

The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

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www.flcnorfolk.com

VOL. XXXVI

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NO. 6



Archives Help!

*“On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!”*

(ELW 537)

On our way rejoicing was the theme for our 125th anniversary. It is also an appropriate theme as we return to worship, as we add community in-person events, as we continue to be God’s people living out our daily life as baptized children of God. Another aspect of that forward movement is preserving and telling our God stories.

Did you know that we have a whole room set aside for preserving and telling our story? It is on the 2nd floor, and I invite you to watch for an announcement of an open house for you to come and see some of the treasures located in this space.

In the meantime, YOU, yes YOU are needed to assist with organizing, researching, recording stories of the people and events that will take life within this space. We need men and women, people of all ages and interests--won’t you offer your skills to organize this room, create files and pictures, share stories and create a place where we can house our stories and the stories of those who have gone before us? So, what would you like to do?

- We have hundreds of pictures to name, date, classify. Want to help?
- Want to analyze statistics that help to tell our story?
- Let’s discover and record our leaders: Sunday Church School superintendents, council presidents, Circle Chairs, congregational officers, Music Directors, - yes, the list goes on.
- We need to reframe lots of pictures that remember our special events like anniversaries, births, baptisms, confirmations, etc.
- We have hundreds of tapes and videos – before they become obsolete, let’s bring that library up to date.

This is just a tiny taste of what is just waiting for YOU to offer some time, take on a project, help to tell our story. You are being asked to immerse yourself in living history. You can work independently or gather with a team to work on a particular aspect of our Life Together. If this interests you even a little bit, then call (757-362-3242) or email (pastorjean61@gmail.com) or stop Jean Bozeman on Sunday morning and discuss with her how your interests, skills and time could be used. Don’t put this off. YOU are needed to gather and share the story of our past, present and future.

Stewardship News

A Word of Gratitude

Thank you, dear friends! We are very grateful for all whose generosity makes our life and mission together possible. And especially this month we wish to thank everyone who participated in our Ministry Fair! It was great to have so many people stay and check out the many opportunities to become involved here at First Lutheran. The sharing of your gifts, whether they be financial or the gifts of your time and talents, makes a difference. Not only does it impact the world for good, but our giving opens up space in our own lives for God to bless us, as well.

Stewardship Emphasis Moved to the Fall

If you are wondering about not receiving an estimate of giving card for this year yet, rest assured that you have not been forgotten! Rather, our annual financial stewardship campaign that was originally set to culminate in May has been moved to the fall. The reason for this change is that First Lutheran has been invited to participate as one of several Virginia Synod congregations in a resource development program called Stewardship for All Seasons. As part of this program,

we will receive coaching and support on how to effectively encourage growth in stewardship, and, since the program itself is oriented towards a fall, it seemed that aligning our campaign with their timeline made the most sense. Look for more information on this year's stewardship emphasis in early September.

Financial Snapshot

	April	January - April
Contributions / Receipts	\$67,337	\$206,588
Total Expenses	\$59,659	\$243,885
Net Total	\$ 7,678	\$ (37,297)

NOTE: The above does NOT include any income from investments or real estate. These sources are also regularly used to support our mission and ministry and are received periodically.

“Troubling the Waters”

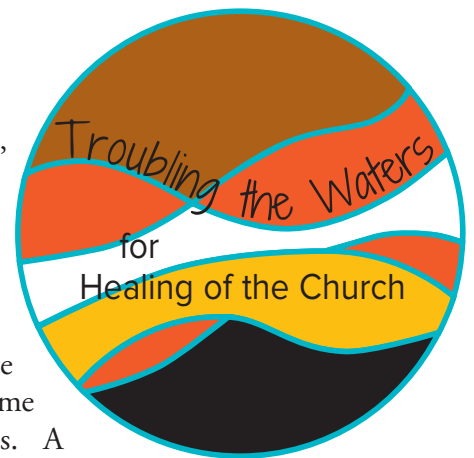
The Virginia Synod has called our attention to Pride Month, the month of June in which we are reminded of the struggle to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for our LGBTQ citizens. The month is celebrated with parades, picnics, parties, workshops, concerts, and other activities. Most significant are the memorials for those who have been the victims of hate crimes. A growing number of our congregations are observing Pride Month, recognizing our pastors and lay people who identify as LGBTQ. They are making a significant contribution to the life of our congregations throughout the country.

Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, puts it well: “LGBTQIA+ people are not faceless or nameless. They are our children, parents, siblings, and colleagues. They work hard and pay taxes. They serve in our congregations and communities. Our life together is enriched. They are us.”

On the local scene, members of the Social Justice Committee have been active for several years.

