



December 2018

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The PULSEBEAT

Advent & Christmas 2018

December 2 – First Sunday of Advent

9 & 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10 – 12:30 p.m. – The Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair

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December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent

9 & 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

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

+

December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

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

+

December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9 & 11 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

+

December 24 – Christmas Eve

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

+

December 30 – First Sunday of Christmas Carol Mass

10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. – Holiday Potluck Brunch



**Dear faithful First family and friends,**

It's that time again: Advent—that season in the liturgical Church calendar when we prepare our hearts to receive the greatest of all gifts, the gift of God's only beloved Son, Jesus. Yes, it's Advent culminating in that glorious festival of Christmas. What a celebration, indeed. If you're like me, just hearing the word "Christmas" makes me recall beautiful carols (even while typing this sentence, I can quite literally "hear" those carols ringing in my ears), smells of the season, and the wonderful food we often over-indulge in. Yes, this is the season of gift-giving, the season of family and friends, the season of love come down in the person of Jesus.

This gift of love come down makes me think of a word: *gentleness*. Yes, for even amidst the hustle and bustle



of the holiday season, even amidst the joyously boisterous songs of Christmas, even within the chopping down of Christmas trees and the noise of loading the trees on our vehicles, this is a gentle season. For even though tiny babies do cry and make noise, there is something oh-so-gentle about these tiny persons: they are gentle.

It's in that spirit—the Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit of the little babe Jesus—that gentleness happens: for on that most miraculous of all nights, in the cool quiet of an evening, Jesus was born. Jesus, this gentle child of God, came down to become like you and me: a human being to live as one of us. When I think of *gentleness*, several Christmas carols come to mind: “Away in a Manger,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” and “Silent Night, Holy Night.” But among my favorites is another gentle, quiet song, “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.” In this song, we see this *O Magnum Mysterium*—O Great Mystery—of the baby Jesus.

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!*

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #276)



Here we see a vision of those who witnessed the birth: the animals in a stall, the angels singing and announcing this birth, sheep and shepherds, and the loving mother—the Blessed Virgin Mary and the father Joseph. This assortment of characters make up our Christmas story, but even today some two thousand years later, we become characters in this divine drama as we hear, sing, and celebrate again in this season of love come down, this season of a gentle baby born for all humanity. But more, this gentle baby born for all of creation. And so celebrate—again—this gift of gentleness, this gift of love, this gift of a Savior who came down for you. But for now, let's wait in this our season of Advent. And let's prepare our hearts to receive God's greatest of all gifts.

Peace and Joy,

The Rev. Darryl W. Kozak  
Intentional Interim Pastor

## Council Update: 'T is the Season of Thanksgiving

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

For many of us, Thanksgiving has more than one meaning. Lots of us enjoy getting together with family and friends to share good food and give thanks for blessings received. We even pause to reflect. And as soon as the Thanksgiving celebration ends, we shift into high gear to get ready for the Christmas season and all the tasks we want to accomplish before the end of the year. The Council is no exception. Now that Thanksgiving is over, we're in high gear, too. Here's a summary of our meeting on November 27.

Devotion. We began with Margie Wahlsten reading to us from Anne Lamott's book “Traveling Mercies.” In this selection, Ms. Lamott writes about the quirky and loving Presbyterian congregation that enfolded her and her son Sam into their community in bad times and good. Something many of us can relate to at First Lutheran.

Finances and Budgeting. The Finance Committee (Anke Hartung, Jeremy Kaercher, and Kem Taylor) presented a budget for 2019 based on projections for 2018 and analysis of five years of income and expenses. They are projecting an actual deficit of \$50,000 for 2018, which is what the 2018 budget anticipated. First

### 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.



Lutheran has liquid assets to cover this deficit. In other words, we will take in about \$50,000 less than we spend in 2018, and we will use savings to make up the difference. In planning for 2019, the Council anticipates another deficit year. Based on the pledges received to date from about half of First Lutheran's households, the Council estimates the 2019 deficit at about \$64,000. The majority of First Lutheran's expenses are fixed rather than discretionary, e.g., salaries, insurance, utilities, and taxes, and the Council works hard to keep discretionary expenses as low as possible. The congregation will get a more detailed presentation at its meeting on Dec. 9.

