



September 2018

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

Dear faithful First family and friends,

Like many of you, I had assumed that this was most likely my final newsletter article as we anticipated an end to our lengthy call process and end to an even lengthier time of transition. As you know, that is not the case. Over the last few weeks, I have been praying and pondering about our congregation and what God has in store for us. Personally, I had anticipated “moving on” to shepherd a new congregation while being excited for your future. Now, it seems God had something else in mind.

It is September, the beginning of a new school year, and restarting our corporate life after the summer months—and a hot summer it was! This month, Dr. Matt Eckert will lead a new Bible encounter as he guides a discussion in examining the Gospel According to Saint Mark. That discussion and conversation will meet Sunday mornings beginning September 9, and will be held in the Chapel from 10:20-10:55 a.m. I have always enjoyed the urgency of Mark’s Gospel as indeed the author writes—quite frequently—the word “immediately.” Immediately makes us think of quickness, and perhaps it is interesting to hold the quick, immediate words of Mark juxtaposed with our continued time of transition. Actually, as I’ve been hearing, we are no longer in a time of transition. We are in an interim—an in-between time—and as much as we might hope for an “immediate” end, perhaps what we need to do is gather as God’s faithful people to encounter the great mysteries of the faith. And to do this together.

Being just one segment of the Mystical Body of Christ, we continue to do our mission and ministry here as we have for 130 years in downtown San Diego. The field continues to be ripe for the harvest. Multi-level condominiums continue to be built, towering around the skies of our intersection at Third and Ash. How can we be the Heart of Christ in the Heart of the City to reach the hearts of these new neighbors? How can we reach out to even closer neighbors at the Luther Tower next door to us? Recently, I was asked by their chaplain to bless the newly renovated Luther Tower, and the new owners, the chaplain, and I met briefly to discuss how we can work together in ministry. I’m not sure how or what that will look like, but God seems to be opening new doors for us. And the needs are—to use Mark’s word—immediate. Or at least they can—or should—be “immediate.”

So maybe—just maybe—God is calling us to remain in this in-between time to reach out to others. Calling us to be Church in the world—even if it’s visiting those nearest to us. I’m not sure how this might happen, but one thing I am sure of is this: we can’t simply wait for a new shepherd to arrive. The Good Shepherd Jesus the Christ is already here. He is our true Pastor and indeed the one who calls and gathers us together to our corner of the mission field. Maybe you can hear the Lord’s voice, “Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.” (Saint Matthew 11:28-30, Common English Bible).

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let’s move forward in ministry, and see where the road takes us.

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



Bible Study Class

Please join us as we journey through the Gospel of Mark starting on September 9, 2018, from 10:20 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. between services. Our sojourn will be focused on experiencing the people we meet and the places we find ourselves in the story. Participants will be provided a journal to record their experiences.



Council Update: Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da

The Scottish poet, Robert Burns, certainly spoke the truth in his poem, "To a Mouse." He said, "...the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Last month we were celebrating the selection of a new pastor for First Lutheran Church, and this month our plans have gone awry. By now most, if not all, of you know that our selected pastoral candidate decided not to accept our call. The candidate had previously accepted the call, but upon reflection of his life situation and commitments decided that he could not make such a huge move. We are, obviously, disappointed, but trusting God to bring the right person for us.

Our call committee members have put so many hours of work, sweat, and prayers into the process of finding a pastor who is the right fit for our church. I hope they know how much we all appreciate their work up to this point, and how we are standing with them as they continue on this journey. Most committee members will continue on the committee, so please continue to pray for them. The good news is that we do not have to start at the beginning of the call process. All of the groundwork, such as the church profile, has already been done.

Also, many, many thanks to Pastor Darryl for agreeing to extend his time at First Lutheran. While we don't know exactly how long that will be, we greatly appreciate his willingness to set aside other options for a while longer to serve our congregation.

As the Beatles sang, "ob-la-di, ob-la-da, life goes on..."

At our August meeting, we addressed these matters.

Stewardship: The council reviewed and accepted a stewardship plan for this year. The campaign will begin in mid-October and end on Stewardship Sunday, November 11. This is a vital process for the life of our church. You will be hearing a lot more about this in the near future.

Finances: The recent financial report shows that envelope giving has gone down, from 94% of budgeted amount to 91% of budgeted amount. Fortunately we have held expenses steady at 91% of budgeted amount. And speaking of money, the council approved the purchase of a new safe to replace the current one. If you have ever had to open it, you know exactly why we are replacing it!

