



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 29, 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.*

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www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 29, 2013**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Leading Minister</i>	Julie Bauming
<i>Lector</i>	Adolf Manz
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Guest Pianist</i>	Christina Hutten
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Jackie Cleroux June Schramm
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Mikhail Lennikov Irina Lennikova
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Ernie Neumann Betty 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 Karen Kerfoot at 604.324.7424 or Christine Neumann at 604.596.1778.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 29, 2013
*“Liturgy of the Word”***

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

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN # 267 “Joy to the World”

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

IMAGES IN THE READINGS

The image that recurs in the three readings is **the child**. Jesus is the child of God; the children of Bethlehem are slaughtered; God has treated Israel like beloved children; the sacrifice of Jesus makes believers into children of God. The challenge in our culture is to keep this image from shallow sentimentality.

The gospel reading contrasts the protected child with **the victim**. All three readings speak their good news against the backdrop, not of joyous Christmas celebration, but of horrific human suffering. Many medieval churches displayed life-sized depictions of the slaughter of the innocents, with weeping mothers holding bleeding infants. This art hinted at what is to come: Mary weeping over the dead Jesus. Christianity is not for the squeamish.

God, like a **loving parent**, a father, a mother, is carrying the toddler to safety.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7–9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior

⁹in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

PSALM 149 *Translated by Nan C. Merrill*

Praise the Blessed One!
Give praise from the heavens,
and from all ends of the earth!
Give praise all you angels,
angels of earth and of heaven!

**Give praise sun and moon,
give praise, all you shining stars!
Give praise, all universes,
the whole cosmos of Creation!**

Praise the Blessed One!
For through Love all was created
and firmly fixed for ever and ever;
Yes, the pattern of creation was established.

**Give Praise to the Beloved,
all the earth,
all that swim in the deep,
and all the winged ones in the air!**

Give praise all mountains and hills,
all trees and all minerals!
Give praise all four-legged and all that creep on the ground!

**Leaders of the nations and all peoples,
young and old, give praise!
Unite together in all your diversity,
that peace and harmony might flourish on earth!**

Let all people praise the Beloved,
who is exalted in heaven and on earth;
whose glory is above heaven and earth.

**For all are called to be friends,
companions to the true Friend,
giving their lives joyfully as co-creators and people of peace!**

Praises be to the Blessed One,
the very Breath of our breath,
the very Heart of our heart!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10–18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

¹³And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

HYMN **# 284 "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"** vv. 1-2

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13–23

Matthew relates the slaughter of babies in Bethlehem as one example of evil in the world. Jesus has been born into this world to manifest God's presence and save his people from their sins.

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

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Response to the reading: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN **# 284 "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"** vv. 3-4

REFLECTION (*Silence for reflection follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY **# 292 "Love Has Come"**

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

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN # 294 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

SENDING

BENEDICTION

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from your path.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

And may the Eternal One, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 300 “The First Noel”

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

POSTLUDE

A great big Thank You to Julie Bauming, who served as our leading minister today, and also to Christina Hutten, who served as our guest pianist today.

Please note that Pr. Lori-Anne will return to the office on Thursday.

Joint Epiphany Worship with St. Thomas Anglican next Sunday over at St. Thomas **at 10 AM.** Refreshments will be provided.

Church office will be re-open on Thursday.

This Week

Next Sunday
Joint Epiphany Service
with St. Thomas Anglican, **10 am**

Psalms Study Schedule

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

Feb 1 Psalms 61-65
Feb 8 Psalms 66-70
Feb 15 Psalms 71-75
Feb 22 Psalms 76-80

Our congratulations to Denise Pawliuk and Karl Maier who are getting married in Victoria on New Year’s Day! Denise is our Sunday School director. Karl plays trumpet during our worship on Sundays. Pr. Lori-Anne will be leaving for Victoria this Tuesday to join them in the celebration.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2014
10:45 AM-11:10AM

January 12 & 26
February 2 & 16
March 2, 16 & 30
April 13 & 27
May 11 & 25
June 8 & 22

Please update your directory with **Elina, Jason & Jacob Singh’s** new address:
1 - 2669 Vanness Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5R 4Z6

DIRECTORY

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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
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June Heywood - Education