



April 2017

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH The PULSEBEAT

Holy Week 2017 at First Lutheran Church



Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion-April 9

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday Liturgy with the Passion according to St. Matthew

+

Maundy Thursday-April 13

7:00 p.m.

Washing of Feet, the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altar, and Nightwatch

+

Good Friday-April 14

12 noon

The Way of the Cross

7:00 p.m.

Service of Tenebrae with the Passion according to St. John

+

Holy Saturday-April 15

7:00 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter

+

EASTER SUNDAY/RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD-APRIL 16

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Festival Holy Eucharist



Dear faithful First family and friends,

Spring is here: a time for new life, new beginnings, *renewed* hope. As the Church, we are approaching the glorious season of Easter—the season of *life* given to each of us as the baptized sons and daughters of God. It is also a time of new beginnings as we hear the promises made in God’s Word. It is a time of renewed hope as those promises we’ve heard in God’s Word come true again and again. And in our journey of transition during this period of interim, I hope you feel that sense of newness as we continue this process of eventually calling a new pastor here at First Lutheran Church.

*God is always up to something new!*

Many years ago, I had a professor who referred to Easter as the “Christian New Year.” Now, I always wondered if this was some sort of attempt to recommit and reclaim the New Year’s resolution that didn’t quite materialize—a few months earlier. And now, three months into the New Year, this was an opportunity to “try again.” But, seriously, this idea of Easter being the “Christian New Year” is a wonderful image and idea to keep in mind as we press on through the last dreary days of Lent into Holy Week, culminating with the Great Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter. In this high Church festival season we receive the greatest gift—the greatest fulfilled promise—of God: Jesus Christ crucified and risen *for you*. That’s what our faith is all about: life from death. Now, that is something new!

Of course, we needn’t search for a bodily resurrection in our own lives to receive *renewed* hope in God’s promises. We needn’t look for Lazarus being raised from the dead to point to this new hope. Life from death manifests itself in many ways. Perhaps you’ve been estranged from a loved one, and out of the blue, the two of you connect again, healing the rift that existed between you. And from this, you’ve received *life* from a *dead* relationship. Perhaps that “nowhere” job finds renewed *life* as you get a new manager or change positions or maybe even change careers. And from this change, you get *life* from an otherwise *dead* (end) position. Perhaps you’ve needed to get away, to take that much needed vacation, and finally you are able to do it. And this “time away” renews your *dead* attitude by reinvigorating you with the energy and *life* you need. The point, of course, is that we can find many *life*-giving moments to bring us out of our *dead* states. We only need to be open to the presence of God in our midst and in our world.



Now, these illustrations, although perhaps insightful, are nothing when compared to the *life* we receive from being claimed by God to be God’s very own daughters and sons. That life came to you in the waters of your Baptism, when God brought you—adopted you—into God’s family: the Church. Again and again in God’s Word, in our Sunday Liturgy, throughout the liturgical year, season after season, we arrive at Easter—the paramount event when God makes all things new.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, bask in the joy and peace and love that comes to you from God’s Eternal Light, our Paschal Candle, our beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May his *life*-giving Light fill you these last days of Lent as we enter Easter. And let the Light of Christ ignite in you God’s Spirit to bring you—once again—from *death* to *life*.

Peace and Joy,

The Reverend Darryl W. Kozak  
Interim Pastor

### Festive Fellowship

On Easter morning, April 16, members bring food to serve all who gather to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord between worship services and following the 11AM service. Sign-up sheets will be in the lounge; please bring fruit, cheese & crackers, cookies, cake, etc.

### April Birthdays

2: Melody Ruth	8: Eddie Collins	18: Sierra Schreiber	27: Stephanie Boomhower
4: Shaun Travers	10: James Boyd	19: Nathaniel Pratt	28: Martha Radatz
5: Sheri Bengtson	15: Heidi Hoxie	22: Laura Olsbo	28: Rachel Line
7: Bob Ravenscroft	16: Diana Johnson	26: Ruth Clayton	



## Lent Reflection: Council Update

by Carol J. Schultz, Council Secretary

During Lent, many of us do our best to pause and reflect from time to time. Our Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesdays is such an opportunity. Council meetings on the third Tuesday of the month, however, are not. Agendas are packed with business discussions, and meetings often run longer than two hours. What sustains me is knowing that these meetings help ensure that First Lutheran is a well-run organization so we can carry out our ministry to be “the heart of Christ in the heart of the city.”

