



June 2019

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is good to be among you as your “Bridge Pastor” in the days ahead. This term “bridge pastor” is used now in a number of synods of the ELCA as a way to distinguish the work I am here to do from the work done by the Intentional Interim Pastors (Pastor Koger and Pastor Kozak). In baseball lingo, it is hoped that I will be your “Closer” until the pastor your Call Committee is searching for is called and is poised to begin his or her ministry among you. But, as I shared with the Church Council at our first meeting together, while we anticipate our time together to be short by usual pastor/congregation standards, let’s make it worthwhile! Help me to know how best to serve you as FLC, TACO, the community, our conference, synod, and ELCA and beyond. God can do amazing things in different times and ways.



In the days ahead, feel free to contact me by email at [pastorrich@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:pastorrich@firstlutheransd.org) or by my pastoral cell phone at 619-990-4589, or through the church office. I am interested in your stories, whether it be about your church, your family, work or avocational interests, whatever. My office hours will be varied, so it is best to call ahead if you want to meet me at the church during the week.

I saw a quote recently in this regard attributed to the Dalai Lama which read, “There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live.” And, as the Apostle Paul wrote, “See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!” (2 Cor. 6:2) Let us make the most of our time together, however short or long it may be.

I look forward to getting to know one another and working together as the Body of Christ!

Pastor Rich Ajer



## Synod Assembly News

by Chuck Leib

The Pacifica Synod Assembly was held on May 9 through May 11 at Hope Lutheran Church in Palm

Desert. Sylvia Starbird Herman and I attended the Assembly, along with Pastor Ajer, as voting members of First Lutheran. Jan Neuhaus was also there in her role as a member of the Synod Council. It was good to hear reports and receive updates regarding Synod activities. There were several resolutions presented requiring our votes. The Synod office prepared a very comprehensive summary of the Assembly this year and you can view that summary by visiting the Pacifica Synod’s website:

<http://www.pacificasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Assembly-2019-Final-Review.pdf>

Please let me know if you’d like a printed version of the summary and I will provide you with one. Both Sylvia and I were proud to represent you at the Pacifica Synod Assembly.

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School year came to a close at the end of May. A big thank you to Kara Oien and Martha Radatz, our lead teachers, and Marie Ruth, who supports our Sunday School in so many ways. Thanks also to those who served as assistants and substitute teachers during the year. The commitment to and love for our youngest members by all of these individuals is truly a blessing.

Sunday School will resume in September. Enjoy the summer!

## Lunch Bunch Forming

Twenty people have expressed interest in having lunch together as a means to get better acquainted. The first lunch will be on Tuesday, June 4, at 12:30 p.m. at Jo’s Diner, 807 W. Washington St. Subsequent lunches will be the first Tuesday of each month in the Mission Hills/Hillcrest area.

If you would like to be added to the Lunch Bunch mailing list, contact Marjorie Wahlsten: 619-977-5816 or [californiatourist49@gmail.com](mailto:californiatourist49@gmail.com).



## Council Update: Another Beginning

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

Once again, First Lutheran is beginning a relationship with a new pastor. On May 2, Pr. Rich Ajer arrived from New York to become the pastor who will “bridge” the time between his arrival and the future arrival of First Lutheran’s settled pastor. He’s no stranger to San Diego, however, having served as pastor to Shepherd of the Valley in La Mesa some time ago and having been a member of First Lutheran for a few years after that. The Council welcomed him with its customary informal dinner at a nearby restaurant before the Council meeting.

**Bridge Pastor.** Pr. Rich gave the Council his first impressions as bridge pastor, which include: worship and music are alive and inspiring; our congregation has displayed strength and faithfulness during a challenging interim; staff and lay leaders have gotten Pr. Rich settled quickly; TACO generates an impressive amount of activity and Pr. Rich will be present when he can; and Pr. Rich looks forward to learning how his ministry can serve our faith community.

**Financial Report.** Expenses in April were below budget due to being without full-time pastor after Pr. Darryl Kozak left in late March for a settled call at Peace Lutheran in Corona, CA. However, revenues also were below budget, and First Lutheran’s net total was about \$18,000 less than budgeted at the end of April.

