



December 2016

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The PULSEBEAT

Advent & Christmas 2016

First Lutheran Church



November 27 – First Sunday in Advent

9 & 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

+

December 4 – Second Sunday in Advent

9 & 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10 – 12:30 p.m. – The Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair

10:30 a.m. – Budget Information Meeting

+

December 11 – Third Sunday in Advent

9 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist & Children's Christmas Pageant

+

December 18 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

9 & 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10:10 a.m. – Congregational Meeting-Part I

+

December 24 – Christmas Eve Festival Candlelight Service

7:30 p.m. – Saturday Evening

+

December 25 – First Sunday of Christmas Carol Mass

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist



Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran,

In our Church Calendar year it is Advent again, truly a unique season. On the one hand, we know the first Christmas has already come, over 2000 years ago. We know that Christ has been born, that he lived for us, died for us, rose from the dead for us. And all around us, our culture is celebrating Christmas, often through commercialism, but often, as well, through acts and deeds of kindness, compassion, and generosity.



We seek to celebrate Christmas with our own acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity. And we sing praises to the Christ child who was born to bring salvation to all humankind. But we also, in Advent, remember the disconnect, if you will, that we sometimes experience between our faith and reality. Christ has come to earth, yet not all are filled with joy. Christ has conquered evil, yet evil things still take place on the earth. Christ has risen from the dead, yet we continue to bury our dead, even as we live in the hope of eternal life. In Advent, the memory of what Christ has already accomplished, and the longing for a world where peace, joy, and love truly rule, come together. So, in Advent, we look for signs of God's presence, even as we look forward to a time when joy, peace, and love will reign in all our hearts.

In Luke 1, we read the story of Elizabeth. Elizabeth's hopes as a young woman were probably the standard hopes of most young women of her society and time. She would marry a good man. They would settle down together. They would have children. Only two of these things happened for Elizabeth. She married Zechariah, and the scriptures tell us they had been married for several years. But there were no children. To Elizabeth's sorrow, shame was added. For it was believed that not having children was a sign of God's disfavor, a sign that God did not love and would not bless a couple. Instead of the fault being biological, it was theological, and the woman was most often blamed. Elizabeth would have been deeply disappointed, but more than that, she would have experienced shame. She would have wondered what was wrong with her, that God would not grant her prayer, her request for a child, when God granted similar requests from others.

And we can sometimes find ourselves feeling the same kind of disappointment with God. We can think, as no doubt Elizabeth did, "what's wrong with me? Why doesn't God answer my prayers?" When you find yourself disappointed with God, disappointed that you did not receive what you requested, I think the story of Elizabeth can teach us a couple of things. First, there is nothing wrong with you. Elizabeth was not denied a child because of some sin, or because God didn't love her as much as God loves others. Sometimes we don't get the good things we want not because of evil within ourselves but because we live in an evil world where God's will is not always perfectly done. But it's not because there's something wrong with us. Christ has already taken care of all that is wrong with us, by dying on the cross so that we might be right with God.

Second, God may have something else in mind. God wanted not just to give Elizabeth a child, but wanted to give his people a child, a child who would remind them of the power of the God of the Bible. So Elizabeth in her old age conceived, as a sign that God was at work in this child. And the child became John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance in the wilderness as an adult. So when you're disappointed, look for the new thing that God might be doing.

Third, despite disappointment, continue to hope in God. God is not dead. God does not sleep. God is here, to help us in our need. And God was at work for Elizabeth. As she says in Luke 1:25, "God has taken away my shame." So God removes all that would keep us from him, and seeks to fill us and all the world with joy and peace.

So keep on praying. Keep on watching. You never know when God will break into your life to fill you with peace and joy.

Peace, Pastor Larry

---

## Church Service Times

Sunday, January 1, will return to the regularly scheduled service times of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.



## Council Update: Fast Forward

by Carol Schultz

This time of year is when I feel like someone has pushed the “fast forward” button. Once Thanksgiving arrives, I never seem to have the time I thought I would to finish everything before the new year gets here! Our Council is working diligently to meet its year-end objectives, too. Here are highlights from the meeting on November 15, 2016.