At the Council’s meeting on March 21, 2017, we focused on the following items:

- Finances

Each month the Council reviews a thorough financial report prepared by First Lutheran’s accountant. This report details income and expenditures as well as assets (*e.g.*, bank account and investments) and liabilities (*e.g.*, mortgage). You’ll find another article in this Pulsebeat with more details about First Lutheran’s financial picture.

- Property

The Council’s Property Committee has been in overdrive dealing with roof drains and leaks, mold (less than we feared), broken stained glass, tree pruning, and kitchen appliance issues. As we said at the congregation meeting, we are deferring any expenditure that we safely can until later in the year when we have a more complete financial picture. For example, deciding whether to prune trees this year will wait until summer even though we have an estimate in hand. We also have intrepid and experienced Property Committee members, especially Dick Krueger, Dan Kjonegaard, and Kathryn Kanaan, who take care of many situations themselves.

- Membership

We recognize a vibrant membership is essential to our success in ministry. At the same time, we realize a pastoral transition is a time when some re-assess their membership. In order to have a membership roster that reflects active members when we welcome our new pastor, Council members have been contacting congregation members who’ve been noticeably absent (sometimes for years). When they have asked for a transfer or release, we are granting their request. When we’re unable to contact them at all, we are removing them from membership.

- Synod Assembly

On May 11-13, 2017, the Pacifica Synod will hold its annual Assembly at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego. Several people volunteered to serve as First Lutheran’s delegates, and the Council selected Jan Neuhaus and Luke Williams. This year’s theme is “ReForm – InForm – TransForm.” More information is available on the Synod’s website at [pacificasynod.org/news-events/synod-assembly](http://pacificasynod.org/news-events/synod-assembly).

Another vital dimension of the Council’s responsibilities is working with the Board of Directors of the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO). Both groups met together last September and again this March to identify areas of mutual concern and to develop shared goals. First Lutheran’s 2017 grant for TACO’s Food Coordinator position and teamwork between First Lutheran and TACO to install an exterior lift to the TACO offices on the upper level are examples of this collaboration.

As you pause to reflect during this Lent season, please take a moment to give thanks for our life together at First Lutheran. And, as always, feel free to talk to any Council member about your questions and concerns.

### 2017 Council Officers:

President: Kathryn Kanaan

Vice President: Dan Kjonegaard

Treasurer: Kem Taylor

Secretary: Carol Schultz

### Council Members:

Mark Deffner, Joe DeMers, Anke Hartung, Sylvia Herman, Dick Krueger, Carol McGrath, Aaron Robinson, and Robin Withers.

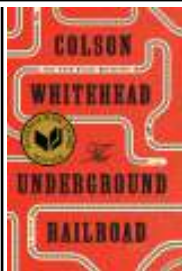
God’s Peace to you all,

Your 2017 Council



## Book Group Notes

FLC book club meets April 20th at 7 pm



One of First's longest running small groups is the book club, which has been meeting for many years and keeps growing all the time. We read a variety of books and often surprise ourselves by discovering a book we might never have read without the structure of a book club. If you enjoy reading and talking about books, please come!

This month we will be reading *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. In this story, Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hellish for all the slaves but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood—where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned and, though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted.

In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora and Caesar's first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven—but the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. Even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom.

As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share.

The meeting this month will be held at the home of Sylvia Herman. Please call, text, or email Sylvia if you would like to join us. As always, there will be snacks and beverages.

## The San Diego Pride Parade

**Saturday, July 15 @11AM**

The annual Pride Parade will be a Second Sunday activity for the church, despite being on the third Saturday of the month! Anyone who is interested in participating should contact Joe DeMers at 619-829-3323 or [jdemers620@gmail.com](mailto:jdemers620@gmail.com).

## First Lutheran at the Padres

**Sunday May 7th vs. the Dodgers  
@1:40PM**

Mark your calendars now for a Second Sunday Social (but actually on the first Sunday) at Petco Park on Sunday May 7th! Watch the Padres take on the Dodgers at 1:40PM, and connect with your fellow First Lutherans. Tickets are in a block together and we will sell out! See Shaun Travers at the 9AM service to make ticket reservations, text/call (858) 663-6288, or e-mail [shaun\\_travers@yahoo.com](mailto:shaun_travers@yahoo.com). Tickets are \$20 per person. We will walk over after the second service together!

