



May 2019

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The PULSEBEAT

### Meet Our New Bridge Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Allow me to introduce myself as your new "bridge pastor." My name is Pastor Rich Ajer. I have been contracted to serve with you at First Lutheran Church through Bishop Taylor and your Church Council for the time that remains until a pastor is called by your congregation. Wherever I am needed as your bridge pastor, I will be open and willing to serve.

A word about me personally. Some of you know my spouse (Deacon Margy Ajer) and me from our years in California (1990 - 2011). We (and our son Andrew) were actually members of First for a time (2007 - 2010) when I served as an assistant to the bishop on the Pacifica Synod staff. Margy and I are maintaining an apartment in the City of New York (Harlem) as Margy serves as an assistant to the bishop on the Metropolitan New York Synod staff. The election of a new bishop in that synod in May will help determine the length of her remaining time on the staff of the Office of the Bishop in New York City. We plan to eventually retire in the San Diego area regardless of her call timing. It is therefore such a blessing to be able to serve here with you at this time. I thank you for making that possible.

I will be sharing more as the days for my service with you draw near. In April I am closing out my 19-month interim with a congregation in Rocky Point (Long Island), New York. My last Sunday there will be April 28th and I will be driving to San Diego and begin serving with you the following Sunday (May 5). Thank you for welcoming me into your life and ministry in this time of your congregation's life!



Sincerely,  
Pastor Rich Ajer

#### Church Cell Phone Numbers

Pastor Rich: 619-990-4589

Hannah: 619-977-2646

#### Church Email Addresses

Pastor Rich: [pastorrich@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:pastorrich@firstlutheransd.org);

Hannah/Church Office: [administrator@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:administrator@firstlutheransd.org)





## Council Update: Hope and Celebration

*by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary*

As you may recall, this year First Lutheran's Lent meditations booklet was titled "Waiting with Hope." Now that Lent and Passion Week have given way to Easter, we are in a season of "hope and celebration." At our April Council meeting, we reflected on a meditation about walking in faith as we deal with the co-existence of Good Friday and Easter in our lives. Hope carries us through the Good Friday experiences that challenge us, and celebration lifts our spirits when we're blessed with Easter-like events.

**Pastoral Transition.** President Dick Krueger informed the Council that Bridge Pastor Rich Ajer will begin conducting worship at First Lutheran on May 5, 2019. Until then, several retired pastors who are members of First Lutheran's congregation will fulfill pastoral duties. Pr. John Davis, Pr. Richard Elliot, Pr. Jim Friedrich, and Pr. Bill Radatz will preach and preside at various worship services. Pr. Bill Bengston will take Holy Communion to homebound members, and Pr. Jim Friedrich and Pr. Bill Radatz will provide emergency support.

**Financial Report.** At the end of the first fiscal quarter, First Lutheran is operating at a deficit. Even though the 2019 budget anticipates a deficit, income is 15% lower than projected and expenses are 3% higher than projected.

**Congregation Membership.** One of the most easily overlooked tasks in many congregations is keeping the list of active members up-to-date. In preparation for the arrival of First Lutheran's settled pastor, the Council is updating our list of members. Often people move away or find another church home and First Lutheran isn't notified. The Council would appreciate any updates you may know about; you may contact any Council member or the Office Administrator.

**Pride Parade.** Frank DeLouise and Susan White are co-leaders of a committee to organize a marching contingent for the San Diego Pride Parade on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Committee members are Sylvia Herman, Debby Hays, and Carol McGrath. Expect to hear details from them as their plans develop.

**Outreach and Lenten Offering.** Generous contributors exceeded the \$7,000 target set for this year's Lenten offering. The Council agreed to give a check for \$7,000 to the designated refugee family on Easter Sunday and to set aside funds above that amount for future use to aid asylum seekers.

**2019 Goals.** In January, the Council identified a list of goals based on input from congregation members. And in response, committees are getting to work. An ad hoc committee has formed for member care. As a first step, Pr. Bill Bengston and his wife Sheri Bengston have volunteered to bring Holy Communion to members in their homes. Another ad hoc committee is examining financial sustainability and deficit reduction. They are evaluating ways to improve revenues and to achieve operational savings. The Council will share more details as we continue work on these and other goals we've identified.

As you can see, Council members handle a wide variety of leadership and operational matters. Representing the interests of our fellow congregation members is a privilege and a responsibility we take seriously. We invite you to share your questions, concerns, or appreciation with any Council member.

