



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



Christmas Eve 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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CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Arvid Vimb
<i>Lectors</i>	Pr. Adolf Manz Janet Filippelli
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Guest Pianist</i>	Kathryn Roller
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	John Morley Felix Opoku
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Janet Filippelli Irina Lennikova John Morley Felix Opoku
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Emmanuel Manu Jordan Manu
<i>Usher</i>	Les Speidel
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Janet Schreiber Ingrid Anderson
<i>Offering Counters</i>	
Resources:	
	“The Feast of the Christ Child”, by Pat Bennett A Christmas Communion Liturgy from Iona Wild Goose Publications

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 Wayne or Betty Wong at 604-301-9381.

CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

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.



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

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.

God with us, as at Bethlehem's stable,

Come softly in among us now and heal and comfort us with your Presence.

God with us - becoming flesh,

You showed what it was to serve and share, to live and love, as God intended.

God with us, 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

- ² 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.
- ³ 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.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ 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 # 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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING

Luke 1: 26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
²⁷ to a young woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.
The young woman's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored
one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what
sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have
found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you
will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the
Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of
Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can
this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be
holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has
also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant
of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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 plans,
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.

THIRD READING**Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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 # 270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

HOMILY

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*

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 and at this table.

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,
the 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 life-giving presence, along with the gifts of forgiveness, and salvation in the 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.***

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

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

May Christ, who by his coming has filled us with grace and truth,
Who by his coming has helped us to know our home in God,
give you peace this Christmas and always.

**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 shared with 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

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

Next Sunday - December 25
Nativity of Our Lord, 10:30 am
Christmas Day Potluck after worship

January 1, 2017
Epiphany of Our Lord, 10:30 am
(joint service with St. Thomas Anglican)
Snack Potluck after service

January 3, 2017
Office re-opens

Tomorrow, our Christmas Day Service will begin at **10:30am**. This year there will be a **community Christmas Turkey 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.

Our deepest condolences and thoughts are with Cheryl Conant as she mourns the loss of her mother, Lynne Conant, who passed away on December 10 in Bellingham, USA at the age of 78. May Cheryl find comfort and strength in God's promise of the resurrection as she carries on into the future.

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

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.

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 this holiday season**.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all First Lutheran members, friends and families. May 2017 be a year filled with peace, joy and warmth for all and continue to bring good health and good friends to you and your loved ones.