



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 29, 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.

5745 Wales Street, Vancouver V5R 3N3
Phone: 604-435-6020 Fax: 604-430-6930
Email: info@firstlutheranvancouver.com
www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 29, 2017**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Michael Ray
<i>Lector</i>	Julie Bauming
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Flutist</i>	Anne Johnson
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Violinist</i>	Elina Singh
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Shannon Ingersoll Alysha Ingersoll
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Karen Kerfoot Soriya
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Julie Bauming Sandi Strate Ernie Neumann John Morley
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Joseph Nurani
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Shannon Ingersoll Alysha Ingersoll
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Betty Wong Ernie Neumann

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.

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Holy Communion, Setting Ten

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

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

PRELUDE

Andante Religioso
Arioso

Alec Rowley
Johann Sebastian Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN # 669 *“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”*

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:

Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

SONG

“Colour Outside the lines”

Performed by Jill Last

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world’s standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

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

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

REFLECTION

SHARING OUR STORIES: Joseph Nurani

POEM

Wishing You Eternal Peace

by Joseph Nurani

*I Wish You Could Hear Us
We Are Not Ready To Say Goodbye
But you have Already Departed
Our Heart Is Aching
We Miss the Twinkle In Your Eyes
It used To Light up Your Eyes
Really Miss the Sound Of Your Voice
Laughter and Your Sighs
But Most Of all We Miss You
The Way You Made Us Feel
Nothing Could Harm Us Because
Your Love Was Strong and Real
Others Are Here Who Miss You
And There Are Your Dear Friends
Your Life Touched Many People
They want you to Know They Love You Too
They Have Sadness and Grief in Their Hearts
I know That For Sure
Because They Had Love And Respect For You
So We Want to Say Goodbye
Just Wish You Eternal Peace*

HYMN OF THE DAY

728 ***“Blest Are They”***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Arr. Jack Schrader

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All rise)*

Let us pray. **Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Prayer over the gifts)*

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

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

“LAMB OF GOD”

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*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.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 720 “We Are Called”

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake

Richard Farrant

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 Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour and +give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

546 "To Be Your Presence"

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Jean-Joseph Moreau

Our thanks to Joseph Nurani for providing the lunch after service today in memory of his uncle - John Eisen. Our thanks also go to all volunteers providing assistance in the kitchen.

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 office by **Sunday, February 5**. 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.

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 in the list.

Craft Drop in for February is cancelled and will meet again on March 4.

This Week

Monday

Exploring Music with Joe Campos, 4 pm
Centering Prayer, 7:15 PM

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Clergy South Area Ministry Meeting, 10 am
Choir, 7:30 PM

Saturday

Craft Drop is Cancelled
Lay Academy Session, 9:30-11 am

Next Sunday

Epiphany 5, 10:30 am
PCC AGM, 12 PM
Confirmation, 3-4:15PM

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.

PARISH CARE CENTRE ANNUAL MEETING

Sun, Feb 5th 12:00, the Lower Hall.
All members of First Lutheran are automatically members of the Parish Care Centre and are encouraged to attend. Reports on Friends InDeed and Refugee Family will be presented.

Children’s Worship 2017 10:45 am on Sundays

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.

Confirmation Schedule 2017

3 - 4:15 PM on Sundays

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

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.

ONLINE REGISTRATION STILL AVAILABLE!
Lay Academy Session "*Galatians: Famous Lost Words*"
(Feb. 4 & Feb. 11)
Time: 9:30 to 11:00 am

Join Bishop Marlin Aadland,
first Bishop of the British Columbia Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (1986 to 1998),
for an exploration of the terms "*Word*", "*Faith*", "*Law*", and "*Freedom*".

Bring your Bible and rediscover the meaning of these four terms, (one per session),
in light of the Lutheran understanding of the Gospel
in the year of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Registration fees are \$15 per session or \$50 for the series of 4.

Please Register Online:

<https://layacademy5.wixsite.com/elcicwla/sessions-schedule>

For more info: layacademy.lts@usask.ca

Local British Columbia venue:

Trinity Lutheran Church, 11040 River Rd, Delta (*Main Presentation*)

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.

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

**In Memory of John Eisen
(1936-2016)**

A SAILOR'S DREAM

- By Joseph Nurani

**The Strait of Georgia Is Calm Tonight,
The Tide Is Full, the Sun Is Bright,
The Anchor is Stowed Away,
And Off I Set Sail,
Jib Is Unfurled and Mainsail is filling with South Westerly,
Pulling Malaika to Her Destiny,
Upon the Active Pass the Cliffs of Montague Stand,
Glimmering And Vast, Sprayed with a fine Salty Mist,
Turkey Vultures and Bald Eagles' Soaring Above,
Sea Otters Frolicking in the Blue Shimmering Bay,
Chugging Along Is the Bow of Malaika,
Waves Breaking Against its Majestic Hull,
At The Helm Is a Rugged Handsome Sailor,
Listen, Listen, Listen You Hear the Whispering Sound
It is Uncle John, It Is Malaika.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**"*

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

We pray for wholeness in the body of Christ. Bind up fractures within the church.
Humble the proud and lift up the lowly. Make us one at your table.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the beauty of the universe. For the light of the stars,
for the majesty of the mountains, we thank you. Mold us into stewards of your creation.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peacemakers around the world. End violence. Stop bribery within political systems.
Reign with justice and peace and commit us to this act of discipleship.
Restore communities *especially*... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for this congregation. Bless the work and play of young and old. Deepen our faith.
Expand our discipleship. Equip us to do justice, love, kindness, and walk humbly with you.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our neighbors who mourn, who have no clean water, who hunger.
Provide their daily bread. Heal the forgotten, the lost, and our enemies, family, and friends.
We pray especially for... and for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . .
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for all the saints who died proclaiming the gospel. Strengthen us through their
witness. We remember especially ... and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . .
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**