A major concern is that we communicate an explicit welcome to LGBTQ persons. A Temple Talk will be given on

June 5th in observance of Pride Month, and at that time LGBTQ bracelets will be available in the Welcome Center for those who would like to signal the congregation's welcoming spirit in that way. Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center should you like to join a group at Waterside on June 25th to celebrate the month.



God's Mission Has A Church

"And you will be my witnesses. . . ." Acts 1:8

This month we celebrate the festival of Pentecost, remembering how the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Jesus' earliest disciples. It was a dramatic and world-changing moment, and one we often refer to as the "Church's Birthday." I like that description. It seems much better than "the Anniversary of the Church's Founding." After all, institutions and organizations are founded, but living things are born. And that's what we, the Church, are – living members of God's worldwide mission.

We are God's mission. Mission is who we are, not just an activity we do. I believe that understanding ourselves in this way makes all the difference. You see, one temptation for congregations is to think and talk about "mission" and "outreach" as simply parts of a rather large menu of activities that "someone" needs to do. However, since mission and outreach can seem particularly scary, it is easy to think of that "someone" as primarily being someone else!

Yet there is also another side to this coin, and that is being deeply involved in the doing of great activities – feeding the poor, housing the homeless, caring for those in need – without connecting what we are doing with why we are doing it. This is greatly more helpful than not doing anything useful at all, yet it robs people in a congregation of crucial self-understanding. The result, at least for many people, is a lack of energy, passion, and momentum. Yet if Pentecost is about anything, it is energy, passion, and momentum!

But You Will Receive Power. . . .

As we heard on the last Sunday of the Easter season, Jesus links the giving of the Holy Spirit with the identity of being his witnesses to the world. We are to be living, breathing, thinking, acting signs of God's redemption and renewal through Jesus Christ. Mission and outreach are not things that we do, they are to be who we are. Everything that we do from worship to Christian education to fellowship to works of service and love – everything is to be seen through the lens of witness. How is it that these things share Jesus? How do our "Christian activities" form us into Jesus' people, and how do they communicate him to the people and the world around us?

As someone has so aptly put it, it is not that God's church has a mission, but rather that God's Mission has a church. As we begin this season after Pentecost, I rejoice that it is with a sense of momentum and energy. I look forward in the coming months not only to the joys of summer but to the conversations and planning that will enrich and strengthen our work together as people whom God has called in this time and place to continue what began with a small group of disciples so long ago. We are God's mission, part of God's living address to the world. Born of water and the Holy Spirit, we are at our best when we ourselves are growing in love – both for Christ and for the world. Ultimately this is the truth that our celebration of Pentecost and the Sundays which follow help us to discover.

Pastor Scott

Dining Out for Life



Thank You Note

Dear FLC Family

I want to thank the members of our Church family for the prayers, cards, calls and concerns given to Alvene and our family during Alvene's illness and passing. It is during these times that God comes to us through our Church family and provides the love and strength needed.

Over the past several years we have experienced this care and ministering to Alvene's needs from our Pastors and members of our Church family. For this I want to express mine and our family's deepest appreciation.

— Don Buckley and Family

Refugee Resettlement

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

(Matthew 25:35)

Welcoming the stranger is an idea that appears over and over in both the Old and New Testaments. It is also a principle that Lutherans put into action. Since its beginnings in 1939, the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has helped more than half a million displaced persons find refuge in the United States. LIRS is one of nine national agencies that partners with the U.S. State Department to resettle refugees. Over the years LIRS has welcomed persons from central and eastern Europe, southeast Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and now those fleeing crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

The Global Concerns/Social Justice committee has supported the work of LIRS since 2016, when we invited a guest speaker from the national office to speak at our church. The same year, we began to collaborate with members of other local congregations to support resettled refugees in our area, and to raise awareness about the needs of migrants everywhere who are seeking protection. Although LIRS does not have

an affiliate office in our region, we learned that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) has a long history of resettling refugees in Newport News and Hampton.

Fast forward to 2022: An unprecedented number of Afghan evacuees and a chronic shortage of affordable housing has led CCC to look for refugee apartments in southside Hampton Roads. This April, the agency resettled an Afghan family of four in Norfolk. Our informal volunteer group, led by members of First Presbyterian, has stepped up to help. Donations from members of First Lutheran have since helped to furnish the family’s apartment and have purchased cell phone service that allows the family to stay in touch with relatives in Virginia Beach and Richmond. We anticipate other needs in the months ahead as Mohammad Ali, Zarin, and their children learn English, adjust to their new home, and move toward self-sufficiency. Your financial contributions to First Lutheran Church (marked for “refugee resettlement”) will support this family directly.

Would you like to learn more about LIRS, refugee resettlement, and this new ministry at First Lutheran? Please attend the Strickler Hall adult Sunday school class at 9 am on June 5!

