1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

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www.flcnorfolk.com

VOL. XXXVI

**NOVEMBER 2022** 

NO. 11

### Pastor's Pen

while back I read a tweet on "clergy twitter" that asked, "Are any other clergy feeling like the post-pandemic rebuilding of your congregation is as hard as the pandemic was?" Most of the comments affirmed that clergy are feeling burnt out, that they are overwhelmed and concerned with the well-being of their congregations, as they wrestle with declines in attendance, finances, and volunteers. They worry about what the future is going to look like for their congregations. And I understand those concerns.

But I must say, that personally, I am very hopeful. The Revelation of John reminds us that God is "making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

God is at work doing new and wonderful things at First Lutheran. Our youth ministry has a renewed energy and regular activities. We are seeing new young faces during the children's time in worship, and Pastor Scott and I are having great fun singing with them in the Sunday School opening. We have a vibrant service of worship that is broadcast on-line with new video equipment. We also have new audio-visual equipment on the third floor that will allow us to better host presentations, classes, and forums. Our coffee fellowship stirs with conversation and people meeting one another. Our council has tasked a team to update the nursery so that we have a safe, clean place for our littlest ones; our council will also be presenting to the congregation a proposal for a sign for the front of the church.

There is an energy in the air that invigorates me and excites me about the future of our congregation. We have a renewed sense of community. God is making all things new – doing new things among us – building faith, drawing people closer to one another and to Jesus, and bringing forth, through us and our ministries, the Reign of Christ into this world.

Pastor Scott and I are thrilled to be a part of what God is doing here at First Lutheran, to serve as your pastors, and we are also thrilled to invest our own financial resources into the ministries here because we believe that God is doing a new thing, making all things new. We are excited to be a part of God's New Beginnings here at First Lutheran!

New Beginnings is the theme of our Stewardship Campaign this fall. We are highlighting three ministry initiatives that we'd like to implement: hiring a youth ministry coordinator, bolstering our current outreach endeavors, both in-person and digital, and sustaining ministry excellence in times that can be chaotic and uncertain. We believe that these initiatives will give us a good foundation for moving forward.

You will be invited to fill out a Statement of Intent card (which you may have already received, along with a congregational brochure) and bring it to worship on November 6th. We will also have cards available on that day, or you may wish to provide your Statement of Intent on-line, which we will also make possible. We are looking for a 100% return of the Statement of Intent cards. Even if your giving does not change or you do not wish to put down an amount, we ask that you return your card, so we have an accurate record. We will follow up with those who have not returned a card.

Then, on November 13th, we will have a Celebration Meal for the congregation. We will celebrate both God's goodness to us and also the generosity of the congregation that allows us to serve and love God in faithfulness and obedience.

I hope you will join Pastor Scott and me in having your hope renewed and in giving to the work and ministry of First Lutheran!

— Pastor Cathy

### "LSM Sunday" November 13, 2022

as we all know, First Lutheran has some amazing young people and among them is a growing crop of talented musicians. On Sunday, November 13, we are proud to participate with congregations around the country in raising awareness of a magnificent program.

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is where music, community,



and faith intersect to create a life-changing experience for young musicians. As the nation's premier faith-based music academy this four-week, immersive residential performance and training program is for students, grades 8-12. We are thrilled to have a student applying to attend LSM this coming summer, and who will also be playing for worship for LSM Sunday.

In the meantime, we should be preparing for our part by helping to ease any financial burden. The cost of attendance per student is \$2,495 (not including the cost of transportation). Whether you can afford to cover 1% or 10% or more, every cent counts! Consider your ability to give in one of the following ways:

- Some of our members already contribute to LSM privately, and they may, at their discretion, direct their funds to sponsor a student.
- If you are a Thrivent member (16 years or older), you can designate the Lutheran Music Program as the recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars.
- Give through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account. (See RMB for more information about this one.)

But the easiest way to give (and the best way to make your dollars stretch!) is by donating through FLC. As a Young Musicians Partner, contributions sent from the church qualify for a match program. Should your generosity exceed the need for this year, the balance will be held in a restricted fund to benefit participants from FLC in future years. Be sure to include "Lutheran Summer Music" on the memo so that your contribution can be appropriately directed.



# Ahmadi Family I To a second of the second o

### **Come Join Us to Walk the Garden**

ome with us and enjoy walking through the magical "Garden of Lights" at Norfolk Botanical Gardens with fellow church members on Monday, December 19th at 6:00 PM! If you would like to come, tickets need to be purchased from the Norfolk Botanical Gardens website and are available online only. Tickets are \$15.00 for

members of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens and \$18.00 for non-members. We will meet at the visitor center so we can enjoy walking together! Tickets are on sale now and will sell out quickly so don't wait! For questions or if you need help purchasing online tickets, please contact Merrie Jo Milner at 757-560-0781.

