



November 2016

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The PULSEBEAT

Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran,

The Transition Team has been appointed by the Church Council and will begin their work this month. The Transition Team will help to involve the congregation in congregational assessment and goal setting. Trusting that God is leading us, we will be learning more about our community, our congregation, and the next pastor we seek. I will work closely with the Transition Team to equip, assist, guide, and facilitate the interim process.



One important item related to this work is preparing First's Ministry Site Profile. The Ministry Site Profile is an instrument that summarizes the identity and direction of the congregation. Creating the draft of the Ministry Site Profile is the task of the Transition Team. The Transition Team will be inviting thoughtful input from the congregation, through data gathering, prayer, and discernment. This draft Ministry Site profile is then passed onto the Church Council, who will make final approval before submitting it to the Pacifica Synod Office of the Bishop.

Will you prayerfully consider being involved in this Transition process? The plan is to involve the congregation in gathering information and building the Ministry Site Profile for the time period of December 2016 to May 2017. The Transition Team begins regular meetings this month and will begin to invite the congregation to participate in this calendar year. We anticipate that the bulk of the work will be done in the winter and spring of 2017. Together, we will review the congregation's life and mission as the Church, the Body of Christ. We will evaluate the congregation's present strengths, as well as identify specific areas where the congregation needs to strengthen ministry. The congregation will specify resources necessary to fulfill the mission of the congregation in serving the community. Together, we will clarify the mission of the congregation and identify the pastoral gifts that are most needed for mission. We will involve the congregation through surveys, focused conversations, and focus groups/information meetings. The congregation will be able to see the Ministry Site Profile being built through Power-Point presentations at Sunday morning 10:10 a.m. meetings.

In Mathew 7, Jesus says, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock." For the next 6-7 months we will be working towards building a solid rock for the next chapter of ministry with your new pastor.

As we identify those items that are important to us in relationship to our work with the community, our self-assessment and goal setting, we will be better prepared for conversations with candidates open to the possibility of serving as the next pastor of First Lutheran Church. The Ministry Site Profile will be one important tool that the Call Committee uses when having conversations with candidates. Therefore, leadership is hoping to involve as many folks as possible in this process so that we have a Ministry Site Profile that better reflects the whole congregation. Remember, the Call Committee will be selected at a later time, most likely sometime in the spring of 2017. Before the Call Committee can begin their work, we need to do our work, shoulder to shoulder, participating, praying, and discerning what God is up to in our midst.

It is a privilege to serve as your Intentional Interim Pastor. I am looking forward to the conversations we will have about the life, ministry and mission of First Lutheran Church.

Peace, Pastor Larry

Upcoming Schedule:

November 20:

Christ the King Sunday
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

November 27:

First Sunday in Advent
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

December 4:

Second Sunday in Advent
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

December 11:

Third Sunday in Advent
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

December 18:

Fourth Sunday in Advent
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

December 24:

Christmas Eve
7:30 p.m. Candlelight service

December 25:

Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. service



Council Update: And the (Pulse) Beat Goes On...

by Carol J. Schultz

First Lutheran's Council held its regular meeting on October 18, 2016. And in case you're wondering about the authorship of this article, Secretary Sylvia Herman was unable to attend so I served as Secretary Pro Tem, which also gives me the privilege of writing for you.

We have important news to report on several fronts.

TACO Grant: The Council approved a \$15,000 grant to TACO to fund the wages for a Food Coordinator in 2017. TACO's Board has reviewed the grant and we expect them to approve it at their November meeting. They plan to hire someone as soon as they can and to make this position a permanent part of TACO's budget in 2018. TACO's Board has assured us that the meals program is one of its highest priorities, and we all agree that a Food Coordinator is essential to its continuing success.

Transition Team: The Council selected the members of the Transition Team who will work with Interim Pastor Larry Koger in the coming months to gather information from the congregation and to develop the Ministry Site Profile. The Profile is a key document for guiding the future Call Committee in selecting suitable candidates to serve as First Lutheran's next permanent pastor.

Custodian: The Council decided to offer Loren Harrell a custodial position at First Lutheran Church for 20 hours/week, starting Oct. 25, 2016. Loren has been a dedicated volunteer at TACO and has impressed them with his commitment. Because long-time custodian Mark Best's health has prevented him from fulfilling the necessary duties, the Council temporarily hired a cleaning service until we could find a more affordable solution.

Vacant Council Seat(s): Although several Council members are coming to the end of their three-year terms, they are opting to stand for re-election to another term as First Lutheran's Bylaws allow. However, we will have at least one vacant Council seat for which we need a candidate. The election will be at the December congregation meeting, and the Council term will begin in January 2017. Please prayerfully consider whether you are called to this service. If you aren't sure, feel free to talk with any Council member; names are in the sidebar.