Senior Recognition Sunday: June 12th

As this school year draws to a close, we want to honor our graduating seniors. We invite all of our graduates to join us in worship on Sunday, June 12th that we may recognize your achievements and pray for you as you begin the next chapter in your life.

In addition, we would like to have a display in the Welcome Center that includes each person’s senior picture, where they’re graduating from, their future plans (school, work, military, etc.), and any recognitions/scholarships they have received. Please send this information and a picture to Kate (kminnick@flcnorfolk.com).

June Birthdays

3 June Phil Shore	10 June Kelly Hogan	19 June Kacy McGinnis	26 June Michelle Fenley
3 June Emily Young	10 June Eric Peterson	20 June Anne Krueck	27 June Kenzie Levensalor
4 June Elizabeth Acors	12 June Barry Halcrow	20 June Bob Ritchey	29 June Grady Erwin
4 June Antonella DiTommaso	12 June Maya Zamani	20 June Kerri Seaman	29 June Julianna Schaus
6 June Kolby Seese	15 June Steve Fox	21 June Adam Mulder	29 June Dallas Williams
6 June Charles Sikorski	16 June Simon Scott	21 June Maggie New	29 June Pei Williams
8 June Jeanne Lampton	17 June Mia Levensalor	22 June Lynn Hayden	29 June John Wittmann
9 June Danusia Mason	17 June Rich Whittecar	23 June Kaye McGinnis	
9 June James Weeks	18 June Stephen Asam	24 June Tucker Gates	

Connect with Others

Laundry Love

In her new memoir *Finding Me*, Oscar, Tony, and Emmy award winning actor Viola Davis recalls the “shame” of not having clean clothes to wear to school. To be blunt, she and her siblings smelled, giving their classmates fuel for brutal taunts. Access to both food and clean clothes were heartbreakingly difficult for her family because of extreme poverty. Despite her incredible achievements, the remembrance of that shame has stayed with her.

Most of us at FLC probably have ready access to clean clothes. Home washers and dryers give us the luxury of putting in a load of laundry whenever it’s convenient. Laundry is part of our routine, maybe not pleasant, but not particularly burdensome either. We may not even consider the cost since we don’t have to put money into our washers to do a load. We just hit a button.

In our own church neighborhood, though, there are people who struggle to have enough money to wash clothes. Some of those we help are experiencing homelessness, while others have jobs or live on a fixed income. Occasionally ODU students join the group. All those who come genuinely appreciate, and need, these \$10 cards. That card allows them to put limited resources toward other necessities, such as shoes for a child or even to help with rent.

First Lutheran and St. Andrew’s Episcopal have been hosting

Laundry Love events for several years, even in the midst of COVID. Initially, we were distributing 30 fifteen-dollar cards once a month. This April, we gave out over 80 ten-dollar cards. Because the sizes of the machines vary, it is difficult to figure the cost per load, but the hope is that one card will completely wash and dry one load of laundry. Think about that- washing and drying ONE load of laundry could cost as much as ten dollars.

The 2022 Spending Plan for Ministry budgeted \$1500 for Laundry Love. In sponsoring two events so far, we have already exceeded that amount. Our goal/commitment is to host three more events this year. To do so, we need all the financial help we can get.

If you would like to give financial support to Laundry Love, please designate contributions- whether by cash, check or online- to First Lutheran and Laundry Love. If you haven’t yet visited a Laundry Love event, consider joining us on the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 at the Soap n’ Suds at 26th Street and Colley Avenue. You will have an opportunity to meet some great people.

Please contact Merrie Jo Milner, (757)226-7962, merjomil@cox.net, or Pam Baynard, (757)681-0157, pbaynard65@charter.net if you have questions. Thank you!

Adult Ministry

The next Adult Ministry meeting will be Tuesday, June 14th, at 12:00 PM.

Lutheran Disaster Response - Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who has given to Lutheran Disaster Response for Ukraine Relief through our recent FLC appeal or with your direct gift. The congregation gave \$6,398 which was sent to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Obviously, the need continues, and we encourage you to give through FLC by designating your gift “Ukraine Relief Ministry” on the memo line, or you may give directly to Lutheran Disaster Response, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Make sure to designate your gift “for Ukraine Relief Ministry.”

Thank you for your continued ministry as we spread our arms around the world in service of our Lord’s children in need.

Medical Equipment Closet

Did you know that First Lutheran Church has a Medical Equipment Closet? We do! We have wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, bath seats, leg lifter straps and more. Some of these items may be beneficial if, for example, you need a wheelchair to stroll around the Elizabeth River Trail, and do not qualify for one from your health insurance provider. If you are in need of any special medical equipment, just call the church office. They can assist you with checking out the items you may need.

