



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2016

**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.

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 18, 2016**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Carol Laslett
<i>Lector</i>	Janet Filippelli
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Flutist</i>	Anne Johnson
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Vocalist</i>	Leanne Harder
<i>Drummer</i>	Elina Singh
<i>Pianist</i>	Kathryn Roller
<i>Exploring Worship Group</i>	Brad Langerud Shannon Ingersoll Arvid Vimb Jen Langerud Anne Johnson
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Ingrid Bielenberg Ingrid Tymm
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Ruby Carson Melody Carson
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Pr. Adolf Manz Shannon Ingersoll Alysha Ingersoll Elina Singh
<i>Anointers</i>	Karen Duddy Sandi Strate John Morley Linda Collins
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Ingrid Tymm Melody Carson Ruby Carson
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jackie Cleroux Shannon Ingersoll Alysha Ingersoll
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Tony Wong Frank Filippelli

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*Please be mindful that many are in need of a quiet and reflective space
for personal prayer prior to the service.*

You are welcome to converse and connect with friends in the narthex.

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. Please be attentive when lighting candles.

INTRODUCTION

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

PRELUDE

*Once He Came in Blessing
My Lord What a Morning*

Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. Robert Hobby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Pat-a-Pan" arr. Marty Haugen
(all four Advent candles will be lit)*

OPENING RESPONSES

In this waiting season -in a time between times when living seems restricted
We gather to remember one who embraced constraint while waiting for birth.

God with us in the past, as we recount your story
**Teach us that waiting is not dead time but a dreaming time
through which new ideas and insights are engendered.**

God with us in the present, as we share your supper
**Teach us that waiting is not lost time but a liminal time
within which new possibilities and patterns take form.**

God with us in the future, as we celebrate your Kingdom
**Teach us that waiting is not quiescent time but a quickening time
from which new life and love emerges.**

God with us in all time, as we look for your coming
Teach us how to inhabit this waiting time.

CONFESSION

God with us, through Christ Jesus you have shown us what it is to live imaginatively, love expansively and act creatively.

We confess that sometimes we have waited without thought and so have stifled fruitful possibility . Sometimes we have waited without generosity and so have constricted fruitful connection. Sometimes we have waited without hope and so have limited fruitful action. Sometimes we have simply been too busy or too distracted to wait and to trust in you.

And so as we look once more for you: free us with your grace!
Forgive the poverty of our waiting, touch our dreaming.
Stretch our living and energize our acting that we may be ready for your coming. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN # 242 *“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”*

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. Stir up your power, Lord God, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith. Help us to receive your promises, through the grace we have been given in Christ Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE - By Denise Pawliuk

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking refuge in Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign of Immanuel that is the only source of true safety: God is with us!

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.

¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the

child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (*congregation reads the bold*) Translated by James Taylor

Can't you hear us knocking on your door?

You stand inside, laughing in the firelight with your family;

you toy with your tinsel and your ornaments.

Can't you hear us?

We are the lost and the lonely, out in the cold.

We long for something to celebrate too.

How long can you ignore us?

How long can you close your eyes and ears to our crisis?

Hunger gnaws on our bones; **we sip the salt of our tears.**

We are in embarrassment. **People turn away from us.**

They laugh and joke; they don't even see us.

We are invisible.

Let us live too. Please, let us live.

We have nothing with which to thank you.

But God will reward you in ways you cannot imagine.

God will heal your former blindness;

you will touch a world you have never imagined.

You will not want to return to your old ways. Respond to our pleas, and see for yourself.

Let us live too. Please, let us live.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

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

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

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

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

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY

710 “*Let Streams of Living Justice*”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “God with us: **We wait for you**”.*

THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ, the dynamic peace of imaginative dreaming, the challenging peace of radical loving, the powerful peace of engaged action, fill you to overflowing in this season of waiting. **And also with you.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

“*Breath of Heaven*”

Amy Grant

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*All rise*)

Let us pray: **Saviour of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

MEAL

INVITATION

This is the table of our God who is with us – a place where bread and wine remind us how to live and love as those who inhabit God’s time, and work to build God’s Kingdom. A place where we recognize that the One for whom we wait is also the One who is already, and always, here with us.

So come, whether you are watching for the dawn, or dreading the first light, whether you are waiting with hope, or hiding your face. Come with quiet confidence because it is here where we encounter the One who watches for our coming, who shows us what it is to wait well, and who waits with love and joy to welcome us in so that we might re-imagine life.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With this bread and wine, we remember and celebrate the waiting which began to change the world; and we join our voices with all who still wait and work for that change to come to completion:

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY” (see facing page)

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

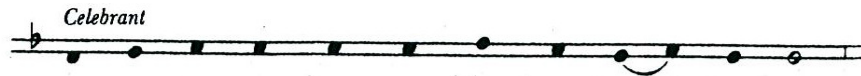
The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and single notes.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

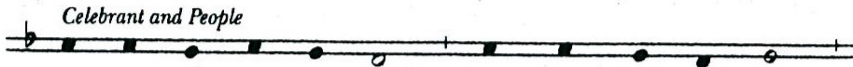
In the night of his offering,
Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples saying:
**“Take, and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this to remember me.”**

After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine,
gave thanks, and gave it to them saying:
**“Drink of it, all of you,
this cup is the new covenant in my blood.
It is poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this to remember me.”**

