



May 2017

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

Dear faithful First family and friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With those words, on Easter Sunday, we announced yet again the mystery of the Resurrection of Christ. We brought out that wonderful word “Alleluia” that had been buried, left unspoken for the season of Lent. And then joyfully—and *enthusiastically*—we proclaimed that Christ is risen! Alleluia! Just what is Alleluia and why is it such a powerful word for the Church?



Alleluia or Hallelujah is a word that means, roughly, Praise God. It appears 24 times in the Old Testament (mainly in the Psalms) and 4 times in the New Testament book of Revelation. And in case you were curious, on our Easter Sunday celebration a couple of weeks ago, we sang, chanted, or spoke “Alleluia” an unbelievable 236 times! We certainly did quite of bit of “Praising God” while celebrating the Resurrection of Christ. But the Alleluias haven’t subsided just yet. We will continue to proclaim and shout Praise God as an Alleluia as we continue our Easter journey during the seasons of Easter. So, two questions have been on my mind as I’ve been wondering, “How do you praise God?” and “How do you live out an ‘Alleluia’ in your own life?”

Certainly, we praise God as we gather for worship. As this First family of faith, our voices collectively declare our vocal praise for the One who brought us into this relationship. In other words, with our voices—individually and as a community—we declare our praise to God out loud. But here are some other ways you Praise God that I’d like you to think about.

We praise God with our bodies. Think about the times in our worship service that you “move around” while sharing the Peace of Christ. Or think about when our bodies get up from our seats and we gather at the Table to feast on the Presence of Christ. Or think about those times when we “cross” ourselves in honoring the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Each of these is a praising of God in one way or another.

We praise God with our thoughts and minds as we read Scripture, letting it work in, through, and among our entire beings. Sometimes, we read these words out loud, but perhaps at home in your quiet, personal devotional lives, those words are uttered silently as your eyes move along the pages of your Bible or iPhone or Kindle or some other way of engaging your eyes with the words. As you do this, you are praising God with these Words written for the nurturing of your faith.

Are there other ways you live out an Alleluia? Ways in which you Praise God beyond speaking words? The point, of course, of all of this is that our Alleluias are not just spoken praises through words. Rather, we can praise God with our actions and deeds. We can Praise God when we give our time and talents and treasures.

But for now, I’d like to end with another **ALLELUIA** because sometimes, that word itself is the best word as it evokes and conveys the ultimate Praise to our Risen Christ and the love of God for each of us.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Darryl



FLC is seeking two Church Nursery Care Givers to provide a safe and loving environment for infants and preschool children (infants to 5 years old) during Sunday worship and adult education classes. Responsibilities include: staff nursery Sundays 8:45AM-12:00PM, interact and play with children, and keep nursery secure at all times. Requirements include: Two-plus years of child care experience, infant and child CPR Certification, First

Aid Certification, background check, and references.

For complete details or questions: Robin Withers at 858-699-9550 or rwithers@avid.org.

Email resume and references: firstlutheransnursery@gmail.com





Easter Reflection: Council Update

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

Three years ago, I was a member of Grace Lutheran in Boulder, CO, when Easter Sunday greeted us with fresh snow! Although pure white snow has marvelous Easter symbolism, I'm delighted to be in San Diego again where we celebrate Easter with warm sun and ocean breezes. And to be at First Lutheran where Easter joy resounds throughout the worship service. Of course, then Monday comes and what happens? At our April Council meeting, President Kathryn Kanaan led us in reflecting on ways to keep the Easter spirit alive in the days that follow that magnificent celebration. No one mentioned meeting for 2.5 hours to discuss the business of being "the heart of Christ in the heart of the City," but that's what we did.

At the Council's meeting on April 18, 2017, we focused on the following items.

- **Finances:** Although January and February income was higher than projected, the accountant's most recent financial report indicates income declined during March. Overall, income for the year to date is about 5-7% less than projected in the 2017 budget. The Financial Committee is keeping a close eye on our financial picture, and the Council is minimizing spending on discretionary budget items as promised at the annual congregation meeting. Everyone's careful attention to expenditures has kept them below the amounts budgeted so First Lutheran continues to operate in the black.
- **TACO's Lift Project:** For more than a year, TACO has been refining a plan to install a lift that would carry people and supplies to their second floor office and clinic space. Now, with the help of donated matching funds, they are within about \$7,500 of the total required. TACO is planning a targeted campaign to individual donors to achieve this goal. Because the Council decided to keep First Lutheran's contributor records confidential, TACO will base its appeal on its own donor records including First Lutheran members who've donated to TACO. (Note that most Council members are not privy to First Lutheran's contributor records.) Please watch the kiosk in the lounge for updates from TACO.
- **Property:** The Property Committee and a group of hardy individuals have cleaned and repaired walls, baseboards, windows, and furniture as well completed small jobs too numerous to mention in order to make First Lutheran shine for Easter Sunday. And they still have a list of items to be tackled. In the near future, you will have an opportunity to let the Committee know about your skills for these tasks. Please respond enthusiastically; we save a significant amount of money this way.
- **October Retreat:** Pr. Darryl Kozak and Spiritual Director Beth Slevcove are in the early planning stages for a retreat Oct. 13-15, 2017, at the Franciscan Retreat Center at Old Mission San Luis Rey near Oceanside CA. Stay tuned for further information.