### It's beginning to look a lot like... Advent?

an you believe it?! In just a few weeks it will be time to decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season and we're calling on the village to help make it happen. If you have been involved in this before, you know it takes a variety of skills and hands.

So that everyone isn't sacrificing their family time during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, we have phased the responsibilities over several days and among different groups. Tasks include costume sorting/cleaning, erecting and fluffing trees, hanging wreaths and garlands, sorting and hanging Chrismons, preparing candles, and arranging outdoor lights.

Also, save the date for Saturday, January 7 when it all will get schlepped back up to the attic.

Contact Elizabeth Moll for more information.



### **Call to Update Funeral Plans**

he occasion of All Saints Day calls to mind treasured memories of loved ones who have gone before us. Some light candles and say special prayers; some visit graves or other resting places. It is a sacred time to honor the lives of those most dear to us, and an opportunity to ponder the mysteries of our existence in the presence of God.

Last year we hosted a series of presentations on end-of-life matters, including interactive sessions with an attorney, a hospice nurse, and a mortician, addressing the various aspects of care before and after the time of death. Those who have been directly involved in this process for themselves or on behalf of others know the tremendous blessing to find that there is a detailed plan in place. Many of us have made such arrangements: legal and financial provisions, readings and music for the service, and decisions regarding disposition options.

But how up-to-date is your plan? What has occurred since it was made: a new grandchild, a divorce, a different emergency contact?

For those who have end-of-life plans on file at FLC, we invite you to review them with us to ensure we have the most information, current especially pertaining to your funeral service, your niche(s) in the columbarium, and contact information for your next of kin.

If you have not made such arrangements, or if you wish to include First Lutheran in your estate plans, the

time is opportune. Please contact the pastors to make an appointment.

# November 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:		_	2	3	4	5
12 PM Tuesdays—Life Together Weekly Edition 4 PM—15th—The Contact Email kminnick@flcnorfolk.com with your articles & information.	er Weekly act with your	10:30 AM Lydia Circle 12 PM Adult Ministry 2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry 7:00 PM Martha Circle	7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry 6 PM Faith & Racial Healing Group		Pastors' Day Off	Set your clocks back tonight!
6 Stewardship & All Saints' Sunday	7	ω	6	01	Veterans' Day	12
9 AM Sunday School for all ages 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Youth Group 11:30 AM Social Justice Committee 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	II AM Funeral Service for Lee Addison	Church Office Closed	
13 Celebration Sunday	4	15	91	17	<u>8</u>	61
9 AM Sunday School for all ages 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Celebration Luncheon	7 PM Congregation Council	2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry  Contact  Deadline	7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry	9:30 AM Christian Service 5:30 PM Laundry Love	7th & 8th Graders- Lost & Found	
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
9 AM Sunday School for all ages 10 AM Worship 11 AM 70th Anniversary Celebration 11:30 AM Youth Group 11:30 AM LIRS Card Making		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	Church Office Closed Thursday & Friday, 11/24 & 11/25	& 11/25 A HAPE	>
27	28	29	30		600	3
9 AM Sunday School for all ages 10 AM Worship	7 PM Youth Committee	2 PM Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM Dinner Ministry	7 AM Men's Bible Study 12 PM Lunch Ministry			

Community Groups (Strickler Hall): Sundays—5:30 PM Mixed Groups; Mondays—12 PM Help Me; 4:30 PM Happy Hour AA; 5 PM Happy Hour AA; 7 PM SAA; Tuesdays—12 PM Continuing Quest; 8 PM Candlelight; Saturdays—5:30 PM Back to Life

### **Connect with Others**

# Event by Slover Library, The Norfolk Street Choir Project and Glen McClure, Slover Library

The Norfolk Street Choir Project is pleased to present Neighbors, an exhibition of selected portraits featuring individuals impacted by homelessness. The works by photographer Glen McClure will be showing from October 13—December 13, 2022, at Slover Library, 235 E Plume St, Norfolk, VA.

Photographer Glen McClure's striking black and white portraits celebrate everyday people from every walk of life.

A Virginia native and life-long resident of Norfolk, McClure's latest project, Neighbors, is a collaborative effort with the Norfolk Street Choir Project, a non-profit organization located in downtown Norfolk, providing encouragement and support to our vulnerable neighbors through service and arts opportunities. Founding Artistic Director, Robert Shoup shares, "We routinely witness small miracles of hope and possibility when our community gathers. When our neighbors come for a meal, or a shower, or to see a doctor or find some clothes, or to sing or draw or paint... we encounter beautiful people with ideas, perspectives and gifts.

"We envision a caring city where vulnerable persons are encouraged and affirmed through the arts."

