



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 12, 2017

**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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Email: info@firstlutheranvancouver.com
www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 12, 2017**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Linda Collins
<i>Lector</i>	Christine Neumann
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Cantor</i>	Arvid Vimb
<i>Flutist</i>	Anne Johnson
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Drummer</i>	Elina Singh
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Jackie Cleroux Lanny Harris
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Emmanuel Manu Jordan Manu
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Jackie Cleroux Lanny Harris Christine Neumann Sylvia Harris
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Cheri Ditsche Sarah Speidel
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Ingrid Anderson Christine Neumann Soriya
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Alex Wilson Lanny Harris

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 12, 2017
Holy Communion, Setting Eight

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

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

PRELUDE	<i>Andante (Violin Sonata, Op. 2, No.4)</i>	Antonio Vivaldi
	<i>Ave Verum</i>	Wolfgang Amadeua Mozart

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

ORDER FOR 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, who stretches out the heavens,
who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Loving God,
we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.
Forgive us for the times
we have spoken or acted too quickly;
we have not spoken or acted at all;
we have hurt those closest to us;
we have hurt those we have yet to know;
we have thought more about ourselves than others;
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.
Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,
so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.
God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children.
Hear God say to you now:
Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of † Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN # 529 “*Jesus, We Are Gathered*” Sing 3x; v. 2, unaccompanied

GREETING

From God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who hope in you, from you all life comes. We live and grow and accomplish good only by your grace. Help us to see and understand the things you teach us to do, and inspire us with your grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

PSALM 119:1-8 (*Cantor sings refrain first; then all sing refrain*)

Tone



Refrain



Hap - py are they who fol - low the teach - ing of the LORD.

- ¹ Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who follow the teaching of the LORD!
- ² **Happy are they who observe your decrees
and seek you with all their hearts,**
- ³ who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.
- ⁴ **You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them. R**
- ⁵ Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!
- ⁶ **Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**
- ⁷ I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- ⁸ **I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

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

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY

598 “For By Grace You Have Been Saved”

INVITATION

Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you. **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 available pre-poured in the trays.** Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed.*

“LAMB OF GOD”

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MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 772 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”
Kingsfold Ralph Vaughan Williams

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(All rise)*

Let us pray. **O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The blessing of the Lord God Almighty,
the blessing of ☩ Christ Jesus, the Beloved One,
and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN # 819 “Come, All You People”

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Hyfrydol

arr. Jonathan Reuss

This Week

Monday—Office Closed for holiday
NO Centering Prayer

Wednesday
Soup meal, 5:30 PM
Exploring Worship, 7 PM

Thursday
Choir, 7:30 PM

Saturday
MVA Discernment meeting, 10 am –noon
(See announcement elsewhere)
Area Ministry Team Meeting, 10-12 PM
at Christ the King, Surrey

Next Sunday
Epiphany 7, 10:30 am
Children’s Worship, 10:45 am
AGM, after service

MVA Discernment Meeting
10 AM—noon
Sarah McLachlan School of music
138 E 7th Ave, Vancouver

**Children’s Worship 2017
10:45 am on Sundays**

February 19 March 5
April 2 May 7, 21

Joint Lenten Study
Passion: the death of a messiah
Led by Rev. Michael Batten
at St Thomas Anglican Church

**Wednesday evenings in Lent
7:30-9PM, beginning March 8**

The “passion narratives”—the stories of the suffering and death of Jesus—are at the heart of the Christian observance of Holy Week. But as well as inspiring Christian devotion, these stories have inspired Christian hatred and persecution of Jews. In a time of rising xenophobia, religiously-inspired violence, and growing fear and mistrust of the “other”, an informed and responsible reading of the passion narratives is a moral imperative for all Christians.

First Lutheran’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be **after morning service next Sunday, February 19, 2017**. Food contributions, especially sandwiches, are appreciated for the potluck lunch prior to the discussion. If you are willing to help in the kitchen, please let Betty and Wayne Wong know. **We are arranging childcare so that families with young children will be able to attend.**

Confirmation Schedule 2017
3 - 4:15 PM on Sundays

February 26 (cancelled) March 12, 19
April 2, 23 May 7, 21 (last class)

The office is in the process of compiling a list of individuals who are current First Aid Certificate holders in case of emergency. Please let the office know if you are willing to be included on the list.

