



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 23, 2017

**WELCOME TO
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDED 1890**

First Lutheran is a community, a gathering of people of diverse ages, cultures and traditions.

Just as Jesus opened himself to all and, by implication, opened the reign of God to all, so we, the members of First Lutheran seek to do the same.

Therefore, all are welcome here regardless of their race, gender or sexual orientation; regardless of their social, economic, educational, linguistic or relationship status; regardless of their citizenship, religious or cultural background or makeup of their family; and regardless of their physical, mental, emotional or spiritual condition. There is a place for you in our community worship, service and life.

To our Visitors: Welcome! You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex (lobby) and join us for coffee and conversation downstairs after worship, where our friendly congregants will meet and greet you.

A **special welcome** to worshippers who are unable to be physically present and are joining us online for today's service.

First Lutheran is easily accessible via major city routes - 41st Avenue and Kingsway – and Bus #41 runs west from the Joyce Street Skytrain station. Ample parking is available in a lot just west of the church and on the church side of the two streets--Wales Street and 42nd Avenue. The wheelchair entrance is also the office entrance on 42nd Avenue.

For your convenience, there is an elevator in the southwest corner of the building, fully accessible washrooms on the main floor in the northwest corner and two washrooms down the stairs at the east end of the lower level. A childcare play area is on the lower level.

The present building, erected in 1957, is the third in our history. Founded by Scandinavian fishermen, First Lutheran is tied closely to the history of Vancouver. Our logo reflects our ethnic and Christian roots, our West Coast location as well as the varied people and cultures which enrich our life and ministry together.

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**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 23, 2017**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Russell Collins
<i>Lector</i>	Janet Filippelli
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Flutist</i>	Anne Johnson
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Dennis Reid Doreen Reid
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Soriya Ingrid Anderson
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Dennis Reid Doreen Reid Sandi Strate John Morley
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Ingrid Anderson Wayne and Betty Wong
<i>Offering Counters</i>	John Morley Tony Wong

If you'd like to serve God and our community by assisting in our Sunday worship, please contact Iris Kong, our office administrator, at 604.435.6020. If you'd like to help with Coffee Hour, please call Wayne or Betty Wong at 604-301-9381.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 23, 2017
Holy Communion, Setting Eight

Worshippers may wish to light a votive candle in memory of a loved one or for meditation. This may be done at any time before or during the liturgy except during community prayers, readings or homily. Since the number of candles is limited and to avoid mishaps, parents and caregivers are asked to be attentive when allowing children to light one.

INTRODUCTION

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

PRELUDE

Andante Religioso
Children of the Heavenly Father

Alex Rowley
Don Hustad

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please rise)*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Eternal God our creator,

in you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.

**By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.

In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners;

and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

399 "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life"

GREETING

From God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

God claims the right to sole rule, because God announces things that actually do happen, while supposed divine opponents remain silent. God is Israel's redeemer, that is, the best brother or sister they ever had.

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me?
Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock;
I know not one.

Response: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 86:11-17 Translated by Nan C. Merrill (*Congregation reads the bold*)

Teach me your ways, Mighty Counselor, that I may walk in truth;
write my name upon your Heart.

**I give You thanks, O Beloved, with my whole being;
O, that I might radiate your Light forever!**

Great is your steadfast Love toward those who call upon You;
You deliver their souls from the depths of despair.
**O Beloved, numerous fears rise up within me;
like an army they seek to overwhelm me, and they would keep me in darkness.**
Yet You are merciful and gracious,
ready to forgive and ever abounding in steadfast Love and faithfulness.
**Be present to me and receive my prayer; imbue me with strength,
and help me to release each fear.**
Pour forth your Light into my soul,
that all that is hidden in darkness may come forth into awareness.
For You, O Beloved, are my Redeemer and my Comforter.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Response: Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Sing Alleluia verse before and after reading. Please rise*) p. 188

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the co-existence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

*Response to announcement of the Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” ³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

*Response: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY (*please rise*) # 680 “*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Intermezzo