Congregational Schedule: Five, we have a schedule for taking care of congregational business and adopting a budget for 2017.

Nov. 11 – First Lutheran will mail pledge invitations, which will include the percent of increase for 2017 estimated by the Finance Committee.

Nov. 20 – At worship, we will receive and pray over pledges submitted for 2017.

Dec. 11 – The congregation will meet to adopt a budget for 2017 and to elect Council members.

Jan. 22 – The congregation will meet to review its 2016 financial report and to adopt an updated Constitution that complies with the ELCA Model Constitution.

We also heard reports from Council members and the Pastor.

Financial Report: The Finance Committee reported that, although we're seeing some variances from the budget the congregation adopted, they hope to end the year breaking even. Through September, the Council has approved unanticipated increases to (1) give Pr. Miller a proper send-off to New York, (2) allow the new Office Administrator to work 40 hours/week at a slightly higher wage, (3) increase the summer organist's stipend, and (4) hire a cleaning service when the custodian no longer could work. In addition, pledged offerings dipped noticeably in September, which may be a cause for concern. On the other side of the ledger, First Lutheran is saving on the Interim Pastor's salary and housing and on the church roofing repairs.

Council Officers:

President: Kathryn Kanaan

Vice President: Robin Withers

Treasurer: Aaron Robinson

Secretary: Sylvia Herman

Council Members:

Joe DeMers, Jim Ehlers, Anke Hartung, Debby Hays, Dick Krueger, Carol Putnam, and Carol Schultz.



Listening Ministry: Pr. Koger expressed his appreciation that almost 60 people participated in the Listening Ministry. If you didn't and would like to, he welcomes anyone who would like to chat with him to make an appointment.

As always, feel free to discuss any of these matters with a member of the Council or Pr. Koger.

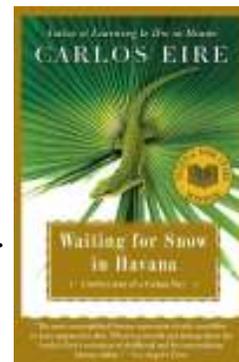
God's Peace to you all,

Your 2016 Council

Book Group News

FLC Book Club Meets November 17

The reading selection for our November meeting will be *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy* by Carlos Eire, a One Book, One San Diego selection. Eire's memoir tells of being sent to the United States when he was 11 years old, along with 14,000 other Cuban children who were airlifted out of Castro's Cuba without their parents. Children did not need security clearance and so could escape quickly. It takes Carlos' mother three years to rejoin her children but his father never leaves their island home. Briefly he touches on what happens after he gets to the United States, but for the most part, Eire delves into his childhood memories of Cuba; full of lizards, turquoise water, fire-crackers, bombs, car-surfing, and tangerine-colored sunsets. The book is full of the sense of loss and longing for a life long-gone and a future promised but revoked. It speaks of the life that might have been, and the life he found instead.



New members are very welcome to join us and will find the evening to be full of good conversation and fun. This is a wonderful way to get to know others in a comfortable environment and, yes, men are welcome. We aren't often graced by the male of the species, but they are welcome anyway.

We will be meeting in the community room at Susan White's condo. Discussion and fellowship get underway at 7 p.m. and will be hosted by Susan and by Carol Schultz. For more information and specifics on the location, please call Susan or Carol, and please do join us.

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

The **Sparkhouse Family Book Fair** hosted by the Children's Education Ministry was a great success! Over forty-five books from a selection of 13 titles, ranging from children's "First Bibles" to bedtime stories, devotions, search and find, activity books, The Story of Christmas, and an interactive Christmas Holiday DVD, all to help children and families continue in their faith during the week.



Out of \$730.00 collected for the payment of orders, \$170.00 was generously donated to purchase new books for the "Children's activity basket" located in the Sanctuary under the ushers' table, the nursery, and Sunday school. Due to the congregation's support in making the fair successful, the Children's Ministry will receive all of the books and DVD used in hosting the fair at no cost.



Isabelle & Sophia Lovell assisting
Ladonna Piper

Orders will be placed by November 18th and should arrive 5-7 days from that date. When the orders arrive, Robin Withers will notify families of the pick-up date and time by phone or email. The pick-up will be scheduled for several Sundays.

Faith formation happens in the big moments of life and the small ones. Whether you purchased a book for a child in your family or for the Children's Ministry, we thank you for partnering with us in this opportunity to continue our beloved children's faith formation.

