



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



Christmas Eve 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 - 41<sup>st</sup> 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 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The wheelchair entrance is also the office entrance on 42<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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**CHRISTMAS EVE 2015**

*Those Serving the Servants Today*

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Celly Manirakoze
<i>Lectors</i>	Stephen Holmes Arvid Vimb Russell Collins Linda Collins
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Guest Pianist</i>	Kathryn Roller
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Doreen Reid Sylvia Harris
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Russell Collins Linda Collins Sylvia Harris Doreen Reid
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Lanny Harris Dennis Reid
<i>Ushers</i>	Les Speidel
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Linda Collins Shannon Ingersoll Alysha Ingersoll
<i>Offering Counters</i>	

**Resources:**

"The Feast of the Christ Child", by Pat Bennett  
A Christmas Communion Liturgy from Iona  
Wild Goose Publications

## CHRISTMAS EVE 2015

*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.*



### PRELUDE

*Candlelighting during Gathering Hymn*

### GATHERING HYMN # 281 “*Silent Night*”

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ, the Saviour is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

### OPENING RESPONSES

Starlight and song have once again summoned us home to the stable.

**And so, with the beasts of the field,  
and the humble and the high,  
we have come to gaze on the face of God.**

Story and supper have once again drawn us home to God's table.

**And here, through words worn smooth with telling,  
and gifts given life through sharing,  
may we once again see and know you, Emmanuel —  
God with us and for us.**

Christmas Child, as we wait now for you, come softly into our lives:  
**Still our clamorous busyness with the quiet of your coming.**

Christmas Child, as we look now for you, come softly into our minds:  
**Transfigure our dull thinking with the colours of your seeing.**

Christmas Child, as we long now for you, come softly into our hearts:  
**Enrich our meagre loving with the warmth of your being.**

Christmas Child, as at Bethlehem's stable,  
**Come softly in among us now and heal and hallow us with your Presence.**

Christmas Child - becoming flesh,  
**You showed what it was to serve and share, to live and love, as God intended.**

Christmas Child, as we kneel again at your manger,  
**Restore, renew and reshape us so that our serving and sharing, living and loving may,  
now and always, incarnate you in the world. Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to blow out their candles, and to be seated for the lesson.*



## **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

### **First Reading            Isaiah 9:2-7**

- <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

### **Carol            # 282    “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”**

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king.” The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heav’nly music floats o’ver all the weary world. Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing, and ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow: look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

**SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.  
3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.  
4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
    in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth; 5 and he shall be the one of peace.

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

**Carol # 283 “O Come All Ye Faithful”**

1. O, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
    O, come, ye, o, come, ye to Bethlehem  
    Come and behold him, born the king of angels: *Refrain*  
  
    *Refrain:*  
    O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him  
    O, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
    Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
    Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee born this happy morning;  
    Jesus to thee be glory giv'n!  
    Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**Third Reading Matthew 1: 18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take

Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

**Carol # 279 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
3. O Holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Fourth Reading Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>2</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and

saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**Carol # 289 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**HOMILY**

**Carol “O Holy Night”**

O holy night, The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees, O hear the angels' voices!  
O night divine O night when Christ was born  
O night divine, O night divine, O night divine!



Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing heart by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend!

He knows our need; he guardeth us from danger.  
Behold your King! Behold the lowly bend!  
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
With hymns of joy in grateful chorus raising,  
Let every heart adore his holy name.

Christ is the Lord! With saint and seraph praising,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

## **PEACE**

May the peace of the Christmas Child –  
the soft peace of a starlit night,  
the noisy peace of a crowded stable,  
the challenging peace of life and love fully lived and freely shared –  
enfold, enrich and energize you.  
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with one another.*

## **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

*“O Holy Night”*

Adolphe Adam

*Dear members and friends, please note that we are currently facing another deficit year. As a sign of your gratitude for the gifts that you have received at First Lutheran Church, please consider giving as generously as you are able this season. We are in need of your financial support to maintain the vibrant life of this community.*

## THE SHARING OF THE GIFTS

**Emmanuel who came to us in the Christmas Child,  
and who comes to us still  
through the living, loving and sharing of others,  
offers these signs of the Holy One's Presence  
and invites us to join our story with theirs.**

## *MEAL*

### INVITATION

This is the feast of the Christmas Child –  
a place where heaven and earth coincide,  
and eternity once more condenses into time  
as God is seen and known in the simple and the small,  
in story and song, and in bread and wine.