Ask Shaun for more details!

## TACO Corner

Our meals have seen record numbers of both volunteers and guests. As the Volunteer Coordinator, this gives me a great deal of both pleasure and pride. However, any joy is tempered with the reality that the problem of homelessness is only getting worse here in San Diego. Nevertheless TACO is here to do our part.



On that note, we have also instituted a new way of serving that both gives our guests more choice and decreases waste. Guests now choose which items they want, and are given their "custom" tray at the end of the meal line. The new procedure is a complete success thanks to our volunteers and our amazing Food Coordinator Marguerite Grifka.

In regards to our donations, TACO has also seen a dramatic rise in the volume of donations coming in. Even "big ticket" items such as tents, sleeping bags, and jackets are way up, allowing us to help many people in an especially rainy and difficult winter. Again, this is all due to our amazing volunteer groups from churches all over San Diego.

Please join us at Applebee's on April 1st for a breakfast fundraiser! It's \$10 for fun and friends, and be served by the TACO Board! Go to [tacosd.org](http://www.facebook.com/TACOSDFB) for tickets or our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/TACOSDFB> and events.

—Brad Young, TACO Volunteer Coordinator





## Rick Steves' 'Luther and the Reformation' Travel Documentary Available to Congregations

Reprinted from "Seeds for the Parish"

For years, Rick Steves has had his sights on 2017. As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approached, the travel guide knew he wanted to create for his popular PBS series a special devoted to Martin Luther and the ways in which his tumultuous time helped lead to the Modern Age.

With "Luther and the Reformation," Steves set about crafting a documentary that highlighted the historic, economic and social context of the Reformation. His goal was to produce a special that could be used as a resource for congregations and have wider appeal for TV audiences. "I hoped to contribute to community within the Lutheran family," said Steves, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, Wash. He also sought to "find a way to witness in the secular world through the teaching and media platform I've been blessed with."

Steves' "Luther and the Reformation" is airing throughout 2017. It's available to watch online at [ELCA.org/ricksteves](http://ELCA.org/ricksteves), along with resources for hosting congregational screenings of the film, including ELCA discussion points and study questions, a special introductory video from Steves, and art and video clips to promote your event. DVD copies of the special have also been sent to every ELCA congregation.



*Travel guide and Lutheran Rick Steves is helping Lutherans explore the Reformation, our church history and faith.*

## A Reason for Cautious Optimism

In December the proposed 2017 budget was presented to the congregation for approval. Doubts were raised about reaching the envelope offerings and loose offerings proposed in the budget because of the unknown financial effect of Pastor Miller accepting a call to New York. During Pastor Miller's time at First Lutheran, the church went from operating in the red to achieving consecutive surpluses. For 2017, pledges, in fact, were significantly less (both the number of pledges and the total amount pledged) than the previous year.

Concerns have also been expressed during recent focus group discussions held by the Transition Team. The Church Council shares this concern. The plan the Council presented along with the budget at the December Congregation Meeting was to defer as many expenditures as possible during the early part of the year until a solid pattern of giving has surfaced.

We now have two months of financial data on the books and can tell you that envelope giving for both January and February was above the budgeted levels. At the end of February, we were \$3,021 ahead of our budget target. While loose (non-member) offerings are \$1,643 below our budget target, which is historically the case. December is by far the largest giving month for loose offering. Even though there is reason to be optimistic, the council is continuing to be conservative with expenditures and is doing all we can we can to stay within the budget that was approved.

A heartfelt thanks to all who are continuing their generous giving that allows First Lutheran to continue to honor God and continue our ministries.

Respectfully,

Dick Krueger

Council Member

**Thank You  
for Your  
Support!**

## Transition Team News:

**The next Transition Team Information Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017 between services at 10:10.** The Transition Team will provide an update on the progress we have been making with the assistance of the congregation. We will share some things we have learned along the way. The Transition process is not something that is completed quickly. The input from the congregation, through our surveys and focused conversations, has been valuable and enlightening! Please watch for future surveys and other opportunities for congregational input in April and May. **Please mark your calendars for the next meeting: Sunday April 23rd.** Please feel free to reach out to any members of the Transition Team, or Pastor Darryl, if you have questions or comments to share.

