

The Contact

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — NORFOLK

1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

Parish Office: 757 625 1953

www.flcnorfolk.com

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NO. 9

Pastor's Pen

At the close of one of our evening sessions in Vacation Bible School, Pastor Scott and I led our class of adults in an Affirmation of Baptism. Together we made the following commitment to continue in the covenant God made with us in holy baptism:

To live among God's faithful people,
To hear the word of God and share in the
Lord's supper,
To proclaim the good news of God in
Christ through word and deed,
To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

In this promise we commit to lives that model the life and way of Jesus. We live in response to the love first poured out for us in Christ. We participate in the work of God in the world as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. And in fact, a life of service and giving is not optional for those who follow Jesus; service, selfless giving, living and worshipping in the community of faith are woven into the DNA of Christ-followers. It is simply what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We are, through the waters of baptism, all called as ministers in God's Kingdom.

As we move into September, you will notice that activities and opportunities for ministry and service abound. And as the fall brings with it the start of other activities in the community such as school, pumpkin spice everything, and football, let me use a sports analogy to help make my point

(I know, me use a sports analogy!?!). When it comes to living the Christian life, there is no second string or room on the sidelines. There is no bench and no spectators' stands. Rather, all of us are needed on the field! All of us are needed in the game. Like any team, there are different positions to cover, and the Holy Spirit has given to each of us a unique set of gifts, abilities, and experiences that are needed to fulfill God's work in our congregation and in our community. For our congregation to fully live out its mission, all of the gifts that God has poured out upon us are needed.

So I invite you, as you read through this newsletter, as you receive our weekly emails, as you see notices on Facebook or hear announcements made in worship, to consider how you might become more engaged in the life of the congregation or participate in the many opportunities for service and outreach. You have been filled with the Holy Spirit and made a part of this community of faith. How might you help to build up our life together and strengthen our ministry?

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

— Pastor Cathy

Afghan family update

Thank you to everyone in the First Lutheran community for your generous support of the A. family over the past several months! They are continuing to learn English, getting to know the public transportation networks, and Z. has recently started work at a Virginia Beach company that is employing several recent Afghan evacuees. The kids are learning to swim and are looking forward to going back to school.

In July, First Baptist Church hosted a party for all members of the extended family who are now in Richmond and Hampton Roads, and are being sponsored by area congregations (pictured). This was the first time that so many members of the family had been in one place since fleeing Afghanistan several months ago.

The A. family is extremely grateful for the welcome that they have received here, but thus far they (and all other Afghans who were granted temporary permission to enter the U.S. as part of Operation Allies Welcome) do not yet have a path to permanent residence. If you would like to take one small action to help A. family today, please call or email your



legislators in support of the Afghan Adjustment Act. This bipartisan legislation will allow eligible Afghans to apply for lawful permanent residence after 1-2 years of U.S. physical presence and clearing additional background checks. Please visit these links from the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to learn more and to connect immediately with your legislators:

<https://www.lirs.org/afghan-adjustment-act-congress-introduces-press-release-08-2022>

<https://www.votervoice.net/LIRS/Campaigns/92415/Respond>

Social Justice Committee movie night

Please join the Social Justice Committee for a movie night potluck/fundraiser for Lutheran Disaster Response on September 18. We will be watching the award-winning animated documentary *Flee*, "a poignant story of belonging and the search for identity," about one man's experience after being forced to leave his home country of Afghanistan as a young child more than twenty years ago. More information to follow in the Sunday bulletin and weekly email!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH RALLY DAY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
9:00 - 9:50 AM

Join us in the 3rd Floor Fellowship Hall for a continental breakfast. Enjoy music, meet your teachers, and get excited about a new year of learning!



Vacation Bible School

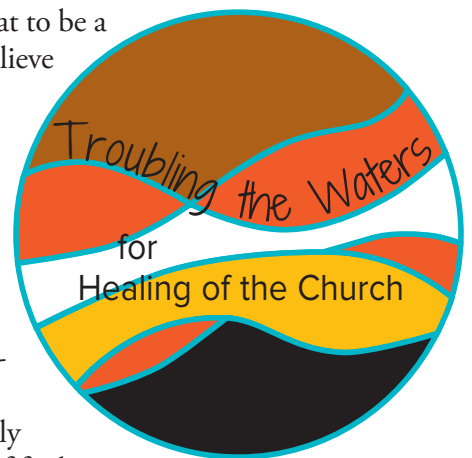


“Troubling the Waters”

The theme, “Troubling the Waters,” has a deep and significant meaning for Christians. How so? Because the life and ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ, are powerfully captured in these three words. They express just how radical his ministry was and summon us who bear his name to be his faithful followers. It means a heightened awareness of the injustice in our society where the poor are conveniently ignored and minorities struggle with the impact of exclusion.

