



December 2017

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

Advent & Christmas 2017

December 3 – First Sunday of 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 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

9 & 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

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

+

December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

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

+

December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

7:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Festival Candlelight Service

+

December 31 – First Sunday of Christmas Carol Mass

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. – Holiday Potluck Brunch



Church Office Closure

The First Lutheran Church Office will be closed December 23-January 1. Pastor Darryl will be checking his emails and phone calls, in case of a pastoral emergency.



Annual Congregational Meeting Part II

The second half of the Annual Congregational Meeting will take place at 10:10 a.m. on Sunday, January 21. We will be approving the 2017 Annual Report and ratifying the updated Constitution and Bylaws.

Please plan to attend.



Dear faithful First family and friends,

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

Happy New Year! No, don't worry, I didn't accidentally turn my calendar to January nor do I want to end 2017 too quickly. But in the Liturgical or Church Calendar, we are at the beginning of our new Liturgical year.

Our calendar begins on the first Sunday of Advent, which is always the fourth Sunday before ChristMass day (incidentally, you'll notice that I deliberately spelled Christmas as ChristMass—I'll get to that later). Since Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before ChristMass, it therefore includes the four Sundays leading up to the Festival of ChristMass. This year, those Sundays are December 3, 10, 17, and 24.

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "to come." (*Adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used in reference to the Second Coming.) During the Advent season we prepare for the coming birth of Christ, and for the renewal of our faith. But we also reflect on the coming of God's realm in all of its fullness at the end of time, that is, the Second Coming. The Messiah is a central focus during Advent. *Messiah* is, of course, a Hebrew word meaning "anointed one." The word *Messiah* refers to someone chosen and designated by God for a particular task, usually involving leadership. In ancient times it came to mean a Savior, the one who would free the people from oppression. The Greek word for "anointed one" is *Christos* or Christ. Christians are those who recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah. That is why we call Jesus "The Christ" and name ourselves Christians, or as I like to say, Christ-followers.



Another focus of Advent is Penitence. It is during this time of celebration that we are called to turn away from destructive behavior and "make the paths straight" in our world. Each week in Advent we hear readings from the Hebrew Scripture/Old Testament prophets: Jeremiah, Malachi, Isaiah, and others. We also hear about John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah, who speaks to us about and points us to God's promised one. The Church has observed Advent as this preparation for Christmas since the middle of the 5th century, so it's an old tradition in our faith.

Several themes, such as repentance, darkness, hope, watchfulness, and preparation also permeate the Advent readings, hymns, and other music. The mood for this season is a combination of expectancy, soberness, and austerity. In the Lutheran and Anglican churches, blue is the color for the season, although some may still use purple or violet.

The "Late Advent Weekdays," December 17-24, mark the singing of the Great Advent "O antiphons." These are the antiphons for the *Magnificat* (the Blessed Virgin Mary's Song of Praise) at Vespers, or Evening Prayer (in the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches) and Evensong (in Anglican churches) each day, and mark the forthcoming birth of the Messiah. They form the basis for each verse of the popular Advent hymn, "O come, O come, Emmanuel." With Advent's end, then, comes the Festival of ChristMass.

The word *Christmas* originated as a compound meaning "Christ's Mass." It is derived from the Middle English *Christemasse* and Old English *Cristes mæsse*, a phrase first recorded in 1038. "Cristes" is from Greek *Christos* and "mæsse" is from Latin *missa*. We celebrate ChristMass on December 25th, but that's only the beginning. The ChristMass Season continues for twelve days after Christmas Day (remember that notorious "Twelve Days of Christmas" song?). It begins December 25 and ends on the eve of January 5th, the eve of Epiphany Day.

