



March 2019

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

## Lent 2019

Our Lenten theme for this year is “Waiting with Hope”

### Our Lenten Schedule for 2019

#### March 6: Ash Wednesday

Noon and 7:00PM Services  
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

#### Wednesday Lenten MidWeek Events

March 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10

Yoga (4:30 - 5:30PM) Melt away the day's stress and center yourself with this gentle, meditative class. The cost is \$30 for the five weeks, payable to the instructor at the first class.

“Here I Walk” (4:30 - 5:30PM) Take a one-hour, two mile brisk walk through downtown each Wednesday. Leave the church at precisely 4:30PM and return by 5:30—bring an umbrella if it looks like rain. *\*We are still looking for a volunteer to lead the April 3 walk\**

Soup and Salad (5:45PM) Gather for delicious soup, salad, and bread. These tasty, simple meals are provided by members/friends of the congregation (sign-up on upcoming Sundays to provide soup, salad, and/or bread).

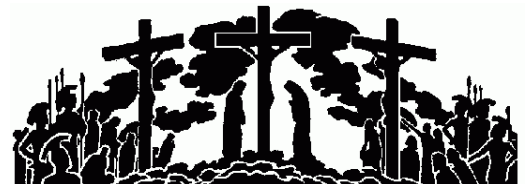
Holden Village Evening Prayer (6:30PM) Pause after the rush of the day to sing Holden Evening Prayer, to observe silence, to thank God for the day, and to pray for the world.

#### Lenten Classes (7:00-8:00PM) *(please choose one)*

What Exactly Is “The Church”? Martin Luther once wrote, “A seven-year-old child knows what the church is, namely, holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of their Shepherd.” But is it really that simple? This Lent, Pastor Darryl and Pastor Richard Elliott will lead a discussion on what Martin Luther called *The Seven Marks or Characteristics of the Church*, which he wrote about in his 1539 treatise “On the Councils and the Church.” This discussion will begin on Ash Wednesday, as the theme for Pastor Darryl’s sermon will be one of the Seven Marks. On the following five weeks during Lent, we will explore the remaining Marks or Characteristics to see how, in fact, each of these are reflected, acted upon, and experienced right here at the intersection of Third and Ash.

Book Study—*Inspired: Slaying Dragons, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans Have your thoughts and feelings about the Bible changed over the years? Do you see it as an instruction manual? An historical text? The Inspired Word of God? What do we mean by “inspired”? Together we will wrestle with Scripture’s mysteries, hopefully rediscovering the Bible as a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God’s loving and redemptive work in the world. *Acquire book on your own or through instructors.*

Lenten devotional booklets, written by members of First Lutheran, will be available beginning March 3.





## 2019 Special Lenten Offering

**‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:35-3)**

For the past few years, First Lutheran has collected special offerings during the Lenten season for specific needs outside our congregation. In 2018 you generously helped a Puerto Rican town get solar lanterns and water purifiers by donating over \$6,000 through Lutheran World Relief.

This year First Lutheran has chosen to help a legally documented asylum-seeking family. They were forced to flee from Eritrea to Saudi Arabia to Turkey to Brazil to Tijuana because of persecution that affected them directly. They are Christians, and left Saudi Arabia due to that country’s aggressive deportation, arrest, and murder of those who do not adhere to Islam.

The father stayed in Saudi Arabia because of illness but sent the rest of his family ahead. When the mother and five children, ages 6 to 17, reached Brazil in May 2018, they began a three month journey north, covering some of the distance by bus, and walking through the jungles of Panama for four days with water but no food. Eventually, the family reached the border at Tijuana, presented themselves at the Port of Entry, and were granted asylum-seeker status. They are being sheltered and cared for by a fellow Lutheran church in San Diego. For safety reasons, the name of the church is being withheld from all materials posted online.

The children are all excelling in local schools, even though English is their third language. One of them even made the honor roll! The high school raised funds, matched by their host church, and gave them a computer and printer for Christmas so they don’t have to go to the library to do their homework.