As you look for ways to celebrate Easter in the mundane parts of your week, please pause to give thanks for our life together at First Lutheran and our partnership with TACO. And remember that Council members welcome your questions and concerns.

God's Peace to you all,

Your 2017 Council

Council Goals

The council was listening to what was revealed in the last summary from the Transition Team and would like to give you goals that we set for ourselves for this year. We understand that these are not a part of a strategic plan and its goals, and those will be incorporated into discussion points when we get a new Pastor. In the meantime, we do wish to open the lines of communication more with these printed goals and where we are with them, and we also to invite you to attend a council meeting or volunteer to help with any that move your heart. We are listening and will be incorporating new themes prior to calling a new pastor, and making

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.



changes once the pastor comes. Thank you for the openness in feelings and ideas.

- **Policies, procedures, and documentation:** Completing an audit, setting standard practices for groups using the facilities (forms, fees, etc.), updating the Constitution and Bylaws to be compliant with ELCA guidelines, send thank you notes to non-member large givers
- **Outreach to neighboring churches:** get to know each other's ministries, interdenominational clergy meetings to keep connected with the pulse, youth participate in national conferences and local events (i.e. with Pastor Karen's youth)
- **Formalize facility maintenance:** time and talents survey, who and when to call for issues, enact workday group
- **Improve pledge process**
- **Staff:** goals for 2017, Jared's Chautauqua dates, update/create job descriptions
- **Music:** expand choir, special music throughout year
- **Be more welcoming to members and guests:** reemphasize our bond during transition, contact members that have been missing, new visitor follow-up by greeter committee
- **Children participate in both services:** children sing in church on a set schedule to create excitement with parents and grandparents, help with offering during first service, acolyte, have a Youth Sunday
- **Commune in groups:** try something new this summer
- **Plan for growth:** outreach to community, new member classes

Transition Team News:

The Transition Team has been busy at work. You may recall that when Bishop Finck visited our congregation at the time that Pastor Miller was leaving, he assured us that the Transition/Call process has been used, successfully, by many congregations within the ELCA. We are following that process closely. We knew the transition process would begin toward the end of November 2016, and it did. The Transition Team was presented with a timeline to follow that would take us from November 2016 through mid-June 2017. Even with the untimely death of Pastor Larry we are on target to finish our work by mid-June. Shortly after that, we will meet with the Church Council and the Call Committee (which will be selected around then) to discuss our findings and supply those groups with a Ministry Site Profile. The Call Committee and the Church Council then take over the proves of finding our permanent pastor. The multiple surveys that we send and the focused conversations that we schedule assure that all members of the congregation have the opportunity to add their input to the process. We all want to find the right leader for our congregation. We are in excellent hands with Pastor Darryl until that permanent pastor is found. Thank you for working with us and supporting the Transition Team on the path to that goal.

Chuck Leib, Transition Team Chair

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

May 7: TACO 10:10: *What Is the Relationship Between TACO and First Lutheran Church?*

May 7: Watch for the next survey to be sent: *What Gifts Do We Need in Our Next Pastor?*

May 21: Focused Conversation #3 (a Sunday 10:10)

Dear Members of First Lutheran,

My mom and I received the amazing photo of my dad lighting the candle with the children, the beautiful devotional with his initials, and your thoughtful messages. Your constant love, support and prayers have meant so much to my mom and me. I know I have said this before, but I'll say it again: my dad loved your church. He spoke so highly of the congregation and your mission. We can't thank you enough for the love and openness you showed him. My dad dedicated his life to serving others, and in his passing, my mother and I are humbled by how much support has been given to us because of him. I want you all to know that my mom and I are okay. My mom is back at work, and I am back to school. Knowing how much my father was loved and how many lives he touched gives me so much peace. I feel so blessed to have been able to share him with your church. You all will forever be in our hearts and in our prayers.

Thank you so much again.

Love and peace,

The Koger family (Janae & Sharan)



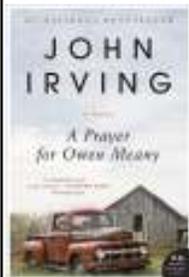
The Call Committee

The Transition Team is nearing the end of its task of building a Ministry Site Profile. The next major step in our journey toward selecting a permanent pastor for First Lutheran is to form the Call Committee that will make a recommendation to the congregation. The Call Committee will be selected by the Church Council in late June and will continue to meet until a new pastor is approved by the congregation. Past experiences have shown that it is very likely that the Call Committee will need six months or more to finalize its recommendation.