We are told that Jesus “troubled the waters” of his own society. He did it both by his actions and his teaching. He ate at the tables of the poor, offending the well off, and he lifted up the hated minority in his story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus has bestowed a radical ethic of love which means an attitude and actions which genuinely and consistently seek the well-being of our neighbors, particularly those in need.

We would all agree that to be a Christian means to believe in Jesus Christ, but it is easy to forget that the words “believe in” carry an existential meaning: we are committed to Christ, dedicated to Christ; words of transformation. Our challenge, both individually and as a community of faith, is to remain faithful “in Christ.” God strengthen us in this noble calling!



Connect with Others



Martha Circle

Join Martha Circle for fall fellowship on September 6 at 7:30 PM in the FLC Reception Room.

Christian Service

Christian Service will meet Thursday, September 8, at 9:30am in Strickler Hall to tie quilts. Anyone is welcome to come, and no real skill is required. Basically, you thread a needle, sew stitches and tie knots. We will even thread your needle if necessary!

Questions? Contact Pam Baynard,
pbaynard65@charter.net, (757)681-0157.
vbnm/hfsaerty

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle- same date, new time, new place! Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, September 6, at 10:30am in the conference room on the second floor. We will be helping the Christian Service Committee by unpackaging school supplies in anticipation of filling 150 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will also be talking about programs for the upcoming year. Everyone is welcome to attend! Contact Pam Baynard, (757)681-0157 or pbaynard65@charter.net, if you have questions.

Thank You Note

Thank you for Melissa & Ken Zaletski

Greetings to each and every one of you from the California Zaletskis! We are happy to tell you the flights went well. The angel that Pastor Mims referenced from Exodus was there for sure. Entry into life here at Remington Club is our focus and we are very pleased on Day #2! At breakfast I told Ken it was like being at IHOP! The people are very kind and friendly. We feel blessed to have found this new home. We thank all of you for the love and care you showed to us as we made this move from the 757. You fed us, called us, supported us, and gave us the courage and strength to move on. The service on July 31st touched our hearts. Singers from Vocal Inclusion were both a surprise and joy. Several, like our Gus, have Down Syndrome and under the instruction of Dianna Swenson have brought their singing voices to many. To have them at FLC was a gift not only us, but all of you. They do recitals and share their gifts. God and listen as you can. Do we miss you? Without a doubt. But we will keep you close in our hearts and cherished memories. Keep doing good and bringing the love of Jesus to all.

Melissa & Ken

September Birthdays

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

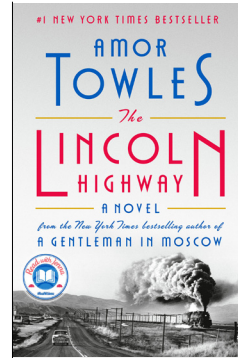
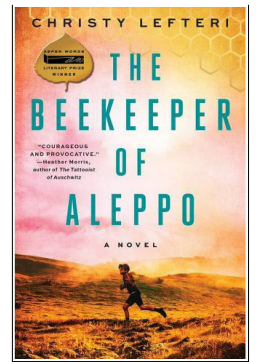
FLC Book Discussion Group

For October, we will read a work of fiction which is grounded in current world events. The book is *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri.

Nuri is a beekeeper, his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo--until all they care for is destroyed by war and they are forced to escape. But what Afra has seen is so terrible she has gone blind, and so they must embark on a perilous journey through Turkey and Greece towards an uncertain future in Britain. As they travel through a broken world, they must confront not only the pain of their own unspeakable loss, but dangers that would overwhelm the bravest of souls. Moving, powerful, compassionate, and beautifully written, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit. A timely book to help us

talk about the international refugee crisis.

We will meet October 2nd at our new time...4:00 PM. Contact Betty Jean Meyer for details.



On September 11th. We will discuss Amor Towles' *The Lincoln Highway*.

FLC Goes to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens

Save the date: Thursday, September 22nd!!

Come and enjoy a visit to the Butterfly House and the gardens! The Adult Ministry Committee invites all interested church members (and their guests) to join us on a trip to the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

Those interested in carpooling should be at church by 9:50 AM. Otherwise, meet up with the group at Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 23518-5337 at 10:30 AM.

We will be taking a reserved tram ride at 11:00 AM to the Butterfly House. The tram will also take us through the gardens so we can enjoy the beautiful plantings. We are planning to have time for lunch at the Gardens' cafe, with each person responsible for their own meal.