**2017 BUDGET:** The Finance Committee has drafted a balanced budget for 2017, and everyone will have an opportunity to preview it on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 10:30 a.m. The Committee is estimating a 2% increase over 2016, totaling slightly more than \$436,000. In addition, the budget will earmark funds in First Lutheran’s savings to use as needed for calling and relocating a permanent pastor. Part I of the annual congregation meeting, when the 2017 budget will be adopted, is scheduled for Dec. 18, 2016.

**2016 FINANCES:** When a much loved and respected pastor like Pr. Wilk leaves, a congregation often sees a temporary decline in attendance and offerings. The Finance Committee is carefully monitoring revenues and expenditures as we near the end of 2016. During the holiday season many people give generously, so we are hopeful we will end the year with a balanced ledger. The year-end report will be available at Part II of the annual congregation meeting on Jan. 22, 2017.

**TRANSITION SCHEDULE:** The Transition Team that will work with Pr. Koger to complete First Lutheran’s Ministry Site Profile reported that it has begun to meet. Members are: Allison Emery, Lee Kaercher, Dan Kjonogaard, Dick Krueger, Chuck Leib, Melinda Person, David Pohl, Shaun Travers, and Robin Williams. The Team has scheduled a series of congregational surveys and workshops that will culminate in June 2017 when they will “pass the baton” to the Call Committee.

**CONSTITUTION:** Part of the interim process is “getting our house in order” for a new pastor. The Council noticed that First Lutheran’s Constitution was updated most recently in 2005. Since then, the ELCA has made significant changes to the model constitution for congregations, which the Council is reviewing and incorporating. The Council plans to present a revised constitution at Part II of the annual congregation meeting on Jan. 22, 2017.

**MINISTRY GUIDEBOOKS:** First Lutheran is blessed with a number of people who participate in various worship ministries – usher, altar guild, lector, communion assistant, and greeter. To help them perform their roles, especially as new members begin to participate, the Council has compiled guidelines for each ministry, which it will distribute after a final review in December.

**COUNCIL VACANCIES:** Five of the Council’s twelve seats will be vacant at the end of 2016. Three Council members – Debby Hays, Kathryn Kanaan, and Dick Krueger – have completed a three-year term and are willing to stand for re-election to another term. Of the two remaining vacancies, one is for two years and the other is for three years. The election will be at Part I of the annual congregation meeting on Dec. 18, and Council terms 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 of this article.

**May you enjoy a blessed Advent season!**

God’s Peace to you all,

Your 2016 Council

### 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.



## Christmas Pageant

Our annual Children's Christmas Pageant will take place during the 11:00 service on December 11. All children are welcome to participate.

Please see Joe Slevcove or Marie Ruth for more information.





## Lutherans, Catholics Gather for Historic Service in Lund, Sweden

*From the ELCA website, [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), joined Lutheran and Catholic leaders for a joint ecumenical commemoration of the Reformation on Oct. 31 in Lund, Sweden.



*Bishop Munib Younan & Pope Francis*

Pope Francis; Munib Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) president; and Martin Junge, LWF general secretary, led the historic service at the Lund Cathedral. About 500 worshipers attended the Common Prayer service.

“With joy we have come to recognize that what unites us is far greater than what divides us,” said Younan, in his opening welcome.

According to a LWF press release, Pope Francis told worshipers that “in the context of the commemoration of the Reformation of 1517, we have a new opportunity to accept a common path, one that has taken shape over the past 50 years in the ecumenical dialogue between The Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church.”

In his sermon, Junge emphasized that both Lutherans and Catholics have “much more that unites us than that which separates us. We are branches of the same vine. We are one in Baptism. This is why we are here at this joint commemoration: to rediscover who we are in Christ.”

During the service, Pope Francis and Younan signed a joint statement committing Catholics and Lutherans to deepening their communion and common witness for justice.

Later in the day, thousands gathered at Malmo Arena under the theme “Together in Hope.”

According to the LWF, the event included performance artists and testimonies by Lutheran and Catholic advocates for social justice and climate issues from Burundi, Colombia, India, South Sudan and Syria. Pope Francis and Younan offered responses to their testimonies.

During the event, Maria Immonen, LWF World Service director, and Michel Roy, Caritas Internationalis secretary general, signed a declaration of intent mutually committing the global Christian organizations to deepened relationships and closer cooperation in humanitarian response and sustainable development.

