



July 2019

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

From the Bridge Pastor:

As you know, in the past three years First Lutheran Church has been in a time of transition and has been looking for your new pastor. How exciting that there is now a "Meet and Greet" and congregational vote scheduled for Sunday, July 14! The pastoral candidate the Call Committee and Council are recommending to the congregation will be present prior to the vote for you to get acquainted with personally. The details regarding the specific time and details of this event will be forthcoming. Please make every effort to attend this very important gathering in the history of First Lutheran Church.

I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul, who wrote to the Church in Corinth,

"Consider your own call, brothers and sisters..." (1 Cor. 1:26)

How true it is that we all have our own callings as Christians, which is rooted in our baptism.

In this baptismal calling we are encouraged to work together and find unity.

Again, Paul writes to the church at Ephesus,

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:3-6)

As Christ's body, First Lutheran Church continues to move together in faith and trust in God as it has since 1888. How exciting to consider what new ways of being church together the Holy Spirit might lead this congregation and its new ordained leader to in the years to come.

So with you my prayers in the days ahead. We're crossing the bridge, and the Spirit is leading us. Thanks be to God!



Pastor Rich Ajer

Church Cell Phone Numbers

Pastor Rich: 619-990-4589

Hannah: 619-977-2646

Church Email Addresses

Pastor Rich: pastorrich@firstlutheransd.org;

Hannah/Church Office: administrator@firstlutheransd.org

Meet & Greet

There will be a Meet & Greet with the pastoral candidate, followed immediately by a Special Congregation Meeting to vote.

Sunday, July 14

Refreshments begin at 3:30

Meet candidate 4:00-5:00 p.m.

The Church Council and Call Committee strongly encourage you to attend both the Meet & Greet and the Special Congregation Meeting.

Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, July 10. You may either sign up on the RSVP sheet in the lounge or contact the church office.

2019 Pride Parade Info

Saturday, July 13

Information is available on the kiosk in the lounge, including a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to march and information about a reception immediately following the parade. There's also a place to note if you would like a space in the shuttle from First Lutheran to the parade and back. Everyone is invited to participate!

First Lutheran will be joined by some of our neighboring churches: Peace Lutheran, Bethlehem, St. Andrews, Gethsemane, and possibly even Agape House.

There will be a 10:10 on Sunday, July 7, to provide information about the parade to all marchers.

Pride T-shirts are still available, if you would like to buy one.

Questions? Contact a member of the Pride Committee: Frank DeLouise, Debby Hays, Sylvia Herman, Carol McGrath, or Susan White.



Council Update: Summer Solstice Effect

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

As you know, the recent Summer Solstice on June 21 was the longest day of the year, and long summer days are something many of us enjoy. At our June Council meeting (three days before the Summer Solstice), everyone also enjoyed a good chuckle when one Council member reported being asked by someone from another congregation whether we take a break from meeting during the summer. We chuckled because our last two meetings, which were very productive, each lasted 2 ½ hours and we already have agenda items for July. So, just like summer gives us the longest days of the year, it seems to give the First Lutheran Council the longest meetings. Fortunately we're able to chuckle about it.

Financial Report. Year-to-date expenses in April continued to be below budget due to careful spending and almost six weeks without full-time pastor after Pr. Darryl Kozak left in March and before Pr. Rich Ajer arrived in May. However, revenues also continued to be below budget, both in envelope and "loose" offerings. The Finance Committee will present a thorough, mid-year analysis to the Council in July.

Insurance. President Dick Krueger and congregation members Chuck Leib and Richard Phillips conducted a detailed comparison of First Lutheran's current insurance with the coverage and premiums quoted by two other companies. In this process, the current insurance carrier reduced First Lutheran's premiums without decreasing coverage. After reviewing the analysis, the Council decided to stay with the current policy but to decrease the premium by increasing the deductible. The Council is grateful for the hard work Dick, Chuck, and Richard did on this complicated issue.

Animals in Church. Some congregation members have asked about dogs in church, and the Council reviewed requirements for admitting service dogs under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA defines a service dog (it doesn't recognize any other service animals) as one required by the owner's disability and trained to perform specific tasks to support its owner. The Council deferred taking action until its July meeting so members could research applicable California laws and related policies before making a decision.