**Property Management.** President Dick Krueger has organized meetings to discuss the lift installation with the contractor and the kitchen health permit required by the County with TACO. The lift meeting will focus on permit status, possible cost increases, and projected start and completion. The kitchen health permit meeting will focus on the projected date for issuance of the permit, facility modifications to the kitchen in order to obtain the permit, and differences in kitchen management and responsibilities as a result of the permit.

**TACO Update.** TACO liaison Frank DeLouise reported the following items: at its last meeting, the TACO Board approved 2-4 hours of staff time/week to power wash the patio; the Board is looking into training for staff and volunteers for behavioral management to address incidents instigated by TACO’s clients; Frank has presented and explained the new hygiene kit to the Board; and Frank confirmed for the Council that TACO has hired a new kitchen coordinator.

**Bridge Pastor’s Covenant.** President Dick Krueger presented the compensation package and conditions of service for the bridge pastor as set forth in the covenant provided by the Pacifica Synod. First Lutheran’s compensation package complies with Synod guidelines. Dick noted the Portico payment for insurance and retirement is reduced because Pr. Rich’s wife is covered separately through her employment by the Metropolitan New York Synod.

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

### 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.

## June Birthdays

2: Geri Jenkins

7: Joshua Grace

14: Lynne Falcon

23: Frank Jessie

4: Emily Kirn

9: Ted Carlson

17: Brian Jensen

26: Kathy Boeckelman

5: Joel Radatz

9: Jack Lindquist

17: Wallace Robinson

29: Brian Shuman

6: Matthew Eckert

10: Gary Randall

20: Joe DeMers

29: Eric Sloniker

6: Merv Rettenmund

13: Lynda Brown

20: Tony Quintana



## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is not a priority, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

This seemed like the perfect opportunity for our congregation, with so many working and retired teachers, and a natural extension to continue helping the older siblings in families who may be recipients of the Baby Care Kits we donate. To that end, this summer we will be collecting school supplies to participate in another Lutheran World Relief kit building project, assembling School Kits.

Be looking for information about FLC's participation in this worthwhile outreach project in next month's Pulsebeat. If you want to get an early start on collecting the supplies included in the kits, go to "lwr.org/instructions" for a complete listing of what we will need to complete each kit. A generous supply of backpacks has already been donated so we will just need the actual school supplies.

If you qualify, this is also another opportunity to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars or Combined Federal Campaign funds to make a significant global impact. Information on how to take advantage of those opportunities is also included on the Lutheran World Relief website.

### Border Jeopardy Questions

Last month we printed some of the questions Pastor Bill Radatz asked in his Border Jeopardy game. Here are the rest of them:

1. In FY 2018, how many refugees were resettled in the United States?
2. How many tunnels have been found under border walls since their construction began?
3. How much does it cost for one to complete the process for citizenship in the USA?
4. In what year was the peak number of 1.6 million apprehensions by the border patrol?
5. What percentage of Border Patrol apprehensions in 2018 occurred along the Southwest border?
6. In what year was construction of a wall along the border with Mexico begun?
7. In February, 2019, the U.S. government was still processing some family-sponsored visa applications dating from what year?

Answers can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Pulsebeat.



Penny Corrigan Memorial

Saturday, June 22

11:00 a.m.

### Update on Our Lenten Offering Family

The coalition of three churches continues to surround the mother and her five children with love and support. They have to move out of the church this month due to prior commitments for the space, but this was known when they moved in last September. The church is working to find them a place, ideally in the Pacific Beach area so that all of the children can continue in their same schools, where they have been excelling.

The children continue to thrive. The oldest son, 18, is learning to play the saxophone. Two of the daughters have been enrolled in UCSD's Big Data Summer Camp thanks to a generous mentor. Meron, the daughter we met, wants to be a computer engineer and is thrilled at this opportunity. And UCSD program coordinators say they are thrilled to have these young women with such unusual backgrounds in the program.

We ask that you keep them in your prayers.