Because Christmas begins with Christmas Eve (December 24th), it's appropriate and liturgically correct to reserve our favorite Christmas carols and hymns for Christmastide. This may seem strange because, after all, even before Thanksgiving we see stores filled with Christmas decorations while some radio stations only play Christmas music. However, when we hold off singing these hymns until Christmas Eve, we bear witness to this great season without neglecting the preparation of Advent. Like Lent, Advent sets our minds in this preparatory state so we can better celebrate the miracle of the Nativity (that is "birth") of Our Lord. The color for Christmas is white.



So, the season of Advent has its own unique purpose and hymnody preparing us to fully enjoy the season of Christmas when we celebrate that miracle of God's Son, Jesus, coming down to become a tiny, fragile, baby boy some two thousand years ago. He is indeed the greatest Christmas gift anyone could ever hope for, that same One whom we sing about in the great Advent hymn:

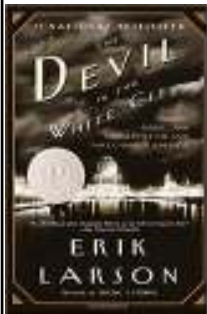
*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, #254)

Peace and Joy,

The Rev. Darryl W. Kozak
Intentional Interim Pastor

Book Group Notes



In order to give ourselves more time to settle into the holy season of Advent, **we will not meet** in December. However, if you want to get a head start, our January selection is *The Devil in the White City* by Eric Larson. Look for more information in your January Pulsebeat.

Pledge Cards

There's still time to turn in your 2018 pledges! If you haven't received your 2018 pledge card, or if you have lost it, there is one on the bottom half of the insert in your Pulsebeat. Please return them as soon as possible! These pledge cards are what let the church council make the budget for 2018. You may turn them in by email, or snail mail, or in the offering basket in person, we just ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge and turn them in. Our ministries are important here at our corner of Third and Ash, as we are 'The Heart of Christ in the Heart of the City.'

New Member Classes

Have you been considering officially becoming a member of First Lutheran Church? If so, Pastor Darryl will be leading a **new members' class on the following Sundays: January 14, 21, and 28**. Classes will be held in the Chapel from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. **The new members will officially join on Sunday, February 4**. Please note that attendance at each class is required.

If you have any questions, or wish to enroll in the classes, please contact Pastor Darryl at pastordarryl@firstlutheransd.org, or call the church office at 619-234-6149.

Blessings to you as you pray about becoming a member of First Lutheran Church!

Gifts
Crafts
Foods
(and food sampling)

Sunday
Dec. 3
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

11th Annual
Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair
At First Lutheran Church
1420 Third Ave. (3rd and Ash) San Diego

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 | |



Council Update: Preparing for One Year to End and Another to Begin

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

First Lutheran's Council has had the benefit of thought-provoking and heart-touching devotions throughout this year. November was no exception. Sylvia Herman offered a poem by Ruth Van Gorder, titled "Only Remember," which offers guidance when praying for others. It reads, in part:

I shall not pray to God for you
for what I think you would
like to have, or ought to have,
of gain or grace or good ...
only remember you with love
without the least request;
and God, who loves you more than I,
will do for you what's best.

With only one more Council meeting in 2017 and the annual congregation meeting scheduled between services on Dec. 10, 2017, the Council focused on assessing its progress toward meeting goals set at the beginning of the year.