Safety and Hygiene Policy. The Council's TACO Liaison, Frank DeLouise, is working with TACO to expand the safety policy adopted last year to include hygiene procedures for cleaning up mishaps. The policy envisions cleanup kits will be available and individuals will be trained in their proper use. First Lutheran and TACO agree such a policy can be most effective if both follow the same procedures.

TACO Use Agreement. The Council's consensus is the draft use agreement Council members Dick Krueger and Carol Schultz have been working with Bill Radatz and Jim Friedrich (TACO Board members) suitably spells out TACO's use of space and facilities in First Lutheran's building. Key sections of the agreement include TACO's payments to First Lutheran, use of designated spaces by TACO, and both organizations' respective responsibilities for maintenance and expenses. Given that the TACO Board discussed but did not act on the draft agreement, the Council agreed to continue discussions with TACO. The Council also noted the relationship between First Lutheran and TACO involves both ministry and business, and this agreement focuses on the business side.

Bylaws. The Council approved two revisions to First Lutheran's Bylaws for a vote by the congregation at its meeting on Dec. 9. The first revision clarifies the qualifications set forth in the Constitution for serving on a call committee or committee dealing with interim ministry. Only voting members may serve; associate members and seasonal members are ineligible. The second revision specifies that any two authorized signers may sign checks equal to or exceeding \$500 rather than requiring that one of those signers be the Treasurer. Practically speaking, this change will make it easier to get checks processed in a timely manner while providing the security of a second authorized signature.

Representing the interests of First Lutheran is a privilege and a responsibility your Council members take seriously. Please share your questions, concerns, or appreciation with any Council member.

God's Peace to you all,  
Your 2018 Council

## Stewardship Update

by Jeremy Kaercher

*"Christian stewardship simply, yet profoundly, imitates God's example of giving. Stewardship is our love taking form, as God's love took form, through the giving of ourselves. Stewardship is nothing more and nothing less."* ("The Starting Point of Stewardship"; John Indermark)

Thank you to everyone who participated in First Lutheran Church's fall stewardship campaign. As of November 28, 68 of our households committed a total of \$204,490.00 to support our ministry in 2019. Your financial stewardship pledges guide FLC's Church Council as it looks forward to the year just ahead, so it is particularly helpful that as many members of the church as possible provide a pledge. For the past three years, First's annual budget has averaged \$405,000, of which \$325,000 was achieved through our weekly pledged envelope offerings—80% of the annual budget. You can see that every pledge supports the major portion of each year's ministry here at First Lutheran.

The annual budget for 2019 will be presented for approval by our members during the Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 1 on Sunday, December 9. If you have not yet returned your completed pledge card for the coming year, we invite you to do so as quickly as possible. In this season of thanksgiving as we look to Christ's coming, we celebrate his love freely given for us as we give of ourselves.

If you can't return your pledge by mail, you may relay it directly to the church office by phone (619-234-6149), text (619-977-2646), or email (administrator@firstlutheransd.org)



## “Welcome the Babe” Advent Event

This year we again invite our FLC family to join our Lutheran World Relief Advent outreach event, “Welcome the Babe.” Every mother worries about her baby’s health and well-being. For the fifth year in a row, our congregation will help mothers in poverty by preparing Baby Care Kits for infants around the world born into less than ideal, and sometimes desperate, circumstances.

Through the generosity of our FLC sponsors we provided 23 LWR Baby Care Kits in 2014, 39 kits in 2015, 43 kits in 2016, and 44 kits in 2017. Thanks to a large donation from Tiffany, a friend of Melinda Person, we already have a great start on collecting some of the kit items, and during the 2018 campaign we are aiming to assemble more than 50 kits.