### A Note from Our Director of Music

Dear friends,

On the First Sunday of Advent I shared some news with both congregations so that it wouldn't be a surprise when my name showed up on our weekly prayer list. For those who weren't able to be with us at those liturgies, I want to let you know that I have begun a course of daily targeted radiation treatments for prostate cancer at the Moores Cancer Center at UCSD, a state-of-the-art facility staffed by an extraordinary group of caring doctors, nurses, and technicians. If all goes according to plan, I will finish that cycle on January 12th and be on my way to a full recovery.

I believe passionately in the power of prayer, so I welcome your support as I make this personal journey into the new Church year which we have begun together. If you have any questions, please feel free to approach me after worship and I will do my very best to answer them.

Warmly,  
Jared Jacobsen

### December Birthdays

1: Pricilla Alli	7: Mary Goddard	17: Emmet Coffey	22: Andrew Ajer
2: Debby Hays	11: Kimberly Tozer	19: John Foley	22: Dan Kjonggaard
3: Ladonna Piper	14: Isabelle Paul	21: Glenn Orris	31: Marta Monroe
3: Matthew Boomhower	15: Kevin Vallone	22: Nicholas Fekas	



## TACO Corner:

First of all I would like to thank all of you for your generous donations. We have been making an effort to get more items out to the people who need them, and your donations truly make a difference.

Recently I encountered a woman trying to take a small Christmas tree from Ralph's Grocery. Despite her circumstances, she wanted to celebrate the holiday like many of us do. The items TACO gives out provide not only comfort, but also a measure of humanity to those who desperately need it.

With that in mind, we truly need toothbrushes, shampoo (hotel sized), conditioner (hotel sized), razors, body lotion, shoes (men's and women's), underwear (men's boxers any size), and always socks.

Have a blessed Christmas everyone.



Brad Young,  
TACO Volunteer Coordinator



## A Concrete Christmas

Help us to provide a Christmas gift to those who, like the baby Jesus, will see Christmas arrive while they are homeless. Over the past 11 years we have raised funds to support Christmas gifts to those who are living on the street in the Downtown area. We gather as a community to wrap the gifts, which then become our manger walls for the First Lutheran Christmas Pageant. Gifts are **\$25 each** and our goal is to have 200 of them to give out the Friday before Christmas! What is the gift?? We cannot tell you that, it would give away the surprise! Over the years we have given hundreds of jackets, sleeping bags, tents, backpacks, scarves, can openers, radios, flashlights, ponchos, and tarps...

We are partnering with Wheat Ridge Ministries to raise \$5000 for these Christmas gifts through their crowdfunding platform, Weraise! Please find our link at our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/TACOSDfb> or by going directly to their web link at: <https://weraise.wheatridge.org/en/projects/34252-Concrete-Christmas>

Only if we are successful will we get the funds raised! Doing so lets you become part of a great giving tradition.

And please mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 10th at 10 a.m.** when we will gather at First Lutheran Church to wrap all of those presents and then share a meal together. Help us celebrate how much our volunteers have accomplished in this past year.

From all of us at TACO to you and your families, may you experience the Christ child in your midst this year.



## 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](mailto:mradatz@cox.net).

**Come ... and bring a friend!**



## Transition Team Update

The Transition Team has been selected, and plans for First Lutheran's congregational self-study are underway. The primary work of the Transition Team will be to assist the congregation with congregational self-assessment and goal setting during this time of Pastoral Transition, as we prepare for a new season of ministry with a new pastor. The Transition Team members plan to meet regularly for the next six months.

The First Lutheran Transition Team members are Allison Emery, Lee Kaercher, Dan Kjonegaard, Dick Krueger, Chuck Leib, Melinda Person, David Pohl, Shaun Travers, and Robin Withers. Please keep the Team in your prayers.

In October, Church Council selected the Transition Team. The Team met for the first time and held an Orientation Meeting on November 1. On November 13, the Transition Team was installed at Sunday worship services. An information meeting was held at 10:10am on Sunday, November 20, regarding the Intentional Interim process as well as a proposed timeline for conducting congregational surveys and holding focused conversations and focus group/information meetings. (Please see the Proposed Timeline below for important dates and activities) Also at the November 20 meeting, Transition Team member Shaun Travers provided a written handout and gave a brief presentation on what is happening with our ever changing community of San Diego.