1. **Facility Use Agreements.** First Lutheran now has a written agreement form, including proof of insurance, for occasional use of its facilities by other groups. AA, Al Anon, and similar organizations will be signing these agreements that define the times and areas of their use as well as their responsibilities for keeping First Lutheran clean and safe. Because TACO occupies the facilities on a continuing basis and has different needs from other organizations, it will have a unique agreement.
2. **Financial Procedures.** One of the benefits of reciprocal auditing between First Lutheran and Christ Lutheran (Pacific Beach) this year was a list of financial procedures or best practices, which the Council has adapted for First Lutheran's use. Although First Lutheran hasn't experienced any fiscal improprieties, having these best practices in writing for anyone who needs them will help ensure our good record continues.
3. **Constitution and Bylaws.** As you've heard, the Council has drafted an updated Constitution and Bylaws for First Lutheran. The last time First Lutheran updated its Constitution was 2005, and the last Bylaws revision was in 1989. The congregation will vote on them on Dec. 10.
4. **Council Election.** At the annual meeting on Dec. 10, the congregation will elect members to fill vacant Council seats. One seat is for two years and three other seats are for three years each. The Council has reviewed applications submitted by congregation members and will present a slate of four candidates at the annual meeting.
5. **Budget and Finances.** Drafting a budget for 2018 proved challenging because income through October is running behind both budgeted revenues and actual expenditures. Although end-of-year revenues usually exceed other times of the year, the Council can't predict them accurately. Further complicating matters is the fact that most of the budgeted expenditures are for non-discretionary items like mortgage payments, salaries, and utilities. In addition, expenses related to calling and relocating a new pastor that were budgeted for 2017 will carry over into 2018 as the call process continues. The Council will present an overview of the budget on Dec. 3 between services and will submit the budget for a congregational vote on Dec. 10.

As Council members, we are honored to work on behalf of First Lutheran's members. Please let us know your questions and comments on matters you care about.

2017 Council Officers:

President: Kathryn Kanaan

Vice President: Dan Kjongegaard

Treasurer: Kem Taylor

Secretary: Carol Schultz

Council Members:

Joe DeMers, Anke Hartung, Sylvia Herman, Dick Krueger, Carol McGrath, and Aaron Robinson.

God's Peace to you all,

Your 2017 Council



TACO Corner

Concrete Christmas



One of the traditions at Third and Ash, where First Lutheran Church and TACO (Third Avenue Charitable Organization) are located, is our annual CHRISTMAS drive. For the past twelve years, TACO has solicited donations used to buy sleeping bags, tarps, duffle bags, and other items useful to those living on the street, and wrapped them as Christmas gifts to our homeless neighbors.

Now, we're asking for your help to make this happen! A \$25 donation buys a single gift—even just one can be a great relief for someone in a vulnerable situation during the coldest and wettest part of the year. With your help, we can be better neighbors to the homeless community of downtown San Diego.

Over forty years ago, First Lutheran Church in downtown San Diego started "Bread Day," a program that baked bread and invited people to fellowship on the patio. Their hope was it would bring in people on a break from work, but largely those people did not come.

Instead, they began to meet a new set of neighbors: the homeless, working poor, and low-income elderly of downtown San Diego. And Bread Day served them as it had served those before them. In 1995, First Lutheran sought to expand the services they provided, and so Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) was born, a 501(c)3 organization that now provides not only meals but also social services, counseling, an end-of-life program for those terminally ill on the street, clothes, and hygiene items. We also partner with educational institutions to provide free clinics: medical (with the UCSD Free Clinic Project), dental (with the Pre-Dental Society of San Diego County), legal (with the Community Law Project at Cal Western School of Law), and acupuncture (with the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine).



The wrapped gifts will serve as the backdrop for the First Lutheran Church Children's Christmas Pageant, which will be held during the 11:00 service on December 17.

Join us on Saturday, December 16, from 9:00 a.m. until noon for our Volunteer Appreciation and Gift Wrapping events in the church lounge. We will be wrapping Christmas gifts, sharing fellowship, and appreciating our volunteers.

We look forward to seeing you there.



FLC Sunday School Schedule



Our annual Children's Christmas Pageant will take place during the 11:00 service on December 17. Children of all ages are welcome to participate. We'll be preparing for the pageant during Sunday school on December 3 and 10, and between services on December 17.

For more information, please see Joe Slevcove.

There will be **no** Sunday school classes on December 24 and December 31. Classes will resume on January 7.