If you have items to donate, please contact the church office. Due to health and safety regulations, we cannot accept items that are torn, taped, stained, difficult to open or close, or in need of any repair.

We hope this closet will be another way we can serve our members and guests.

If you have questions, please contact Alice McCoy at mccoys5@cox.net.

June 2022

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.

Monday **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday** **Friday** **Saturday**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>General Deadlines: 12 PM Tuesdays—Life Together Weekly Edition 3 PM Tuesdays—Altar Flowers 4 PM—June 15th—The Contact Email kminnick@flcnorfolk.com with your articles & information.</p>	<p>1 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry</p>	<p>2 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry</p>	<p>3 Pastors' Day Off</p>	<p>4</p>	
<p>5 Pentecost Sunday 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship/Reception of New Members 11:30 AM RIC Committee 1:30 PM Youth Committee 6:30 PM FLC Book Club</p>	<p>6 7 11 AM Lydia Circle 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry 7 PM Martha Circle</p>	<p>8 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry</p>	<p>9 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry</p>	<p>10 11</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregation Council</p>	<p>13 14 10 AM Quilting Group 12 PM Adult Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry</p>	<p>15 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry</p>	<p>16 5:30 PM Laundry Love</p>	<p>17 18</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Father's Day & Juneteenth 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship</p>	<p>20 Juneteenth Observed Church Office Closed</p>	<p>21 22 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry</p>	<p>23 9:30 AM Christian Service</p>	<p>24 25</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship</p>	<p>27 28 10 AM Quilting Group 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry</p>	<p>29 7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>Confirmation Camp/Kairos</p>					

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

Connect with Word and Body

Prayer Concerns for June

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Give joyful thanksgiving

- ...For the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us
- ...For those who work for inclusion so that we may treasure the diversity among us
- ...For those who defend the weak and poor in spite of the anger of the strong and rich

Help us

- ...Act with deliberate care for the world you have made
- ...Encourage our leaders to direct their attention to those who need help the most and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power
- ...Always remember to place your holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities that we may bring an end to racism

Pray for

- ...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of **Alvene Buckley** upon her death (wife of **Dr. Don Buckley**)
- ...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of **Sonja Baker** upon her death
- ...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of Herbert Houston upon his death
- ...Peace and comfort to the family and friends of **Gail Anthony** upon her death
- ...The people of Ukraine and an end to the aggression against them
- ...Inga Schaus' family who reside in the Ukraine
- ...Peace and comfort to the **Hogan family**
- ...First responders and military personnel who risk their lives in service of others
- ...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 & Ronald Ackley, Don Buckley, Olivia Christianson, Barbara Cordrey, Janet Eggen, Jennette Franklin, Roger Fuller, Joelle Griffith (mother of Paula Barwick), Ed Grogan, Valerie & Jim Harvey, Marion Ingersoll, Joann Klotz, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Linda & David Perron, Betty Phillips, Grasea Pulliam, Gail Simos, Shirley Skees, Nancy & Jack Smith, Gail Stenberg, Melissa & Ken Zaletski, Barbara Harris, Barbara Omer (daughter of Linda Perron), Betty Lou, Bill & family (nephew of Mary Bissey), Bob Moll, Bradley Scott, Charlotte & Lee Peglow, Cynthia Moll, Donna, Gert, Harriette & Dave Wheatley, Jimmy, Jim, Marguerite, Megan (niece of Melissa & Ken Zaletski), Rema, Rob, Sue & Jim Webb, Vickie Zelasko

Those dealing with cancer

Alissa (friend of **Dorothy Shaffer**), Bob, James Collier, Iris Corbin, Harriette Wheatley (friend of the **Grogans**), Jenn, David Kelly, Chris Jones (nephew of **Karen Siegel**), Vickie Mack, Mark, **Melvin (Jack) Smith**, Phil, **Randall R. Wiele**, Rob, Sandy, Andie Seagraves, Gerald Stover, **Dallas Williams**, Jess WineKing

Military and their families:

All military personnel around the world.
Fox family, Tom Douglas, Gabriel Dulong, Kyle Hefner, Bobby Masters, Nano Masters, Nick Masters, Ted Peterson, Inga Schaus, Nathaniel Schaus, Brian Becker, Amy Hardbower, Nicolette Huntley, Tim Kelly, Eli Jones, Ian Logan, Kelly Mackenzie, John Marfield, Nikki Parkman

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

— **Amen.**

Readings for June

June 5th

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

June 12th

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

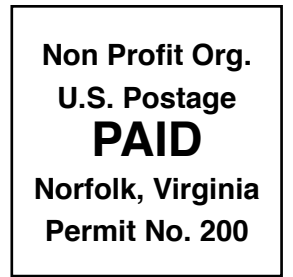
June 19th

Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 26th

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

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