The hope is to involve as many members of First Lutheran as possible, so please plan to attend the focused conversations, focus group/information meetings, and participate in the surveys.

### **Proposed Timeline for Intentional Interim Ministry Surveys, Focused Conversations, Focus Group/Information Meetings on Sundays**

**November 20, 2016:** Information Meeting on Interim Process and local community and Congregational Survey 1

**January 8, 2017:** Survey 2

**January 22:** Survey 3

**January 29:** Focused Conversation #1

**February 12:** Focus Group/Information Meeting #1

**February 26:** Survey 4

**March 12:** Survey 5

**March 19:** Focused Conversation #2

**April 2:** Focus Group/Information Meeting #2

**April 9:** Palm Sunday

**April 16:** Easter

**April 23:** Survey 6

**April 30:** Survey 7

**May 7:** Survey 8

**May 21:** Focused Conversation #3 and last day to turn in all surveys

**June 4:** Focus Group/Information Meeting #3

### **Additional Important Non-Sunday Dates**

**Tuesday, June 13:** Church Council/Call Committee/Transition Team review Ministry Site Profile (MSP) page by page. Council formally approves final draft of the MSP at regular meeting on **June 20**.

**Please note:** Church Council should plan to make a final selection of the Call Committee at the May 16 regular Council meeting.

**Late June or July:** Transition Team/Church Council and Call Committee meet with Office of the Bishop.



## From Conflict to Communion: "Pope Francis Has Crossed the Street!"

*A very personal reflection on the papal visit to the Lutheran cathedral of Lund, Sweden on Reformation Day, 2016*

*By Rev. Jack E. Lindquist*

*(Written at the request of Brother David, editor of BENEDICTE, the quarterly journal of the Brothers of Saint John the Evangelist, an ecumenical Benedictine monastery near Freeland, Washington)*

In downtown San Diego, California is an intersection of two main streets that has always had a huge ecumenical symbolism for me. On the northwest corner of Third Avenue and Beech Street stands the impressive St. Joseph's Cathedral of the Roma Catholic diocese, its chimes ringing out over the whole neighborhood on Sunday mornings; on the southeast side of the intersection stands First Lutheran Church, originally founded by mostly German immigrants in 1888, but now a very diverse, dynamic, liturgy-centered community in a new facility serving an amazing new downtown with an outstanding ministry to the homeless. (I was the pastor there from 1975 to 1983 but happily returned in retirement in 2014.) And the meaning of the intersection? To me it has always represented the centuries of separation and sometimes horrible hostility that have kept these two communions apart.

As I watched Pope Francis and Bishop Mounib Younan of Palestine, the President of the Lutheran World Federation, embrace with big smiles in front of the altar of the Lund Cathedral, I recalled the theme of this 500th anniversary year of Luther's reformation movement, "From Conflict to Communion," and I couldn't help but recall how ferocious that conflict was in the Thirty Years War of 1618-1648. (I taught a course on that terrible era at the Roman Catholic University of San Diego for many years.) Germany was reduced to what northern Syria and Iraq are today: a scene of unspeakable slaughter. The armies of the Lutheran-Protestant North (led by the King of Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus) and of the Catholic South (fighting for Hapsburg Austria) went at each other like the Shia and Sunni armies of Islam today, and in 1631 they slaughtered Lutheran Magdeburg and Catholic Frankfurt to bloody rubble like the Aleppo and Mosul we see on television.

Oh yes, we've certainly come a long, long way "From Conflict to (or at least toward) Communion," thanks be to God, and since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) we've also come a long way theologically: witness the "Joint Declaration On the Doctrine of Justification" on Reformation Day, 1999, the chief theological issue of the whole Lutheran Reformation! But now, in this 500th anniversary year, all of us on both sides need to follow Pope Francis' example and "cross the street" of our separations and suspicions, celebrating that we are already one body by our baptism into Christ and discovering how we can witness together to our broken, bleeding world. Yes, keep on walking, Holy Father! We're all right behind you!