God's Peace to you all,

Your 2019 Council

## Call Committee Update

Bishop Andy Taylor met with us recently to give his personal support for a swifter process of obtaining candidates' names. It was a very helpful meeting. We will soon be interviewing our most recent candidate for the second time.

Thanks always to the congregation for patience and prayers.

### 2019 Council Officers:

President: Dick Krueger

Vice President: Frank DeLouise

Secretary: Carol Schultz

Treasurer: Kem Taylor

Financial Secretary: Anke Hartung

### Council Members:

Kara Oien, Melinda Person, Marjorie Wahlsten, and Susan White.



## Lenten Giving Project Update

The Lenten season was especially exciting for First Lutheran. The devotional theme was "Waiting with Hope," and we find ourselves waiting for many things. The Lenten Giving Project was waiting for \$7,000 to pay attorney fees for a six-member family seeking asylum. Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, we achieved and EXCEEDED our goal.

On Easter Sunday we donated the \$7,000 to our fellow Lutheran congregation that has been housing and caring for this family. They identified the attorney fees as their most urgent need and First Lutheran met that need for them.

The Church Council has set aside the excess funds in a special account and will be considering how to best utilize them. They will report to the congregation in the coming months. If you have any suggestions, please contact a member of the Church Council.



*Thank you to Jeremy Kaercher for the photos!*



## Lenten Giving Project: Border Field Trip

1. How many miles long is the land border with Mexico? (+/- 50)
2. Which country has more immigrants than any other country?
3. What percentage of the U.S. population now are immigrants born in another country? (+/-1%)
4. How many miles of wall are currently in place on the border with Mexico? (+/-50)
5. How many official land entry ports are along U.S. borders? (Canada and Mexico) (+/-5)
6. What percentage of migrants apprehended by the border patrol in 2018 were children and family members? (+/-5%)
7. How many border patrol agents does the U.S. employ? (+/-200)
8. In what year was the U.S. Border Patrol founded? (+/-5)

Twenty members and friends of our congregation enjoyed a rousing Sunday afternoon outing organized by Pastor Bill Radatz on March 31. This was the second field trip around the topic of immigration, the emphasis of our Lenten Giving this year. We gathered at Bill and Martha's house in Imperial Beach, about 2 miles north of the border, and started by playing a *Jeopardy!* game created by Bill. There were three categories: Immigrants, Borders & Walls, and History. Two teams battled it out to a draw. The answers to the 8 questions above are elsewhere in this Pulsebeat. Next month we will give you the rest of the questions and answers.

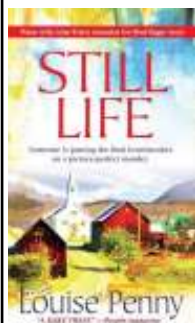


From the Radatz home we drove down I-5 to Dairy Mart Road, the last off-ramp before the border, stopping just west of the freeway to view the wall from about 1/4 mile distance while Bill gave us some history and answered questions. The section we were viewing, west of the border crossing, was recently replaced with fencing you can see through. We continued driving west to the entrance to Border Field State Park. Unfortunately because of all the recent rain, the dirt road to the ocean was closed and we were not able to see where the fence goes into the ocean which was

the original plan. Some members have expressed interest in going back later this spring.

We drove back to the Radatz home along surface roads that Bill uses as a bike route and stopped to take photos of a huge field of yellow flowers. It was a fun and informative afternoon. Thank you to Bill and Martha for their hospitality.





## Book Group Notes

As the early morning mist clears on, the homes of Three Pines come to life--all except one... Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surete du Quebec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal and yet a world away. Jane Neal, a long-time resident of Three Pines, has been found dead in the woods. Thus begins the "masterpiece of a traditional drawing room mystery" chosen for our May reading, *Still Life* by Louise Penny. With this first novel, the author introduces an engaging hero in Inspector Gamache. If you get hooked, you just might want to go on to read the many Inspector Gamache books in her delightful series.

Please join us for fellowship and discussion of *Still Life* on Thursday, May 16, 7PM at the home of Chuck Leib. Looking Ahead: Our June selection will be *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* by Alexandra Fuller.