Questions or concerns? Contact Robin Withers at 858-699-9550 or rwithers@avid.org.



Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair



Sunday, December 4
10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Cash/checks preferred!

First Lutheran Church
1420 Third Ave.
San Diego 92101



*Fair Trade foods sampling
at last year's Fair*

Benefiting
Lutheran World Relief and other
Fair Trade partners and service organizations

+ Choose gifts that make a difference! Shop for Fair Trade foods, home décor, accessories and other unique hand crafted items made by marginalized artisans and farmers living around the world. Your purchases help them gain the income and skills they need to feed their families and send their children to school.

+ Sample Fair Trade Foods, including Equal Exchange coffee and soups from The Tomorrow Project. Food sampling is sponsored by Thrivent Financial.

+ Learn how you can support local and global service organizations.

+ For more information, contact Martha Radatz at 619-575-2845 or mradatz@cox.net.

Come ... and bring a friend!

Let's Get Social...

Join First Lutheran at “**The Hot Spot**” for a “**Gift Making**” Holiday **Social**. We have 2 possible dates reserved: Saturday, November 19, or Saturday, December 10. We will gather at 1:30 p.m. to enjoy fellowship with other partners in ministry and create unique, one-of-a-kind, paint-your-own pottery or chunky candles for gifts to others or yourself while relaxing to great music in a spacious studio.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby and vote for the Saturday you would like to go to the Hot Spot. If there is enough interest for both Saturdays, that is an option also.

- **ALL** ages are welcome and no experience is necessary. Prices range from \$15 to \$60; average is \$20 per person and includes everything needed to complete the project!
- You may bring light finger food/snacks.
- Adults 21 and over are welcome to BYOB (beer or wine). Just bring your own cups and openers.
- Candles are ready the same day and pottery items are ready the next day if turned in by 5 p.m. (Use the non-fired glitter paints and take pottery the same day.)
- Option: Pottery items will be picked up by Robin Withers and available for pick-up at First Lutheran.

For more information contact Robin Withers at 858-699-9550 or rwithers@avid.org



Liberty Station Barracks 14
2770 Historic Decatur Rd
San Diego, CA, 92106



TACO Corner:

As the new Volunteer Coordinator for TACO, I have been busy acclimating to this amazing new job. In fact, job isn't really the right word for it. Perhaps opportunity or chapter is better. Although in school to get my Masters in Psychology, my new position at TACO has become so much more than a part-time occupation. The meals we serve and the people I encounter are continually enriching and educating me in ways I never saw coming. I always look forward to coming in, and find my outlook changing more and more as time progresses. This is no small feat at my age, yet I am thankful for an increased empathy for events and people often overlooked. The man sleeping on a bench, or on an empty restaurant patio, is no longer just something to walk by. Instead I see people in need of help, and a problem that is growing much too big to ignore.

I was going to share some of our donation/clothing needs with you, and decided (if you will indulge me) to also share something I was struck by recently. While organizing our donations, I came across a box of rain ponchos. Luckily in San Diego these are not needed that often, but as I put them away it hit me: to someone without a home, this is a roof. Likewise, the blankets and sleeping bags we distribute serve not only as beds, but as homes to those without a home. Shoes can be much more than shoes, but serve as a floor. A plastic liner can become a wall or a roof, while jackets serve as a heater/fireplace. Riding the trolley along Imperial, I am always struck by the sea of tents lining the street. Yet to many a tent is an aspirational item akin to a luxury home on the sea to us. Indeed, the items we donate and distribute are not just clothing/hygiene, but a sense of home and a measure of humanity.

With that, I would like to put out a request for the following items: Underwear, socks, shoes, blankets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. Contact me at byoung@tacod.org to donate to TACO or for a full list of our needs.

I also want to emphasize how very much your donations mean to all of us at TACO. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

Brad Young,
TACO Volunteer Coordinator



Christmas Wrapping

Please join TACO on Saturday, December 10th, to help us wrap 200 gifts for those who find their beds on our streets any given night.

We will spend the morning wrapping gifts, and then afterwards you are invited to stay for our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, with games for all!



If you are interested in contributing towards our gifts, we are requesting \$25 per gift. Please be generous this holiday season, so that so that those who have so little may find something under their tree here at First Lutheran Church & TACO.

