life.

A perfect book for these times when we ask what is the answer to daily news of violence in our community and across the country.

Reminder: *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah is the book for September 12th. Join us at 6:30 PM on to discuss this fascinating story of two women in German-occupied France in WW II. Contact Betty Jean Meyer for the Zoom link for the meeting.



Lydia Circle Meets Again!

Lydia Circle will gather on Tuesday, September 7th, at 11:00 AM in the Reception Room to prepare the school supplies to be used to fill bags for Lutheran World Relief.

But, wait, there's more!

Pastor Mims will be leading programs for us on October 5th (Luther and the Reformation) and November 2nd (The Gift of Gratitude.) Mark your calendars now and look for more information later. Everyone is welcome. Contact Pam Baynard, pbaynard65@charter.net or (757)681-0157 if you have questions.

Christian Service

Christian Service will meet Tuesday, September 28th, at 9:30 AM in Strickler Hall to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you can tie a knot, you have the skills to help. We usually finish around noon, but some of us bring a lunch so that we can enjoy time to socialize. Everyone is welcome for whatever amount of time your schedule allows. Questions? Contact Pam Baynard, (757) 681-0157, or pbaynard65@charter.net.

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will resume meeting in person on Tuesday, September 7th at 7:00 PM in the reception room at First Lutheran Church. Covid 19 protocols that are in place on that date will be followed. Please mark your calendar to join in the fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Utecht at lmutecht@gmail.com.

Social Justice Committee

Maynard Schaus will continue our Diversity session with a presentation and discussion focusing on sexuality and our welcome to the LGBTQ community. This Sunday school class continues on the third floor on Sunday, September 26th at 9:00 AM.

As we know, these brothers and sisters have for centuries been condemned by the church, and there still remains considerable anti-gay prejudice throughout our society. This fact makes an explicit welcome all the more needed and all the more important. As we know, God values and embraces each person as a beloved child, the Spirit gives a diversity of gifts for the common good, and Jesus Christ calls us to work for justice throughout the world. COME AND JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

God's Work, Our Hands

One of the Social Justice Committee activities this year is to write postcards to eligible voters, reminding them to be sure to register and to vote. We are working through “Reclaim Our Vote Campaign”. We are already beginning to write the 500 postcards to be sure they can be completed on time. Although the official writing day is Sunday, September 12th, please let me know if you would like supplies now. Look forward to hearing from you. Contact Gail Stenberg via email at gstenberg@cox.net.

Connect with Word and Body

Prayer Concerns for September

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Give joyful thanksgiving

...For the birth of Bennett William Whittecar, grandson of Cathy & Rich Whittecar

...For the recovery of Harriette Wheatley

...For artists and their inspiration; bless those whose visual & musical gifts enliven this assembly

Help us

...Ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas

...Mend the earth and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face

...Encourage our leaders to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts

Pray for

...Peace and comfort to **Angela Hogan, John, Kelly & Brett**, and family on the passing of **Chris Hogan**

...Travel mercies and blessings for Judy Biboum in preparation of moving abroad

...Peace and comfort to the family of Myra Hefner (mother of **Cathy Whittecar**)

...The sacred lives of the children who died in residential schools

...For the people of Cuba, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Germany, Belgium, Austria, and the United States

...For unaccompanied children at our borders

...For Covid relief in India

...For healing and cooperation in our own country.

...Guidance, patience, and discernment for our call committee

...Blessing and protection of children, the elderly, and the sick who cannot be vaccinated

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

...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, Gail Anthony, Lew Bidle, Jean Bozeman, Alvene Buckley, Don Buckley, Lucian Clare, Barbara Cordrey, Tina Dulong, Jennette Franklin, Roger Fuller, Joelle Griffith (mother of Paula Barwick), Ed Grogan, Valerie & Jim Harvey, Marion Ingersoll, Joann Klotz, Shirley Leafe, Don Lundquist, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, David Perron, Betty Phillips, Fay Rogner, Gail Simos, Shirley Skees, Jane Van Wolkenten, Ken Zaletski, Betty Lou, Cierra & Jamal, Dave, Gert, Jimmy, Katrina, Kent Queman, Mark, Rema, Rob, Tara Silas

Those dealing with cancer

Alissa (friend of **Dorothy Shaffer**), Bob, James Collier, Iris Corbin, Dave Guelcher (father of Beth Zaletski), Jenn, David Kelly, Vickie Mack, Greg McCorkindale (brother of **Sharon Asam**), Mark, **Melvin (Jack) Smith**, 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

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

— **Amen.**

Readings for September

September 5th

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalms 125

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 12th

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom of Solomon 7:26--8:1

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 19th

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalms 1

James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 26th

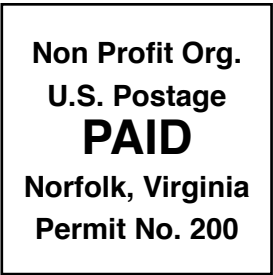
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalms 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