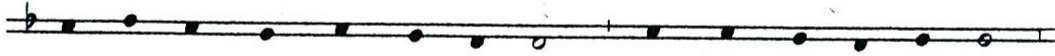
THE LORD’S PRAYER (music on next page)



As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



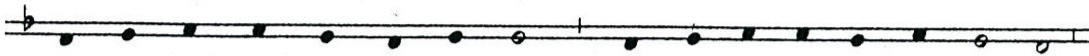
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



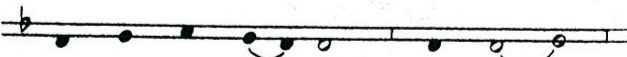
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,



now and for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (b. 1933)

SHARING OF GIFTS

The bread and wine declare that waiting is not time frozen but time freed and fruitful.

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. Those who desire prayer and anointing for the healing of any illness or brokenness in mind, body or spirit are invited to receive these blessings after communing.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 265 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Many and Great Traditional Dakota Hymn
As the Dark Awaits the Dawn Carl Schalk

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (All rise)

The earth still waits for its healing. **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May Christ, the Light of the world, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path.
Almighty God, Creator, † Redeemer, and Sustainer,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 259 “Fling Wide the Door”

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

POSTLUDE *Variations on a Swiss Noel* Louis-Claude Daquin

*Today’s liturgy is adapted from “In This Season of Waiting”
- a communion liturgy for Advent by Pat Bennett*

This Week

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm

Wednesday

Communion Service at St. Thomas, 10 am
Soup meal, 5:30 PM
Scripture study, 6:30 pm

Saturday

Christmas Eve service, 7:30 PM

Next Sunday

Nativity of Our Lord, 10:30 am
Christmas Day Potluck after worship

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 Friends InDeed. If you are able to attend, volunteer to help set up and/or cleanup, and/or bring a dish, please contact Elina Singh.

We continue with the tradition of sharing the **Feast Day of Epiphany** on **January 1, 2017** with **St Thomas Anglican Church**. The joint worship this year will begin at **10:30 am at First Lutheran**. After the morning liturgy we will invite our friends from St. Thomas to a **snack potluck** downstairs. Please bring a plate of snack to share.

Invitation cards are available in the narthex if you would like to send a few to friends or neighbours who may be interested in attending our Christmas services and celebration of potluck lunches.

Leadership opportunities on Council

FLC Council is seeking volunteers to join the team and take on the following portfolios: **Community Outreach, Education, Fellowship, and Worship&Music Liaison**. Contact the church office for a description of the portfolio(s) that you are interested in.

Fellowship and Hospitality appreciates your continued donations of cookies, fruit, and home baking to enrich our coffee hour after worship, **especially during the holiday season. No obligation to host.**

The church office will be closed on December 24, 2016 at 2 pm and re-open on January 3, 2017.

Thank you to the three volunteers who came to decorate the Christmas tree on Tuesday night.

First Lutheran's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be **after morning service on Sunday, February 19, 2017**. 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 5**. Food contributions, especially sandwiches, are appreciated for the potluck lunch prior to the business discussion. If you are willing to help in the kitchen, please let Betty and Wayne Wong know.

DIRECTORY

Ministers	God's People
Pastor	Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford 604.720.7255
Minister of Music	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
Friends InDeed Coordinator	Elina Singh
Office Administrator	Iris Kong
Caretaker	Peter dela Torre
Altar Guild Coordinator	Janet Schreiber
Liturgical Artists	Linda Collins Marion Manz

Church Council

Lanny Harris - Chairperson
John Morley - Vice Chairperson & Property
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer
Jen Langerud - Secretary & Human Resources
Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary
Wayne Wong - Property and Fellowship & Hospitality
Betty Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality
Debbie Powell - Outreach Adult (seniors)
Francis Antobre - Outreach Technology
Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults
Ray Hartley - Member at large

Mutual Ministry Committee:

Sandi Strate - Chairperson
Russell Collins
Anne Johnson
Arvid Vimb
Shannon Ingersoll

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: “God with us: **We wait for you**”.*

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

For the church and all servants of the gospel, for poets and artists, for musicians and preachers, and for theologians and teachers; that all proclaim that God is with us in Christ, and experience welcome and refreshment. God with us: **We wait for you.**

For all plants and animals, seas and skies, snow and rain, and all of God’s marvels; that all of creation grow and thrive as we bless, protect, and use with care what God has made. God with us: **We wait for you.**

For the nations and those in authority, for peace and justice throughout the whole world, and for those who advocate on behalf of others; that all in positions of leadership choose what is good for the community. *We pray especially for...* God with us: **We wait for you.**

For the thirsty and hungry, the weak and fearful, those in childbirth, those who mourn, and the sick; that they know Christ the Anointed One who dries up every tear and comforts those who suffer. *We pray especially for...* and for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart... God with us: **We wait for you.**

In thanksgiving for the saints who have died and are now at rest; that the witness of their faith point us to the promises of grace and resurrection in Christ. *We remember especially ...* and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . God with us: **We wait for you.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Saviour. **Amen.**

Would you like to add a prayer petition on Sundays? We invite you to write down your prayer request on the music stand in the narthex, which will be included each Sunday in the prayers of the people.

Please note that prayer petitions will be refreshed each week.