



February 2020

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

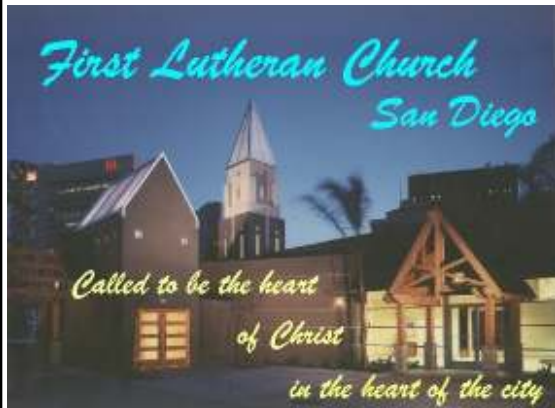
**“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.  
A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”**

*—Luther’s Works: Treatise on Christian Liberty; The Freedom of a Christian*

With these words we have, in a nutshell, Luther’s understanding of what it means to be a citizen in the world and a citizen of the Kingdom. In this coming election cycle we are privileged to, again, be able to exercise this blessing held in tension. (Just so you know, the whole treatise can easily be found online and is widely quoted, for better and for worse, across the whole spectrum on American Christianity.)

During the month of February, on each consecutive Sunday, we will host one of the four leading Mayoral Candidates for San Diego at our 10:10 Adult Forum hours between worship services. What a blessing it will be to hear from these hard-working public servants. We won’t agree with everything they stand for but we can learn from

each of them about being better citizens of our city. We will all be given the chance to learn more about being free subjects and dutiful servants.



You may or may not be a resident of the City of San Diego, but you all belong to this region and you all belong to First, which is a witness to the Gospel heart of Jesus in the heart of this City. I encourage you to come, attend, participate, and invite a friend.

In preparation for our first candidate this Sunday, I went to [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org) for our national church body and found our policy statement on “The Church and Society: a Lutheran Perspective.” It was adopted in 1991 and since I can’t say it better, I have found a few quotes that both inspire and challenge me. I commend them to you as we embark on this month-long exercise in civics.

## THE CHURCH IN SOCIETY: A LUTHERAN PERSPECTIVE

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is called to be a part of the ecumenical Church of Jesus Christ in the context in which God has placed it—a diverse, divided, and threatened global society on a beautiful, fragile planet. In faithfulness to its calling, this church is committed to defend human dignity, to stand with poor and powerless people, to advocate justice, to work for peace, and to care for the earth in the processes and structures of contemporary society.*

*Christians fulfill their vocation diversely and are rich in the variety of the gifts of the Spirit. Therefore, they often disagree passionately on the kind of responses they make to social questions. United with Christ and all believers in baptism, Christians welcome and celebrate their diversity. Because they share common convictions of faith, they are free, indeed obligated, to deliberate together on the challenges they face in the world.*

### Deliberating on Social Questions

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commits itself to foster moral deliberation on social questions. Through its congregations, synods, and church-wide organization, and affiliated institutions and ecumenical relationships, this church shall seek to:*

- *be a community where open, passionate, and respectful deliberation on challenging and controversial issues of contemporary society is expected and encouraged;*
- *engage those of diverse perspectives, classes, genders, ages, races, and cultures in the deliberation process so that each of our limited horizons might be expanded and the witness of the body of Christ in the world enhanced;*
- *draw upon the resources of faith and reason—on Scripture, Church history, knowledge, and personal experience—to learn and to discern how to respond to contemporary challenges in light of God’s Word;*
- *address through deliberative processes the issues faced by the people of God, in order to equip them in their discipleship and citizenship in the world;*



- arrive at positions to guide its corporate witness through participatory processes of moral deliberation;
- contribute toward the upbuilding of the common good and the revitalizing of public life through open and inclusive processes of deliberation.

I'll see you in Church!

Peace, Pastor Kurt

## First Lutheran to Host Blood Drive

**First Lutheran Church Parking Lot**  
**Saturday, February 22**  
**10:30a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

Can we count on a pint of your excellent blood? There's a sign-up sheet in the church lounge by the nametags on Sunday morning; you can also go to [MYSDBB.org/schedule](http://MYSDBB.org/schedule) or call 1-800-4MYSDBB.

Got questions? Call me or email me:

Sylvia Herman  
 Sylvia@ascentrealestate.com  
 619-980-4946

## Lunch Bunch

Have some fun and good food the 1st Tuesday of each month. Meet with this friendly group to enjoy each other's company and eat at local restaurants. Maybe you'll meet a new "best friend." Email Billie at [thompsonbilliek@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonbilliek@gmail.com) for reservations.

## Meet & Greet Mayoral Candidates!

We have an exciting opportunity to hear and speak with four of the City's mayoral candidates between services each Sunday in FEBRUARY. Invite your friends to make this event an informative dialogue within our congregation and as outreach to the community at large. Flyers with the schedule are available at the church.