First Lutheran Worship Assistants – December & January

ALTAR GUILD

DECEMBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Peggy Quintana

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

JANUARY

9:00 a.m. Service

Carol McGrath

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

USHERS

DECEMBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Peggy & Tony Quintana

11:00 a.m. Service

Melinda Person & Ladonna Piper

JANUARY

9:00 a.m. Service

Ruthann Maxwell &

Carol McGrath

11:00 a.m. Service

Ruth Clayton &

Ladonna Piper

| Date | Time | Assisting Minister | Lector | Greeters | Nursery Attendants | Flowers |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| December 3 | 9:00 11:00 | Ronn Garton Debby Hays | Jim Ehlers Joe Slevcove | Sylvia Herman Slevcoves | _____ _____ | Ladonna Piper |
| December 10 | 9:00 11:00 | Brian Shuman Beth Slevcove | Frank DeLouise Elizabeth Connolly | Pat Hendrickson Elizabeth Connolly | _____ _____ | Marie Ruth |
| December 17 | 9:00 11:00 | Nate Pratt Luke Williams | Chuck Leib Nancy Eckert | Kem Taylor Ruth Clayton | _____ _____ | |
| December 24 | 10:00 7:30 | Kathryn Kanaan Mary Ann Horton | Lynne Falcon Shaun Travers | Kevin Vallone George & Ethel Falk | _____ _____ | |
| December 31 | 10:00 | Paul Finneseth | Martha Radatz | Marlene Garich | | |
| January 7 | 9:00 11:00 | Jan Neuhaus Gary Mulbach | Melody Ruth Joe Slevcove | John Hoff Slevcoves | _____ _____ | |
| January 14 | 9:00 11:00 | Richard Phillips Debby Hays | Russ Hoxie Matthew Eckert | Shaun Travers Elizabeth Connolly | _____ _____ | |



December 2017 Calendar of Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9 am Worship 10 am Fair Trade Fair 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality | 4 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics | 5 12 pm AI Anon | 6 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 1:15 Bible Study 5 pm Dental Clinic 6:30 Bible Study | 7 12 pm AI Anon | 1 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA <hr/> 8 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA | 2 <hr/> 9 |
| 10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality | 11 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics | 12 12 pm AI Anon | 13 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 1:15 Bible Study 5 pm Dental Clinic 6:30 Bible Study | 14 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP | 15 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA | 16 |
| 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality | 18 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics | 19 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 pm Church Council | 20 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 1:15 Bible Study 5 pm Dental Clinic 6:30 Bible Study | 21 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP | 22 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA | 23 |
| 24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS EVE 10 am Worship 11:10 Hospitality 4 pm German Svc 7:30 Candlelight Svc | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal | 26 Office Closed 12 pm AI Anon | 27 Office Closed 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic | 28 Office Closed 12 pm AI Anon | 29 Office Closed 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA | 30 |
| 31 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 10 am Worship 11:30 Holiday Potluck | | | | | | |

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

Constitution and Bylaws—Notice of Upcoming Vote on December 10

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

Here's one more reminder of this important event.

First Lutheran members will have the opportunity to vote on their revised Constitution and Bylaws at between worship services on December 10, 2017. If you would like your own copy to review, please contact Hannah DeMers, Office Administrator.

A little background is in order.

First Lutheran follows the Model Constitution approved by the ELCA, which mandates that congregations adopt the majority of the provisions in its Model Constitution. Since First Lutheran updated its Constitution in 2005, the ELCA has adopted two revisions. The Council already has submitted First Lutheran's draft Constitution to the Pacifica Synod for review and comment. After First Lutheran's congregation votes, we will submit the Constitution to the Pacifica Synod for final approval.

Bylaws are a simpler matter, at least in terms of adoption. Only congregational approval is required. However, the last time First Lutheran revised its Bylaws was 1989, and both First Lutheran and nonprofit corporation law have changed greatly in the past three decades. As a result, the Council re-drafted our Bylaws from the ground up to reflect the way First Lutheran does things now and to include applicable legal provisions.

So, First Lutheran members, please mark your calendars for the congregation meeting on December 10. The Council is counting on you to become familiar enough with the revised Constitution and Bylaws to vote on them knowledgeably.



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