



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD DECEMBER 25, 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 - 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 races and cultures which enrich our life and ministry together.

5745 Wales Street, Vancouver V5R 3N3
Phone: 604-435-6020 Fax: 604-430-6930
Email: info@firstlutheranvancouver.com
www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD DECEMBER 25, 2013

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Arvid Vimb
<i>Lector</i>	Adolf Manz
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Flutists</i>	Anne Johnson Amy MacLeod
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Mikhail Lennikov Irina Lennikova Marion Manz Janet Filippelli
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	June Schramm Wayne Wong Betty Wong
<i>Offering Counters</i>	

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 Karen Kerfoot at 604.324.7424 or Christine Neumann at 604.596.1778.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2013

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

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

PRELUDE

*Schlafe Mein Liebster
In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach
J. S. Bach

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN # 270 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 52:7-10**

A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" In comforting the people, God proves to be the best brother or sister (redeemer) they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory (salvation) of God.

How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,

together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

HYMN # 279 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

SECOND READING **Hebrews 1:1–4**

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

HYMN # 283 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” vv. 1-2

GOSPEL: **John 1:1-14**

The poetic opening words of John's gospel refer to Jesus as the Word that became flesh-- that is, the one whose human existence incorporates God's very self.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

HYMN # 283 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” vv. 3-4

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY # 276 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Forest Green*

Paul Manz

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

THE PREFACE (*Tune: O Come, All Ye Faithful*)

Pastor: May God be with you

People: **And with you, God’s servant**

Pastor: Oh come let us lift our hearts unto our God.

People: **With hearts uplifted, thanks to God we render:
with joy we come before God, in gratefulness implore God,
with thankful hearts adore God evermore!**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

THE SANCTUS (*Tune: “Hark! The Herald Angels”*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord!

God of hosts, by all adored!

Heaven and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high!

Blest is he who now draws nigh in the name of God the King!

Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, Hosanna! Praises due

Be forever, Lord, to you!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE GIFTS

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Tune: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*)

Our Father, Lord, on heav’n’s high throne, most holy be your name
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth — in heav’n the same
Give us this day the good we need; forgiven we may be;
into temptation do not lead, from evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto you in grateful love we bow;

and yours the power, Lord, let us view your mighty presence now.

The glory yours; your praise be sung by angel hosts and then,
in ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue forever more. Amen

FRACTION

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

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 294 *“In the Bleak Midwinter”*
‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime arr. Healey Willan

SENDING

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #290 *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is with us. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *From Heaven on High* Gordon Young

The church office will re-open on January 2, 2014.

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.

PSALMS STUDY SCHEDULE
Saturdays, 11 am - 12:30 pm

Jan 11 Psalms 46-50
Jan 18 Psalms 51-55
Jan 25 Psalms 56-60

December 29
10:30 am First Sunday after Christmas

January 5
10 am Shared Worship with St. Thomas Anglican **AT** St. Thomas Anglican

Sunday School will resume on January 12.

Choir practice will resume on January 9.

DIRECTORY

- Ministers** God's People
- Pastor** Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
604.720.7255
- Minister of Music** Jeanette Price
604.251.2656
- Office Administrator** Iris Kong
- Caretaker** Peter dela Torre
- Altar Guild Coordinator** Janet Schreiber
- Liturgical Artist** June Schramm
- Church Council**
 - 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