### Let's Get Social...

Join First Lutheran at "**The Hot Spot**" for a "**Gift Making**" **Holiday Social** on 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.

- **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](mailto:rwithers@avid.org)



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



## Welcome the Babe Event

We invite you to join our Advent outreach event, "Welcome the Babe." For the third year our FLC family will help to prepare Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits for newborns around the world, all born into less than ideal, and sometimes desperate, circumstances. Through the generosity of our sponsors, in 2014 we provided 23 kits. Last year we assembled 39 kits. This year we are aiming for 40 kits.

There are many levels of participation, ranging from shopping for single items, to providing partial or entire kits, to having your own "personal shopper" do the shopping for you or sponsoring a kit in honor of a loved one. After Christmas, the Baby Care Kits will be blessed then packed together and sent to the St Paul, MN, Lutheran World Relief warehouse, where they will be shipped to refugee camps, hospitals and villages around the world as needed.

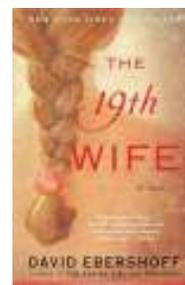
Every mother worries about her baby's health and well-being. Our Baby Care Kits help families in poverty by providing the things every newborn needs. Please stop by the "Welcome the Babe" table at the Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair on December 4th, or any Sunday in December, to find out about this project and how you can support it.

If you are unable to be at the Fair you can pick up a bag and list at church throughout the month December, or in the church office. You can also contact Mary Krueger or Martha Radatz, or learn more at <http://lwr.org/babycarekits>

## Book Group News

### December Book Group Notes

Just a reminder that we do not meet in December. But this gives us a nice long break in which to get a headstart on January's selection: *The 19th Wife: A Novel* by David Ebershoff. Mark your calendar for January's meeting, Thursday, January 19, hosted by Kara Oien and Sheri Bengtson, and look for details in your January Pulsebeat.



## Electronic Giving

As we prepare for the start of 2017, I invite you to consider using an electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular offerings to First Lutheran. We have had this option at First for a number of years through a program called *Simply Giving*, and while more than a few members are already using the service, it has not been highlighted or discussed recently.

Electronic giving is convenient for you, convenient for our staff, and provides much-needed consistency for our church. There is no cost for you to participate. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

To start giving electronically, you only need to fill out a simple form stating the amount and frequency for your gifts to the ministry of First Lutheran and also provide a voided check (or savings account information, if you prefer). Forms may be picked up in the Narthex or at the church office. Please place completed authorization forms in the offering plate or return the form to the church office. If you have any questions regarding electronic giving, please ask them following the annual congregation meeting, or contact the church administrator or myself.

Thank you for your continued generosity to our church and our community.

Your brother in Christ,

Aaron Robinson

Outgoing Council Treasurer



## 2016: Advent All Year!

*By Sylvia Starbird-Herman*

Advent. The season of hopeful, expectant waiting. What a rich Advent season it will be this year here at First Lutheran. After all, ever since Pr. Wilk and Dagmar moved back to the East Coast, we have been doing a lot of hopeful, expectant waiting. We should be getting really good at it now!



First came the wait for our intentional interim minister. Then Pr. Larry arrived with his gentle spirit and joy at being among us. And now, even as he leads us through the process of discernment—working together to understand where we have been, where we are now, and where we want to go in the future—we are still waiting. Many people are taking a lead in this process and the results will best reflect our congregation if everyone contributes to the discussions. The program our synod has developed, which Pr. Larry is guiding us through, is designed to help us focus our collective desires for the future. More mindful, prayerful waiting.

After this waiting time will come yet another wait as we consider the individuals who will put their names forward to be our new pastor. Luckily, we are blessed with strong leadership here at First, and we oldsters are delighted at the way so many younger members have stepped right in with their forward-thinking and fresh insights. Those of us who have been here longer are like the ballast in a ship's hull, helping to keep an even keel as we actively wait for the call process. (This time will be my third experience with the call process in my thirty years here, and both previous transitions brought us pastors who were very much loved and respected.)