So come –  
whether you are drawn by joy or driven by need,  
whether you walk with confident step, or stumble on faltering feet,  
whether you understand the meaning, or can only wonder at the mystery  
come and gaze on the face of God for all are welcome in the stable.

### COMMUNION NARRATIVE

The story of the Christmas Child is the story of Jesus -  
joyfully accepting the restriction of flesh and entering the constraint of time  
to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered transcend their limitations:

It is the story of Jesus –  
**seated at a table with his friends breaking bread  
and pouring wine  
to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered change the world.**

It is the story of Jesus –  
**accepting a kiss and carrying a cross  
to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared count no cost.**

It is the story of Jesus –  
**confined in a tomb but rising with the dawn  
to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared defy and defeat even death.**

It is the story of Emmanuel –  
**God, now and always with us and for us.**

### **THANKSGIVING**

So, as we take this bread and wine –  
in remembrance of that life and love –  
we give thanks for the healing and hope  
which spring from the coming, living, dying and rising of the Christmas Child.

And as we follow the example of Jesus  
send down your Holy Spirit on us,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine,  
that the story of the Christmas Child –  
of life fully lived and freely shared –  
may continue on in us and through us,  
until the world is transformed. **Amen.**

### **COMMUNION**

*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.*

#### **Carol # 300 “The First Noel”**

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.*

3. And by the light of that same star three wisemen came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain.*
4. This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain.*
5. Then entered in those wisemen three, full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frank incense. *Refrain.*

**Carol # 292 "Love Has Come"**

1. Love has come - a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem  
skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Saviour! Love! Love! Glory to god on high.
2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
3. Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is  
Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love!  
Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**Carol # 296 "What Child is This"**

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him,  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

## ***SENDING***

### **BENEDICTION**

The starlight and song, story and supper, which called us home now compel us to go out.

**May we who have knelt at the manger always have room  
to hold within ourselves the Christmas Child.**

**May we who have gazed on the face of God  
learn to live fully, and to share freely all that we have and are.  
So may Emmanuel - God with us and for us –  
be once again incarnated in the world. Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*# 267 “Joy to the World”*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing. *(repeat)*
2. Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy. *(repeat)*
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found. *(repeat)*
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love. *(repeat)*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is with us! **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah)*

George Frederic Handel

**December 25**

10:30 am Christmas morning service followed by Community Potluck.

**All are welcome!!!**

**December 27**

10:30 am First Sunday after Christmas

**January 3, 2016**

10 am Joint Epiphany service at. St. Thomas

**January 4, 2016**

9:30 am Church office re-open

**The church office will be closed on December 24, 2015 at 2 pm and re-open on January 4, 2016.**

**Choir practice will resume on January 7 at 7:30 pm.**

**Craft Drop-In Reminder  
Saturday, January 9, 10 am to noon**

**Sunday School 2016  
January 10, 24**

**Confirmation class 2016, 4:30 pm**

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.

**Youth Study on “Animate Faith” 2016**

January 24	February 14
March 13	April 10
May 15	June 5

**Adult Study on “Animate Faith” 2016**

January 31	February 28
March 20	April 24
May 22	June 12

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**.

**Evening service will begin its Epiphany season “Enter with Joy” on January 10.**

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

First Lutheran’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on Friday, **February 26, 2016**. Potluck dinner will start at **6:15 pm** on the lower level and business meeting at 7 pm. All those who have the responsibility of providing reports for the AGM booklet are to have those reports in to the church office by **Sunday, February 7, 2016**.

## DIRECTORY

<b>Ministers</b>	God's People
<b>Pastor</b>	Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford 604.720.7255
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
<b>Friends InDeed Lead Coordinator</b>	Rev. Margaret Marquardt
<b>Friends InDeed Information and Communication Coordinator</b>	Elina Singh
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Iris Kong
<b>Caretaker</b>	Peter dela Torre
<b>Altar Guild Coordinator</b>	Janet Schreiber
<b>Liturgical Artist</b>	June Schramm

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### 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

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

**User name: flcwifi  
Password: flc1890**

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



Congratulations to Pr. Lori-Anne and FLC producer Derek MacNeill on the successful completion of her second CD "*Psalms for a Hopeful Heart*". Everyone is invited to the album release concert **on Friday, January 29 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary**. Admission is free of charge; however, all donations will be forwarded to FLC general fund. If you would like to purchase a CD, please sign up to pre-order on the form posted in the narthex. Pr. Lori-Anne will donate 10% of the album's earnings to the future ministry of FLC as her appreciation to the congregation for offering its support and encouragement to record.