



March 2017

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

Dear faithful First family and friends,
Greetings in the Name of Christ!

By the time you read these words, we have entered the season of Lent. And for many of you, that journey began as you received a smudge of ashes upon your forehead, and heard these words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

Lent is a season of preparation for the greatest holy day of all—the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ celebrated on Easter Sunday. In the first years of the Church, new believers were prepared during Lent to enter into the community of faith. Lent was a time, therefore, of awakening and emerging. In the Northern Hemisphere, the seasons of creation undergirded this deep metaphor. Spring slowly unfolds during Lent, buds gather strength, and winter's dormancy eases as we journey into the weeks of Lent.

Over time, with those words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," Lent has become an opportunity to face the truth of our humanity. But Lent has also become an opportunity to face our utter inability to be God and our inability to believe that God is God. Our human limitations get us into all kinds of trouble, seizing up our relationships with ourselves, with each other, and with the earth itself. Yet, in our desperate attempts to measure up to what we imagine we ought to be or in our abandonment of the gifts God has given us, we deny our limitations and we often deny the miracle that we are.

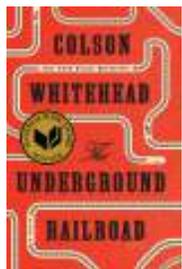
As we began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, our eyes were forced open to our failings and we heard that death, which eventually transforms all into ashes, is our rightful payment. Except it doesn't end there. The season of Lent offers us the prospect to reflect on how we might be still and let God be God. The Disciplines of Lent—giving, fasting, and prayer—are the means for being still and seeing God alive and around us at all times. We grow in Lent to understand just how much—in spite of our failings—God loves us.

And as we continue this journey together, remember your church during this time of transition in your prayers, and worship the God who, in the face of death, offers life!

Peace and Joy,

The Reverend Darryl W. Kozak

Interim Pastor



Book Group Notes

At our February meeting, it was decided we should skip March (Lent) rather than April, so please note there will be no meeting this month. Instead we will go to the third Thursday in April, April 20, which is the Thursday after Easter.

We will just move the March book selection to April: *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. It's a popular book, so you may want to get your name on a wait list at the library! The meeting will be hosted by Sylvia Herman at her home in La Mesa. Please join us for camaraderie and good conversation.

First Lutheran at the Padres

Sunday May 7th vs. the Dodgers @1:40PM

Mark your calendars now for a Second Sunday Social (but actually on the first Sunday) at Petco Park on Sunday May 7th! Watch the Padres take on the Dodgers at 1:40PM, and connect with your fellow First Lutherans. Tickets are in a block together and we will sell out! See Shaun Travers at the 9AM service to make ticket reservations, text/call (858) 663-6288, or e-mail shaun_travers@yahoo.com. Tickets are \$20 per person. We will walk over after the second service together!

Ask Shaun for more details!



Looking Forward – Council Update

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

At his first meeting with the Council on Feb. 21, Pr. Darryl Kozak set a forward-looking tone during the devotion by reading Jer. 29:11-14. Verse 11 reads, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” In that spirit, the Council took the following actions:

1. Accepted the financial reports for January 2017. Income is about what was projected, and expenses are somewhat less than budgeted. Because one month’s data is inconclusive, the Council will provide a more detailed breakdown after the accountant closes the books for February.
2. Elected a Treasurer. Aaron Robinson’s schedule makes serving as Treasurer infeasible this year, and Kem Taylor is willing to serve. Therefore, the Council elected Kem to take over the Treasurer’s duties starting Mar. 1.
3. Accepted reports and updates.
 - Dan Kjonegaard, chair of the property committee, is working with ServPro to remove mold and restore water damaged areas. We can expect the chapel and sacristy to be closed 5-10 days when the next phase of work begins.
 - Anke Hartung is leading the effort to update First Lutheran’s website and will be contacting consultants for estimates to re-create it within a WordPress theme. Once the website is in WordPress, someone without an IT background will be able to update it easily; the current format requires considerable expertise.
 - Carol Schultz is reviewing ELCA constitution updates adopted in September 2016. She anticipates having a draft revised constitution for Council review in April and draft revised bylaws for Council review in May. First Lutheran’s current constitution dates from 2005 and its bylaws from 1989.
 - Dick Krueger is developing procedures for handling funds, using a template provided by Christ Lutheran, which was First Lutheran’s partner in auditing each congregation’s financial procedures in 2016. He expects to have a draft of procedures for collections for Council review in April and a draft of comprehensive fund procedures for Council review in September.
4. Authorized a gift of First Lutheran’s history. The Council approved a gift to the San Diego History Center of ‘Churches in San Diego, Record of Service 1902-1906’ (a scrapbook from First Lutheran’s early days). Richard Phillips had arranged to have the History Center stabilize the scrapbook’s pages to keep it intact, something we were unable to do. This gift will allow the History Center to make a valuable piece of San Diego’s history available to the public while preserving an important part of First Lutheran’s past.

As Council members, we take seriously our responsibility to work in the best interests of the congregation. If you have a question or concern, please talk with a Council member so we can address it.

God’s Peace to you all,

Your 2017 Council

Finding Common Ground – A 10:10 Discussion of a Different Sort

by Carol J. Schultz

At First Lutheran, we take pride in being a place where any question can be asked. On Feb. 19, I was privileged to facilitate a dialogue among 25 members that demonstrated the power of that philosophy in a non-theological setting. There we talked about the significance of the kiosk in the church narthex, which had become the epicenter of a disagreement. Thank you to everyone who participated! The discussion was open and informative, and I want to summarize key points for those who couldn’t attend.

2017 Council Officers:

President: Kathryn Kanaan

Vice President: Dan Kjonegaard

Treasurer: Kem Taylor

Secretary: Carol Schultz

Council Members:

Mark Deffner, Joe DeMers, Anke Hartung, Sylvia Herman, Dick Krueger, Carol McGrath, Aaron Robinson, and Robin Withers.



As you may recall, this issue came to light at the congregation meeting on Jan. 22 when several members questioned the Council's decision to remove the kiosk, which had become a maintenance problem, and replace it with a bulletin board. Time was too short at the congregation meeting for the kind of discussion that would be beneficial, so the Council decided to conduct a 10:10 to discuss people's concerns. Here are the highlights.

We began by asking people to complete the sentence, "At this meeting, I would like to ..." and got these responses.

- Learn the history and significance of the kiosk.
- Seek resolution for dealing with the kiosk and other gifts to First Lutheran.
- Recognize the symbolism of the kiosk.
- Conduct due diligence regarding choices and changes in a way that honors tradition.
- Learn what is important to us and how we express it.
- Listen – to understand history as well as to find a way forward.
- Discuss how we make decisions together at a time when we're dealing with loss.
- Honor our history and celebrate our future.

Several people shared information that wasn't widely known.

- The kiosk was built and donated by a former member at the time when First Lutheran was renovating the sanctuary and narthex (1998-99). It provided a moveable location for printed information during a period when the physical footprint of the church was changing.
- The architects guiding the renovations envisioned unornamented walls throughout the narthex and lounge, with the exception of the cross that formerly hung in the sanctuary. This vision produced a clean, modern, well-lighted area in which people first experience the church's interior. The overall effect was to change a nondescript space into one that easily was identified as a church. (Note that artwork hangs from fixed rails that were not envisioned by the architects; however, art is limited to the lounge.)

In the discussion that followed, we acknowledged several important considerations.

- Much of First Lutheran's history is maintained by oral tradition known to a relative few members. Difficulty can arise when the Council or other decision maker (*e.g.*, pastor) acts without knowing this oral history.
- A dilemma presents when decision makers don't realize an item has history/significance and those who know the history don't know change is being contemplated.

Going forward, we will incorporate the following actions to work together better.