Chuck Leib,  
Transition Team Chair



## First Lutheran Worship Assistants – April & May

### ALTAR GUILD

**APRIL**

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

*Dorothy Hunter*

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

*Ladonna Piper*

**MAY**

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

*Susan White*

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

*Ladonna Piper*

### USHERS

**APRIL**

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

*Sharon Province & John Hoff*

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

*Ladonna Piper &*

*Robin Withers*

**MAY**

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

*Dan & Rebecca Kjonegaard*

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

*Anke Hartung &*

*Melinda Person*

Date	Time	Assisting Minister/ Deacon	Lector	Greeters	Refreshments	Flowers
April 2	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Luke Williams	Jim Ehlers Robin Withers	John Hoff Slevcoves	Mary Ann & Katie	
April 9	9:00 11:00	Jeremy Kaercher Robin Withers	Marjorie Wahlsten Martha Radatz	Kem Taylor Elizabeth Connolly		Robin Withers
April 16 (Easter)	9:00 11:00	Chuck Leib Mary Ann Horton	Will Pierce Pr Lee Wesley	Chuck Leib & Frank DeLouise Ladonna Piper	Easter Festive Fellowship	
April 23	9:00 11:00	Brian Shuman Gary Muhlbach	Frank Jessie Luke Williams	Shaun Travers _____		
April 30	9:00 11:00	Frank Jessie Paul Finneseth	Lynne Falcon Robin Withers	George & Ethel Falk _____		Chuck Leib & Frank DeLouise
May 7	9:00 11:00	Nate Pratt Luke Williams	Shaun Travers Joe Slevcove	John Hoff Slevcoves		
May 14	9:00 11:00	Kathryn Kanaan Robin Withers	Jeremy Kaercher Elizabeth Connolly	Shaun Travers _____		



# April 2017 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>3</b> 12 pm AA 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 4:30 pm Yoga or Walk 5 pm Dental Clinic 5:45 pm Supper 6:30 pm Holden 7 pm Classes	<b>6</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>7</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	<b>1</b>   <b>8</b> 9 am Volunteer Landscaping 9 am Holy Week Fix-up/Clean-Up
<b>9</b> PALM SUNDAY  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>10</b> 12 pm AA 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 5 pm Dental Clinic	<b>13</b> MAUNDY THURSDAY  12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP 7 pm Worship	<b>14</b> GOOD FRIDAY 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm Way of the Cross Svc 12 pm AA 7 pm Tenebrae 7 pm CODA	<b>15</b> 7 pm Easter Vigil
<b>16</b> RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>17</b> 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>18</b> 12 pm AI Anon 6:30 pm Church Council	<b>19</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	<b>20</b> 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	<b>21</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality	<b>24</b> 12 pm AA 4 pm Free Meal 5:30 pm Evening Clinics	<b>25</b> 12 pm AI Anon	<b>26</b> 9 am Acupuncture 12 pm AI Anon 5 pm Dental Clinic	<b>27</b> 12 pm AI Anon 1 pm HICAP	<b>28</b> 9 am Acupuncture 9 am Bread Day 9 am UCSD Clinic 12 pm AA 7 pm CODA	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER  9 am Worship 10:10 Hospitality 11 am Worship 12:10 Hospitality 3:00 German Svc						

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

The PULSEBEAT  
is a publication of  
First Lutheran Church

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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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### Save the Date!

#### Save Your Donations!

This year's TACO Homeless Treasures Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 24 at Clairemont Lutheran Church.

Hold onto your donations and watch for more information in your May Pulsebeat!

#### Homeless Treasures



### *Comes the Light*

Our congregational art show is always a joyous way to share ourselves in new ways. This year's theme is *Comes the Light*, and we will hang the show shortly after Easter.

Participation forms are in the narthex.



### Pre-Holy Week Church Spruce-Up Day

**Saturday, April 8th**

9:00AM-Noon

First Lutheran Church

With the conclusion of Lent, it is a good opportunity to spruce up the church facilities for the many members and friends that will be worshipping at First Lutheran Church during Holy Week. Come lend a hand to help clean, dust, touch up paint, and other minor maintenance projects. We'll be joining forces with the Volunteer Landscaping crew to get First Lutheran's facilities in good shape for Holy Week. Remember to wear old clothes, bring your favorite cleaning products, rags, and gloves if you are gardening, and plenty of elbow grease!



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