During this period the primary duties of the Call Committee will be to:

- Meet on a weekly basis
- Study the Ministry Site Profile that was prepared by the Transition Team
- Develop interview questions
- Review qualifications of prospective candidates submitted by the Synod
- Screen candidates and interview those who appear promising
- View or attend a sermon of those candidates
- Contact candidate references
- Notify the Synod if more candidates are desired
- Present a recommendation for congregation approval

In the next few weeks, the church will be asking for the names of members who would like to be considered for the Call Committee. A form is being developed where you will be asked to provide information about yourself. That information will then go to the Council, who will select a Call Committee that they believe is balanced and represents the congregation. **Please note that if you have previously stated you would like to be considered for the Call Committee, you will still be required to complete and submit one of these forms.**



Book Group Notes

Join FLC's Book Club for a discussion of John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

First Lutheran's book club continues to explore literature of all kinds, fiction and non-fiction, older favorites and hot new releases. The upcoming selection, John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany* is sure to generate an interesting conversation. We will meet at the home of Ladonna Piper on Thursday, May 18th at 7PM.

The novel, set in the 1950s in the prep school town of Gravesend, is an extraordinary account of friendship, coming of age, families, "normalcy," politics, faith, and doubt. The title character is an unusually small child—as an adult barely five feet tall—with a strange and striking voice that makes many people uneasy.

The only son of a New Hampshire granite quarrier and his odd and reclusive wife, Owen is best friends with Johnny Wheelwright, the narrator of the book and grandson of one of the town's most distinguished families. The friendship is sealed by a freak accident when Owen hits a baseball that kills Johnny's mother, Tabitha, who is just arriving at the game.

The remainder of the novel is a back-and-forth between past and present as Johnny searches for his identity—his mother is unmarried and never reveals the father's name—and Owen searches for his destiny—he believes that he is an instrument of God. Both searches have amazing resolutions.

We hope you will join us for fun, food, beverages (yes, wine—it's a book club!) and fellowship. All are welcome!

San Diego Pride Parade

Saturday, July 15 @11AM

We are looking to have a marching presence in the Pride Parade on July 15. If you are interested, please let Joe DeMers know so that we can submit an application. You can reach him at jdemers620@gmail.com or 619-829-3323.

New Member's Class

Pastor Darryl will be starting a class for anyone wishing to become a member of First Lutheran. Classes will be held 12:30-1:15 or 1:30PM on May 21, June 4, and June 11, using the book *Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life* by Daniel Erlander.

We will welcome our new members through the Affirmation of Baptism on June 25.



TACO Corner

Greetings everyone! Raise your hand if this year is passing much too quickly! Since spring is a time of renewal, I thought I would extend an open invitation for new volunteers. While many of your parishes already volunteer, we would love to have those of you that may have not had a chance to come in yet as well.

The meals that we serve at TACO provide not only sustenance, but a sense of community, family, and humanity to our guests. Many pieces must come together in order for this to occur, and central to this are the volunteers.

For those of you who are interested, our meals are served on Mondays at 4PM and Fridays at 9AM. We ask that volunteers arrive 30 minutes early for orientation and for a brief "circle" before the meal. Meals last about one hour, and our volunteers are done no later than 5:30PM on Mondays and 10:30AM on Fridays.

In addition, we give out donations of clothing, hygiene, and other items during the meal. If you are so inclined, we can always use athletic socks, men's and women's underwear (new), and travel-sized hygiene items.

We look forward to seeing all our regulars, and any new faces that would like to join us.

Have a blessed month.

—Brad Young, TACO Volunteer Coordinator
byoung@tacosd.org

Monastic |deals for the |deal Life

A Weekend Retreat led by Pastor Darryl and Beth Allen Slevcove

Have you ever wondered how monks "get away from it all" and live apart from the world? Have you ever thought about deepening your spiritual life with this 1500-year-old tradition? Then you're invited to join Pastor Darryl and Beth Slevcove as they lead a weekend retreat on exploring, discussing, and incorporating monastic practices and disciplines in our secular life. **The retreat will be held at the Old Mission San Luis Rey, Friday-Sunday, October 13-15. The cost is \$225.00 per person, double occupancy or \$275 per person, single occupancy, which includes all meals. The retreat is limited to 20 people. Deadline to register is August 20.** For more information, please speak with Pastor Darryl or email him at pastordarryl@firstlutheransd.org.



It's Spring Cleaning Time!

TACO Rummage Sale June 24th!

