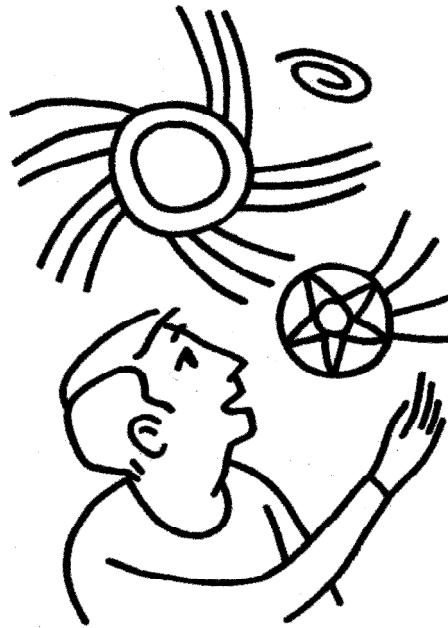




FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 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 ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2015**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Arvid Vimb
<i>Lector</i>	Karen Duddy
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Guest pianist</i>	Kathryn Roller
<i>Cantor</i>	Heidi Ackermann
<i>Flutist</i>	Amy MacLeod
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Karen Duddy Blair Duddy
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Joy Anderson Alex Wilson
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Dennis Reid Doreen Reid Karen Duddy Marion Manz
<i>Anointers</i>	Julie Bauming Shannon Ingersoll Adolf Manz Sylvia Schmidt
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Shannon Ingersoll Alysha Ingersoll
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Ernie Neumann 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 ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2015
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

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

PRELUDE

Saviour of the Nations, Come
Wachet Auf

Paul Manz
Robert Hobby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP *“Light An Advent Candle”* Becki Slagle Mayo (Choir)
The first 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 # 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v.v. 1 - 4

GREETING AND KYRIE p. 120
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.**
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the
threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign
with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

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

PSALM 25: 1-10 (*Read responsively; congregation read the bold*)

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Your Light Has Come”

Jon Paige

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

p. 124

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Response to conclusion: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY # 253 “*He Came Down*”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Hear us, O God.”, and all will respond by singing “Hear Our Prayer”.



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Andante

Benoir Tranquille Bebbiguer

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 # 438 “My Lord, What a Morning”

How Beautiful Are the Feet (Messiah)

George Frederic Handel

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

p. 135

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

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 # 246 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Pastorale

Arcangelo Vivaldi

This Week

Today

50+ Grey Cup Party, 3 pm
Adult Study "*Animate Faith*", 4:30 pm
Advent Evening Service, 5:30 pm
"Waiting in Darkness"

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7 pm

Wednesday

Communion Service at St. Thomas, 10 am
Joint Advent Study, 7:30-9 pm at FLC
"The Feminine Face of God"

Thursday

Choir, 7:30 pm
MVA seminar: Habit of Reflection, 7 pm

Next Sunday

Advent 2, 10:30 am
Ecumenical Advent Service, 3 pm
(see announcement elsewhere)
Advent Evening Service, 5:30 pm
Installation of Rev. Kathy Martin
as Assistant to the Bishop, 7:30 pm

Adult Study Group will meet today at 4:30 pm. The Adult Study will explore a series called "*Animate Faith*". **Today's topic for study is "GOD | Faith is a quest."** See bulletin board in the narthex for more info.

Advent Evening service starts at 5:30 pm
"Waiting in the Darkness"

November 29
December 6, 13, 20
No service on Dec 27 and January 3, 2016.

Craft Drop-In Reminder
Saturday, December 5th 10 am to noon

50 Plus group is organizing a Christmas Light tour in December at \$30/person. There are two dates to choose from: Friday, December 18 or Monday, December 21. Please sign up to book a seat and indicate your preferred date on the sheet posted in the narthex.

You are cordially invited to the Installation
of **Reverend Kathy Martin**

**as Assistant to the Bishop
for Missional Renewal**

7:30 pm, Sunday, December 6, 2015
King of Life Lutheran Church
1198 Falcon Drive
Coquitlam, BC

Rostered Ministers are invited to vest.
The liturgical colour is blue.