Pietro Mascagai

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(Please rise)*

Let us pray: **Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 190

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY” p. 190

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Prayer over the gifts)

THE LORD’S PRAYER p.191

INVITATION

Come to the table. Feast on God’s abundant life for you. **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING OF THE BLESSED SUPPER

*It is Christ who invites all to come to his table where he gives his body and blood, along with the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation under the forms of bread and wine. **All are welcome to the table of grace!** Bread or a gluten free option are available. All are invited to drink from the first (common) cup or if desired, to have an individual glass filled from the second (pouring) cup. **Grape juice is available pre-poured in the trays.** Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed.*

“LAMB OF GOD” p.191

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 663 *“Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word*
Meditation Jacob Arcadelt

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(Please rise)*

Let us pray. **Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The blessing of the Lord God Almighty,
the blessing of ☩ Christ Jesus, the Beloved One,
and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

733 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in A Minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

This Week

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7:15 PM

Next Sunday

Pentecost 8, 10:30 AM
Table Talk during coffee hour

Marly and Claire wish to thank all who attended our 5th Anniversary celebration on June 25th. Thanks to Pastor Lori-Anne for the special blessing, thanks to Felix & youth for help at fellowship, & thanks to Michael, who silently & efficiently does DD...(dishwasher duty)!!

Thank you to the many people who worked so hard to help make our special anniversary a truly blessed event.

- Linda & John Dawson

The Altar Guild needs more volunteers. There is a lot that goes on before and after a worship service! Would you like to learn how to set up the altar for communion? We will teach you! Or you could choose to be on the clean up crew, and learn how to wash and store the communion vessels after worship is finished. Know that you are welcome to join the team! If you are interested, please contact Janet Schreiber (janetmts0108@gmail.com)

DIRECTORY

Ministers	God's People
Pastor	Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford 604.720.7255
Minister of Music	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
Friends InDeed Coordinator	Elina Singh
Office Administrator	Iris Kong
Caretaker	Peter dela Torre
Altar Guild Coordinator	Janet Schreiber
Liturgical Artists	Linda Collins Marion Manz

Church Council

TBA - Chair & Human Resources
John Morley - Vice Chair & Property
Karen Duddy - Secretary & Community Outreach
Lanny Harris - Property
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer
Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary
Wayne Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality & Property
Betty Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality
Debbie Powell - Adult Outreach
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Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults
Shannon Ingersoll - Worship and Music
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Mutual Ministry Committee:

Sandi Strate - Chairperson
Russell Collins
Anne Johnson
Arvid Vimb
Shannon Ingersoll

You can find First Lutheran on:
FB: First Lutheran Church Vancouver
TWITTER: FirstLutheranVan

Internet Log-in:
User name: FLC Staff
Password: FLC53HER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**”*

Called together in the Spirit’s embrace, let us pray for the mending of God’s world.
A brief silence.

Enliven your church with love for your world, O God. Give undivided hearts to Christians from Africa and the Americas, Asia and Europe. Make us one in faithful witness to your will.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renew the life of this earth, O God, even as it groans because of misuse and decay. Cultivate in us an eager longing for a healthy and life-giving earth.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bridge the chasms that divide the nations, O God. Inspire a reconciling vision among the world’s leaders, and bring together people of differing commitments for the sake of the world’s most vulnerable people. We remember *especially*...
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden our witness to your love, O God. Send us out into the world with courageous hearts, persistence, and holy wisdom. Inspire us to tend to and delight in our children’s faith.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embrace those who suffer, O God. Give peace to all who are near death, hope to those who are depressed, shelter to the homeless, and healing to the sick. We pray *especially for...* and for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . .
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up your saints, O God. Inspire us by the lives of all reformers and renewers of your church. Receive our thanks for the saints among us who have recently died. We remember *especially* ... and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . .
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Would you like to add a prayer petition on Sundays? We invite you to write down your prayer request on the music stand in the narthex, which will be included each Sunday in the prayers of the people. Please note that prayer petitions will be refreshed each week.