The 7th Annual "Homeless Treasures Rummage Sale" to benefit TACO will be held Saturday June 24 at Clairemont Lutheran Church (CLC). St. Andrew's Lutheran Church has been our generous host for 5 years, and it was time to give them a break. You may recall that CLC hosted us the very first year we had a Homeless Treasures, and we are delighted to be invited back.

In previous years we worked out of a storage unit for a couple of months prior to the sale. Instead, this year we will do what we are calling a "**One Week Blitz.**" **From Monday, June 19 to Thursday, June 22** we will accept, process, and set up all donations on site at CLC. Our previous method of handling donations was cumbersome, labor intensive, and costly, and after much thought, we decided to try a new model.

Hopefully, you're up for a little adventure and will jump in to help us make this a success! As in the past, there will be a great need for donations, as well as volunteers. Help us get the word out for both. The TACO Times (coming soon!) will have a sale flyer to put on your refrigerator, to post on a community or office bulletin board, and to share with your friends. We need you to be our eyes and ears...if you know someone who is moving, let them know about our sale and the wonderful work at TACO their donations will support. To volunteer or for more information, contact Martha Radatz (619-575-2845 or m28rz@cloud.com).

P.S. Save your donations and put June 24th on your calendar!!

May Birthdays

1: Kristen Munnik	11: Simon Alli	21: Diana Foley	29: Abrehet Berhan
5: Joe Slevcove	17: Mary Robinson	23: Katie Diepholz	29: Francie Montgomery
5: Meaghann Harbinson	18: Jeremy Kaercher	24: Leah Carter	30: Kathryn Kanaan
5: Mark Hallerberg	18: Sharon Carlson	25: Pat Hendrickson	30: Shelby Mehlow Morris
11: Dale Cleland	21: Kristin Westerman	29: Bill Radatz	31: Blair Siverts



First Lutheran Worship Assistants – May & June

ALTAR GUILD

MAY

9:00 a.m. Service

Susan White

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

JUNE

9:00 a.m. Service

Susan White

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

USHERS

MAY

9:00 a.m. Service

*James Boyd &
Merv Rettenmund*

11:00 a.m. Service

*Anke Hartung &
Melinda Person*

JUNE

9:00 a.m. Service

Dan & Rebecca Kjonegaard

11:00 a.m. Service

*Ruth Clayton &
Ladonna Piper*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
May 7	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Luke Williams	Shaun Travers Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	Melinda Person & Luke Williams	Melinda Person
May 14	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Mary Ann Horton	Jeremy Kaercher Elizabeth Connolly	Marjorie Wahlsten _____		Merv & Susan Rettenmund
May 21	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Robin Withers	Paul Engel Nancy Eckert	Kem Taylor Elizabeth Connolly		
May 28	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Gary Muhlback	Dennis Arenas Melody Ruth	Chuck Leib & Frank DeLouise _____		
June 4	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Paul Finneseth	Kem Taylor Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves		
June 11	9:00 11:00	Brian Shuman Luke Williams	Eric Sloniker Martha Radatz	Shaun Travers _____		
June 18	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Mary Ann Horton	Brian Shuman Matt Eckert	George & Ethel Falk _____		Mary & Aaron Robinson



May 2017 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	2 12 pm AI Anon	3 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	4 12 pm AI Anon	5 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	6
7 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	8 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	9 12 pm AI Anon	10 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	11 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	12 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	13 9 am Volunteer Landscaping
14 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER'S DAY 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	15 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	16 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 pm Church Council	17 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	18 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	19 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	20
21 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	22 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	23 12 pm AI Anon	24 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	25 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	26 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	27
28 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 3:00 German Svc	29 MEMORIAL DAY 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	30 12 pm AI Anon	31 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic			

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

The PULSEBEAT
 is a publication of
First Lutheran Church
 Edited by Hannah DeMers

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. 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

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

Return Service Requested



Sunday School

Our Sunday School year is coming to a close in the end of May (last day May 28). Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, we were able to provide engaging classes for two age groups each week. The Education Committee would like to thank all of our teachers and assistant teachers for their time and commitment to this important ministry:

Paul Engel, Kathryn Kanaan, Sophia Lovell, Francie Montgomery, Gary Muhlbach, Kara Oien, Monica Paul, Martha Radatz, Marie Ruth, Melody Ruth, Shelly Schreiber, Beth Slevcove, Joe Slevcove, Rosemary Spruce, Susan White, Robin Withers. Classes will resume in September.



Baby Care Kits Collected During Advent

The 44 kits that were collected during Advent were boxed up and sent to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul, MN, in January. We were recently notified that the kits that First Lutheran donated were sent to Georgia, part of the former USSR and an independent country since 1991. Russia has been at war with Georgia since 2008, attempting to annex it and abolish their independence. This conflict has left many vulnerable citizens homeless, displaced, or orphaned.

Thanks again to everyone who helped to make First Lutheran's Baby Care Kit drive a success!



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