—The Norfolk Street Choir Project (www.thenorfolkstreetchoir.org)

## Halal dinner at First Presbyterian Church

You are invited to attend an informal halal dinner in honor of the Ahmadi family, who have resettled in Norfolk after fleeing Afghanistan earlier this year. This is an opportunity to meet the family and learn more about their journey, and to learn more about First Lutheran's partnership with First Presbyterian Church in helping the Ahmadis become self-sufficient in their new home. The event will take place at 5 pm on Sunday, November 13 in the First Hall at First Presbyterian Church (820 Colonial Ave., Norfolk). If you would like to attend, please RSVP no later than Sunday, November 6 to Elizabeth Janik at (757) 604-9357 or via email at ejanik@outlook.com.

### **Martha Circle**

Martha Circle will meet on November 1st at 7:00 PM in the Reception Room. Join us on this special day for fellowship and Jean Bozeman's program on All Saints!

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Tuesday, December 6th at 1:00 pm.

Come out and enjoy a special Holiday Music Program in our sanctuary featuring Ryan-Michael Blake, Jeff Joyner and Danielle Roby!

Experience the joy of the season with fun songs of childhood and traditional favorites that will bring a tear to the eye. Take a trip down Memory Lane as the Holiday spirit comes to life. The program will conclude with a festive sing along and reception with Christmas refreshments.

Please RSVP by November 20th to Joanna Griffin 757-576-5123/ joanna\_griffin@verizon.net or the church office at 757-625-1953. There will also be a signup sheet in the Welcome Center for those wishing to attend.

### **Christian Service**

Christian Service will meet Thursday, November 17, at 9:30 AM in Strickler Hall to tie quilts.

### Lydia Circle

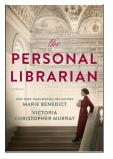
"Come Unto Me All...." Those words greet us as we come into church through the porte-cochere entrance. But can we be sure marginalized people feel included in that invitation? How might we assure them that, yes, all are truly welcome here at First? The Reconciling Works Committee is studying how we can be more intentionally inclusive as a congregation. To learn more about these efforts, Lydia Circle will host a meeting on Tuesday, November 1, at 10:30 am in the conference room. Committee members Paul and Marilyn Jersild and Pam Baynard, will discuss obstacles to inclusion and ways the Reconciling Works program can help our congregation overcome them. All, (really, ALL) are invited to attend.

### **FLC Book Discussion Group**

For December, our book discussion will explore early 20th century New York and race through the historic novel "*The Personal Librarian*" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene was hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his new Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating as she helps build a world-class collection. But Belle was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle

Marion Greener, the daughter of Richard Greener, first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. *The Personal Librarian* tells the story of this extraordinary woman and the lengths to which she must go to preserve her carefully



crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

An amazing story with so many possible discussion starters! Join us December 4th at 4:00.

Don't forget: On November 6th we will discuss *Saving Us* by Katherine Hayhoe.

### **November Youth Group Meetings**

November 6 – ALL Youth are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun-filled youth group activities. Lunch will be provided.

November 20 – Lunch with Pastor. While our 7th and 8th graders are away at Lost and Found, our High School

students are invited to join Pastor Cathy for lunch and conversation at a local restaurant. She will even pick up the tab!

(Lee can you add like an arrow or something to highlight the November 20th luncheon where Pastor Cathy is paying?)

### November Birthdays 1 Nov Riley McElligott 9 Nov Cadence Vera Cruz 19 Nov Mandy Porter Taylor Westerveld 1 Nov Craig Stopa 11 Nov 20 Nov Michael Dandrea 2 Nov Hartley Rowan 12 Nov Bob Weisenbeck 20 Nov Madison O'Rourke 2 Nov Ken Zaletski 13 Nov Denise Boyd 21 Nov Iulianne Hood 3 Nov Harry Kenyon 13 Nov Marty Bradley 21 Nov Linda Turner 4 Nov 22 Nov John Faircloth Sarah McGinnis 13 Nov Paul Hutchings 5 Nov Julie Sutera 13 Nov Stacy Hutchings 22 Nov Oliver Janik 13 Nov Elizabeth Krenzke 25 Nov 6 Nov Vivianna Ruggiero Ellie Ilardi Karen Siegel 7 Nov Charlie Anderson 13 Nov Davis Scott 25 Nov 7 Nov Bill Newlon 13 Nov Nancy Smith 25 Nov Rob Siik 7 Nov Jack Smith Jody Unruh 26 Nov Bernie Duffy 13 Nov 8 Nov Sarah Humphreys 14 Nov Sharon Asam 26 Nov Debbie Duffy 8 Nov Lindsay Reavis 16 Nov Eva Dulong 26 Nov Joanna Griffin 16 Nov Sara Jane Honaker 26 Nov Frank Minschke 9 Nov Julie Basco 9 Nov Blythe Scott 19 Nov 30 Nov Richard Cannan Syd Brown

