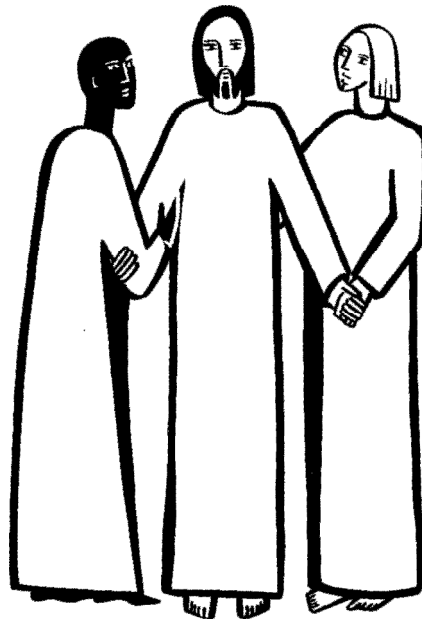




FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2015

**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 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

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2015**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Sylvia Schmidt
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Michael Ray
<i>Lector</i>	Felix Opoku
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Alex Wilson Ingrid Bielenberg
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Abigail Hergesheimer Beatrice Hergesheimer
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Alex Wilson Ingrid Bielenberg Felix Opoku Holly Hergesheimer
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Esther Ling
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Ingrid Anderson Jackie Cleroux Soriya Salehi
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Betty Wong Deanna 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 Deanna Wilson at 604-430-5893 or Betty Wong at 604-877-1578.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2015
Holy Communion, Setting Eight

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

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

PRELUDE

*Holy Manna
Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*

arr. Don Hustad
Paul Manz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN # 650 *"In Christ There Is No East or West"*

GREETING

From God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18

In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

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

PSALM 34:15–22 (*read responsively; congregation reads the bold*)

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10–20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not

against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Sing Alleluia verse before and after reading. All rise*) p. 188

GOSPEL: John 6:56–69

The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

Response to announcement of the Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Response: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY *(Silence for reflection follows)*

HYMN OF THE DAY # 757 **“All My Hope on God Is Founded”**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Plenty Good Room* Lloyd Larson

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All rise)*

Let us pray: **God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 190

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY” p. 190

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Prayer over the gifts)

THE LORD’S PRAYER p.191

INVITATION

Everyone who hungers, come to the table.
Christ gives to you love and life. **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING OF THE BLESSED SUPPER

*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. **Grape juice is now available pre-poured in the trays.** Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed.*

“LAMB OF GOD” p.191

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 468 “Around You, O Lord Jesus”

Blessed Jesus, We Are Here

J.S. Bach

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(All rise)*

Let us pray. **Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbour and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour and +give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

638 “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love one another. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Hanover

Robert Hobby

This Week

Today

Cinema Under the Stars night, 7:30 pm
(see announcement elsewhere)

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7 pm

Wednesday

Communion Service at St. Thomas, 10 am

Next Sunday

Pentecost 14, 10:30 am

Our thanks to Pr. Sylvia Schmidt 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.

Cinema Under the Stars night

8:00 PM TODAY

Where - St. Thomas Anglican Church (2444 41st Avenue), around the side off of St. Margarets. There will be chairs and ground seating available. It may cool off, so blankets/ jackets are a good idea.

What - Cinema Under The Stars – title to be selected by audience from a short list including Big Hero 6, Stand By Me, ET and maybe more.

When - Sunday, August 23.
Movie selection around 7:30, and the show starts at 8 pm

Fellowship and Hospitality Committee invites you to be part of the team either by signing up to host the fellowship or by donating supplies, such as cookies, cakes, pies and sandwiches, and also by volunteering to help set up and/or clean up. Goodies can be marked “Fellowship supplies” and dropped off in the kitchen before service. There will be a donation box downstairs during coffee hour for anyone desiring to contribute financially to our Sunday fellowship. Thank you for your engagement, participation and willingness to make our church welcoming and hospitable!

New Email for Felix Opoku:
felix_opo@yahoo.ca

"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.

Dear members and friends of First Lutheran,

My apologies for not being in contact for the last four days since my departure from Canada - I didn't have an access to a computer and my email account.

I arrived in Russia safe and sound on Saturday, August 15, and passed passport control and customs without any problem. During the whole procedure of deportation, the CBSA officers were very professional and attentive. Under different circumstances, I could even say that we became friends.

After over six years of life in confinement, I must confess that it is going to be quite an adjustment to the new hectic and sometimes unknown reality. I am currently staying in Moscow trying to obtain the proper internal identification documents - the passport, Medical card and taxpayer ID number.

I am somewhat disappointed that the news has been leaked out so soon, but after talking to Mr. Nazami I am afraid it was unavoidable - it seems that the media had been already tipped about my return and giving a controlled message seemed better than leaving everything up to the media's imagination.

I'll write again as soon as I have anything new.

Blessings,

Mikhail Lennikov

Hawaiian Theme BBQ!



First Lutheran Church will be hosting a Hawaiian theme BBQ, on **Sunday, September 20 from after service to 1:30 pm on the lower level. Come dress Hawaiian** and be prepared to dance hula hula and sing! There will be music, burgers and drinks, and a chance to reconnect with our friends and neighbours! Everyone is invited to bring your own family and friends to join in the fun! **Ticket is \$3/person. Please contact Deanna Wilson, or Betty and Wayne Wong to purchase tickets before September 13.** A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex. Volunteers to clean up after BBQ is needed.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

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.*

Faithful God, we pray for the church. Lead it always to proclaim its faith in you, who gives us the words of eternal life. Give your church the gifts of truth and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our fragile and beautiful planet. Renew our sense of wonder and our determination to care for your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the world. Equip them to serve with justice and to dispel the forces of evil. Inspire the citizens of every country to love wisdom and mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the brokenhearted and those whose spirits are crushed. Wrap them in the warm embrace of your all encompassing love. Restore them to wholeness *especially...* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have gone before us, *especially...* Give us wisdom to follow their example of faithful living and to stay true to the path of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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