Pastoral Candidate. A week before the June Council meeting, the Council and Call Committee met so the Call Committee could present its unanimous recommendation for a pastoral candidate to the Council. Once the Council accepts the recommendation, which it did, the Call Committee steps out of the picture and the Council takes over discussions with the candidate. These discussions include organizing an opportunity for the congregation to meet the candidate, setting compensation and benefits based on the Pacifica Synod's guidelines, and other matters relating to the candidate's call to serve First Lutheran.

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.

July Birthdays

1: Nancy Eckert	9: Connor Fekas	17: Peggy Quintana	27: Melinda Person
1: Timothy Rupe	11: Dennis Arenas	20: Nicole Wilcox	30: Jason McKay
2: Marty Topp	13: Elizabeth Moss	26: Ethel Falk	30: Niyana Wilcox
4: Audrey Altenburg	14: Franz Engel	26: Allena Slevcove	
6: John Pew	16: Linda Bright	26: Felice Wilcox	



A New Summer Project for First Lutheran

Remember the excitement of getting new supplies for school? We have the opportunity to share that excitement with children around the world served by Lutheran World Relief.

Between services on July 21, there will be an information table introducing this project. We will be collecting supplies until the end of August. July and August are great months to shop because many stores have terrific back-to-school sales (think Walmart, dollar stores, etc.). You can shop yourself and deliver the supplies to the church, or you can “hire” a free personal shopper to do the work for you. If using the personal shopper, simply place your contribution in the offering plate and note “school supplies.” We estimate the cost of each kit to be \$20. Our plan is to have an “assemble-the-kits” event between services on August 25.

If you have any questions, contact Pat Hendrickson or Mary Krueger.

School Kit Supply List*

4 70-sheet notebooks (8"x10.5")
 1 12" ruler
 1 pencil sharpener
 1 box 16-24 crayons
 1 pr. Blunt scissors
 1 2.5" eraser
 5 unsharpened #2 pencils
 5 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel)

**no variance in supplies allowed by LWR*

Update on Our Lenten Offering Family

An email from Jackie Hanson:

Our efforts to find the family an apartment in either PB or Clairemont were fruitless. There were multiple 2 bd. apartments available in our price range (up to \$2K/mo.), but all of the 12-15 landlords/property managers I contacted said either that they never agree to a two-party arrangement—where one party lives there but another party pays the rent—or that they simply won't rent to a family of six people, since they have other applicants for those same apartments who would rent that space for just one, two, or three people to live there. Their common remark was, “I have to think about wear and tear on my property. Six people is too many.” The net result is that Regat's family is still living at our church and probably will continue there for the next year, while we pursue their asylum claim. The only physical change is that their sleeping quarters have been moved from the lower floor of our parish hall building to a large room on the upper floor that has adequate space for all six of their beds. They continue to use the “Sun Room” off our courtyard as their kitchen/family room.

Meanwhile, Meron has had an abscessed front tooth repaired at the San Diego County free dental clinic for people with zero income—a wonderful service. All of the kids finished the school year in great shape, with all of the teenagers on the honor roll, and Meron and Dehab once again earning grades at the very top of their class. Mussie, who turned 18 a couple weeks ago, took up the saxophone this spring and plays in the high school band. Dehab just graduated from eighth grade and is excited about joining her siblings at high school in the fall.

Regat, Meron, and I continue close coordination with Nanya Thompson, the attorney, in preparation for the August 8 court date, when the whole documentation package will be submitted to immigration court in support of Regat's claim for the entire family to be covered under either Asylum status or else “Withholding of Removal” status. That day the court will set the final date for Regat's Final Hearing, likely about 10-11 months forward.

Our president's promised roundup of immigrants who have received deportation orders but who remain in the country shouldn't affect Regat's family at all, to the best of my understanding.

Regat, Meron, and I recently updated the PB Christian Church congregation with this news. Last fall they contributed \$8K to help with the cost of Regat's family's living expenses over these past 10 months, God bless them!

Our Safe Harbors-PB Coordinating Group is meeting to figure out our next steps, including a potential September 8 fundraiser event for Regat's family. I'll keep you posted.

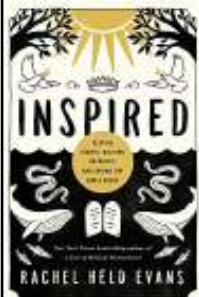
Each time we consult with Nanya, the attorney, I thank God for your congregation's support of Regat's legal costs. I can't imagine navigating this process without the skill of an experienced immigration attorney. We are all grateful to all of you!



