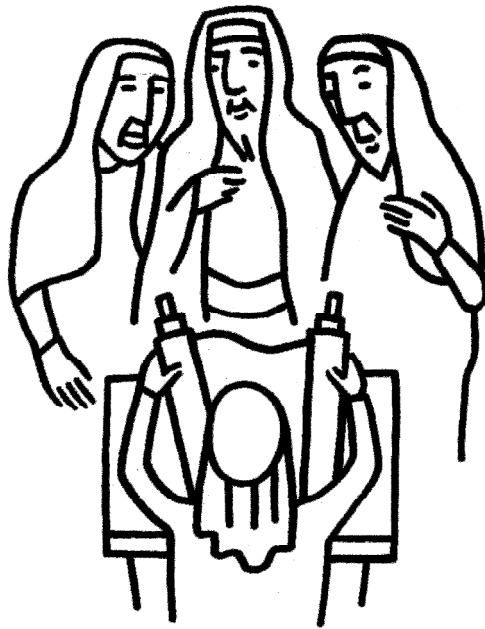




FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JOINT SERVICE WITH ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN

DECEMBER 27, 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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 27, 2015**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presiders</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford Rev. Michael Batten
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Linda Collins
<i>Lectors</i>	Heather Robbie Mary Rao
<i>Ministry of Music Organist/Pianist</i>	Rita Attrot
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Jackie Cleroux John Morley
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Ruby Carson Melody Carson
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Jackie Cleroux John Morley Ingrid Tymm Betty Wong
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jackie Cleroux Betty Wong Wayne Wong
<i>Offering Counters</i>	John Morley Betty 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 27, 2015
Holy Communion, Setting 10

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

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a saviour. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

PRELUDE

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, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life. **Amen.**

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God’s mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of peace,
we confess that we are not at peace— with others or with ourselves.
We bring to you all that tears us apart:
discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts.
In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you.
Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the Word who has come to dwell with us,
God has given us grace upon grace:
forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,
love that can heal every broken heart.

Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:
in the name of ☩ Jesus our Saviour,
you are free from all your sins.
Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen.**

CAROL # 267 *“Joy to the World”*

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. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

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

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

PSALM 148 (*read responsively; congregation reads the bold*)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.
⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**
⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**
⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**
¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

CAROL # 270 "Hark the Herald"

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

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

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

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

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus’] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” ⁴⁹He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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

CAROL # 296 *“What a Child Is This”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

“Christmas Child, **bring in your light and your love.**”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY CAROL

294 *“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All rise)*

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 206

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

p. 207

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Prayer over the gifts)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

p. 208

FRACTION

The holy gifts of God for you, the holy people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

“LAMB OF GOD”

p. 208

*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 DURING COMMUNION

300 *“First Noel”*

279 *“Little Town of Bethlehem”*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(All rise)*

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 CAROL *# 290 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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.**

We welcome our friends from St. Thomas to join us this morning for a festival of carols and lessons. Special thanks to Rita Attrot for playing the service while Jeanette is away.

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

Sunday School 2016
January 10, 24

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

January 4, 2016
9:30 am Church office re-open

Evening service will begin its Epiphany season "Enter with Joy" on January 10.
January 10, 17, 24, 31
February 7

Crafters: Please mark the following "Craft Drop-in" dates on your calendar for 2016. January 9, February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4. We will meet on those Saturdays from 10:00 am to noon in the lower level. We invite all crafters from FLC and St. Thomas to bring along their projects for a time of crafting and visiting. For more information please contact Linda Collins at linda_collins@telus.net.



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.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

“Christmas Child, **bring in your light and your love.**”

Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
A brief silence.

Let us pray for evangelists and pastors; for teachers and storytellers; for seminarians and those discerning their call to ministry; and for all who proclaim the gospel in word and deed.
Christmas Child, **bring in your light and your love.**

For the earth and all its creatures; for those seeking refuge from damaging storms; for those who work outdoors in weather that is hard to bear, in winter cold or summer heat; and for all whose labor provides us with food, clothing, shelter, and transportation.
Christmas Child, **bring in your light and your love.**

For all nations and their leaders; for those who bring harmony within division; for those who challenge injustice and prejudice; and for those who are sent far from home to serve and protect others. Christmas Child, **bring in your light and your love.**

For parents of missing children; for youth who have no safe place to call home; for travelers; for those who are anxious; for those who ask questions and those who mentor others to deeper faith and compassionate service; for those who grieve and all who are sick *especially* those whom we name aloud and in our hearts...
Christmas Child, **bring in your light and your love.**

With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died, *especially* those whom we name aloud and in our hearts... and those whose lives have helped us to see your love and compassion.
Christmas Child, **bring in your light and your love.**

Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**