



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
JOINT SERVICE WITH ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH
JANUARY 1, 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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**FEAST OF EPIPHANY
JANUARY 1, 2017**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Homilist</i>	Rev. Michael Batten
<i>Lector</i>	Jim Taylor Janet Filippelli
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organist/Pianist</i>	Christopher Sims
<i>Flutists</i>	Anne Johnson
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Linda Collins Russell Collins
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Linda Collins Russell Collins Janet Filippelli Kristine Lewis
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Emmanuel Manu Jordan Manu
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Janet Schreiber Patricia Manu Jordan Manu
<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 Wayne or Betty Wong at 604-301-9381.

FEAST OF EPIPHANY
JANUARY 1, 2017
A Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

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

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING

Leader: God of proclamation and epiphany,
God is waiting to be recognized and known,
wanting to transform our seeing and change our world.

All: **Through the words of prophets and angels
you reveal the possibilities of a different way for the world.**

Leader: God of encounter and epiphany,

All: **Through the life and actions of Jesus
you reveal the passionate love at the heart of your Kingdom.**

Leader: God of epiphany and challenge,
as we hear your word now in scripture, sermon and song –

All: **Open our knowing and understanding
to your patterns and their possibilities.**

Leader: God of epiphany and change,
as we encounter your Word now in story, bread and wine

All: **Open our patterns and possibilities
to the transforming power of your love and send us on
by a different way.**

CONFESSION

Epiphany God, waiting to be seen and known—
forgive us for those times when submersion in unthinking routine has dulled our perception of your Presence and thwarted its life-changing possibilities.

Epiphany God, waiting to comfort and restore—
forgive us for those moments when pride or fear has restricted our openness to your Presence and impeded its healing possibilities.

Epiphany God, waiting to challenge and transform—
forgive us for those occasions when preoccupation with comfort and familiarity has stifled our response to your Presence and subverted its radical possibilities.

Epiphany God, bright Morning Star, **may we know your Presence with us now, and, in opening ourselves to embrace its possibilities, find different ways by which to journey onwards. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN # 301 “Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1–6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

LESSON HYMN # 294 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles —
²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Response: Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCESSION (*Music on next page. Sung before and after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise.*)



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1–12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honour a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They told him,

"In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY # 302 "*As with Gladness Men of Old*"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "God of Light: **Shine on us.**"*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Epiphany God – the joyful peace of finding, the enlightening peace of seeing, the challenging peace of understanding, the radical peace of following a different route – energize and encourage you as you travel onwards. **And also with you.**

A sign of peace is shared.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY HYMN # 292 *“Love Has Come”*

MEAL

INVITATION

Here, at this table, under the welcoming light of a morning star,
the God of epiphanies waits to be encountered.
So – though you may be weary and worn by your journey or stained and sore with travel –
look up and see the star,
lay aside your packs,
bend beneath the lintel,
and enter with joy for God waits within –
to refresh and renew,
to comfort and restore,
to challenge and transform,
to know and be known.

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.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
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 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.

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.**

Gathered together into the light of Christ, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.**

SHARING OF THE BLESSED MEAL

*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

296 "What Child is This"

307 "Light Shone in Darkness"

SENDING

BLESSING OF THE CHALK

Leader: Our help is the name of the Lord:

All: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

All: **From this time forth for evermore.**

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING RESPONSES

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star:

All: **Give us the perseverance and courage
to seek out and approach you, wherever you are to be found.**

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star:

All: **Grant us the vision and understanding
to see and recognize you, whenever we might meet you.**

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star:

All: **Gift us the grace and generosity
to respond freely and fully, whatever you might ask of us.
So may our loving and living become, in their turn,
places of epiphany where you can be recognized and known,
and the transforming life of your Kingdom unleashed.**

BLESSING

The blessed, holy Trinity keep you in grace, lead you in light, and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

314 “Arise Your Light Has Come”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Our liturgy today comes from Pat Bennett and Iona community

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.

This Week

January 3
Church office re-opens

Next Sunday
Baptism of Our Lord, 10:30 am

Children's Worship 2017
10:45 am on Sundays

January 15
February 5, 19
March 5
April 2
May 7, 21

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.

A special lunch will be hosted at FLC by Joseph Nurani in memory of his late uncle John Eisen after service on **January 15**. Please indicate your attendance by signing up in the narthex to help with the meal planning. If you are able to help with set-up or clean up, please also indicate on the sheet.

Our thanks to the good people of St. Thomas Anglican for coming to share our Epiphany worship. And thanks to the Rev. Michael Batten, for bringing us a word of good news, and to our musician, Christopher Sims, for sharing his gifts this morning.

Confirmation Schedule 2017
3 - 4:15 PM on Sundays

January 15, 29
February 5, 26
March 12, 19
April 2, 23
May 7, 21 (last class)



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 of Light: **Shine on us.**”*

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ’s birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you reveal yourself to the world in your Son, Jesus. Grant your church throughout the world wise servants of the gospel who proclaim this good news in many ways. God of Light: **Shine on us.**

You reveal your goodness through all you have created. Let the beauty of all living things make us yearn to protect the earth and all for whom it contains life. God of Light: **Shine on us.**

You reveal your reign of peace through leaders of government at all levels. Guide all in positions of authority to make and uphold laws that are fair for all people. God of Light: **Shine on us.**

You reveal yourself through those who are precious in your sight. Strengthen us by your presence in the body of Christ gathered here and in those who are absent from our community, so that all rejoice at the coming of Christ. God of Light: **Shine on us.**

You reveal your compassion through medical professionals and advocates. Comfort the distressed, tend the grieving, liberate the oppressed, and heal the sick. We pray especially for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart.. God of Light: **Shine on us.**

You reveal yourself through generations of faithful people who are now at rest in you. Through their example, lead us to proclaim the gospel with boldness and confidence. We remember especially those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . God of Light: **Shine on us.**

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**