Our fellow Lutheran church is partnering with two other congregations to support the family with housing, food, and clothing. Until their asylum claim is decided, they are not allowed to get a work permit. While they wind their way through the legal system, they need help with basic needs. Currently, the biggest need is funding for their legal fees, estimated to be \$7,000.

Providing that support has become First Lutheran’s goal for the 2019 Lenten giving. The funds raised will be directed to our fellow Lutheran church and will be used to help defray legal costs that the family will accrue during their court process. It is reported that less than 3% of asylum seekers are successful in court without legal representation. This family risks persecution and death should they be forced to return to Eritrea.

In the past year, our fellow Lutheran church has provided temporary shelter to 26 asylum seekers, from six different countries. They have committed long term to this special family. During this Lenten season, we would like to join with our fellow Lutheran Church in their mission by following Jesus’ teaching to welcome the stranger, by using some of the resources of our faith communities to help desperate families who are struggling with immigration issues while also following all U.S. laws.

Please come to the 10:10 (between services) on Sunday, March 3, to learn more about this project. Jackie Hanson, member of our partner church, will join us to talk about their congregation’s outreach and the family that has become part of their family. She will be delighted to share more specific details! One of the children will also be there, and we are planning other opportunities to get to know them.

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## First Lutheran Church of San Diego History Walk

March 18, 2019 marks the 131st year of the founding of First Lutheran Church of San Diego. In the history book *A Prelude to the Future: First Lutheran Church 1888-1978*, former member Beata Prochnow Mazade (b.1906, d.2004) writes:

*On March 18, 1888, at the request of the Board of Home Missions, the Rev. C.W. Heisler, pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Los Angeles, came to San Diego to formally organize the first Lutheran mission in San Diego. Thirty-one names are listed in the pastor’s Record Book as charter members...*

We celebrate 131 years of ministry in San Diego. As part of a Mid-Week Lenten activities, Richard Phillips will lead a City Walk on March 20th to various downtown sites in FLC’s history.

First Lutheran Church History Walk  
 Wednesday, March 20  
 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.



## Dear faithful First family and friends,

Dear faithful First family and friends,

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

It is March, which means that this year, Lent is upon us. At the end of worship on the Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday, March 3, we will bid farewell to the Alleluia, as for this third year, it is "buried" (or submerged) within the water of our font. Those "Alleluias" will be removed, proclaimed, and celebrated on the great Festival of Easter, but for now, we turn our attention to Lent.

Our Lenten Theme this year is *Waiting with Hope*, an appropriate topic as we continue to entrust our congregation to the arms and love of God. Lent, of course, gives us more opportunities to immerse ourselves in our faith. Beginning on **Ash Wednesday, March 6**, we gather at noon and 7:00 p.m. for individual confession and absolution, the imposition of ashes, and sharing of the Holy Meal. On the following five Wednesdays, we will have the opportunity to **renew our bodies** through yoga, walks in the city, and sharing in our soup supper; **renew our minds**, with our two Lenten classes; and **renew our souls**, with Holden Evening Prayer. Each Sunday, we gather as a family to hear about God's saving acts as we join together for worship. And daily, you can read reflections and meditate on art from your fellow sisters and brothers in Christ, who once again shared their time and gifts in creating our Lenten Devotional. A special Thank You to Frank DeLouise, who was in charge of the devotional as its editor and creator. Many hands are involved in the Church, and thanks go to all who have and will share lots of time during this special season of the Church Year.

May this time reveal the grace and love of God in perhaps ways not experienced before. And may Christ live through you as we **Wait with Hope**.

Peace and Joy,

The Rev. Darryl W. Kozak  
Intentional Interim Pastor



## Pastor Darryl's Farewell

By now you may have heard that Pastor Darryl has accepted a new call as the Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Corona (if you haven't, a copy of the letter is inserted in the Pulsebeat). Since Pastor Darryl has faithfully served First Lutheran Church these last two years, we wish to bid him Godspeed as he begins this new chapter in his life. On **Sunday, March 24**, we will gather as the family of First for **one worship service at 10:00 a.m.**, followed by a luncheon. In order to plan for this, please RSVP to Hannah DeMers at [administrator@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:administrator@firstlutheransd.org) or write your name on the sign up sheets in the Narthex.



