



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2015

**WELCOME TO
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDED 1890**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2015**

Those Serving the Servants Today

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

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Karen Duddy
<i>Lector</i>	Sylvia Harris
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Guest Pianist</i>	Kathryn Roller
<i>Cantor</i>	Lorna Hau
<i>Flutists</i>	Amy MacLeod
	Anne Johnson
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Alex Wilson Deanna Wilson
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Emmanuel Manu Jordan Manu
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Alex Wilson Deanna Wilson Dennis Reid Doreen Reid
<i>Anointers</i>	Janet Ray Arvid Vimb Julie Bauming Adolf Manz
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Sylvia & Paul Schmidt
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Carol Laslett Dennis Reid Doreen Reid
<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 Deanna Wilson at 604-430-5893 or Betty Wong at 604-877-1578.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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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

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

*What Is This Lovely Fragrance?
Prepare the Royal Highway*

Paul Manz
Robert Hobby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

Geonyong Lee (women’s choir)

The third candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit during the song

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,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Saviour who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls.

You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.

Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love.

Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth,

for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus;
you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN # 260 "The King Shall Come"

GREETING AND KYRIE

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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.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:
Gracious God, open the hearts of your people, and open our eyes to the needs of your people.
Through your grace, may our lives bring forth the fruits of change and repentance; we ask this
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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

Isaiah 12:2-6 (*Read responsively; congregation read the bold*)

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

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

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GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

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

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹Even 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." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”
¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY # 801 “*Change My Heart, O God*” (sung twice)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “let us pray”,
 and all will respond by singing “Wait for the Lord ”.*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics placed below the notes.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics placed below the notes.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Anne Krentz Organ

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name

your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

FRACTION (as the bread is broken)

The holy gifts of God for you, the holy 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, to have an individual glass filled from the second (pouring) cup. **Grape juice is available pre-poured in the trays.** Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

241 “O Lord How Shall I Meet You”

Legend

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Creator, ☩ Redeemer, and Sustainer, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 439 “Soon and Very Soon”

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi

Everyone is welcome to help decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary on **December 15 at 7:00 p. m.**

Please remember our special “Fourth Sunday in Advent Dessert Feast” next Sunday and bring a plate of goodies to share if you are able. Lots of wonderful music and musicians plus an array of Christmas goodies makes for a rich and full morning. (This is a really good Sunday to invite a friend or two to come to church with you.)

Please note that there will be only one service on Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm as we do not have the available human resources needed for the earlier 4:30 pm service.

On **December 25**, our **Christmas Day Service** will begin at **10:30am**. This year there will be a **community Christmas lunch following the service**, organized by Joseph Nurani. If you are able to attend, volunteer to help set up and/or cleanup, and/or bring a dish, please contact Joseph at 778-714-0691 or jnur@live.ca.

This Week

Today

Parish Care Centre Meeting after service
Confirmation, 4:30 pm
Advent Evening Service, 5:30 pm
“*Waiting in Darkness*”

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7 pm

Tuesday

Tree decoration, 7:00 pm

Wednesday

Communion Service at St. Thomas, 10 am
Council, 6:15 pm

Thursday

Ministerial, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Saturday

Youth Compiling “We Care” Bags

Next Sunday

Advent 4, 10:30 am
Advent Evening Service, 5:30 pm
“*Waiting in Darkness*”

Sunday School 2016

January 10, 24

On Sunday, **December 27** we will worship **with St. Thomas** for a Carols Service at **10:30 am at FLC**. We will continue with the tradition of sharing the **Feast Day of Epiphany** on **January 3, 2016** with **St Thomas Anglican Church**. Worship this year will begin at **10:00 am at St. Thomas**.

Youth Project: “We Care” Bags

This year, youth at FLC will assemble and send CLWR “We Care” bags to help students and teachers around the world in need of school supplies. For detailed info, please read the poster in the narthex. Please give your items to the youth group **by Dec 19**.

Advent Evening service starts at 5:30 pm

“*Waiting in the Darkness*”

December 13, 20

No service on Dec 27 and January 3, 2016.

Confirmation class 2015-2016, 4:30 pm

December 13	January 17
February 7, 21	March 6
April 3, 17	May 8

Students and families are enthusiastically invited to stay for the evening service as part of formation.