- Identify those individuals who are the oral historians and make those names available to the Council and other decision makers so they can consult if they have any questions about proposed changes.
- Provide advance notice of a potentially significant change so people can respond with facts to inform the decision. Notice might be through the Sunday bulletin, Pulsebeat newsletter, kiosk posting, or Facebook.
- Several people observed the kiosk's style is incongruous with the church's architecture. Francie Montgomery volunteered she knows someone who might be able to redesign it to blend better.
- Jared Jacobson suggested conducting tours of First Lutheran's facilities (one indoors and one outdoors) to review the history of the building and grounds for anyone interested. The group responded enthusiastically. Jared is willing to participate in setting up these tours, and he suggested scheduling them during the Easter season following Easter Sunday.
- Sue White volunteered to maintain the kiosk by regularly removing materials that don't belong in or on it.

In summary, because we opened up to each other, we gained an understanding that we wouldn't have otherwise. As we continue our transition to a permanent pastor, we may encounter similar issues. For me, and I hope for other participants, this experience has confirmed the value of listening to each other, knowing that we all have the best interests of First Lutheran at heart.



Support of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services in Lent

The following is an excerpt from a January 31, 2017 letter to congregations by Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop of the ELCA:

"People of faith helped start and still sustain the refugee resettlement program in the United States following World War II. As Lutherans, many of our ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and the joy of being welcomed in new communities across the United States. As we have done throughout history, millions of Lutherans across the country honor our shared biblical values as well as the best of our nation's traditions by offering refuge to those most in need. We are committed to continuing ministries of welcome that support and build communities around the country and stand firmly against any policies that result in scaling back the refugee resettlement program."

First Lutheran is responding to this call by supporting the critical work of LIRS in assisting refugees to find new homes. Our goal during Lent is to raise \$3000. An unprecedented 65.3 million people have been displaced around the world due to war and persecution, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). There have never been this many displaced people on Earth. Check the immigration poster in our lobby for more information and help us reach our goal and extend a healing welcome to families torn from their homes by violence. Checks can be made out to First Lutheran Church and marked "LIRS," or you may use a Sunday offering envelope marked "LIRS" for your gift, and place it in the offering or leave it in the church office.

Lenten MidWeek Schedule

4:00PM: Yoga or Walk

5:40PM: Soup & Salad Supper

6:30PM: Holden Evening Prayer

7:00PM: Lenten Classes

If you wish to sign up for either yoga or the walk, and/or one of the classes, please fill out the insert in the bulletins, or contact the church office.

Lenten devotional booklets, written by members of First Lutheran, are available in the lounge on Sunday mornings.

Synod Assembly

Synod Assembly will be held May 11-13 in Mission Valley. We are looking for one man and one woman to attend as representatives of First. If you are interested in going, please talk to any council member or Pastor soon!

March Birthdays

1: Henry Carter	16: Jim Campbell
3: Erika Fekas	18: Jared Jacobsen
5: George Falk	18: Amy Brothers
6: Samuel DeMers	18: Anke Hartung
7: Hannah Jensen	20: Todd Ruth
8: Bradley Horton	20: Owen Valencia
8: Scarlett Pease	21: Paul Johnson
9: Sharon Province	22: James Ehlers
11: Ryan Shiek	22: Mark Hartzell
11: Robin Withers	23: Allison Emery
13: Melodie Baker	27: Sharon Brown
15: Wayne Boss	29: Gary Kashefska
16: Alexis Becker	29: Paul Finneseth

TACO Corner

Hello everyone, I hope that the New Year is treating you well so far. Here at the Third Avenue Charitable Organization, a busy holiday season has continued into 2017! We have been lucky to host many of you for our twice weekly meals, and appreciate all your time, interest, and donations.



Speaking of donations, we have had a record amount of clothing, hygiene items, and other items come in over the past four months. While storage is sometimes an issue, I like to view it as a "good problem" to have. Indeed, sitting in my office right now, I am surrounded by numerous bags, boxes, and cartons of donations!