## Book Group Notes

Our March selection is *Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas*. Crazy Horse, the legendary military leader of the Oglala Sioux, fought in many famous battles, including the Little Bighorn, and held out tirelessly against the U.S. government's efforts to confine the Lakotas to reservations. Finally, in the spring of 1877 he surrendered, only to meet a violent death. Mari Sandoz offers a powerful evocation of the long-ago world and enduring spirit of *Crazy Horse*.

We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on March 21 in the community room of Susan White's condo building, hosted by Sylvia Herman. All are welcome to attend!

## March Birthdays

1: Henry Carter	8: Bradley Horton	16: Jim Campbell	22: James Ehlers
3: Erika Fekas	8: Scarlett Pease	18: Anke Hartung	22: Mark Hartzell
5: George Falk	9: Sharon Province	18: Jared Jacobsen	23: Allison Emery
5: Bruce Givens	11: Robin Withers	20: Todd Ruth	29: Paul Finneseth
6: Samuel DeMers	13: Melodie Baker	20: Owen Valencia	29: Gary Kashefska
7: Hannah Jensen	15: Wayne Boss	21: Paul Johnson	31: Jacqueline Rothschild



## Council Update: Blessed and Grateful

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

Well, winter is here in San Diego. Even as we shiver, we can see the rest of the country is enduring much harsher conditions. So we are reminded we have much for which to be thankful. The same is true for First Lutheran. Although our interim between settled pastors is stretching longer than we anticipated, with unfavorable impacts on worship attendance and finances, we are blessed. Blessed that we have each other for support, we have uplifting worship Sunday after Sunday, we have money reserves in the bank...the list goes on. So, as we experience winter in our climate and our church home, we are grateful for our blessings!

Financial Report. The Council continues to watch income and expenses carefully. After just one month (January), the Treasurer reported our finances show no signs of major changes from 2018.

Membership. Pr. Darryl Kozak and Office Administrator Hannah DeMers compiled a list of people who are members but who haven't attended worship for some time, more than a year in many cases. Having an up-to-date member list is valuable, especially when conducting business like congregation meetings. Therefore, Council members will be reaching out to these people to ask whether First Lutheran can do anything for them and will acknowledge anyone who wants to change their membership. If you have information about someone who has moved away or now attends another church, please let Hannah DeMers know.

Lent Donations. Council members Margie Wahlsten and Susan White selected a charity for Lent donations in 2019. Working with a fellow Lutheran Church and a refugee support organization, they identified an Eritrean family needing legal fees to process their asylum claim. The goal is \$7,000, and Margie and Susan have organized a presentation on Mar. 3 between worship services to introduce this cause to the congregation.

2019 Goals. To develop goals for 2019, Council members compiled suggestions from the congregation with their own ideas and grouped them in categories. Council members have volunteered to work within these categories and will select specific tasks to focus on. They also will ask congregation members to become involved. Please let President Dick Krueger know if you're interested in any of these areas.

- Develop a financial stability plan.
- Increase outreach.
- Increase member engagement in church ministries.
- Clarify First Lutheran-TACO relationship.
- Expand congregational membership.
- Define who we are.
- Improve safety procedures.
- Expand our Christian education.
- Implement key maintenance/repair projects.
- Expand our social justice efforts.
- Increase internal and external communications.
- Provide member-to-member ministry.
- Expand our sense of social community.
- Undertake administrative improvements.

Outreach. The Council received only 30 responses listing priorities among the charities suggested by congregation members, too few surveys to be conclusive. The Council will contact the congregation members who recommended the top three charities to find out what specific actions First Lutheran could undertake for each one. The top three are Showers of Blessings, Monarch School, and Bread for the World.

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 2019 Council

### 2019 Council Officers:

President: Dick Krueger

Vice President: Frank DeLouise

Secretary: Carol Schultz

Treasurer: Kem Taylor

Financial Secretary: Anke Hartung

### Council Members:

Melinda Person, Marjorie

Wahlsten, and Susan White.



## ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's Pastoral Letter on UMC Decision

Dear Church,

On Tuesday, February 26, the 2019 General Conference, the UMC's highest legislative body, voted to affirm the church's current prohibitions of "ordaining LGBTQ clergy and officiating at or hosting same-sex marriage." (You can read about this decision at <https://www.umnews.org>.) This special General Conference had been called for this issue only; in the end, delegates turned away from a plan recommended by their Council of Bishops, which allowed for diversity in local practice, to embrace instead this "Traditional Plan."

The implications of the decisions of the General Conference are not yet fully apparent: the Judicial Council must review controversial provisions later this year, and the rippling consequences for ecclesial life will take much longer to work themselves out. Yet it seems clear that the conclusion of this process has not brought the greater unity for which so many longed.

What we can say with certainty is that as the UMC takes its next steps, we in the ELCA will continue to walk with our full communion partner. We treasure the joyful memories of the Churchwide Assembly in 2009, where we voted unanimously to enter this relationship. This relationship, and our commitment, have become woven into who we are as this church. Our life together as churches is a shared life together in Christ.

We remember also that the same 2009 Assembly decided to open the way for those in same-gender relationships to serve as pastors. Though a controversial decision at the time, our 2009 action has brought strength and blessings for our life and mission beyond what we could have imagined a decade ago. This church treasures the faithful ministries of those rostered leaders who help us witness to God's love and invitation for all people. Their ministries are integral to who we are as this church.

I ask this church, then, to continue by the side of the UMC, exchanging gifts and sharing burdens. In particular, we pray for them in their continued efforts faithfully to be church in the contexts we share. As we pray for them, we pray also for this church: may we be faithful to the calling to which we have been called, willing to confess our shortcomings and to trust in the healing, challenge and surprise of the Spirit of God, who calls us always forward.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop

## Call Committee Update

by Pat Lindquist

Here is a review of our progress for February: Bishop Andy provided us with 3 candidates, and we have had an initial interview with each of them. One candidate opted to withdraw after the first interview. This person had made it clear that the interview was exploratory, then respectfully declined to proceed saying he/she wasn't being called to parish ministry at this time. We will have all initial interviews completed by the end of February. We will seek additional candidate names as we think it necessary in order to proceed.

This is the time to say that all interviews are two way—our discernment of how successful this individual will be in our congregation, and their discernment about themselves in our setting. This takes the time that it takes. We pray and you pray.



## Celebrity Spotting

Members John & Suzanne Pew are featured on a Wesley Palms Front Porch Community sponsorship commercial on the local Public Broadcast System channels—KPBS. The Wesley Palms spot is frequently shown during prime evening viewing hours prior to popular PBS shows such as Masterpiece Theater and NOVA.

## President Subverts Constitution and Jeopardizes U.S. Efforts to Stop Drug Trade

from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services  
([www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org))

The use of an emergency declaration to subvert congressional authority is a blatant violation of the constitutional separation of powers. This is what the President did moments ago in bypassing Congress to seize funding for a fifth-century border wall that is both unnecessary and ineffective.

"Diverting funds from programs that actually prevent drugs from coming into the United States to pay for a steel barrier around some of the safest areas of our country is incomprehensible," said Krish Vignarajah, President and CEO of LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service). "Americans, and those who seek safety here, will suffer because of this political ploy."

This move is based on the President's claims that our southern border is unsafe. This is simply not true. Reports show that 22 of the 23 counties on our southern border are safer than similar counties nationwide.

"The administration cannot afford to play games when lives are at stake," continued Vignarajah. "We the people have elected Congress to uphold our nation's laws and appropriate funding based on our American priorities and values. And they have done that by passing bi-partisan legislation to address border security. The President's actions today upend the constitutional authority given to our elected officials."

LIRS urges Congress to push back on the national emergency declaration and stand firm against the border wall.



