



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
DECEMBER 25, 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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Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Michael Ray
<i>Lector</i>	Philip Schulze
<i>Ministry of Music Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Elina Singh Janet Filippelli
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Soriya Salehi Deanna Wilson
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Elina Singh Alex Wilson Janet Filippelli Phil Schulze
<i>Altar Guild</i>	
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Potluck lunch

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.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 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.

INTRODUCTION

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

PRELUDE

*Schlafe Mein Liebster
In Dulci Jubilo*

Johann Sebastian Bach
Johann Sebastian Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

OPENING DIALOGUE

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
The word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have beheld Christ's glory.
To us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

GATHERING HYMN # 267 "Joy to the World"

GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you gave us your only son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with peace, and to brighten our weary hearts with the coming of your light. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth together into singing you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

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

SECOND READING Hebrews 1: 1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

HYMN # 283 "*O Come All Ye Faithful*" vv. 1-2

GOSPEL: John 1:1 - 14

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Response to conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

HYMN # 283 "O Come All Ye Faithful" vv. 3-4

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY # 292 "Love Has Come"

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray:

Show us your mercy, O God,
and grant us your salvation.
Give us the joy of your saving help again,
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.
Give peace in all the world;
for only in you can we live in safety.
Keep the nations under your care,
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy be forgotten ,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

God with us, hear the prayers of your people, who seek you this Christmas morning.
By your grace, bring us your peace, your truth , and your light. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Forest Green

Paul Manz

*Dear members and friends, as a sign of your gratitude for the gifts that you have received
at FLC, 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

THE PREFACE *(Tune: O Come, All Ye Faithful)*

Pastor: May God be with you

People: And with you, God's servant

Pastor: Oh come let us lift our hearts unto our God.

**People: With hearts uplifted, thanks to God we render:
with joy we come before God, in gratefulness implore God,
with thankful hearts adore God evermore!**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS *(Tune: "Hark! The Herald Angels")*

Holy, holy, holy Lord!

God of hosts, by all adored!

Heaven and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high!

Blest is he who now draws nigh in the name of God the King!

Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, Hosanna! Praises due

Be forever, Lord, to you!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE GIFTS

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he gave himself, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Tune: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")*

Our Father, Lord, on heav'n's high throne,

most holy be your name

your kingdom come,

your will be done on earth — in heav'n the same

Give us this day the good we need;

forgiven we may be;

into temptation do not lead,

from evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom;

unto you in grateful love we bow;

and yours the power, Lord,

let us view your mighty presence now.

The glory yours; your praise be sung by angel hosts and then,

in ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue forever more. Amen.

FRACTION

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

*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.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 277 “Away in a Manger”

300 “The First Noel”

‘Twas in the Moon

arr. Healey Willan

SENDING

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 270 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

From Heaven on High

Gordon Young

Please join us downstairs for a Christmas Day Turkey Lunch.

Your help with clean up will be much appreciated.

Today
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

**The church office will be re-open on
January 3, 2017.**

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.

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.**

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.

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.

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