



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 30, 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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**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 30, 2017**

Those Serving the Servants Today

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Presider/Homilist</i> | Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford |
| <i>Assisting Minister</i> | Michael Ray |
| <i>Lector</i> | June Heywood |
| <i>Ministry of Music</i> | |
| <i>Organist/Pianist</i> | Graham Pudek |
| <i>Flutist</i> | Anne Johnson |
| <i>Trumpeter</i> | Karl Maier |
| <i>Gift Bearers</i> | Karen Kerfoot Ingrid Bielenberg |
| <i>Communion Servers</i> | Karen Kerfoot Ingrid Bielenberg Diana Kuyer Jack Kuyer |
| <i>Tray Holders</i> | Soriya Deanna Wilson |
| <i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i> | Ingrid Tymm Melody Tymm |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | Soriya Shannon Ingersoll Alysha Ingersoll |
| <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.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

JULY 30, 2017

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

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

PRELUDE

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN *(please rise)* **# 793 "Be Thou My Vision"**

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. In verse 13 God gives him additional honor and riches beyond compare.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

PSALM: 119:129-136 (*congregation reads the bold*)

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he

also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(sung before and after the gospel reading. 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 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

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

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

HOMILY *(Silence for reflection follows)*

HYMN OF THE DAY *(please rise)* **# 670 "Build Us Up, Lord"**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER *(please rise)*

Let us pray: **Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

MEAL

THE 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he gave himself for us, 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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

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.**

*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 # 705 "*God of Grace and God of Glory*"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Please rise*)

Let us pray: **Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ,
restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 547 "*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

This Week

Today

Table talk after service

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7:15 PM

Next Sunday

Pentecost 9, 10:30 AM

Our thanks to Graham Pudek for playing the service while Jeanette is away on holidays.

The Altar Guild needs more volunteers. There is a lot that goes on before and after a worship service! Would you like to learn how to set up the altar for communion? We will teach you! Or you could choose to be on the clean up crew, and learn how to wash and store the communion vessels after worship is finished. Know that you are welcome to join the team! If you are interested, please contact Janet Schreiber (janetmts0108@gmail.com).

A volunteer or two needed to water the church flower gardens through August, twice a week. Barbara Schaub will provide instruction on how and where if necessary. The volunteer(s) doesn't have to have a lot of gardening knowledge. Please see Barbara if interested.

Table Talk

Table Talk is an opportunity to engage in conversations beyond small talk and everyday greetings. Every other Sunday, one of the tables downstairs has been set aside for this conversation. The table is clearly marked, and there will be questions to talk about. Participation is voluntary, but encouraged if you are looking to get to know others at First better.

Pr. Lori-Anne will be away on holiday beginning tomorrow, Monday, July 31 and will return to the office on Wednesday, August 9. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Pr. Michael Batten from St. Thomas at 604-434-6111 or priestst@telus.net.

DIRECTORY

Ministers

Pastor

Minister of Music

Friends InDeed Coordinator

Office Administrator

Caretaker

Altar Guild Coordinator

Liturgical Artists

God's People

Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
604.720.7255

Jeanette Price
604.251.2656

Elina Singh

Iris Kong

Peter dela Torre

Janet Schreiber

Linda Collins
Marion Manz

Church Council

Karen Duddy - Chairperson & Community Outreach
John Morley - Vice Chair & Property
TBA - Secretary
Lanny Harris - Property
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer
Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary
Wayne Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality & Property
Betty Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality
Debbie Powell - Adult Outreach
Francis Antobre - Outreach Technology
Heather Robbie - Education
Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults
Russell Collins - Community & Technology Outreach
& Human Resources
Shannon Ingersoll - Worship and Music
& Human Resources

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

Internet Log-in:
User name: FLC Staff
Password: FLC53HER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**”*

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Shine the light of understanding on your church on earth. Bind us together in the word to share your love with the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect birds and their nests, fields full of crops, the seas and the fish that swim in them. Inspire us to care for the creation you love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up just and wise advocates and judges from small-town courts to international tribunals. Enlighten all leaders to discern what is right and do what is good. We remember *especially*... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Expand the understanding of this assembly to see our neighbours as you see them. Let the yeast of your word grow beyond us to expand your boundless love to those around us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurture faith in those who doubt. Lift up those who are weak in body, mind, or spirit. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, and surround with love those facing their last days. We pray *especially for...and* for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us by the intercession of your Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit’s sighs, too deep for words, comfort us until we rejoice with those already united with you. We remember *especially* ... and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**