But for right now, all is well. We will light the Advent candles one by one, the days will grow ever so slowly shorter until the winter solstice and then, ever so slowly, grow longer again. A light will be born into the world, assuring us that the darkness will not overcome this light. Let us all enter fully into this beautiful time of year. Let's wait and watch and pray together. Let's get the rest our bodies and spirits need for the journey. Let's worship our God with fervent hearts because the promise will be fulfilled. Matthew 1:23 says "Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel (which means God with us)."

So even though the joyous end of Advent won't end our year-long waiting game, we will know to be patient and to wait with confidence. Winter will be over and spring will come; the earth will be renewed and our little church at Third and Ash will be renewed as well.

Best wishes to you all for a fulfilling and holy Advent experience!

## ELCA Presiding Bishop and Other Faith Leaders Offer Advent Devotions

*From the ELCA website, [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, and The Episcopal Church have prepared a series of Advent devotions for members of the four denominations.

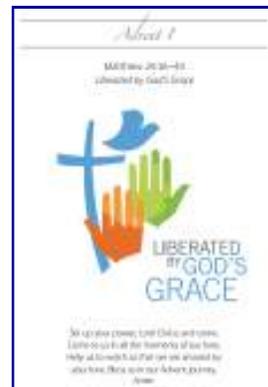
"Over fifteen years ago, our churches' respective full communion agreements inaugurated new relationships in which we fully recognized each other 'as churches in which the gospel is truly preached and the holy sacraments duly administered,'" the bishops wrote in a joint cover letter.

"May our prayers united be a modest but hopeful sign of what our churches can do together as we bear witness to the One who first reconciled himself to us."

In addition to Eaton, devotions were contributed by the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop and primate, The Episcopal Church; the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, primate, Anglican Church of Canada; and the Rev. Susan C. Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The Advent devotions are available at

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2016\\_Advent\\_devotions\\_all.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2016_Advent_devotions_all.pdf)





## First Lutheran Worship Assistants – December & January

### ALTAR GUILD

**DECEMBER**

**9:00 a.m. Service**

*Susan White*

**11:00 a.m. Service**

*Mary Goddard*

**JANUARY**

**9:00 a.m. Service**

*Carol Putnam*

**11:00 a.m. Service**

*Mary Goddard*

### USHERS

**DECEMBER**

**9:00 a.m. Service**

*Ted & Sharon Carlson*

**11:00 a.m. Service**

*Anke Hartung & Ladonna Piper*

**JANUARY**

**9:00 a.m. Service**

*Ruthann Maxwell & Carol Putnam*

**11:00 a.m. Service**

*Ruth Clayton & Ladonna Piper*

Date	Time	Deacon	Lector	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
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	Susan White	Robin Withers
December 18	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Robin Withers	Carol Schultz Luke Williams	Shaun Travers	Falks	Renea Aswegan
December 24 Candlelight Service	7:30	Kathryn Kanaan	Jan Neuhaus	George & Ethel Falk	n/a	
December 25	10:00	Robin Withers	Elizabeth Connolly	Melinda Person & Ladonna Piper	Elizabeth Connolly	
January 1	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Gary Muhlbach	Pat Hendrickson Robin Withers	John Hoff Melinda Person		
January 8	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Mary Ann Horton	Will Pierce Pr Lee Wesley	Ted & Sharon Carlson		



# December 2016 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12 pm AI Anon	2 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	3
4 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 am Worship 10 am Fair Trade Fair 10:10 Hospitality 10:30 Bdgt Inf Mtg 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	5 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	6 12 pm AI Anon	7 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	8 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	9 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	10 9 am Volunteer Landscaping 10 am TACO Wrapping Party
11 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	12 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	13 12 pm AI Anon	14 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	15 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	16 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	17
18 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	19 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	20 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 pm Church Council	21 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	22 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	23 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4 pm German Svc 7:30 pm Candle- light Svc
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10 am Worship 11:10 Hospitality	26 CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVED 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal	27 12 pm AI Anon	28 12 pm AI Anon	29 12 pm AI Anon	30 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	31

*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](http://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

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 194

**Return Service Requested**

First Lutheran Church  
Congregational Meeting  
Part I

Sunday, December 18, 2016  
10:10 a.m.

The First Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting - Part I will be Sunday, December 18, 2016, between services, beginning at 10:10 a.m. The order of business will be: 1-the election of five Church Council members; and 2-adoption of the First Lutheran Church 2017 budget.



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