



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



**ASH SUNDAY
MARCH 9, 2014**

**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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Email: info@firstlutheranvancouver.com
www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

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Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Russell Collins
<i>Lector</i>	Christine Neumann
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Cantor</i>	Brad Langerud
<i>Flutists</i>	Anne Johnson
	Amy MacLeod
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Eve Luong Daniel Luong
<i>Anointers</i>	June Schramm Karen Duddy Julie Bauming Shannon Ingersoll
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Eve Luong Daniel Luong Alex Wilson Deanna Wilson
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Christine Neumann Sarah Speidel
<i>Altar Guild</i>	June Schramm Eve Luong Daniel Luong
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Alex Wilson Lanny Harris

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.

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INTRODUCTION

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

PRELUDE

*Pastorale Ancienne
Thee We Adore, O Hidden Saviour*

Garth Edmundson
Healey Willan

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, who forgives all our sin and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we have sinned against your creation and before you.

We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends.

**Forgive us and restore us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you,
and live in loving peace with one another. Amen.**

We are reconciled to God through Christ Jesus; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the loving righteousness of + Jesus Christ, forgiving you all your sins and making of you a new creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

793 "Be Thou My Vision"

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ our Saviour, the reconciling 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. Gracious and loving God, you hate nothing you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who come to you. Out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to live and serve you and our neighbours.

Create in us, Gracious God, new and honest hearts, so that, in our turning towards you,
towards life, we may knowingly receive from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Beloved,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1–12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

PSALM 51: Create in Me a New Heart *(translated by Nan C. Merrill)*

Refrain: Create in me a New Heart Oh God (X4)

Refrain

Have mercy on me, O Gracious One, according to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant kindness
forgive me where my thoughts and deeds have hurt others.
Lead me in the paths of justice, guide my steps on paths of peace!

Teach me, that I may know my weaknesses, the shortcomings that bind me,
the unloving ways that separate me, that keep me from recognizing your Life in me;
For, I keep company with fear, and dwell in the house of ignorance.
Yet, I was brought forth in love, and love is my birthright. **Refrain**

You have placed your truth in the inner being;
therefore, teach me the wisdom of the heart.
Forgive all that binds me in fear, that I might radiate love;
cleanse me that your light might shine in me.
Fill me with gladness; help me to transform weakness into strength.
Look not on my past mistakes but on the aspirations of my heart.

Create in me a clean heart, O Gracious One, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Enfold me in the arms of Love, and fill me with your Holy Spirit.
Restore in me the joy of your saving grace, and encourage me with a new spirit.

Then I will teach others your ways, and prisoners of fear will return to You.
Deliver me from the addictions of society,
O Healer of souls, keep me from temptation that I may tell of your justice and mercy. **R**

O Gracious One, open my lips and my mouth shall sing forth your praise.
For You do not want sacrifice; You delight in our friendship with You.
A sacrifice most appropriate is a humble spirit; a repentant and contrite heart;
O Merciful One, receive our gratitude and love.

Let the nations turn from war, and encourage one another as good neighbours.
O Blessed and Compassionate Friend, melt our hearts of stone, break through the fears
that lead us into darkness, and Guide our steps toward the way of peace. **R**

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Upper Room

Don Besig

LENTEN VERSE

LET YOUR STEADFAST LOVE
(Sing before and after reading. All rise)

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HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

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

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for

yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Response after reading: Praise to you , O Christ.

HOMILY (*Silence for meditation follows*)

“PRAY”

HYMN OF THE DAY

814 “Take, Oh Take Me as I Am” sung 3 times

INVITATION TO LENT

Lent is time of preparation, as we mindfully journey throughout forty days, and affirm our own baptismal covenant. This is a journey of renewal, and of deepening our faith practice as we listen to God’s call in our hearts and lives. This is a season where we intentionally reflect, and take the time to be quiet and still in the presence of God’s embracing love. This is a season when we are assured that God’s grace is working in us and in our lives, bringing life-giving change and liberating us to live our lives anew.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES *“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

All those desiring a cross of ashes to be marked upon their foreheads are invited to come forward to receive the sign of mortality and penitence, the sign that in Christ, our sin is put to death, and the sign that in all life is the breath of God.