**JOINT ST THOMAS/FIRST LUTHERAN
ADVENT STUDY:
"THE FEMININE FACE OF GOD"**

**DECEMBER 2 and 9, 7:30 - 9 pm
at First Lutheran Church**

How do we understand and conceptualize
God? Is there room in our faith to see and
imagine God as feminine?

This short study will provide the space to
reflect upon our conceptualization of God
and humanity, and will open up our
understanding of the Divine based upon our
biblical and liturgical tradition.

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.**

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.

**Grey Cup Party for the over 50's group
at Michael Ray's home today at 3 pm.**

612 Fifth Ave New Westminster.

Please bring your own healthy snack and
non-alcoholic drink if needed.

Come and join Vancouver Christians at the
**Ecumenical Advent Service
December 6 at 3 pm
St. David's United Church
(1525 Taylor Way, West Vancouver;
exit Taylor Way from Upper Level HWY)**

More info: 604-922-2680

admin@stdavidsunited.com

Donations are deeply appreciated.

Proceeds will be donated to Syrian refugees.

Confirmation class 2015, 4:30 pm

December 13

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

Sunday School 2016

January 10, 24

An Invitation from Adolf Manz

Do you like to sing? Would you like to use your voice to help spread the Gospel in a fun way?

The call of the Church is to share the message of God's love and grace. This is what you are invited to do on **Tuesday Dec. 8th** by having a flash mob song presentation/proclamation in the **Food Court at Metro-town Mall**. The suggested time is **7pm**. We would need to gather earlier to take seats and then stand to sing in succession from different locations in the Food Court.

The song is (LBW 267) *Joy to the World*

We'll need to gather to have at least one or two practices. We can meet at First Lutheran at 7:30 pm (some could not make it for 7:00pm) on Nov. 24th and/or Dec. 1st for rehearsals. Please indicate your preference of which date(s) you can come – hopefully both.

This fun event is open to all your friends and any others who would like to sing. Feel free to invite them to participate. An invitation is also sent to St. Thomas Anglican Church.

By the way, a Flash Mob is supposed to be a surprise, so don't tell others unless you are inviting them to come sing.

So far we have a couple of people to play a trumpet and flute and 8 others to sing. It has been suggested we have about 40 singers. So here is your chance to have some fun and spread the message of joy to the world.

We may consider 3 or 4 groups of singers, perhaps with the instruments playing an introduction or the first verse, and then each group in turn singing only the words "Joy to the World" from their location, followed by everyone singing the whole verse together.

If your voices are strong/loud enough the 2nd verse could be all female voice, the 3rd verse all male voice, and verse 4 all together.

It would be great to have 3 or 4 volunteers to take videos, which may be a part of your Christmas greetings to share with friends and family.

Please leave me a message at adolfmanz@shaw.ca to let me know of your participation and of others you may have invited. I look forward to receiving your thoughts and suggestions so preparations can be made in time. Send me an email and I'll keep you posted.

Thanks - Adolf Manz

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: "Hear us, O God.",
and all will respond by singing "Hear Our Prayer". *(words and music below)*

Emmanuel, God with us, 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.

Come to the earth, creating God. Protect the lands from environmental disasters.
Nurture the animals and plants that you have made. Come to the nations of the world,
sovereign God. Inspire all leaders to work for justice and peace. Hear us, O God. **Sing...**

Reveal yourself to this congregation and to our community, gracious God. Deepen our love
for one another. In this season, give us compassion for all who suffer, and keep us from
selfish excess. Come to all in need, mighty God. Protect those who suffer injustice. Comfort
those who live in fear. Heal the sick. Accompany the dying. We pray *especially* for those
whom we name aloud or silently in our hearts... Hear us, O God. **Sing...**

Loving God, you bring to yourself all the faithful who have died *especially* for those whom
we name aloud or silently in our hearts... Strengthen us in holiness until with all the saints we
come to see you face to face. Hear us, O God. **Sing...**

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**