We need all those interested in attending to please sign up no later than September 7th, so we will know how many to expect. The sign-up sheet is located in the Welcome Center at the front desk. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet if you have a membership pass to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Raindate will be Thursday, September 29th.

Come join us for all the fun!!

Contact Margaret Fleet 757-630-1908 or Joanna Griffin 757-576-5123

Lutheran World Relief School Supply Drive

Despite supply chain issues and inflation, you managed to make this year's school supply drive for Lutheran World Relief an incredible success! Thank you to everyone who bought supplies or gave money. These school kits often determine whether or not a child can go to school.

In some countries, if a family can't provide supplies, the children can't go to school. Since 2016, when LWR first began tracking items sent by individual churches, our congregation has provided over 1000 school kits for children around the world. Your generosity has truly made a difference in their lives.

We also want to acknowledge Thrivent (and Thrivent member Kaye McGinnis) for the \$250 grant that helped fund the school supply project. This grant bought 155 backpacks and 100 notebooks this year, but the Christian Service Committee has benefitted from Thrivent grants for a number of years. Thank you to Thrivent and to Thrivent members who willingly apply for these grants each year for this and various other projects supported by First Lutheran.

If you have supplies that you haven't brought to church yet, please bring them by Sunday, September 4th. Again, thank you for your support for this project.

September 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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		General Deadlines: 12 PM Tuesdays—Life Together Weekly Edition 3 PM Tuesdays—Altar Flowers 4 PM—15th—The Contact Email kminnick@fclcnorfolk.com with your articles & information.		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Worship & Blessing of the Backpacks	Labor Day Church Office Closed	10:30 AM Lydia Circle 12 PM Adult Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry 7:30 PM Martha Circle	7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	9:30 AM Christian Service		1 PM Jenette Franklin Funeral
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Rally Day & God's Work, Our Hands Sunday! 9 AM Rally Day Celebration 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Grace Car Wash 4:00 PM FLC Book Club		10 AM Quilting Group 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry	7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	5:30 PM Laundry Love		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Youth Group Kick-Off Sunday 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 3 PM Pastor Phyllis Milton's Installation @ Holy Communion		2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry	7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	9:50 AM Daytrip to Norfolk Botanical Gardens		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 1 PM Youth Committee Meeting via Zoom		10 AM Quilting Group 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry	7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 6 PM Faith & Racial Healing Group		Conference Youth Lock-In & Adventure Park	

Community Groups (Strickler Hall): Sundays—7 PM Mixed Groups; Mondays—4:30 PM Happy Hour AA; 5 PM Happy Hour AA; 7 PM SAA; Tuesdays—12 PM Just for Today; Thursdays—6 PM Women in Ghent AA; 7:30 PM SAA; Fridays—12 PM Continuing Quest; 8 PM Candlelight; Saturdays—5:30 PM Back to Life

Connect with Word and Body

Prayer Concerns for September

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Give joyful thanksgiving

...For the faith of our siblings around the globe and the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners
...For this community, celebrating those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep
...For elected officials with a desire to administer your justice, defend those who are vulnerable, and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression

Help us

...Transform places devastated by floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth
...To sustain those who are oppressed
...Kindle a desire within ourselves to dismantle systems of racism, discrimination, and hatred

Pray for

...Family and friends of Andrea Seagraves (cousin of Julie Moberly)
...Comfort for Paula Barwick & family on the death of her mother Joelle Griffith
...Dolly Hinton on the passing of her brother
...Our volunteers and VBS program
...Homeless people and stray animals
...Ron Koupman and family on the death of his wife Audrey, aunt of Kaye McGinnis
...Comfort all victims and families of gun violence in this country and our community
...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, Roger Fuller, Ed Grogan, Valerie & Jim Harvey, Marion Ingersoll, Sheri Kanipe, Joann Klotz, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Linda & David Perron, Betty Phillips, Grasea Pulliam & Dena, Gail Simos, Shirley Skees, Julia Silsdorf, Nancy & Jack Smith, Gail Stenberg, Randy Wiele, Melissa & Ken Zaletski, Betty Lou, Charles Stanford, Cinzia, David Ackley, Gert, Harriette & Dave Wheatley, Hilah & Charlie Steenrod, Jimmy, Marguerite, Megan (niece of **Melissa & Ken Zaletski), Michelle Ackley, Pete, Rema, Rob, Sean Marshall, Sue & Jim Webb, Vernon Welch**

Those dealing with cancer

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

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. — **Amen.**

Readings for September

September 4th -

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 11th -

Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 18th -

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 25th -

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

First Lutheran Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

