



January 2018

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The PULSEBEAT

Dear faithful First family and friends,

Last month, I began a new series focusing on the liturgical or church year, those days and seasons that govern our life together as followers of Christ. First, we looked at Advent and Christmass. These two seasons, along with the one I'll discuss in a moment, comprise the Christmas Cycle, a season focusing on the Incarnation of Jesus. Again, Advent prepares us for the Incarnation while Christmass celebrates the birth, when the eternal Word became Incarnate in flesh. With that season and the Twelve Days of Christmass over, we then come to the Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), which celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world. The reading for Epiphany from Saint Matthew 2 recounts the visit of the magi/wise men, thus showing that Jesus came for all people. The word epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning "manifestation" or "appearance." When first observed, the date of January 6 coincided with the winter solstice in the eastern part of the Mediterranean world, where this festival was first celebrated in the third century. So, this festival predates the December 25 Christmass observance by a century.



Although the Epiphany of Our Lord is celebrated on one day, it actually is the beginning of the Epiphany Season, which extends through the Transfiguration of Our Lord. The Transfiguration is always the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. (I'll get to the Transfiguration in a moment.) The Epiphany Season serves the Church Year by bridging Christ's Incarnation and His Passion, a link between Advent/Christmass and Lent. The Season of Epiphany celebrates the revelations of Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the world, revelations especially seen in the miracles of His ministry.



During this Epiphany Season, we also celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord, which is always the first Sunday after Epiphany. On this Sunday we read and hear about Jesus's Baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist while the voice of God calls Jesus "His Beloved Son" (see Saint Matthew 3:13-17, Saint Mark 1:4-11, and Saint Luke 3:21-22). Incidentally, in the earliest days of celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord (during the third century), three events were celebrated on January 6: the visit of the magi; Jesus's Baptism; and the wedding at Cana, where Jesus performed His first miracle of turning water into wine (see Saint John 2:1-11). All of these events were understood as manifestations, i.e. epiphanies, of Jesus's divinity. However, by the fourth century, this was changed so that each event was celebrated on its own day.

In case you were wondering, the number of Sundays in Epiphany is determined by the date of Easter and so in any given year there are a different number of Sundays during this Season. It can range anywhere from three to eight Sundays after Epiphany. However, the Epiphany Season always ends with the Transfiguration of Our Lord, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The Transfiguration tells the story of when Jesus was transfigured upon a mountain, becoming "radiant," and speaking with Moses and Elijah, who had appeared with him (see Saint Matthew 17:1-9, Saint Mark 9:2-8; Saint Luke 9:28-36). Three of Jesus's disciples—Peter, James, and John—were with Jesus and witnessed this event. Like the Baptism of Our Lord, we again hear the voice of God calling Jesus "my Son." With Transfiguration Sunday, then, we enter the season of Lent, which I will discuss next month. For now, let the Light of Christ, whose Epiphany we celebrate, shine on you as you journey these weeks to Lent.

And just a couple of final thoughts, there are a few other festivals celebrated during January and February. January 18 is the Confession of Saint Peter, in which we recall his confession that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the Living God" (see Saint Matthew 16:13-19). On January 25th, we celebrate the Conversion of Saint Paul, when we read of his journey in Acts 9:1-22, an event that led to his becoming a believer and follower of Christ. January 18-25 is also the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity," an ecumenical observance focusing on the unity we share with the Church catholic (universal). Finally, on February 2, we celebrate *Candlemas* or the Presentation of Our Lord when, as a young infant, Jesus was presented in the Temple and greeted by Simeon



and Anna (see Saint Luke 2:22-40). In fact, there are some Christians that keep their Christmas decorations up until February 2—so if you're a procrastinator, rest assured that you can take your decorations down on February 3. Some congregations invite members to bring their candles to church on February 2 for an annual blessing of home candles, which are then taken home and used, for the rest of the year. I've never done that tradition before, but I may consider this, it's something I've thought about.

As we end the 12 days of Christmas and usher in the Epiphany season, blessings to each of you as we celebrate these weeks of Epiphany. May Christ reveal himself to you in many and various ways, for Christ is always with us.

Peace and Joy,
The Rev. Darryl W. Kozak
Intentional Interim Pastor



Thanks to All for a Successful Fair!

Our 11th Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair made a festive and meaningful beginning to the season of Advent as we contributed to the work of the many worthy local and global organizations that were represented. Fair trade foods were sampled, fair trade crafts were admired, and a good time was had by all! Many thanks are due to all who helped, and all who shopped! Together we were able to raise just over \$5000, which will be distributed to these organizations:



- Bright Stars of Bethlehem \$380 (Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine)
 - Habitat For Humanity \$50
 - Lutheran Disaster Response \$50
 - Lutheran World Relief \$652
 - Plant With Purpose \$114
 - Kenya Maseno Mission \$392
- SERRV \$1439 (Handcraft cooperatives)
 - TACO \$771
 - Triqui Indians \$87 (Baja California)
 - Tomorrow Project \$556
 - LWR Baby Care Kits \$500.