### **October Council Update**

Council Summary from October 9, 2022

- Council met with confirmand Felix Janik, who shared his Confirmation verse, Romans 15:13, and his faith object.
- Voted favorably on adopting the proposed landscaping architectural plans pending confirmation of where funding can be pulled from. John Wittmann will check with Finance Committee to determine best options for funding.
- Work on nursery continues to progress. Position for staffing has been publicized.
- Pastors met with Pastor John Wertz from Synod Office about ongoing rental of space at First. The contract will change with the new year, but they will continue to hold one office (instead of two) in our facility.
- Discussed options about a new pictorial directory; leadership is needed to coordinate and organize.
- Stewardship Drive "New Beginnings" has kicked off. Looking for 100% return of Statement of Intent cards from leadership and active members.

### Join Us Next Summer in Niagara Falls!

summer mission trip, and we hope that you will join us! The dates for our trip are July 8th – 14th, and anyone who is currently 7th grade and older is eligible to attend. While serving in Niagara Falls through our trip provider, YouthWorks, we will work with local organizations to help meet on-going needs through food and clothing distribution, assisting with home repair projects, community beautification projects, and helping to provide summer children's programming at a local community center. During the evenings, we will have opportunities to learn more about the experiences of those living in poverty, as well as to visit the beauty of the Falls and other natural treasures the area offers.

### **Costs & Registration**

Your out-of-pocket cost for our week-long adventure with YouthWorks is \$300 per person. This includes all programming, evening excursions, transportation, lodging, and meals. This price also assumes that, along with support from our Youth funds, participants will work to raise a portion of the overall cost. Along with fundraising, all participants are also expected to attend our pre-trip Team meetings, which are an important part of preparing for an awesome experience.





To register for our 2023 summer mission trip to Niagara Falls, complete either our online registration form https://forms.gle/jNSqE54FHnZqrrp16 or paper form (available in the Youth Room and at the Welcome Center desk) AND include a \$50 deposit for each person registering. Your deposit can be paid either by a check made out to First Lutheran or online through our website (go to "Giving" and then "Other"). Please note "2023 Mission Trip" on your payment.

**IMPORTANT:** the deadline to register is Tuesday, November 22nd, but please don't wait! Currently we have 10 spots reserved that will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Additional spots may be added, but only if they are available at the mission site. Scholarship funds are available, so don't let money keep you from going.

Questions? Pastor Scott would be excited to tell you more!



### **Connect with Word and Body**

### **Prayer Concerns for November**

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

### Give joyful thanksgiving

- ...For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground
- ...For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right
- ...For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work

### Help us

- ...Encourage the baptized to become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all
- ...Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation
- ...Welcome all those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country

### Pray for

- ...Family and friends of Lee Addison on his passing
- ...The people of Haiti
- ...Women in Iran
- ...All those affected by natural disasters in this world
- ...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, John Faircloth, Roger Fuller, David Griffin, Karen Grogan, Valerie & Jim Harvey, Pam Hiner, Marion Ingersoll, Paul Jersild, Sheri Kanipe, Joann Klotz, Pam Martin, Kelley Minschke, Lorna Moss, Bill Newlon, Linda & David Perron, Betty Peterson, Betty Phillips, Grasea Pulliam & Dena, Gail Simos, Shirley Skees, Julia Silsdorf, Nancy & Jack Smith, Gail Stenberg, Flo Trant, Joann Tolmie, Melissa & Ken Zaletski, Betty Lou, Cathy, Deanna Kraiger, Donna, Emily Wilson, Eva Clark, Evangeline & her parents, George Jordan & family, Gert, Heather and her family, Jake & Lawrence, Jim Ilardi, Jimmy, John Simms, Corrine & Karla Hendrikson, Kayla, Keeling Family, Lillian Winfield, Magens Nielsen, Matt Durham, Megan (niece of Melissa & Ken Zaletski), Melvor Family, Mogens Nielseh, Rema, Richard Garrison, Rob, Sue & Jim Webb, Tessa, Theresa Roberts & family, Xynaura Winfield (granddaughter of Trina Winfield)

### Those dealing with cancer

Bob, James Collier, Iris Corbin, Jenn, David Kelly, Chris Jones (nephew of Karen Siegel), Vickie Mack, Mark, Melvin (Jack) Smith, Phil, **Randall R. Wiele**, Rob, Sandy, Gerald Stover, **Dallas Williams**, Jess WineKing, Keith O'Rourke

### 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

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

— Amen.

### Readings for November

### November 6th -

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31

### November 13th -

Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

### November 20th -

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100 Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35

### November 27th -

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44 First Lutheran Church 1301 Colley Avenue Norfolk, VA 23517

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