Here is the line-up of candidates:

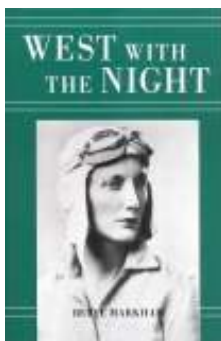
February 2: Scott Sherman

February 9: Barbara Bry

February 16: Todd Gloria

February 23: Tasha Williamson

Questions? Want to help with one or more of these dates? We need greeters, set-up people, and refreshments. Contact Colleen Howard at [colleenhoward1@gmail.com](mailto:colleenhoward1@gmail.com).



## Book Group News

Who can resist this? --- "If the first responsibility of a memoirist is to lead a life worth writing about, Beryl Markham succeeded beyond all measure." In order to find out how or why, you will need to read this month's selection, *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham. But let's just say this much: she grew up in

Kenya in the first part of the 1900s scouting elephants, training racehorses, learning to fly, and defying all expectations of how a woman should live. She became the first person to fly nonstop from Europe to America. Ernest Hemingway said of her book, "Written so marvelously well, that I was completely ashamed of myself as a writer." Settle down in a comfy chair and enjoy one of the world's great adventure stories. Then join us for discussion and fellowship on Thursday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Susan White's condo. Carol Schultz and Martha Radatz will host.

There will be no meeting in March, to allow us to immerse ourselves in the Lenten season. Looking ahead, the selection for April will be *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

## Welcome the Babe 2019 Final Update

If you missed our year-end review in the FLC Annual Report, this is a quick update for our "Welcome the Babe" Advent campaign. Once again we reached a new record high, both in number of supporters and number of completed Baby Care Kits. This year your contributions have allowed us to assemble 63 kits, nearly triple the 23 we first put together six years ago. Likewise, the number of people supporting this outreach has more than doubled, increasing from 14 in 2014 to 34 this year.

The kits were blessed on January 5th and will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief wherever they are most needed around the world. With your generous support, our congregation will make a difference to 63 babies in families living in desperate and extreme circumstances around the world. Thank you, FLC!



## TACO Corner



The weather app “announced” 46 degrees and rain the other day, as I set out on my daily “hike” for coffee. The early morning journey lasts all of two blocks, yet has provided a lifetime worth of visuals in the past four years. Every day I encounter too many unsheltered individuals attempting to sleep, eat, or live their lives in the most difficult of circumstances. Rainy/cold days are the hardest to watch. People desperately trying to stay warm with old cardboard boxes from the trash, or with ragged dirty blankets (the lucky ones). Many are without any semblance of cold weather clothing.

On this day, there was a young woman sleeping on the cold wet sidewalk in nothing but shorts and a t-shirt. I could see her shivering as she attempted to sleep on a spot right next to my apartment. Technically she was my neighbor, but her circumstances were very different than my own.

Luckily I was able to get her a blanket, and left her to “sleep.” However, the image/experience haunts me as it occurs far too often.

This winter, requests for **blankets, jackets, and sweatpants/shirts** are double last year, and the number of guests in need of clothing has definitely increased. If you are able, TACO could very much use donations of the above items. Your help in providing a bit of humanity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much!

Brad Young, TACO Volunteer Coordinator  
byoung@tacosd.org

## TACO's Healing in Service (THIS) Training

**First Lutheran Church**  
**Saturday, February 15**  
**9:00a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Join TACO staff, volunteers and special guests exploring Justice and Calling as we grow “with the most vulnerable among us.”

TACO has provided a daylong training to the community since 2006. After a three-year hiatus we are excited to offer THIS again.

This is a great opportunity to deepen our relationships with each other and deepen our understanding of the purpose this work has in our lives.

Please RSVP to Silvia Covarrubias, Admin. Assistant at [silvia@tacosd.org](mailto:silvia@tacosd.org) or 619-235-9445 x-104 by February 10.

## Creative Space

We're looking to fill this space with arts and entertainment events happening in our congregation. Whether it's something that you are involved in personally, or just something that you are interested in attending, please share it! If you are in a choir, please tell us when your concerts are, because there are members who may like to attend. If your child is in a school play, share it! If your favorite artist is being featured in an exhibit, share it!

Contact Hannah in the church office to share your events: [administrator@firstlutheransd.org](mailto:administrator@firstlutheransd.org)

## Living Lutheran Renewal Time

The *Living Lutheran* magazine provides the latest news, regional and global mission stories, spiritual reflections, and resources from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The monthly magazine is an excellent means to receive information on our shared mission and ministry in the ELCA. The cost of a yearly subscription is \$15. This special rate covers the cost of the magazine and helps support subscriptions costs paid by the church. If you wish to re-subscribe, newly subscribe, or support this ministry please place a check for \$15 in envelope payable to “First Lutheran Church” noting in the memo line noting “Living Lutheran.”

