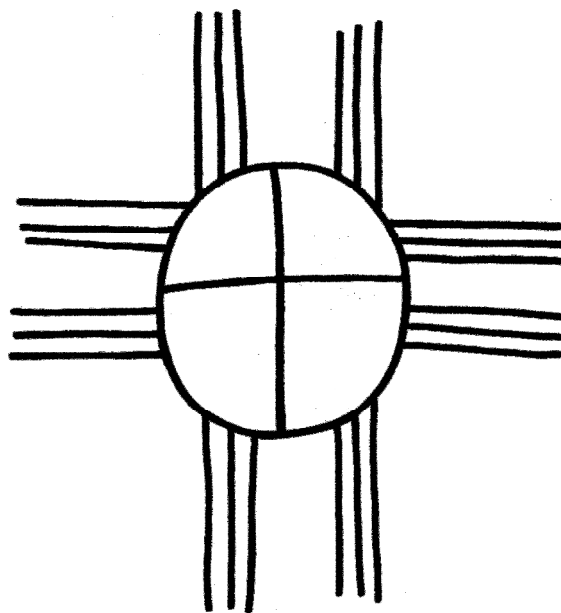




FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 2015

**WELCOME TO
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDED 1890**

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 2015**

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 people 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

Those Serving the Servants Today

Leading Minister Arvid Vimb

Lector Karen Duddy

Ministry of Music

Organ/Piano Jeanette Price

Flutist Amy MacLeod

Trumpeter Karl Maier

Coffee Hour Hosts Deanna Wilson
Alex Wilson
Joy Anderson

Altar Guild Ingrid Anderson
Wayne Wong
Betty Wong

Offering Counters Amy MacLeod
Tony 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 Deanna Wilson at 604-430-5893 or Betty Wong at 604-877-1578.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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Service 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

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

PRELUDE

Accept O Lord the Gift We Bring
Aberystwyth

arr. David Cherwien
arr. Don Hustad

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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GATHERING HYMN # 689 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

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. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with wisdom and knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you and your people, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1–6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,
⁵"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

Response after the reading: Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 34:9–14 (*read responsively; congregation reads the bold*) *Translated by Nan C. Merrill*

Happy are all who dwell in the Beloved's hearts!
Abandon yourself into Love's hands,
O you holy ones, for those who give themselves to the Beloved,
lack no good thing.

**Everyone separated from Love is empty and hungry within;
but those whose hearts are opened to the Beloved, are filled to overflowing!**

O come and see, come and hear, how we honour the Beloved.
Many there are who desire Life, who yearn for fulfillment, who covet the wisdom of Truth.
Keep your heart open and free,
take time to dwell in the Silence, you will be a peaceful presence in the world.

**For the Beloved sees the deeds of our hearts, and hears our innermost thoughts.
The face of the Beloved turns from the evil ways of men and women;
for Love is kind and merciful and remembers not our sins.**

Rather, the Beloved is patient, ever-waiting for us to cry out for forgiveness,
to embrace Love's way.
How often the Beloved weeps with compassion over those who are crushed in spirit.

**Though we are beset with many fears that cause illness and troubles,
the Beloved is ever ready to comfort us in our sorrows,
to strengthen us on our soul's journey to wholeness.
The Beloved renews the life of all who surrender to Love.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15–20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:51–58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

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

⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

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

HOMILY *(Silence for reflection follows)*

HYMN OF THE DAY # 648 *“Beloved, God’s Chosen”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

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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.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *"Air" (Water Music Suite)* George Frederic Handel

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING p. 219

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD p. 220

LORD'S PRAYER p. 221

SENDING

BLESSING

The blessing of almighty God, the Creator of life, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 881 *"Let All Things Now Living"*

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Toccatà in E minor* Johann Pachelbel

This Week

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7 pm

Wednesday

Communion Service at St. Thomas, 10 am

Next Sunday

Pentecost 13, 10:30 am

Looking for rest, inspiration or challenge this summer? Come to Sorrento Centre! An inviting, family-friendly retreat on the edge of Shuswap Lake, with options for every person, family, group, and budget. Full information at: www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca.

Thank you to all who came to help with building maintenance work yesterday.

Our thanks to Arvid Vimb for leading the worship this morning. Pr. Lori-Anne is on a four-week holiday and will return to the office on September 10. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Pr. Nathan Fong at 604-433-1515 or office@graceburnaby.com till the end of August. In September, Pr. Jennifer Marlor will fill in for Pr. Lori-Anne in case of pastoral emergency. She can be reached at her cell 204-299-6947 (Manitoba number), 604-988-5838 (office) or mailrevj@gmail.com. All other inquiries except pastoral emergencies are to be directed to the office or chair of council.

"LET'S TALK ABOUT IT"

facilitated by Sandi Strate,
Jennifer Stewart, and Pr Hergy

AUGUST 27, Lower Level at FLC

5:30-6 pm: Mingle time/intro

6:30-8 pm: discussion

A time to process Mikhail Lennikov's decision to return to Russia after 6 years in sanctuary at FLC.

A time to hear Pr Hergy's perspective on our sanctuary journey as a church community.

A time to listen to one another, and to hear how we are doing as a church.

Please indicate your attendance on the sign-up sheet posted in the narthex.

Please bring own food if needed.

Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

A follow-up is also scheduled

Saturday, September 12

to touch base with members and friends who are still in grief and appreciate some extra help.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:
GRIEF AND GRIEVING PROCESS**

Facilitator: Sandi Strate

Time: 10:30 - noon

Refreshments provided.

Please register with church office or indicate your attendance on the sign up sheet posted in the narthex.

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
John Morley - Vice Chairperson
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer
Mikhail Lennikov - Secretary
Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary
Alex Wilson - Property
John Morley - Property
Wayne Wong - Property and Fellowship & Hospitality
Deanna Wilson - Fellowship and Hospitality
Betty Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality
Debbie Powell - Outreach Adult (seniors)
Mikhail Lennikov - Outreach Technology
Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults
June Heywood - Education & Human Resources
Marly Zell - Human Resources
Jen Langerud - Human Resources
Brad Langerud - Music and Worship
Ray Hartley - Member at large

Mutual Ministry Committee:

Sandi Strate - Chairperson
Russell Collins
Anne Johnson
Arvid Vimb
Shannon Ingersoll

**Free Wifi is now available at
First Lutheran. To log in:**

**User name: flcwifi
Password: flc1890**

You can find First Lutheran on:
FB: First Lutheran Church Vancouver
TWITTER: FirstLutheranVan

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

God of generosity, you came to live among us in communion with us. We pray for all congregations, that they be places of welcome and belonging where those who seek you find a home. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of creativity, you have given us a rich earth to provide all sorts of nourishment. Grant us the wisdom to be good stewards of this vast and wondrous home. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, we pray for the nations of the world. Give the world's leaders the wisdom that they need to seek peace and pursue justice. Give citizens the courage to raise up such leaders. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of wisdom, we pray for all those who are soon returning to school: students, teachers, and staff. Give them the joy of learning from each other by sharing their gifts and questions. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, we pray for all who are in need—both the needs we understand and the hungers that are beyond our comprehension. Fill all yearning souls with the true satisfaction that comes from you. *Especially we pray for . . .* Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of community, we remember all the faithful who have come before us, *especially...* Help us to remember, as they did, that those who seek the Lord will lack nothing that is good. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**