### Volunteer Nursery Attendants

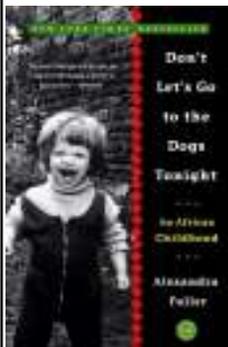
As you can see in the Worship Assistant schedule, we now have some volunteers! But you'll also notice that there are a lot of repeat names. The more people who volunteer, the less often each person will have to do it. And it's really easy! You only need to be a second pair of eyes—you can play with the 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.





## Book Group Notes



Our book club's selection for June is *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*, by Alexandra Fuller. The meeting will be in the community room of Susan White's condo building, hosted by Sharon Province at 7 p.m. on June 20.

This is a memoir of a quirky, poignant, frightening, funny childhood in war-torn Africa between 1969 and 2002. Quoting her publisher, "Though it is the diary of an unruly life in an often inhospitable place, it is suffused with Fuller's endearing ability to find laughter even when there is little to celebrate. In wry and sometimes hilarious prose, she stares down disaster and looks back with rage and love at the life of an extraordinary family in an extraordinary time."

As always, reading the book is not a requirement for coming to join this fun group.

### Answers to Border Jeopardy Questions

1. 22,491, amounting to less than half of the admission ceiling of 45,000 allocated for that year, and a 58% drop from the previous year.
2. Two hundred. Sixty-five in the Otay Mesa area alone.
3. About \$2,000, including petition fee, immigrant visa interview, medical exam, and green card fee.
4. Year 2000. The number of migrants apprehended by Border Patrol at the U.S./Mexico border in 2018—396,579 people—was the fifth lowest total since 1973.
5. Ninety-eight percent.
6. 1993. President Clinton mandated construction on a 13 mile "Border Wall" between San Diego and Tijuana. In 2006, President Bush ordered the construction of 700 miles of fencing and "virtual" fencing for the rest of the southern border.
7. 1995.

### Facilities Focus: 2019 Adopt-a-Project

Various areas of the church facilities are being highlighted each month with projects available for adoption. 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 in good repair and a welcoming place.

#### Administrative Area

##### Outstanding Tasks:

- Repair dings in walls with spackling putty
- Touch up purple wall
- Repaint wall in administrative hallway entrance
- Trouble shoot noisy exhaust fan in administrative restroom
- Tighten loose toilet seat
- Touch up paint on door jambs

There are several projects in all areas of the church that are available for adoption. A full list of projects available is located on the kiosk in the lounge.

## Email Prayer Chain

In an effort to focus our prayers, we have begun an email prayer chain. If you would like to be a member of the prayer chain, please submit your name and email address to Hannah.

The email address for the prayer chain is

[inourprayers@firstlutheransd.org](mailto: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 Rich for distribution.

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

#### 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)



## Pride Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall

This year's Pride Parade will be on July 13, and First Lutheran will have a marching contingent as we have for years now. The theme this year is Stonewall 50: Legacy of Liberation. (For more on Stonewall, see the sidebar article which gives a short version of the events.)

This year also represents 30 years since First Lutheran Church took the bold step of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The RIC designation identifies us as a church that is welcoming to LGBTQ persons. There are over 9000 ELCA congregations in the USA and we are among 860 RIC congregations.

As an RIC congregation, we certainly want to be part of the Pride week festivities, especially the chance to be very visible in the parade. The parade is a big, colorful, fun event that celebrates diversity and tolerance and we hope lots of you will come. Bring friends! Wear rainbows! But join us please.

There are two ways you can be part of the fun. You can walk with us or you can view the parade from the sidelines. Either way you can come to the after-party which is generously hosted by Susan White in the community room of her condo building (at 4th and Redwood) and is conveniently close to the finish line of the parade.

If you would like to walk with the FLC contingent, there is a signup sheet at church and more information will follow. We will be wearing matching t-shirts (cost is \$10) and will meet near the stepping off point at 9 a.m. The parade starts at University and Normal (where the big Pride Flag is), we proceed west on University, turn south on 6th Ave., left into Balboa Park on Balboa Dr. and we finish at Quince St. The entire route is 1.5 miles and the pace is slow. Bishop Andy will be walking with us as will members of other ELCA churches, including Peace, St. Andrew's, and Bethlehem. (It can be quite hot out there so maybe leave the dog at home or put doggie in a stroller.)