Property: We celebrated the groundbreaking for the lift, but the completion date will likely be delayed from late September until late October because the engineer and draftsman are still working on the design for the ramp. Once that is finished and approved by us, it then goes to the city for approval. THEN the construction will begin. The property committee also reported that there have been several plumbing issues this past month, primarily leaking toilets.

TACO: The council is working with TACO to cement our Safety & Behavior policy, which is designed for the protection of our staff and our guests. Clear policies and processes greatly enhance communication and provide guidance that ensures consistency and reliability. The TACO representative is working with TACO to incorporate cleanliness and hygiene procedures into the policy. The council has also been working with the TACO leadership to develop a comprehensive facility use agreement to identify roles and responsibilities and eliminate any uncertainty or confusion.

Your council continues to do its best to represent your interests in the life of First Lutheran Church. Please share your questions, concerns, or appreciation with any Council member.

God's Peace to you all,
Your 2018 Council

2018 Council Officers:

President: Dick Krueger

Vice President: Frank DeLouise

Treasurer: Kem Taylor

Secretary: Carol Schultz

Financial Secretary: Anke Hartung

Council Members:

Joe DeMers, Jeremy Kaercher,
Melinda Person, Marjorie
Wahlsten, and Susan White.

Church Cell Phone Numbers

Pastor Darryl: 619-990-4589

Hannah: 619-977-2646

Church Email Addresses

Pastor Darryl: pastordarryl@firstlutheransd.org;

Hannah/Church Office: administrator@firstlutheransd.org



Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, August 26, we welcomed 6 new members to the First Lutheran family!



Mitchell Britto (*left*) grew up in Northern California and went to a Lutheran church throughout childhood. He went to the Naval Academy and studied Systems Engineering. He spent 5 years in the Navy, stationed on three ships, all out of San Diego. He got out of the Navy in 2012, and currently lives in Downtown San Diego. He and fiancée Jackie Rothschild plan to be married in March of 2019. Their congregational sponsors are Anke Hartung and Joe & Beth Slevcove.

James (Jim) Geison (*right*) is originally from Madison, Wisconsin. He works in sales for a tech company headquartered in San Diego. He enjoys music, travel, tech, and exercise. His congregational sponsors are Chuck Leib and Frank DeLouise.



Bruce L. Givens, (*left*) originally from Ohio, is a retired professor of Special Education at colleges and universities in California, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. He began his teaching career as a certified Resource Specialist and taught in Southern California school districts for more than a decade. He belongs to several international affiliated education organizations, and has been recognized by the Governor and citizens of West Virginia for promoting human welfare in the position of Professor of Special Education at West Liberty State University. His congregational sponsors are Jeremy & Lee Kaercher.

Debra Kudar (*right*) was born and raised on Long Island, New York. At the age of 28, she drove cross country and resided in Monterey, California, for 9 years before relocating to San Diego. She has two sons: Joshua is 18 and will be attending UC Santa Cruz in September, and Lukas is 16 and will be a junior in high school. Debra enjoys running and anything that has to do with being outdoors. She also loves animals, and has two dogs and one cat. Her congregational sponsors are Margie Wahlsten and Susan White.



Jacqueline (Jackie) Rothschild (*left*) grew up in Fort Worth, Texas. She was raised by two liberal Roman Catholic parents, who taught her to value kindness, selflessness, and inclusion. She moved to California in 2016, and then to San Diego in 2017. She is excited to join this community at First Lutheran after attending Sunday services throughout the last year. She currently works for Lifesharing, the Donate Life organization for San Diego. She and her fiancé, Mitchell Britto, plan to be married in March of 2019.

Billie Thompson (*right*) was born and lived Missouri Synod Lutheran. She saw the light and became ELCA in 1982. She lived most of her life in Traverse City, Michigan, and was a volunteer for many great organizations. Among her "real" jobs were teacher in the Illinois reformatory system and choir director for three churches. Even before becoming a member, she was involved in the First Lutheran music program, singing in both the choir and Summer Gospel Choir over the last year. Her congregational sponsors are Joe & Hannah DeMers.



Please help us to make all of our new members feel welcome!



Sharing Our Thoughts

by Lee Kaercher

A few weeks ago, we had a round table discussion during 10:10 with these two questions as focus: How have the churches in your life helped grow your faith? How do you need FLC to help you grow in faith now? This is a summary of the discussions at three tables, with fifteen people participating:

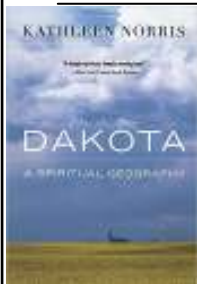
Generally, we came from faith traditions which dwelt on one's personal faith in God—faith as a private matter—even in the midst of “church family.” So, while foundational teaching in Bible, beliefs, and dogma may have been strong, our churches did not stretch us into social justice involvement, nor did most churches teach and model inclusiveness. FLC was the place of new understandings regarding inclusivity and outreach for many present.