There are many levels of participation, ranging from shopping for single items, to sponsoring partial or entire kits. You can make the shopping a family event or have a “personal shopper” do it for you. You can sponsor a kit in honor of a loved one, making a donation in their name and sending them a LWR “Honor Card.”

After Christmas, the Baby Care Kits will be blessed then packed to be sent the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul, Minnesota. From there the kits will be shipped to refugee camps, hospitals, and villages around the world as needed.

Baby Care Kits support families and welcome their babies into the world community. Please stop by the “Welcome the Babe” table on any Sunday in December to find out how you can participate, or learn more about this project by visiting <http://lwr.org/babycarekits>.

### Book Group Notes

There will be no book group meeting in December, in honor of Advent.

At our last meeting, books were selected for 2019. If you’d like to get a head start, January’s selection will be *Becoming Nicole* by Amy Ellis Nutt.

Look for further information in the January Pulsebeat.

### Church Office Closure

The First Lutheran Church Office will be closed December 24-January 1. Pastor Darryl will be checking his emails and phone calls, in case of a pastoral emergency.

### Annual Congregational Meeting Part I

The Annual Congregational Meeting Part I will be held between the services on December 9 (10:10 a.m.). At this meeting, we will approve the 2019 budget and elect the church council.

### Leftovers Sale!

Any items left over from the Fair Trade Fair on December 2 will be available for sale on Sunday, December 9, before and after the Annual Meeting.



Sunday

Dec. 2

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

12th Annual

**Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair**

At First Lutheran Church

1420 Third Ave. (3rd and Ash) San Diego

**Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair**

Featuring:

Handcrafted gifts from around the world

Fair Trade food items and food sampling

Opportunities to learn about and support a variety of service organizations

Sunday, December 2, 2018, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

At First Lutheran Church, 1420 Third Ave., San Diego 92101

Call Martha at 619-575-2845 for more information



## TACO Corner

### Concrete Christmas for TACO

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 13 years, TACO has requested & used donations 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

#### Please Visit & Share

<https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/concrete-christmas-2018>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw9lIfk5pXo>



## Christmas Pageant

Attention all parents who would like their children to participate in the Annual Christmas Pageant on December 16: Please plan to attend the rehearsal and costume distribution on Sunday, December 9 between services.

**Sunday School will conclude with the pageant on December 16, and will resume January 6.** For further information, please contact Joe Slevcove, Marie Ruth or Martha Radatz.



## Join Us

**Saturday, December 15  
8:30 a.m.**

#### Attention volunteers:

You do so very much, and help so many. Therefore, you are cordially invited to TACO's gift wrapping party and volunteer appreciation fiesta for an awesome breakfast buffet!

Please RSVP: [byoung@tacod.org](mailto:byoung@tacod.org)



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 16.



## December Birthdays

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1: Pricilla Alli     | 17: Emmet Coffey   |
| 2: Debby Hays        | 19: John Foley     |
| 3: Matthew Boomhower | 21: Glenn Orris    |
| 3: Ladonna Piper     | 22: Andrew Ajer    |
| 7: Mary Goddard      | 22: Nicholas Fekas |
| 11: Kimberly Tozer   | 22: Dan Kjonggaard |
| 14: Isabelle Paul    | 31: Marta Monroe   |

## Message from the Call Committee

*by Pat Lindquist*

We are sorry to have to report to you that the candidate we had hoped to meet this week has withdrawn. It is a disappointment! However, each time we have had a withdrawal from candidacy, we grow closer in our thoughts to an improved 'match' for Pastor of this congregation. We will be given new candidates' names to begin work on in January. Some candidates were not available when we started our search. Now, we have a fresh sense of more choice. As Pastor John Davis said in his sermon last week, "When the difficult times come, God has not left the building!" God has not left our "building" the steps and time it takes to find the 'right' Pastor Him or Her for us.