Rachel Held Evans, Beloved Christian Author, Dies at 37

by Martha Radatz

One of the classes offered during Lent at FLC this year was fashioned around a book written by author Rachel Held Evans entitled *Inspired: Slaying Dragons, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again*. Our class wrapped up April 10, and just a few weeks later, on May 4, Rachel died unexpectedly of extensive brain swelling due to treatment for an infection. She left behind her husband Dan, and their two young children. After spending five weeks immersed in this “love letter to scripture” and challenged by her spiritual journey, told with humility, honesty, and humor, we came to have a deep respect and love for Rachel, and a renewed gratitude and love for the Book that is the core of our faith.



An Episcopalian, Rachel left the evangelical church of her childhood in 2014, looking for a “more authentic Christianity,” and gave voice to a generation of “wandering evangelicals.” Called an “Apostle to Outsiders,” she wanted to build a new community among the church’s “refugees”: women who wanted to become ministers, LGBTQ Christians and “those who refuse to choose between their intellectual integrity and their faith.” She wrote four best-selling books, but her congregation was online, and she had thousands of followers. She became a beloved progressive speaker at many conferences around the country, a number of which she co-hosted with noted ELCA pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. At Rachel’s funeral service June 1, Rev. Bolz-Weber preached and gave this benediction:

“Blessed are the agnostics. Blessed are they who doubt. Blessed are those who have nothing to offer. Blessed are the preschoolers who cut in line at communion. Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

“Blessed are those whom no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The sex workers and the night-shift street sweepers. The closeted. The teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms. Blessed are the meek. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

“Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like. Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried. Blessed are they who can’t fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else. Blessed are those who “still aren’t over it yet.” Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

“I imagine Jesus standing here blessing us because I believe that is our Lord’s nature. This Jesus cried at his friend’s tomb, turned the other cheek, and forgave those who hung him on a cross because He was God’s Beatitude— He was God’s blessing to the weak in a world that only admires the strong.

[And shall Rachel have this last word...]

“Jesus invites us into a story bigger than ourselves and our imaginations, yet we all get to tell that story with the scandalous particularity of this moment and this place. We are storytelling creatures because we are fashioned in the image of a storytelling God. May we never neglect that gift. May we never lose our love for telling the story. Amen.”

Email Prayer Chain

In an effort to focus our prayers, we have begun an email prayer chain. The email address for the prayer chain is inourprayers@firstlutheransd.org. We will ask the specific reason for the prayer or thanksgiving and will ask that a monthly update be sent to the church office for distribution. If you are submitting someone else's name, please be sure to get their consent first.

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

If you would like to be a member of the prayer chain, please submit your name and email address to the church office.



TACO Corner

Hero with a Cart



The Fourth of July signifies a summer in full swing. Inevitably our thoughts turn to barbecues, summer vacation, and the heat. Yet I still remember vividly an encounter from two years ago...

George was a Vietnam veteran (he liked to tell everyone) I often ran across during my walks Downtown. However, on this day (July 3rd) George had a large cardboard sign declaring his veteran status, and four small American flags adorning his rusting Ralph's cart. I had always been struck by George's friendliness and pleasant demeanor. That day he was turbocharged, exclaiming to everyone he passed "Happy Fourth of July" and "God Bless America!" As I walked on, I couldn't help but think how the very example of our country's shortcomings could still be so positive and joyful. Here was a man who fought for his country, ended up on the streets, and still had only optimism to express!

I see people like this at almost all our meals, and the examples of strength I have encountered are too numerous to count. They serve as constant reminders of the important work TACO does. However, this work does not get done without people like you volunteering your time. If you do have some spare hours this summer, we would love to have you come in. Not only will you be serving a meal, but also providing a sense of community for those who have none. If you are interested, please contact me. We would LOVE to host you!

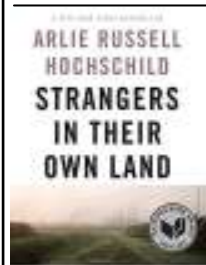
Blessings,
Brad Young, TACO Volunteer Coordinator
byoung@tacod.org

Facilities Focus: Summer Projects Available for Adoption

Summer has arrived and it is a good season to adopt an improvement project around the church. Adoption and completion of a project helps keep the church facility in good repair and saves the church money so funds can be utilized to support our on-going and special ministries. Wood repairs and re-staining of the exterior trellises at entrance from Third Avenue and entry into the narthex are currently underway. Funding from reserves for the repair and re-staining of the trellises was approved at the January 2019 Congregational meeting.



