



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 15, 2013

**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 - 41<sup>st</sup> 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 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The wheelchair entrance is also the office entrance on 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 races and cultures which enrich our life and ministry together.*

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 15, 2013**

***Those Serving the Servants Today***

<i>Presider</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Guest Speaker</i>	Carmelle Mohr
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Janet Schreiber
<i>Lector</i>	Christine Neumann
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Guest Pianist</i>	Kathryn Roller
<i>Cantor</i>	Lorna Hau
<i>Flutists</i>	Anne Johnson
	Amy MacLeod
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Percussionist</i>	Derek MacNeill
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Betty Anderson Ingrid Bielenberg
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Christine Neumann Ernie Neumann Ingrid Bielenberg Marion Manz
<i>Anointers</i>	Stephen Holmes Janet Filippelli Sandi Strate Karen Kerfoot
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Janet Filippelli
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Ingrid Anderson Wayne Wong Betty Wong
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Amy MacLeod Frank Filippelli

**If you would 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 would like to help with Coffee Hour, please call Karen Kerfoot at 604.324.7424 or Christine Neumann at 604.596.1778.**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 15, 2013  
*Holy Communion, Setting Two***

*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**

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

**PRELUDE**

*What Is This Lovely Fragrance?  
Prepare the Royal Highway*

Paul Manz  
Robert Hobby

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP** *(The third candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit during the song)*  
**“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”** Geonyong Lee (women's choir)

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*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, our life, our mercy, our might. **Amen.**

As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Great and Holy One,  
**in this time of waning daylight,  
we confess the shadows of sin in our lives.  
We build ourselves up at the expense of others.  
We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure.  
Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay.**

**Come to restore us in your image,  
remake us into your people,  
and rebuild what sin has broken,  
that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen.**

Fear not, people of God:  
the Almighty has done great things for us.  
God casts away our sin from us  
and makes us a new creation.  
In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free.  
Take heart in the tender compassion of our God. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** # 242 *“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”*

**GREETING AND KYRIE** *(The festive “This Is the Feast” is omitted during Advent)* p. 120

### **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up the hearts of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in you.  
Transformed by your loving grace, may we walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1–10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Response after the reading:* **Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM 146: 5-10** *Praise the Lord!*

*Read responsively; congregation reads the bold*

The person whose help is the God of Jacob—  
the person whose hope rests on the LORD their God—  
is truly happy!

**God: the maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
God: who is faithful forever,  
who gives justice to people who are oppressed,  
who gives bread to people who are starving!**

The LORD: who frees prisoners.

The LORD: who makes the blind see.

The LORD: who straightens up those who are bent low.

The LORD: who loves the righteous.

**The LORD: who protects immigrants,  
who helps orphans and widows,**

**but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!**

**The LORD will rule forever!**

**Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next!**

**Praise the LORD!**

## SECOND READING: James 5:7–10

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Response after the reading:*       **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*all sing alleluia verse before and after the reading*)

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## GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2–11

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.*

*Response after announcement:*   **Glory to you, O God.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

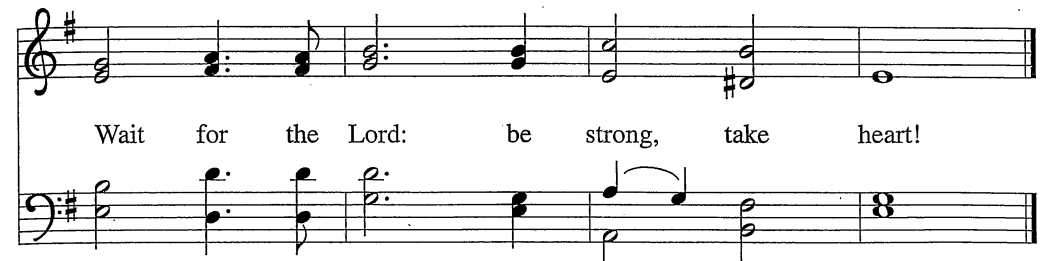
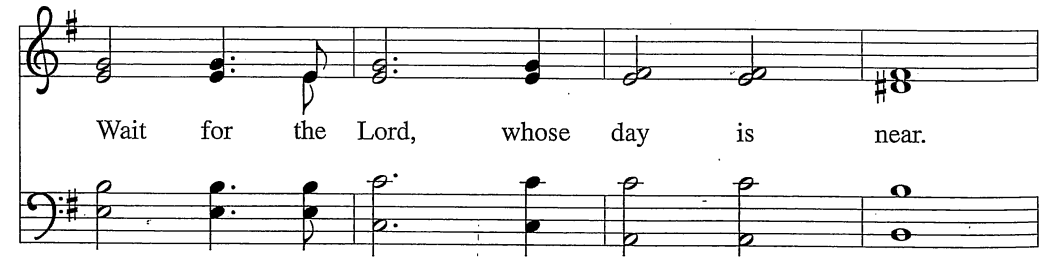
*Response to conclusion:*   **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**REFLECTION** (*Silence for reflection follows*)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**       # 252   *"Each Winter As the Year Grows Older"*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "To you, O Lord, we cry", and all will respond by singing "Wait for the Lord". (words and music next page)*



## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*Etude Opus 10, Number 3*

Frederick Chopin

### OFFERTORY PRAYER (*All rise*)

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 129

### "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

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### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Prayer over the gifts)

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### FRACTION (as the bread is broken)