50 Plus group is inviting everyone to join them for a Christmas Light Tour at VanDusen Garden on **Monday, December 21**. **The group meets at 7 pm at FLC**. Church van and carpooling will be available. Everyone is invited to return to church for a hot chocolate. The entrance fee is \$13/person for a group of 10 or more, \$16 if less than 10. Please note this is instead of the Christmas Light Bus Tour. Questions, please contact Debbie Powell at 604-346-5568 or debpow50@gmail.com.



Pr. Hergy and Trudy mourn the passing of Hergy's brother, Paul, who died on December 2 in Panajachel, Guatemala, where he had lived for almost the past three years. The Hergies and their extended family give thanks for his life and for a peaceful end after a short but debilitating illness.

Pr. Hergy was able to pay an emergency week-long visit with Paul in Guatemala to care for him in his last days and to help him make preparations for his death and burial. It was a wonderful time filled with laughter, tears, grace and love (and a bit of brotherly bickering, of course). God is good and all is well.

"Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him."

Evening service will begin its Epiphany season "Enter with Joy" on January 10.

**January 10, 17, 24, 31
February 7**

Accommodation needed for a male tenant near Sarah McLaughlin School of Music (135 East 7th Ave, Vancouver). Another desirable location is the First Lutheran neighbourhood. The tenant has a budget of \$700 for rental per month. If you are able to help, please contact Joy Anderson at joyanderson24@gmail.com.

The Flash Mob (caroling of "Joy to the World") was well received at the food court in Metrotown this past Tuesday night. Thank you to all who participated in this event.

Redeemer Lutheran Church (1499 Laurier Ave, Vancouver) will be hosting the "Longest Night" service of lessons and carols for those who struggle in the Christmas season. The service will be held on **Thursday evening, December 17 at 7:30 PM**. Mr. Steve Maddock will be assisting so the singing will be very fine indeed. Everyone who would find this helpful is invited to the service. There will be no guest book to sign and no offering is taken. This is a gift to the community from Redeemer Lutheran and everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. The service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

Please remember to save your used postage stamps, Campbell soup labels, pop tops and "no longer needed" eye glasses and drop them off in the church office.

An invitation from Redeemer Lutheran is extended to all wonderful carolers to join the caroling gatherings at various locations. Please see poster in the narthex for more info.

DIRECTORY

Ministers	God's People
Pastor	Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford 604.720.7255
Minister of Music	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
Friends InDeed Lead Coordinator	Rev. Margaret Marquardt
Friends InDeed Information and Communication Coordinator	Elina Singh
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 & Property
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer
Jen Langerud - Secretary & Human Resources
Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary
Alex Wilson - Property
Wayne Wong - Property and Fellowship & Hospitality
Deanna Wilson - Fellowship and Hospitality
Betty Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality
Debbie Powell - Outreach Adult (seniors)
TBD - Outreach Technology
Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults
June Heywood - Education & Human Resources
Marly Zell - 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: “let us pray”, and all will respond by singing “Wait for the Lord”.

Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give. *A brief silence.*

For the earth, for glaciers, for the protection of dormant vegetation and hibernating animals, and for wisdom in the use and care of the creatures and landscapes we live among, for the nations of the world, for soldiers and police, for all who suffer political oppression, for our enemies, let us pray. **Wait for the Lord...**

For this congregation, for joy in Christ, and for our community, for an increase in practices that truly enact justice and compassion, for all those in need, for those who are sick or cold, injured or outcast, for victims of fraud or extortion, for all who will die today. We pray *especially* for those whom we name aloud or silently in our hearts... Let us pray. **Wait for the Lord...**

We praise you, O God, for the lives of all the faithful departed. We pray *especially* for those whom we name aloud or silently in our hearts... let us pray. **Wait for the Lord...**

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and then a dotted quarter note G4. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords: G2-B2-D3, A2-C3-E3, B2-D3-F3, and G2-B2-D3. The piece ends with a double bar line and a common time signature (C).

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a melody starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and then a dotted quarter note G4. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords: G2-B2-D3, A2-C3-E3, B2-D3-F3, and G2-B2-D3. The piece ends with a double bar line and a common time signature (C).