For former members of Faith Lutheran, Pr. Paul Olson passed away on December 10, 2016 at the age of 88.

INVITATION FROM ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN

Our friends at St. Thomas Anglican Church are inviting you to the following events:

1. Weekly lectionary Bible study, **every Wednesday** at 10:45 a.m., looking at readings for the coming Sunday.
 2. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, **February 28** beginning at 6 p.m.
 3. Ash Wednesday worship, **March 1** at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. (two services)
-

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.

Coldest Night of the Year Challenge to Synod Churches

St. Paul's Lutheran in Maple Ridge has registered a team for the Coldest Night of the Year, Walk for Homeless and we are CHALLENGING the congregations of the BC Synod.

The "Holy Walkamolies" will be walking at Surrey Urban Mission (10776 King George Blvd, Surrey) on **Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 5 p.m.**

You can go to the following link, to register a team for Surrey Urban Mission Society, a ministry of our own BC Synod: <https://canada.cnoy.org/location/surrey>

This year's goal is to raise **\$40,000** which will go a long way in supporting our 2017 operational needs.

SUMS serves over 800 meals weekly, provides shelter for 20 guests a night, is open for another 20 guests during emergency weather and provides clothing and goods to those living in poverty; SUMS tries to provide a warm and welcoming place for all. Being a non-profit society SUMS relies on the generosity of donors such as yourself to keep the Mission operating and are grateful for everyone's support. You can learn more about SUMS from their website at: <http://sumsplace.ca/>

A PLACE FOR INQUIRY, A PLACE FOR FAITH

***Are you new to the Christian faith?
Are you continuing with your faith journey?
Looking for a safe space to ask questions?
Interested in learning more about the Lutheran tradition?***

**Join us for 6 Sundays before Easter
March 5-April 9, 9:30am-10:15am**

This small group will be an open and safe space for prayer and inquiry, to experience our faith tradition, and to be supported by a faith sponsor.

Content for each group session will come out of our experience with Daniel Erlander's book: "Baptized, We Live."

Books are provided for the study.

Onsite childcare will be provided for all sessions.

Please contact Pr Lori-Anne if you are interested in joining the study or sign up in the narthex. .

Community COFFEE HOUSE

Friday, February 24, 7 pm – 9 pm

First Lutheran Church (5745 Wales Street, Vancouver)

Entry via E 42nd Avenue, downstairs

Come for an evening of coffee and tea, music and good company.

Organized by Collingwood Neighbourhood House and First Lutheran Church.

The official income tax receipts are now in your mailboxes in the narthex.

Please contact Sylvia Harris if you have a question regarding your receipt.

MISSING – dinner plate (part of a set)

The plate was left at church on Dec. 18, 2016. Pattern – Mikasa "Christmas Story" – Christmas tree in centre of plate with holly leaves and a green criss-cross design on border. Please contact Carol Laslett (604-942-6625) or email claslett@shaw.ca.

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: “Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**”*

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God’s justice, peace, and healing.
A brief silence.

Holy Lord, you alone are God. Remove jealousy and quarreling between Christian denominations. Hold us in the unity of our baptism as we work together to serve you.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You called into being the first fruits of the earth. Guide gardeners and farmers who till the soil and tend the fields. Bless their work and in due season bring forth the bounty of the land.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, your love knows no bounds. Break down barriers caused by nationalism. Challenge our stereotypes. Give us courage to engage in difficult conversations with those whose experiences are different from our own. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You know every hair on our heads. Yet we do not even know each of our neighbors. Equip our outreach ministry and this assembly to get to know the people in our community.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who struggle. Ease the pain of families affected by divorce. Grant life-giving work to all who seek employment. We pray especially for... and for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Lord, you are the God of our ancestors in faith. You are our God. Keep us faithful until we join all the saints at your heavenly banquet. We remember especially ... and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **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.