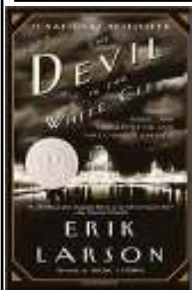


Lutheran World Relief "Welcome the Babe" Advent Project

Every mother around the world worries about her children's health and well-being. Many babies each year are born into less than ideal, and sometimes desperate, circumstances. Baby Care Kits help families living in poverty in refugee camps, hospitals, and villages by providing the things every newborn needs. For the last 4 years, First Lutheran has committed to providing these kits for Lutheran World Relief to distribute as most needed around the world through their local connections.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the FLC "Welcome the Babe" Advent project this year. We have so many faithful participants in our congregation who have backed this campaign during the past 4 years and continue to make this program such a success. In 2014 we began by gathering 23 kits. Response was positive so we continued and set more ambitious future goals. In 2015 we gathered 39 kits and, this year, for the second year in a row, we have exceeded our goal of 40 kits.

After the Kit Blessing on Sunday, January 7th, we'll send 41 kits to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul, MN for distribution to Africa, Asia, or the Middle East, wherever they are most needed. Thank you, First Lutheran, for making a difference in the lives of children and families around the world!



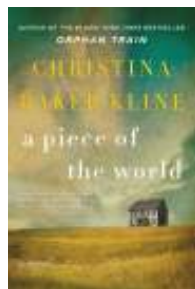
Book Group Notes

January's selection, *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson, combines meticulous research with nail biting storytelling.

The story of the architect Daniel Burnham, who was responsible for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair construction and it's incredible success, is pitted against the sinister activities of Dr. H.H. Holmes, believed to be responsible for scores of murders around the time of the fair. This novelistic yet wholly factual account of the fair and the murderer who lurked within it is "everything popular history should be."

Come spend a chilly January evening being warmed by good conversation and good company when we meet to discuss *The Devil in the White City*: Thursday, January 18, 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Susan White's condo complex. The meeting will be hosted by Sherri Bengtson and Mary Krueger.

Looking ahead: February's selection will be *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline.



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!

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."

Matthew 25 Grant to Help the Hungry, Homeless, and Others in Need

A BIG thank you to Martha DeMers, who applied for this grant for First Lutheran, to be put towards sleeping bags/blankets for patio guests throughout the winter months. We received notice that we were granted \$750, and just in time for the cooler weather. Martha, you work behind the scenes to get things done, and the council would like to thank you for your time and talents!



Christmas Pageant

Our smallest members brought us the Christmas Story on December 17. Mary (Hannah Jensen) and Joseph (Henry Carter) are framed by a stable of wrapped gifts for our "Patio Parishioners." The Littlest Shepherd (Jackson Radatz) tries to corral his sheep (Akian Slevcove, Scott Ruth, Allena Slevcove), while our Littlest Angel (Violet Sterzik) brings the Good News, and Wiseman Owen Carter makes his way to Bethlehem.



Email Prayer Chain

In an effort to focus our prayers, we have begun an email prayer chain. You may sign up near the name tags with your name and email address, or email the church office (administrator@firstlutheransd.org). The email address for the prayer chain is inourprayers@firstlutheransd.org. We will ask the specific reason for the prayer or thanksgiving and will ask that a monthly update be sent to Pastor Darryl for distribution.

All names will be removed from the list after 30 days, unless they are resubmitted to Pastor Darryl.

Electronic Giving

First Lutheran Church has an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account, or put on a credit card. The program is called Vanco Give+. You can sign up for it through the "Give" section of the newly redone First Lutheran Church website (www.firstlutheransd.org). You can schedule a single payment or a recurring payment, using either your bank account or a credit card.

Those who are already paying through Vanco can use their email addresses to access their accounts and make any changes or updates as needed.

January Birthdays

1: Akian Slevcove	11: Brehshyria Nodd	18: Matthew Carter	24: Diana Randall
1: Ariet Lero	13: Rebecca Foley	19: Kem Taylor	25: John Lester
2: Isaiah Alli	14: Rosemary Spruce	20: Rob Paul	29: Caleb Jensen
2: Elijah Alli	14: Waddell Wilcox	20: James Mehlow Morris	31: Kathryn Johnson
3: Sabine Junginger	14: Mary Claire	21: Sue Ana Humphries	
8: Richard Krueger	15: Renea Aswegan	22: Kamaria Nodd	
11: Sophia Lovell	18: Brian Taylor	23: David Oakes	



We were so thankful to be able to provide gifts to more than 200 of our sisters and brothers on the street. For many it may have been their only Christmas gift. For some it may have been the only time someone said "Merry Christmas" at all.