There are several projects that are available and need adoption. A list of projects is posted on the kiosk in the lounge. Additional information on adopting a project can be obtained by contacting Facilities Committee members: Richard Phillips, Dick Krueger, or Kathryn Kanaan.



Book Group Notes

Who among us has not at times felt confused by the current political situation in our country, and/or alarmed at the increasingly hostile split between two political camps? Our July book selection, *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild examines this dynamic and offers us a bridge between the right and the left. Hochschild, a sociology professor at UC Berkley, spent five years living in Charles, Louisiana talking with people on the other side of her "empathy wall," as she calls it, trying to uncover what has led us to this moment in American life (an empathy wall is defined as an obstacle that prevents a deep understanding with another person). The author conducted her research with the utmost respect and compassion for the people she interviewed, sitting at their kitchen table, imaging herself in their shoes, trying to understand those with whom she did not agree. The resulting book is a thorough, deep study of "red America," that gives us a painstaking description of a slice of Americana that needs to be understood if we hope to knit our country back together.

Please join us on Thursday, July 18, 7:00PM at the home of Sylvia Herman for fellowship and for what is sure to be a lively discussion. The gathering will be hosted by Sylvia and by Martha Radatz.

Looking Ahead: Our August selection will be *Little Wolves* by Thomas Maltman.



First Lutheran Worship Assistants – July & August

ALTAR GUILD

JULY

9:00 a.m. Service

Carol McGrath

11:00 a.m. Service

Ladonna Piper

AUGUST

9:00 a.m. Service

Jessica Friedrich

11:00 a.m. Service

Ruth Clayton

USHERS

JULY

9:00 a.m. Service

*Dennis Arenas &
David Oakes*

11:00 a.m. Service

*Melinda Person &
Ladonna Piper*

AUGUST

9:00 a.m. Service

*Sharon Province &
Dell Wilcox*

11:00 a.m. Service

*Anke Hartung &
Ladonna Piper*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Nursery Attendants	Flowers
July 7	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Paul Finneseth	Jim Boyd Martha Radatz	John Hoff Marty Topp	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	RIC Pride Committee
July 21	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Beth Slevcove	Sylvia Herman Matthew Eckert	Shaun Travers Ruth Clayton	Kem Taylor Paul Engel	Melinda Person
July 28	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Frank Jessie	Carol Schultz Martha Radatz	Kathy Boeckelman Elizabeth Connolly	Billie Thompson Kathryn Kanaan	Pat Hendrickson
August 4	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Paul Finneseth	T.J. Tallie Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	Mary Krueger Hannah DeMers	_____
August 11	9:00 11:00	Jan Neuhaus Mary Ann Horton	Marjorie Wahlsten Frank Jessie	Rebecca Kjonegaard Marlene Garich	Dick Krueger Joe DeMers	_____
August 18	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Beth Slevcove	Lynne Falcon Elizabeth Connolly	Jim Friedrich Ruth Clayton	Marjorie Wahlsten Paul Engel	Dan Kjonegaard



July 2019 Calendar of Events

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

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

The PULSEBEAT
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 Edited by Hannah DeMers

Serving Downtown San Diego Since 1888
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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

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Wine into Water

Saturday, August 17, 2019
3-6 p.m.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Queen's Courtyard
2728 Sixth Ave, San Diego, CA 92103
\$20 tickets

At this unique wine-tasting experience we turn "wine into water" and raise money for clean water projects!

Included with your \$20 donation:

- * 2 glasses of wine + tastings
- * light hors d'oeuvres
- * live music by Ruby Clouds, a Rock/RnB sibling duo from San Ysidro / Tijuana

All proceeds from this event will go to support the water drop program through Border Angels, to leave water jugs in the desert along high-traffic migrant paths. Why? Because more than 11,000 have died making this journey. Their main cause of death? Dehydration.

Tickets are available at <https://wineintowatersd.brownpapertickets.com/>

Sponsored by: St. Paul's Cathedral, Christ Lutheran Church, University Christian Church, Normal Heights United Methodist Church, and Thrivent Financial.

****Street parking only. Ride share services highly encouraged!****



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