## First Lutheran Worship Assistants – March & April

### ALTAR GUILD

**MARCH**

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

*Marjorie Wahlsten*

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

*Ladonna Piper*

**APRIL**

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

*Dorothy Hunter*

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

*Melinda Person*

### USHERS

**MARCH**

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

*John Hoff &*

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

*Ladonna Piper & Marty Topp*

**APRIL**

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

*Carol McGrath, Kem Taylor,  
& Dell Wilcox*

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

*Ruth Clayton &  
Melinda Person*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Nursery Attendants	Flowers
March 3	9:00 11:00	Jan Neuhaus Paul Finneseth	Carol Schultz Joe Slevcove	Sylvia Herman Slevcoves	_____ _____	_____
March 10	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Frank Jessie	Frank DeLouise Elizabeth Connolly	Martha DeMers Marlene Garich	_____ _____	Kjonegaards
March 17	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Beth Slevcove	Marjorie Wahlsten Frank Jessie	Shaun Travers Elizabeth Connolly	_____ _____	_____
March 24	10:00	Frank Jessie	Lynne Falcon	Kathy Boeckelman	_____	Frank Jessie
March 31	9:00 11:00	Eric Sloniker Paul Finneseth	Chuck Leib Jim Lovell	Rebecca Kjonegaard Ruth Clayton	_____ _____	_____
April 7	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Frank Jessie	Shaun Travers Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	_____ _____	Kjonegaards
April 14	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Beth Slevcove	Russ Hoxie Matthew Eckert	Jim & Jessica Friedrich Marlene Garich	_____ _____	_____



# March 2019 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>4</b> 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>5</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>6</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm Ash Wed Svc 12 pm AI Anon 7 pm Ash Wed Svc	<b>7</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>1</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA <b>8</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	<b>2</b> <b>9</b>
<b>10</b> FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>11</b> 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>12</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>13</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 4:30 Yoga/Walk 5:45 Soup Supper 6:30 Holden 7:00 Classes	<b>14</b> 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP 6:30 TACO Board Mtg	<b>15</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>18</b> 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>19</b> 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 Church Council Mtg	<b>20</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 4:30 Yoga/Walk 5:45 Soup Supper 6:30 Holden 7:00 Classes	<b>21</b> 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	<b>22</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 10 am Worship 11:30 Luncheon & Farewell	<b>25</b> 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>26</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>27</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 4:30 Yoga/Walk 5:45 Soup Supper 6:30 Holden 7:00 Classes	<b>28</b> 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	<b>29</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 4 pm German Svc						

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

**The PULSEBEAT**  
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 First Lutheran Church  
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 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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## TACO Corner: Seeking Shelter

A woman huddled in old boxes from the trash, a couple with a makeshift shelter of ripped tarps and a dirty blanket in a small alcove, a person simply sitting on the sidewalk in the rain crying...

Every day Downtown, scenes like this unfold in front of me: people desperately seeking shelter anywhere that provides a semblance of protection (restaurant patios, doorways, garages). The lucky ones have a tarp; others are simply left to the elements, often without even a jacket.

At TACO we made it a priority to give out jackets this year. In addition, we provide blankets, tarps, ponchos, and of course hot meals. Yes, this is somewhat of a bandage, but with the lack of affordable housing, and nothing on the horizon, our "bandage" provides an important service. I cannot tell you the number of times I have seen people Downtown sleeping with a blanket or jacket given to them by TACO.

If you are so inclined, TACO could still use donations of jackets, tarps, and blankets as winter will be with us for a while. To those who have donated, please know we truly appreciate you, and hope to see you soon.

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



## Facilities Focus: 2019 Adopt-a-Project

Each month, a room of the church with projects available for adoption is highlighted. The church relies on the skills, time, and generosity of members and friends to complete or help fund these important projects in order to keep our church facilities welcoming and in good repair. This month's Adopt-a-Project focus is the Sacristy.

### **Sacristy**

#### **Outstanding Tasks:**

- ◇ Sort and clean albs
- ◇ Brush and spot clean upholstery on chairs stored in sacristy
- ◇ Tighten screws on back of chairs and repair loose seat cushions
- ◇ Re-glue loose baseboard strip to wall
- ◇ Patch wall nicks and repaint sacristy walls
- ◇ Prime and repaint stained ceiling
- ◇ Shampoo carpet

A full list of available projects and sign-up slips are located on the kiosk in the lounge.



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