Here is a small snapshot of what you helped us do this past year:

- More than 15,000 people received food from us
- We served over 20,000 meals
- Our clinic partners saw 300 people a week who received free health services, legal services, dental care, and acupuncture care.
- More than 125 student volunteers learned and trained with our clinics during the same time
- For our meal program alone, we saw 384 new volunteers come to learn about those who go without in our community, and to learn a bit about what it is like to support them
- And even though we were without a Social Worker/Simon's Walk Coordinator, our Going Home End-of-Life Services program continued to weekly work with people who were terminally ill or medically vulnerable.
- All of you who were a part of our meal volunteers will not be surprised to learn that you gave 6500 hours of service in 2017.

We are so blessed and so thankful for what started here at First 42 years ago.

*Blessing the gifts during the FLC service on
December 17*

TACO Corner

Happy New Year from TACO!

Welcome to 2018! Thank you to everyone who made it possible for us to give and serve so many people in need in 2017.

Please enjoy the photos from our Great Christmas Give out.



Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has now interviewed all candidates sent from the Synod Office. Each candidate has been met with twice. One candidate has decided to remove his name from consideration. We are expecting additional candidates from the Synod Office yet this month. We have been sent good candidates by the Synod Office. This makes the discernment process more difficult. The Call Committee continues to grow in discernment, relying on each other to 'keep the work moving' toward a pastor match who genuinely fits the objectives of the congregation. Thanks to all in the Congregation for your patience and prayers.

2018 Church Council Members

Frank DeLouise	Joe DeMers
Anke Hartung	Jeremy Kaercher
Dan Kjonegaard	Dick Krueger
Melinda Person	Carol Schultz
Kem Taylor	Susan White

Church Cell Phone Numbers

Pastor Darryl: 619-990-4589; Hannah: 619-977-2646



First Lutheran Worship Assistants – January & February

ALTAR GUILD

JANUARY

9:00 a.m. Service

Carol McGrath

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

FEBRUARY

9:00 a.m. Service

Dorothy Hunter

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

USHERS

JANUARY

9:00 a.m. Service

*Ruthann Maxwell &
Carol McGrath*

11:00 a.m. Service

*Ruth Clayton &
Ladonna Piper*

FEBRUARY

9:00 a.m. Service

*Pat Hendrickson &
Merv Rettenmund*

11:00 a.m. Service

*Anke Hartung &
Melinda Person*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Nursery Attendants	Flowers
January 7	9:00 11:00	Jan Neuhaus Gary Mulbach	Melody Ruth Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	_____ _____	Ladonna Piper
January 14	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Debby Hays	Russ Hoxie Matthew Eckert	Shaun Travers Elizabeth Connolly	_____ _____	
January 21	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Beth Slevcove	Frank Jessie Pr Lee Wesley	Pat Hendrickson Marlene Garich	_____ _____	
January 28	9:00 11:00	Eric Sloniker Paul Finneseth	Jeremy Kaercher Luke Williams	George & Ethel Falk Desi Kuster	_____ _____	
February 4	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Luke Williams	Ronn Garton Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves		
February 11	9:00 11:00	Frank Jessie Mary Ann Horton	Dennis Arenas Elizabeth Connolly	Dick & Mary Krueger Ruth Clayton	_____ _____	
February 18	9:00 11:00	Ronn Garton Gary Muhlbach	Margie Wahlsten Nancy Eckert	Chuck Leib & Frank DeLouise Elizabeth Connolly	_____ _____	



January 2018 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY (Office closed) 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal	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	6
7 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 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	13 9 am Church Council Retreat
14 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (Office closed) 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	16 12 pm AI Anon	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	20
21 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 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	27
28 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 3 pm German Svc	29 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
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 First Lutheran Church
 Edited by Hannah DeMers

Serving Downtown San Diego Since 1888
 1420 Third Avenue
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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

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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, ratifying the updated Constitution, and voting on the Bylaws.

Please plan to attend.

If you would a copy of the Constitution and/or Bylaws, please contact the church office.

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). 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 sign up on the sheet in the Narthex and place \$15 in an envelope noting "Living Lutheran" in the offering plate.

Volunteer Nursery Attendants

Since our church-employed nursery attendants left last year, First Lutheran has been using an employee from Panda's Domestic Services to ensure that we had child care during the services. But we still require 2 people working in the nursery at all times to ensure that our children are protected. We are requesting that members volunteer to be the other attendant. Any member over the age of 16 can volunteer. A sign-up sheet is out on Sunday mornings, and it's split into slots for each service—you only need to sign up for one. **Please help us take care of our kids!**



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