November Birthdays

4: Jenny Mehlow	9: Isabelle Lovell	21: Mary Ann Horton	25: Michelle Laseman
5: Lori Gremel	10: Owen Carter	22: Dorothy Hunter	26: James Lovell
7: Rachel Alli	13: Amy Munroe	23: Dreceon Richards	26: Gretchen Ravenscroft
8: Tricia Schoenfeld	13: Ellen Ehlers	24: Breanne Thornton	
9: Donn Rosenauer	19: Mark Deffner	25: John Poeschl	



First Lutheran Worship Assistants – November & December

ALTAR GUILD

NOVEMBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Susan White

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

DECEMBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Peggy Quintana

11:00 a.m. Service

Mary Goddard

USHERS

NOVEMBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Tony & Peggy Quintana

11:00 a.m. Service

Robin Withers and Melinda Person

DECEMBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Ted & Sharon Carlson

11:00 a.m. Service

Anke Hartung & Ladonna Piper

Date	Time	Deacon	Lector	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
November 6	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Luke Williams	Jeremy Kaercher Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	Shelly Etzel	Renea Aswegan
November 13	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Robin Withers	Paul Engel Luke Williams	Chuck Leib & Frank DeLouise	Frank Jessie	Frank Jessie
November 20	9:00 11:00	Brian Shuman Mary Ann Horton	Dennis Arenas Melody Ruth	Kem Taylor	Ladonna Piper	
November 27	9:00 11:00	Frank Jessie Gary Muhlback	Kem Taylor Matt Eckert	Ted & Sharon Carlson		Melinda Person
December 4	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Paul Finneseth	George Falk Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	Martha Radatz	Carol Putnam
December 11	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Luke Williams	Sylvia Herman Robin Withers	Pat Hendrickson		Robin Withers
December 18	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Robin Withers	Carol Schultz Luke Williams	George & Ethel Falk		Renea Aswegan



November 2016 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12 pm AI Anon	2 9 am Acupuncture 5 pm Dental Clinic	3 12 pm AI Anon	4 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	5
6 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST End of Daylight Savings 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	7 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	8 12 pm AI Anon	9 9 am Acupuncture 5 pm Dental Clinic	10 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 pm TACO Board Mtg	11 VETERANS' DAY 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 7 pm CODA	12 9 am Volunteer Landscaping
13 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	14 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	15 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 pm Church Council	16 9 am Acupuncture 5 pm Dental Clinic	17 12 pm AI Anon 7 pm Book Club	18 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	19
20 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	21 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	22 12 pm AI Anon	23 9 am Acupuncture 5 pm Dental Clinic	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25 9 am Bread Day 7 pm CODA	26
27 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 3 pm German Svc	28 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	29 12 pm AI Anon	30 9 am Acupuncture 5 pm Dental Clinic			

Monday evening clinics include acupuncture, medical, dental, and legal services.

The PULSEBEAT
is a publication of
First Lutheran Church
Serving Downtown San Diego Since 1888
1420 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101-3193
(619) 234-6149
www.firstlutheransd.org

First Lutheran Church
The Rev. Larry Koger, Intentional Interim Pastor
Jared Jacobsen, Director of Music
Hannah DeMers, Church Administrator
First Lutheran Church
A *Reconciling in Christ* congregation since 1989
Deadline for next month's Pulsebeat is **the 15th, noon.**

The Pulsebeat
First Lutheran Church
1420 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101-3193

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Return Service Requested

**HELP
WANTED**

Subs Needed for Church Nursery!

No, not sandwiches! We are in need of individuals who love little people and are willing to be on a "Sub List" to be available on occasion to assist in the nursery if one of our caregivers (Liz & Courtnee) is absent. **This is a paid position.**

If you are interested, please contact the church office and let Hannah know.

Second Sunday Social

Second Sunday Socials are a part of our community life here at First Lutheran. These activities can be anything from attending a Padres game, to lunch at a cool restaurant or a bonfire on the beach, and usually take place on (but are not limited to) the second Sunday of each month. These activities are opportunities for members to get to know each other better than Sunday morning service allows, and to just have fun!

At the moment, we do not have a designated person to identify and plan all the activities, so we are hoping that people like you will step up and take on just one month. Yep, you heard me, just one month!

Please be the person that brings us more fun!

Contact Joe DeMers with any questions or to get started.

Worship Assistants Welcome!

If you've ever wanted to participate in the service, we would love to have you! We need more volunteers, especially at the 11:00 service. Sign-up sheets for deacon, usher, lector, greeter, communion assistant, and altar guild have been put on the kiosk bulletin board. So if you're interested, just sign up, and Hannah will work you into the schedule.

And remember, Hannah doesn't know if you've been in a position in the past, especially ushers. So if you'd like to be on the schedule, sign up so that she knows who wants to be included! And if you have a preferred partner, sign up with them. If you'd like to participate at both services (same day or not), mark that too!



First Lutheran Church - the Heart of Christ in the Heart of the City