To all of you that have given, we at TACO deeply thank you. Please know that we have renewed our efforts to not only sort and organize your donations more quickly, but have made it a priority to give things out a.s.a.p. After all, the items don't benefit anyone sitting on a shelf. If there are any requests I could make it would be for men's underwear sizes S-L and for blankets. These are especially popular/necessary during the cold damp weather, and are given out quickly.

Thank you for your time, and blessings to all of you for 2017. I hope many of you can make it to TACO soon, and I look forward to seeing you!

—Brad Young, TACO Volunteer Coordinator



Second Sunday Socials

2017 will be yet another great year of fellowship here at First Lutheran. Last month the church kicked off the Second Sunday Socials with a gathering on the actual Second Sunday for Bocce Ball, brews, and food at Stone in Liberty Station. Thank you to Shaun Travers for organizing that event for the congregation. In March we are planning an outing to East Village Tavern + Bowl on the THIRD Sunday (March 19th). Yes, Second Sunday Social on the Third Sunday does not roll off the tongue, but there are lanes available so join us for a family friendly couple of hours knocking down pins. In April we have an opportunity to attend a San Diego Gulls game on Friday the 7th; the game begins at 7:00PM at the Valley View Casino Center. Then on May 7th we will organize our annual Padres trip. More details on the ball game are in the article on page 1.

Other socials to look forward to include a concert at Bird Park, Pride Parade Watching Party, Annual Picnic, a bonfire on the beach, a November trip back to the Hot Spot, and our December Caroling. We always need members to help with the socials, so give me a call, email (aaronarobinson@gmail.com), or text (619-980-1885) if you have a social you want to plan, or want to help with one of the ideas above.

Look for sign-ups for these two events on the kiosk this Sunday. (The next 2 Social sign-ups should always be on the kiosk)

March 19: Bowling @ East Village Tavern + Bowl, 1:00PM

~\$15 per bowler for 2 hours of bowling

April 7: San Diego Gulls Hockey game @ Valley View Casino Sports Arena, 7:00PM for \$17

Your Second Sunday Social Secretary,

Aaron Robinson



Meeting Pastor Pete

First and TACO were honored to have a Pastor from Toledo, Ohio here for several days to worship with us on Sunday, attend our Second Sunday Social at Stone Brewing Company in Liberty Station, and observe and participate in the TACO meals and clinics and Monday. Pastor Pete Bowmer, who was introduced in the first service, has a similar but smaller ministry like TACO in their church. He was looking to pick Jim Lovell's brain about the transition from small ministry to a 501(c)(3) and how we both do the dance of space usage, resource usage, and love for the community. He was a very peaceful person, could listen to him speak for hours with his Australian accent, and a truly gracious Pastor. Here are a couple of things he included in the thank-you email received from him:

Dear Kathryn, Pastor Darryl and Jim,

Thank you so much for your hospitality over the last few days. It has been awesome.

It was a pure pleasure to worship with you on Sunday. Your congregation is truly blessed to have a musician who is not only proficient but emotionally sensitive to the mood of the worshipping community. I wish every congregation had a Jared! It is a real tribute to your leadership and your members that you are such a welcoming community.

I'd love to say bocce ball on Sunday was terrific, but seeing as I did not even pick up a ball, I cannot! But the company and beer was spectacular!

TACO is everything I have dreamed a vital church could be. Again you are blessed with magnificent staff and volunteers and guests. I truly believe that God entrusts this sort of mission only to those who God trusts will nurture his children. Believe me when I say that God is trusting you to do his work and God's children are being nurtured in the heart of San Diego.

What else can I say? I have been refreshed, inspired and blessed to be in your presence. Thank you for taking so much time to show me around.

