



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 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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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 2013**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Guest Speaker</i>	Dr. Fikre Tsehail
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Celly Manirakoze
<i>Lector</i>	Sylvia Harris
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Cantor</i>	Arvid Vimb
<i>Flutists</i>	Anne Johnson Amy MacLeod
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Vocalist</i>	Leanne Harder
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Daniel Luong Eve Luong
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Sylvia Harris Lanny Harris Deanna Wilson Alex Wilson
<i>Anointers</i>	Adolf Manz Julie Bauming Sylvia Schmidt John Morley
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Carol Laslett Barbara Perry
<i>Altar Guild</i>	June Schramm Daniel Luong Eve Luong
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Lanny Harris Alex Wilson

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.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

PRELUDE

*Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium"
Noel Huron*

John Wilkinson
Denis Bedard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP *(The second candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit during the song)*
"Creator of the Stars of Night" Plainsong Mode IV (men'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 # 257 *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*
v. 4 - women; v.5 - men; v.6 - unaccompanied

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 11:1–10

In today's reading the prophet describes the ideal ruler who will come in the future as a green shoot springing from a dead stump (David's royal line) of Jesse (David's father). Gifted by the Spirit, this messiah will seek justice for the poor, and the reign of this monarch will be experienced as paradise regained.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM 72: 1-8, 18-20

Read responsively; congregation reads the bold

Give the gift of wise rule to the king, O God,
the gift of just rule to the crown prince.
May he judge your people rightly,
be honorable to your meek and lowly.
**Let the mountains give exuberant witness;
shape the hills with the contours of right living.**
**Please stand up for the poor,
help the children of the needy,
come down hard on the cruel tyrants.**
Outlast the sun, outlive the moon—
age after age after age.
Be rainfall on cut grass,
earth-refreshing rain showers.
**Let righteousness burst into blossom
and peace abound until the moon fades to nothing.**
**Rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the Rim.**

Blessed GOD, Israel's God,
the one and only wonder-working God!
Blessed always his blazing glory!
All earth brims with his glory.
Yes and Yes and Yes.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4–13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

¹¹and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

¹²and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

"We Are Waiting"

Jay Althouse

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

p. 124

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1–12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

VERY SHORT REFLECTION

PRESENTATION ON CLWR

HYMN OF THE DAY # 710 "Let Streams of Living Justice"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "In you, O Lord, we trust", and all will respond by singing "The Spirit Intercedes". (words and music below)

The image shows two lines of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first line is a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "The Spir - it in - ter - cedes for us with". The second line is also a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line and the word "End" above it. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "sighs too deep for words to ex - press. Oh, oh."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Go Tell It On the Mountain

African American Spiritual

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” p. 130

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” p. 135

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 # 254 “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
Legend Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

“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 # 264 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Once He Came in Blessing* Johann Sebastian Bach

This Week

Today

Advent Evening Service, 6:30 pm

Wednesday

Confirmation, 4:30 pm

Saturday

Psalms Study, 11 am

Study Session on Water and Mining, 1:30 pm

Young Adult Cookie Bake, 6 pm at FLC

Next Sunday

Advent III, 10:30 am

Sunday School, 10:45 am

Advent Evening Service, 6:30 pm

Our thanks to Fikre Tsehai for his presentation on CLWR this morning.

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.

The **Young Adults Group** will be meeting this Saturday **to bake cookies** in the lower level of FLC starting at **6 pm.**

On **Friday, December 20**, 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 will go to Legal Fund.

Community Potluck Dinner!

Who: FLC members and friends
Chinese Methodists Church
Our neighbours

When: 5 - 6 pm, Sunday, December 22

Where: Lower level of FLC

An opportunity to meet the Congregation which worships in our church on Sunday afternoons. Quite likely to be great food!! 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 John Morley at 604-435-5674.

We will celebrate with all those who have birthdays in December next Sunday after worship.

Advent / Christmas Schedule 2013

December 8	10:30 a. m.	Advent II Worship – Fikre Tsehai’s Presentation on CLWR services
	6:30 p. m.	Holden Evening Prayer
December 11	4:30 p. m.	Confirmation
December 14	11 a. m.	Psalm Study (last session of the year)
	1:30 p. m.	Study Session on Mining and Water facilitated by Pr. Lori-Anne
	6 pm	Youth Adult Cookie Bake in the lower level at FLC
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	4:30 p. m.	Christmas Eve 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	10:00 a. m.	Feast of Epiphany Shared worship with St. Thomas Anglican <u>AT</u> St. Thomas Anglican

Chris and Josh Hergesheimer left today for a village called Panlang in South Sudan to launch a bicycle-mill that can be used by anyone from the community. Please keep them and their families in your prayers for a successful trip over there and a safe trip home.

There are also newspaper clips posted in the narthex for more info.

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

Readers:

2 at 4:30 pm service on December 24

2 at 7:30 pm service on December 24

1 at 10:30 am service on December 25

Communion servers:

4 at 4:30 pm service on December 24

4 at 7:30 pm service on December 24

4 at 10:30 am service on December 25

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 let the church office know or see Pr. Lori-Anne. Thank for your willingness to help lead the worship services.

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