## First Lutheran Worship Assistants – December & January

### ALTAR GUILD

**DECEMBER**

**9:00 a.m. Service**

*Marjorie Wahlsten &  
Jessica Friedrich*

**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**

*Sharon Province & John Hoff*

**11:00 a.m. Service**

*Ladonna Piper &  
Melinda Person*

**JANUARY**

**9:00 a.m. Service**

*Carol McGrath & Ruthann  
Maxwell*

**11:00 a.m. Service**

*Ruth Clayton &  
Ladonna Piper*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Nursery Attendants	Flowers
December 2	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Paul Finneseth	Frank Jessie Joe Slevcove	Jim & Jessica Friedrich Slevcoves	_____ _____	Ladonna Piper
December 9	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Mary Ann Horton	Jeremy Kaercher Matthew Eckert	Rebecca Kjonegaard Marlene Garich	_____ _____	_____
December 16	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Beth Slevcove	Dennis Arenas Martha Radatz	Loren Harrell Shelly Schreiber	_____ _____	_____
December 23	9:00 11:00	Jan Neuhaus Mary Ann Horton	Ronn Garton Nancy Eckert	Pr. George & Ethel Falk Elizabeth Connolly	_____ _____	_____
December 30	10:00	Eric Sloniker	Martha Radatz	Pat Hendrickson	_____ _____	Marjorie Wahlsten
January 6	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Paul Finneseth	Kem Taylor Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	_____ _____	_____
January 13	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Frank Jessie	Eric Sloniker Matthew Eckert	Frank DeLouise & Chuck Leib Ruth Clayton	_____ _____	_____



The Pulsebeat  
First Lutheran Church  
1420 Third Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101-3193

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**Return Service Requested**

## Lessons and Carols

**Saturday, December 8 @7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 9 @2:00 p.m.**

**University of San Diego Founders Chapel**

Each December, USD invites the campus community and the public at large to gather in Founders Chapel to enjoy "Lessons and Carols," a Christmas celebration that dates back well over one hundred years and is followed around the world in a multitude of different places.

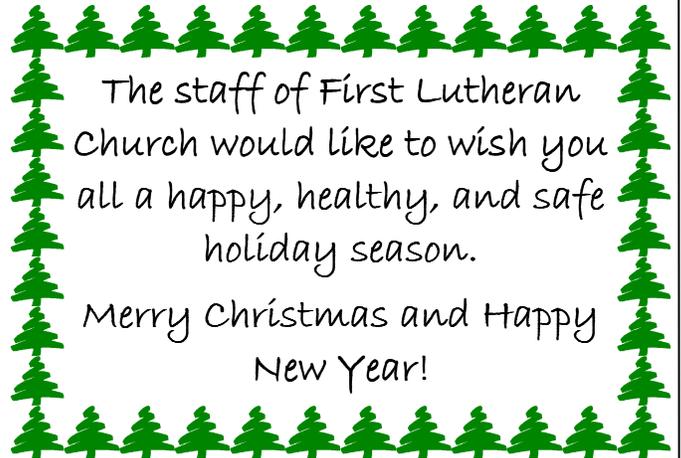
Through poignant readings from the Old and New Testaments interspersed with beautiful music, the congregation is invited to reflect on the birth of Jesus in the context of its significance in salvation history.

This event is free and open to the public, no RSVP required.

For more information, go to  
<https://www.sandiego.edu/cctc/events/lessons-and-carols.php>

## German Christmas Carol Service

On Sunday, December 16, St. Luke's Lutheran Church will hold a German Christmas Carol Service at 3:00 p.m. St. Luke's is located at 5150 Wilson Street in La Mesa. Following the service will be light refreshments. All are invited to attend!



The staff of First Lutheran Church would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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