Hasta la vista and Cheers,

Pastor Pete Bowmer



*Pastor Pete with his wife,
Madonna*



First Lutheran Worship Assistants – March & April

ALTAR GUILD

MARCH

9:00 a.m. Service

Erika Fekas

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

APRIL

9:00 a.m. Service

Dorothy Hunter

11:00 a.m. Service

Penny Corrigan

USHERS

MARCH

9:00 a.m. Service

Nate & Naomi Pratt

11:00 a.m. Service

Luke Williams &

Ladonna Piper

APRIL

9:00 a.m. Service

Sharon Province & John Hoff

11:00 a.m. Service

Penny Corrigan &

Robin Withers

Date	Time	Assisting Minister/ Deacon	Lector	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
March 5	9:00 11:00	Brian Shuman Gary Muhlback	George Falk Elizabeth Connolly	John Hoff Slevcoves	George & Ethel Falk	
March 12	9:00 11:00	Frank Jessie Robin Withers	Sylvia Herman Nancy Eckert	Pat Hendrickson Elizabeth Connolly	Dennis Arenas & David Oakes	
March 19	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Mary Ann Horton	Jan Neuhaus Matt Eckert	George & Ethel Falk Melinda Person	Etzels	
March 26	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Paul Finneseth	Carol Schultz Melody Ruth	Shaun Travers _____	Boeckelman/ DeMers	
April 2	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Luke Williams	Martha DeMers Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves		Robin Withers
April 9	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Robin Withers	Marjorie Wahlsten Martha Radatz	Kem Taylor Elizabeth Connolly		
April 16 (Easter)	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Mary Ann Horton	Will Pierce Pr Lee Wesley	Chuck Leib & Frank DeLouise Ladonna Piper	Easter Potluck	



March 2017 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm Ash Wed Svc 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic 7 pm Ash Wed Svc	2 12 pm AI Anon	3 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	4
5 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	6 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	7 12 pm AI Anon	8 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 4:30 pm Yoga or Walk 5 pm Dental Clinic 5:45 pm Supper 6:30 pm Holden 7 pm Classes	9 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	10 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	11 9 am Volunteer Landscaping
12 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	13 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	14 12 pm AI Anon	15 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 4:30 pm Yoga or Walk 5 pm Dental Clinic 5:45 pm Supper 6:30 pm Holden 7 pm Classes	16 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	17 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	18
19 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	20 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	21 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 pm Church Council	22 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 4:30 pm Yoga or Walk 5 pm Dental Clinic 5:45 pm Supper 6:30 pm Holden 7 pm Classes	23 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	24 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	25
26 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 3:00 German Svc	27 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	28 12 pm AI Anon	29 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 4:30 pm Yoga or Walk 5 pm Dental Clinic 5:45 pm Supper 6:30 pm Holden 7 pm Classes	30 12 pm AI Anon	31 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	

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

The PULSEBEAT
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First Lutheran Church
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1420 Third Avenue
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First Lutheran Church
The Rev. Darryl W. Kozak, 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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Easter Lilies

Once again this year, you will have an opportunity to help adorn our worship space with white lilies on Easter Sunday, April 16. The cost this year is \$17 per plant, and they may be given in honor of, or in memory of, people who have been important to you. Forms for these will be available in the Sunday bulletins for the next several weeks, or you may contact our parish administrator, Hannah DeMers, through the church office.



“Keepsake” Hymnals Available

Volunteers are hard at work organizing the limited storage spaces around our church building, and they have uncovered a number of much-loved but now out-of-date hymnals. Free copies of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (“The Green Book”) and the first edition of *Gather* will be available by the main doors of our sanctuary on the last two Sundays of March. Please help yourselves to as many as you like!

Jared Jacobsen, Director of Music

Living Lutheran Magazine

The *Living Lutheran* magazine provides the latest news, regional and global mission stories, spiritual reflections and resources from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Renamed the *Living Lutheran* last year, it is an excellent means to receive information on our shared mission and ministry in the ELCA. The cost of a yearly subscription is \$15. This special rate covers the cost of the magazine and helps support subscriptions to our shut-in members. If you wish to re-subscribe, newly subscribe or support this ministry please place a check for \$15 in envelope payable to “First Lutheran Church” noting “Living Lutheran” in the memo line.



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