HYMN # 336 **“Lamb of God”**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Show us your mercy, O God,
and grant us your salvation.
Give us the joy of your saving help again,
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.
Give peace in all the world;
for only in you can we live in safety.
Keep the nations under your care,
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.
Lord, hear our prayer,
and let our cry come before you.

PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Steal Away

Spiritual

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All rise)*

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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 holy gifts of God for the holy 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, to have an individual glass filled from the second (pouring) cup. Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

325 **“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**

In Heavenly Love Abiding

Alice Jordan

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

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All rise)

Let us pray. O God, in this holy meal you have embraced us and gathered us into your arms of compassion and protection. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Go forth into the world to share the good news; be of good courage; hold fast to what is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit, and almighty God - Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, bless you and go with you. Amen.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN # 326 *“Bless Now, O God, The Journey”*

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace, for nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Koraal

Flor Peeters

**7-9 PM, March 19, 2014,
MVA Founding Assembly**
Maritime Labour Centre
1880 Triumph St, Vancouver
(near Commercial and Hastings)

Please sign up today!

Your presence is needed on Wednesday, March 19, 7 to 9 pm at the Metro Vancouver Alliance Founding Assembly! Our group will stand behind our church banner to show that we care about making metro Vancouver a better place to live. By signing up to attend on March 19, you are NOT committing to doing anything else with MVA. Between 5:30 and 6:00, meet at the church to eat a sandwich/pizza and get a ride or share a ride to the Maritime Labour Centre (1880 Triumph Street). More information with the sign-up poster in the Narthex. Please show that you care! Please sign up today so we know how many will be attending.

This Week

Today

Taize Lenten Evening Service, 6: 30 pm

Today - Wednesday

BC Synod Study Conference in Chilliwack

Wednesday

Confirmation, 4:30 pm

Centering Prayer, 7 pm

Thursday

Choir, 7:30 pm

Saturday

FLC youth group serving breakfast at SUMS

Won By One study session, 1:30 pm

Next Sunday

Lent 2, 10:30 am

Sunday School, 10:45 am

PCC AGM

A Life of Change

Taize Lenten Evening Service, 6: 30 pm

The Annual General Meeting of Parish Care Centre will take place after the worship next Sunday, March 16 in the lower level.

“Won By One” Study Schedule

March 15, 22, 29
April 5, 12, 19, 26
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
June 7, 14

Please bring a Bible, pen and paper. You are welcome.

We will celebrate with all those who have birthdays in March next Sunday.

Psalms Study Schedule

Mar 15 Retreat/No study

Mar 22 Psalms 91-95

Mar 29 Psalms 96-100

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE 2014

10:45 AM-11:10AM

March 2, 16 & 30

April 13 & 27

May 11 & 25

June 8 & 22

Question of March: *What change would you like to see in your city or your local community?*

Lenten Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 7-8:15 pm

Sanctuary of FLC

March 12-April 19

(No meeting on March 19)

Looking for a time of quiet, stillness, and reflection? Need a time to shut out the noise of the world and hear God within your heart and life? Join us for prayer and come just as you are.

A warm welcome to our newest council members: Debbie Powell and Marly Zell. Debbie will join the Outreach Adult (seniors) portfolio and Marly will be a member at large on council. Our thanks to them and all council members for sharing the time, energy and gifts to serve this congregation.

First Lutheran Church is a member of the *British Columbia Synod* (one of five regions) which make up the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)* which in turn belongs to the *Lutheran World Federation* which represents the 80 million Lutherans around the world. For more information on the ministries of the ELCIC (office in Winnipeg, Manitoba), visit its website at www.elcic.ca. For similar information on the BC synod, visit its office in New Westminster or its website at www.bcsynod.org.

Financial support of our congregation's life and mission is provided by the donations of our members given in thankful response to the generosity shown by God in the gifts given to us. Offerings of any amount are gratefully accepted and joyfully spent in our service to Christ and to others.

Have you remembered First Lutheran in your will? Consider how a bequest or gift might continue supporting our mission and ministry.

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

or

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

Ministers	God's People
Pastor	Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford 604.720.7255
Minister of Music	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
Office Administrator	Iris Kong 604.456.0476
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
	John Morley - Property
	Wayne Wong - Property and Fellowship and Hospitality
	Christine Neumann - Fellowship and Hospitality
	Debbie Powell - Outreach Adult (seniors)
	Mikhail Lennikov - Outreach Technology
	Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults
	June Heywood - Education
	Marly Zell - Member at large