## Art Exhibit

"For the beauty of the Earth" is the theme for the next all-congregational arts exhibit. You are encouraged to contribute an original work expressing the beauty of God's creation through the arts: music, writing, sculpture, mixed media, painting, drawing, fiber, et cetera. Those interested in contributing written or musical work please contact Nancy Eckert for more details.

### Deadlines:

Participation forms are on the table in the Church Lobby. Submit your name, name of the work, medium, and approximate dimensions by Sunday, May 26, 2019.

Work to be ready and at church by Wednesday May 29, 2019.

For more information and/or to participate, please call Nancy Eckert at 858-270-1536.

## Border Field Trip Answers

1. 1954 miles
2. United States, with 40 million residents born in another country, accounting for 1/5 of the world's migrants in 2016.
3. 13.5%, nearly triple the 4.7% share in 1970, but below the record 14.8% share in 1890.
4. 654 miles
5. 44
6. 40% or 2 in 5. This is a record. In 2012 it was 10%.
7. 19,887 (16,605 on the southern border. In 1940 it had 1,531 agents.
8. 1924

## Pastoral Care

**Communion:** Rev. Bill Bengtson, one of our retired Pastor members, has offered to visit and take communion to any of our members who are not able to get to church. If you know of a need or have any questions, you can contact him at 619-501-5422 or [bengtsonwm@aol.com](mailto:bengtsonwm@aol.com).

**On-Call Pastoral Support:** Pastor Bill Radatz and Pastor Jim Friedrich have agreed to be "on call" for FLC member emergencies until our bridge pastor arrives in early May. If you have an emergency and you would like pastoral support, you may contact Pastor Jim Friedrich at 619-825-3519 or Pastor Bill Radatz at 619-575-2845.

## Pastor Darryl's Installation

Pastor Darryl will be officially installed as the pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Corona on Sunday, June 2 at 3:00PM.



## May Birthdays

1: Kristen Munnik	11: Dale Cleland	21: Kristin Westerman	29: Francie Montgomery
5: Mark Hallerberg	17: Mary Robinson	23: Katie Diepholz	29: Bill Radatz
5: Meaghann Harbinson	18: Sharon Carlson	24: Leah Carter	30: Kathryn Kanaan
5: Joe Slevcove	18: Jeremy Kaercher	25: Pat Hendrickson	30: Shelby Mehlow Morris
11: Simon Alli	21: Diana Foley	29: Abrehet Berhan	31: Blair Siverts



## TACO Corner

Hello, and happy spring everyone! As the year flies by, I am looking forward to the return of beach weather. Last winter proved challenging for many of the people TACO serves, with rain and cold weather taking a definite toll.

I have been spending more time speaking with our guests, and their stories about winter are both heartening AND heartbreaking. Stories of full shelters, futile attempts to find a dry place, and clothing soaked to the bone in cold weather are all too common.

However, I also take comfort that TACO was able to provide some sense of relief in the form of donations from our amazing patrons. The coats, blankets, sleeping bags, and tarps provided many with their ONLY protection from the elements.

I am also truly proud that TACO was able to hand out over 300 coats this past winter. I cannot tell you how often we were approached by people with NO jacket or warm clothing, and how fulfilling it was to say YES, we can help. For this, and for all you do, I want to send a most heartfelt thank you. Without your time and donations, TACO could not exist, and I am deeply grateful for all of you.

With spring here, and summer on the way, we find ourselves in need of cooler clothing for our guests. Ironically, summer can prove to be just as challenging as winter with the hot weather taking a big toll on people. To help, we are making a big push to have sweatpants and shorts available to our guests; thus any donations would be most appreciated.

I wish you all a wonderful May, and hope to see you soon.

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





# Fight Hunger, Find Beauty

\$25 suggested donation

Saturday, May 11, 2019 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

La Jolla United Methodist Church, 6003 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037

Empty Bowls is an international project to fight hunger and here is how you can help:

**CHOOSE** a handmade bowl, donated by local artisans

**FILL** with delicious soup and bread from your favorite local restaurants

**GIVE** all proceeds go to TACO (Third Avenue Charitable Organization)

**INFORMATION:** TACO, 1420 Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92101 • Phone 619.235.9445

## Empty Bowls for TACO

Sponsors and Contributors			
<b>RESTAURANTS</b> Beacon's Bernini's Brasserie Bread & Cie Brigantine Seafood Enola's El Indio Mexican Restaurant & Catering George's at the Cove Grand Gourmet Igille Miguel's Cocina Mexican Food Pacific Del Mar	Planet Loma Seafoods Surrency's Woodfired Pizza San Diego Yacht Club The Cottage The Fishery The French Gourmet Village Mill Bread Co. Waters Catering Whiskadee Zodiac Restaurant BOWLS Bishop's School Carlsbad HS Visual &	Performing Arts Clay Artists at the Vineyard Clay Artists of San Diego Clay Associates Coronado High School ECC Ceramics El Cajon Valley HS Fire and Mud Harmony Hill Studios Plum Pottery San Diego Pottery Guild San Diego Woodturners' Guild Studio J Pottery	Southwestern College Clay Club <b>SPONSORS</b> Aamark Clay & Supplies La Jolla United Methodist Church St. Peter's By The Sea Lutheran Church <b>MUSIC BY</b> Gone Tomorrow Blue Grass Band

[www.tacosd.org](http://www.tacosd.org) • Feeding the homeless and working poor in downtown San Diego for 44 years.



## First Lutheran Worship Assistants – May & June

### ALTAR GUILD

#### MAY

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

*Peggy Quintana*

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

*Ruth Clayton*

#### JUNE

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

*Susan White*

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

*Melinda Person*

### USHERS

#### MAY

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

*Peggy & Tony Quintana*

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

*Ladonna Piper & Anke Hartung*

#### JUNE

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

*Dan & Rebecca Kjonegaard*

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

*Ruth Clayton & Marty Topp*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Nursery Attendants	Flowers
May 5	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Frank Jessie	Dennis Arenas Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	Lee Kaercher Martha DeMers	Kjonegaards
May 12	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Beth Slevcove	Ronn Garton Nancy Eckert	Frank DeLouise & Chuck Leib Melinda Person	Joe DeMers  Hannah DeMers	_____
May 19	9:00 11:00	Frank Jessie Mary Ann Horton	T.J. Tallie Jim Lovell	Hanieh Kohan Khaki Ruth Clayton	Kathryn Kanaan Joe DeMers	Kjonegaards
May 26	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Paul Finneseth	Paul Engel Matthew Eckert	Dick & Mary Krueger Ruth Clayton	Kem Taylor Hannah DeMers	_____
June 2	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Frank Jessie	Kem Taylor Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	Marjorie Wahlsten Paul Engel	_____
June 9	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Beth Slevcove	Eric Sloniker Martha Radatz	Loren Harrell Shelly Schreiber	Mary Krueger Kathryn Kanaan	_____
June 16	9:00 11:00	Jan Neuhaus Mary Ann Horton	George Falk Frank Jessie	Pat Hendrickson Melinda Person	Dick Krueger Hannah DeMers	Kjonegaards



# May 2019 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	2 12 pm AI Anon	3 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	4
5 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	6 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	7 12 pm AI Anon	8 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	9 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP 6:30 TACO Board Mtg	10 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	11
12 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	13 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	14 12 pm AI Anon	15 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	16 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	17 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	18
19 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	20 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	21 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 Church Council Mtg	22 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	23 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	24 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	25
26 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 3 pm German Svc	27 MEMORIAL DAY (OFFICE CLOSED) 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	28 12 pm AI Anon	29 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	30 12 pm AI Anon	31 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	

*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](http://www.firstlutheransd.org)

**First Lutheran Church**  
**The Rev. Rich Ajer**, Bridge 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

**Return Service Requested**

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 194

## Facilities Focus: How About a Summer Project?

Spring and summer are good times to adopt a much-needed project around our church facility. First Lutheran Church is a heavily used facility and depends on the willingness and generosity of members and friends to help keep the church facility in good repair.

There are several projects both inside and outside available for adoption. The adopted project can be conducted by the adoptee or by providing funding to have a project completed. Sample projects include: painting, window cleaning, organizing, carpet and upholstery shampooing, minor repairs, and landscape improvements.

A list of projects is posted on the kiosk in the lounge, or you may contact representatives of the Facilities Committee.



*Chapel doors are being re-stained*



## Volunteer Nursery Attendants

As you can see in the Worship Assistant schedule, we now have some volunteers! But you'll also notice that there are a lot of repeat names. The more people who volunteer, the less often each person will have to do it. And it's really easy! You only need to be a second pair of eyes—you can play with the kids if you want, but you don't need to change diapers or help with going to the bathroom. **Please help us take care of our kids!**

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Hannah DeMers.



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