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### "LAMB OF GOD"

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*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, intinct in the second cup. A gluten free option is available upon request. Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed.*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 241 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”**  
*How Beautiful Are the Feet* George Frederic Handel

**“NOW, LORD, YOU LET YOUR SERVANT GO”** (*All rise*) p. 135

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbor with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN # 249 “On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry”**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace as ambassadors of God’s reconciling love. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts (Christmas Oratorio)* Camille Saint Saens

## **This Week**

### **Today**

Parish Care Centre Pastoral Care Planning  
Team Meeting after Coffee Hour  
Advent Evening Service, 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday**

Christmas Tree Trimming, 7:30 pm

### **Friday**

Benefit Concert, 7 pm  
(*see announcement to the right*)

### **Next Sunday**

Advent IV, 10:30 am  
Community Potluck, 5-6 pm  
(*see announcement below*)  
Advent Evening Service, 6:30 pm

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### **Community Potluck Dinner!**

**Who:** FLC members and friends  
Chinese Methodists Church  
Our neighbours

**When:** 5 - 6:30 pm, Sunday, Dec 22

**Where:** Lower level of FLC

An opportunity to meet the Congregation which worships in our church on Sunday afternoons. Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend and also if you can help with set-up and / or clean-up. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Nurani at 778-709-6141 or via email at jnur@live.ca or John Morley at 604-435-5674.

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After worship today, we will celebrate with all those who have birthdays in December.

**This Friday**, beginning at **7pm**, First Lutheran will host a **Benefit Concert in support of Mikhail Lennikov**. This concert will have a mix of various musical styles. It will feature accomplished performers within our community, including Peter Rohloff’s classical string quartet playing music by Haydn and, together with Mikhail, by Shostakovich. Please show your support for our unforgotten one who is living in sanctuary. Free-will donation at the door. All proceeds go to Legal Fund.

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**Please keep in mind that many people react to scents such as those in perfumes, colognes and strong soaps. Your help in reducing the use of scented personal products at church will ensure that services are comfortable for everyone. With thanks from Church Council.**

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Please remember our special “Fourth Sunday in Advent Dessert Feast” next Sunday. Lots of wonderful music and musicians plus an array of Christmas goodies makes for a rich and full morning. (This is a really good Sunday to invite a friend or two to come to church with you.)

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We thank Carmelle Mohr for worshipping with us today, and for sharing her personal experience with mining companies. May Christ’s light continue to shine brightly in her.

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Everyone is welcome to help decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree this Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

# Advent / Christmas Schedule 2013

## December 15 – Birthday Sunday

10:30 a. m. Advent III Worship  
 10:45 a. m. Sunday School  
 6:30 p. m. Holden Evening Prayer

## December 18

7:30 p. m. Tree Trimming

## December 19

11 a. m. Greater Vancouver Conference Ministerial

## December 20

7 p. m. Benefit Concert for Mikhail Lennikov

## December 22

10:30 a. m. Advent IV: A Service of Lessons and Carols – Sunday School in service  
 5 - 6 p. m. Potluck with Chinese Methodist Church at FLC  
 6:30 p. m. Holden Evening Prayer

## December 24

### Christmas Eve

4:30 p. m. Traditional Candle Light Service (with Communion)  
 7:30 p. m. Traditional Candle Light Service (with Communion)

## December 25

10:30 a. m. Christmas Day Service

## December 29

10:30 a. m. First Sunday after Christmas

## January 5

### Feast of Epiphany

10:00 a. m. Shared worship with St. Thomas Anglican **AT** St. Thomas Anglican

We are in need of worship leaders on December 22, 24 and 25:

### Readers:

1 at 10:30 am service on December 22  
 1 at 4:30 pm service on December 24

### Communion servers:

2 at 4:30 pm service on December 24  
 3 at 7:30 pm service on December 24

### Ushers:

2 at 4:30 pm service on December 24  
 2 at 7:30 pm service on December 24  
 2 at 10:30 am service on December 25

If you are available to help, please put your name down on the sign up sheet posted in the narthex. Thank you for your willingness to help lead worship.

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**If you have not already, please share your voice and insight with the congregation by placing your answer to the question of the month into the box provided in the narthex.**

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Our service is web cast live every Sunday starting at 10:20 am through [www.firstlutheranvancouver.com/webcast.htm](http://www.firstlutheranvancouver.com/webcast.htm)

Or

[www.livestream.com/flcv](http://www.livestream.com/flcv)

Welcome to join us online if you are unavailable to worship at church. The recording of the service is available for the whole week.

## DIRECTORY

<b>Ministers</b>	God's People
<b>Pastor</b>	Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford 604.720.7255
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Iris Kong
<b>Caretaker</b>	Peter dela Torre
<b>Altar Guild Coordinator</b>	Janet Schreiber
<b>Liturgical Artist</b>	June Schramm
<b>Church Council</b>	
	Lanny Harris - Chairperson
	Cheryl Conant - Vice Chairperson & Adult Outreach
	Ernie Neumann - Treasurer
	Karen Kerfoot - Secretary and Fellowship and Hospitality
	Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary
	Russell Collins - Human Resources
	Alex Wilson - Property
	Wayne Wong - Property and Fellowship and Hospitality
	Kim Hoath - Property
	Christine Neumann - Fellowship and Hospitality
	John Morley - Adult Outreach
	Mikhail Lennikov - Outreach Technology
	Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adult
	June Heywood - Education