## February Birthdays

2: David Alli	12: Glen Stroman	19: Andrea Yablonicky	29: Fran Brown
2: Cole Munroe	13: Jan Neuhaus	23: Sophia Paul	29: Frida Johnson
3: Elizabeth Connolly	15: Billie Thompson	25: Jackson Rosete-Radatz	29: Susan Rettenmund
6: Paul Engel	16: Jim Friedrich	26: Doug Carter	
6: Chuck Leib Jr.	17: Colleen Kramer	26: Laurie Lewis	



## First Lutheran Worship Assistants – February & March

### ALTAR GUILD

**FEBRUARY**

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

*Susan White*

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

*Ladonna Piper*

**MARCH**

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

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

*Melinda Person*

### USHERS

**FEBRUARY**

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

*Russ & Heidi Hoxie*

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

*Ruth Clayton &  
Ladonna Piper*

**MARCH**

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

*Merv Rettenmund &  
John Hoff*

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

*Anke Hartung &  
Melinda Person*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Lector	Greeters	Nursery Attendants	Flowers
February 2	9:00 11:00	Richard Phillips Beth Slevcove	Frank Jessie Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves	Kathryn Kanaan Kathryn Kanaan	Marjorie Wahlsten
February 9	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Frank Jessie	Jeremy Kaercher Matthew Eckert	Pat Hendrickson Marlene Garich	Dick Krueger Joe DeMers	_____
February 16	9:00 11:00	Frank Jessie Mary Ann Horton	Dennis Arenas Frank Jessie	Dennis Arenas & David Oakes Marty Topp	Mary Krueger Paul Engel	DeMers
February 23	9:00 11:00	Eric Sloniker Paul Finneseth	T.J. Tallie Elizabeth Connolly	Sylvia Herman Shelly Schreiber	Heidi Hoxie Hannah DeMers	_____
March 1	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Beth Slevcove	Paul Engel Joe Slevcove	Kathy Boeckelman Slevcoves	Billie Thompson Kathryn Kanaan	_____
March 8	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Frank Jessie	Shaun Travers Nancy Eckert	Pat Hendrickson Marlene Garich	Lee Kaercher Martha DeMers	_____
March 15	9:00 11:00	Jan Neuhaus Mary Ann Horton	Eric Sloniker Jim Lovell	Shaun Travers Elizabeth Connolly	Mary Krueger Joe DeMers	Kjonegaards



# February 2020 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality/ Mayor Candidate 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>3</b> 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>4</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>5</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	<b>6</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>7</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality/ Mayor Candidate 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>10</b> 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>11</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>12</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	<b>13</b> 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	<b>14</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality/ Mayor Candidate 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>17</b> PRESIDENTS' DAY (office closed)  12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>18</b> 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 Church Council Mtg	<b>19</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon	<b>20</b> 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	<b>21</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality/ Mayor Candidate 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 3 pm German	<b>24</b> 12 pm AA 12 pm AI Anon 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>25</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>26</b> ASH WEDNESDAY  9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 12 Ash Wed Svc 7 pm Ash Wed Svc	<b>27</b> 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	<b>28</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 12 pm AA	<b>29</b>

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

The PULSEBEAT  
is a publication of  
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Serving Downtown San Diego Since 1888  
1420 Third Avenue  
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[www.firstlutheransd.org](http://www.firstlutheransd.org)

First Lutheran Church  
The Rev. Kurt Christenson, Pastor  
Hannah DeMers, Church Administrator  
Robert Plimpton, Interim organist  
Joe DeMers, Interim Choir Director

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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## Facilities Focus: Adopt-a-Project Program Continues

First Lutheran Church facility is heavily utilized. Such heavy use puts extra wear and tear on the church's facility and the need to keep it clean and in good shape. Last year we began highlighting various areas in the church with projects available for adoption. Although several projects were complete in 2019, there are plenty of "orphan" projects that did not get done and available for adoption. First Lutheran Church relies on the skills, time and generosity of members and friends to complete important projects to help keep our facility clean, well-kept and welcoming place.

The Narthex is the focus of this month's highlight.

### **Narthex**

#### Outstanding Tasks:

- Wash interior and exterior windows
- Patch and repaint tan walls
- Touch up purple wall between restrooms
- Heavy duty cleaning of tile floors

A full list of projects available for adoption is located on the kiosk in the lounge. For information on the projects, you are welcome to contact Facility Committee members Richard Phillips, Dick Krueger, or Kathryn Kanaan, or leave a note or message with the church office with contact information.

## February 26: Ash Wednesday



Noon and 7:00 p.m.  
services  
Imposition of Ashes  
and Holy  
Communion

### 2020 Council Members:

Frank DeLouise

Allison Emery

Anke Hartung

Kara Oien

Melinda Person

David Pohl

Carol Schultz

Kem Taylor

Susan White



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