What the majority of those present requested is not a different vision, but an expanded one—one that gives us an opportunity to really engage our intellects, our gifts, and our faith. Another appeal was for the Church to teach us and lead us in how to be bridges rather than anxious people on one side or the other of these polarizing times in our society and world.

Here are a few of the specific suggestions voiced that morning:

- Develop meaningful, ongoing activities to bring people together in common ministries—for example, a response to refugee/immigration issues, which could lead to collaboration with other congregations and perhaps also engage our young people.
- Create intentional ways to not only welcome newcomers but welcome them into our church family with places to participate relationally.
- Create honest and safe spaces for the inquiry and expression of seeking hearts and minds.
- Meet together conversationally around Biblical or other themes on a regular basis.
- Increase opportunities to share through music and writing.

All of these suggestions seem to add an exclamation point to Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen's encouragement on 8/19 to move forward as Church, even as we wait upon a new pastor. As we continue listening to each other and honestly speaking our own hearts, who knows what the Holy Spirit will inspire?



Book Group Notes

Dakota: A Spiritual Geography

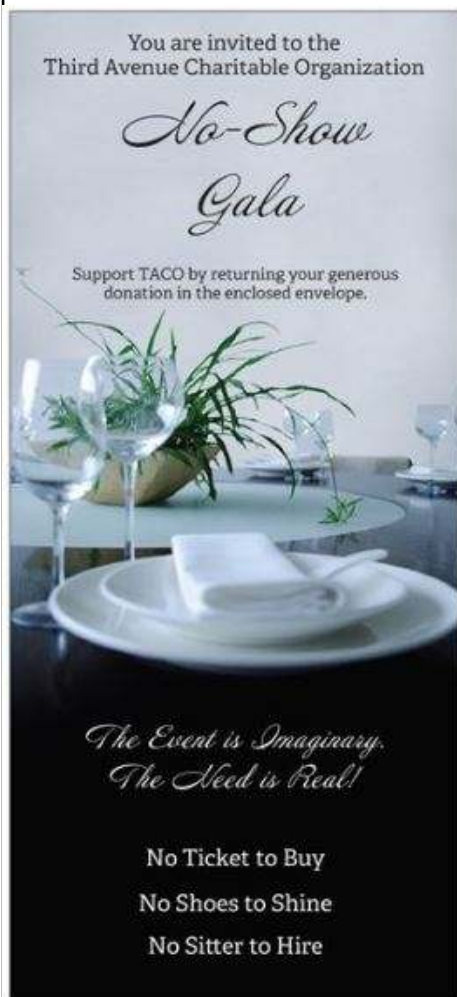
Our selection for the month of September is a deeply moving book by the poet and *New York Times* bestselling author Kathleen Norris. Goodreads calls *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* “a timeless tribute to a place in the American landscape that is at once desolate and sublime, harsh and forgiving, steeped in history and myth. In thoughtful, discerning prose, she explores how we come to inhabit the world we see, and how that world also inhabits us. Her voice is a steady assurance that we can, and do, chart our spiritual geography wherever we go.”

The book club discussion will be held in the community room of Susan White's condo on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

If you have any questions or if you are not on the book club email list and would like to be included in announcements, please email Sylvia Herman (Sylvia@ascentrealestate.com).

September Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1: Rose Couchman | 13: John Hoff |
| 1: Hanieh Kohan Khaki | 14: David Pohl |
| 2: Dan Altenburg | 16: Jim Lewis |
| 3: Penny Corrigan | 18: Colleen Howard |
| 3: John Tozer | 19: Richard Phillips |
| 4: Katie Jensen | 23: Will Pierce |
| 5: Susan White | 23: Luke Williams |
| 6: Phillip Valencia | 24: Jacob Alli |
| 7: Matthew Reyda | 24: Marlene Garich |
| 7: Andrew Sheldon | 24: Gary Spears |
| 8: Meg Davis | 24: Mark Spears |
| 9: Carol Schultz | 27: Michael Pannasch |
| 9: Jennifer Siverts | 28: Owonda Epiphany |
| 10: Karen Boyd | 29: Douglas Diepholz |
| 12: Karen Kearns | |



TACO Corner

We are requesting the honor of your absence!