We have also scheduled a 10:10 on June 9 to learn more about the Stonewall Riot, its causes and the lasting effects it has had on gay activism. Walter Meyer of the Lambda Archives will be our speaker and will discuss how Stonewall inspired the gay rights protest movement.

## The Story of Stonewall

Stonewall was the name of a bar in the Greenwich Village area of Manhattan in New York City. It was a sleazy dump of a place, owned by the Genovese family of the Mafia, but it was one of the very few places in the city where gay people could go and be themselves. The bar and the police had an informal arrangement whereby the police would stop by weekly to collect envelopes of cash and would then look the other way at the fact that the Stonewall had no liquor license. It also didn't have running water behind the bar, nor did it have fire exits.

In 1969, the year the riots took place, gay men and women not only lacked legal protection, it was perfectly acceptable to persecute them. Homosexuals were classed by their own government as perverts "who lack the emotional stability of normal persons." You could be fired from your job for being gay, and state and local governments shut down bars catering to homosexuals. Their customers were arrested and exposed in newspapers. Cities performed "sweeps" to rid neighborhoods, parks, bars, and beaches of gay people. They outlawed the wearing of opposite gender clothes, and universities expelled instructors suspected of being homosexual.

But the times, as the old protest song claimed, were a-changin'. In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, four plainclothes police, two uniformed officers, a detective, and a deputy inspector came calling. Usually the bartenders were tipped off if a raid was coming, but not on this night. There were some 205 patrons inside the bar that night. Some were released by the police and exited through the front door but this night they did not leave. They stayed outside watching and a crowd began to form until there were ten times as many outside, gay and straight, as there were inside. Of those who were detained, some refused to produce identification. Those dressed as women refused to go with the police. The people outside began to sing "We Shall Overcome."

Then a transvestite whacked a policeman over the head with her purse and she shouted at the crowd, "Why don't you guys do something?" After an officer grabbed her and heaved her into a paddy wagon, the crowd became a mob and things happened fast. The mob uprooted a parking meter and used it as a battering ram to get at the police and patrons still inside. When they broke the door down, the police drew their weapons and aimed into the crowd. For 45 minutes there was pandemonium and it was 4 a.m. before the scene was cleared. But nothing would ever be the same for LGBTQ people. Said one eye-witness, "We were out of the closet and we were not going back."



## First Lutheran Worship Assistants – June & July

### ALTAR GUILD

**JUNE**

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

*Susan White*

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

*Melinda Person*

**JULY**

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

*Carol McGrath*

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

*Ladonna Piper*

### USHERS

**JUNE**

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

*Dan & Rebecca Kjonegaard*

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

*Ruth Clayton & Marty Topp*

**JULY**

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

*Dennis Arenas &  
David Oakes*

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

*Melinda Person &  
Ladonna Piper*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Nursery Attendants	Flowers
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 Mary Ann Horton	Eric Sloniker Martha Radatz	Loren Harrell Shelly Schreiber	Mary Krueger Kathryn Kanaan	_____
June 16	9:00 11:00	Jan Neuhaus Beth Slevcove	George Falk Frank Jessie	Pat Hendrickson Melinda Person	Dick Krueger Hannah DeMers	Kjonegaards
June 23	9:00 11:00	Eric Sloniker Paul Finneseth	Pat Hendrickson Elizabeth Connolly	Kem Taylor Ruth Clayton	Billie Thompson Joe DeMers	DeMers
June 30	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Frank Jessie	Richard Elliott Nancy Eckert	Dennis Arenas & David Oakes Elizabeth Connolly	Lee Kaercher Paul Engel	Kjonegaards
July 7	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Beth Slevcove	Jim Boyd Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	Joe DeMers Kathryn Kanaan	_____
July 14	9:00 11:00	Frank Jessie Mary Ann Horton	Jan Neuhaus Jim Lovell	Sylvia Herman _____	Kathryn Kanaan Hannah DeMers	_____



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

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

**Return Service Requested**

## Lutheran Disaster Response

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener, and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster—following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

You may donate to Lutheran Disaster Relief through their website, <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>, or you may give to the church and note that it is for Lutheran Disaster Relief, and the specific event, if desired (i.e. Tornadoes, flooding, etc.)



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