Have you ever gone to an event because you believe in the cause, but the logistics of attending were complicated, or difficult, or left you exhausted?

Have you ever thought to yourself, "Why didn't I just write a check, rather than give up an evening of my precious time?"

This year, TACO is holding a huge imaginary event, and all are welcome not to attend. On September 29th, we will be "hosting" the No-Show Gala.

Here are the details:

Date: On or about September 29th

Location: In your favorite spot, be it on the couch or in your favorite chair.

Time: You get to decide the best time for you!

Dress: Anything from Black Tie formal to your pajamas (please consider posting pictures to the TACO Facebook page about how you choose to participate in the No-Show Gala).

Please visit our No-Show Gala page on the TACO website, and buy your tickets or make a donation (the page is really fun, go check it out!).

Gala page: <https://www.tacosd.org/no-show-gala>

We make every dollar count

We promise not to spend your money donated on frivolous decorations, catered dinners, or event spaces.

We promise that your entire donation will go to TACO services directly helping those we serve.

Save!

- NO Raffle Tickets: \$50
- NO Babysitter: \$60
- NO Ticket to Buy: \$100
- NO New Outfit: \$150
- NO Silent Auction: \$200
- NO Live Auction: \$500
- NO Event Sponsorship: \$2,500

Instead!

Spend the night at home, knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable San Diegans

Why Give?

TACO is a social outreach program and non-profit charity that serve the homeless, elderly, immigrants and working poor, primarily in downtown San Diego. Through a strong coalition of community partnerships, we offer free meals, free medical, dental, legal and acupuncture clinics, and free counseling and case management services to hundreds of people each week. We provide end-of-life services to those who are terminally ill on the streets of San Diego.



First Lutheran Worship Assistants – September & October

ALTAR GUILD

SEPTEMBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Peggy Quintana

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

OCTOBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Russ & Heidi Hoxie

11:00 a.m. Service

Melinda Person

USHERS

SEPTEMBER

9:00 a.m. Service

Tony & Peggy Quintana

11:00 a.m. Service

*Melinda Person &
Ladonna Piper*

OCTOBER

9:00 a.m. Service

*Dell Wilcox, Kem Taylor,
Colleen Howard, & Sharon
Province*

11:00 a.m. Service

Ruth Clayton & Anke Hartung

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Nursery Attendants	Flowers
September 2	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Beth Slevcove	Pat Hendrickson Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	_____ _____	DeMers
September 9	9:00 11:00	Frank Jessie Luke Williams	Carol Schultz Matthew Eckert	Dick & Mary Krueger Shelly Schreiber	_____ _____	Debra Kudar
September 16	9:00 11:00	Jan Neuhaus Mary Ann Horton	Jan Neuhaus Sylvia Herman	Ruthann Maxwell Elizabeth Connolly	_____ _____	Richard Phillips
September 23	9:00 11:00	Brian Shuman Paul Finneseth	Jan Neuhaus Jim Lovell	Kem Taylor Marlene Garich	_____ _____	Martha DeMers
September 30	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Beth Slevcove	Jim Boyd Luke Williams	Sylvia Herman Ruth Clayton	_____ _____	Ruth Clayton
October 7	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Luke Williams	Margie Wahlsten Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	_____ _____	Marjorie Wahlsten
October 14	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Paul Finneseth	Kem Taylor Elizabeth Connolly	Dennis Arenas & David Oakes Melinda Person	_____ _____	Russ & Heidi Hoxie



September 2018 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	3 LABOR DAY (OFFICE CLOSED) 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal	4 12 pm AI Anon	5 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	6 12 pm AI Anon	7 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	1 8
9 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	10 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	11 12 pm AI Anon	12 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	13 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP 6:30 pm TACO Board Mtg	14 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	15
16 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	17 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	18 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 pm Church Council	19 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	20 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	21 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	22
23 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	24 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	25 12 pm AI Anon	26 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	27 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	28 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	29
30 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 3 pm German						

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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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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Return Service Requested

Back to School...and Sunday School!

Sunday School begins September 9 at 11:00 a.m. The children rejoin the worshiping congregation during the Passing of the Peace. As in the past, ages 4-8 will meet in the Lounge, and ages 9-12 will meet in the Library. New teachers and assistants are always appreciated. Please contact Martha Radatz or Marie Ruth if you are interested in getting involved.

Our Sunday School uses the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum, an ecumenical resource based on the Revised Common Lectionary published by John Knox Westminster Press. The children's lessons follow the rhythm of the church year and, in particular, the Biblical lessons that are read in church each

Sunday, making it easy for families to learn and live out their faith together.



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