



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2013

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 races and cultures which enrich our life and ministry together.

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ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Those Serving the Servants Today

Presider	Pr. Hergy
Homilist	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
Lector	Marion Manz
Minister of Music	Jeanette Price
Altar Care	June Schramm

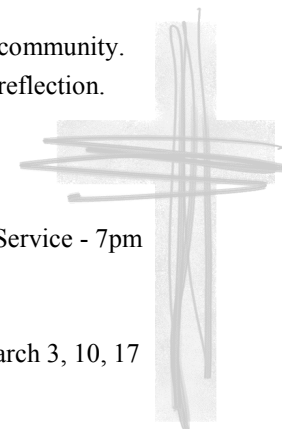
A special welcome to all worshippers from St. Thomas Anglican and First Lutheran who are here to begin our 40 day Lenten journey from ashes to empty tomb.

This is the time for community.
This is the time for reflection.
This is Lent.

Potluck - 6pm
Taizé Communion Service - 7pm

Sundays
February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17

Please know that everyone is invited to join us for our 2013 Lenten Study "CALL TO CHANGE" from 6:30—8:15 pm on Wednesdays, February 20, 27 and March 6, 20 in the lower level.



**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

INTRODUCTION

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

GATHERING

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 brings us safely through the sea,
who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey. **Amen.**

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful Father,
**we have sinned against heaven and before you. We do not fully live as your sons
and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends. Forgive us and restore us,
that we may resist all that draws us away from you, and be at peace with one another.
Amen.**

We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses
against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found.
God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of + Jesus Christ,
forgiving you all your sins and making of you a new creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN # 326 "Bless Now, O God, The Journey"

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ our Saviour, the reconciling 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 and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive
the sins of all who are penitent. Out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath
of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbours.

Create in us, Gracious God, new and honest hearts, so that, in our repentance we may receive
from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through 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 58:1–12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

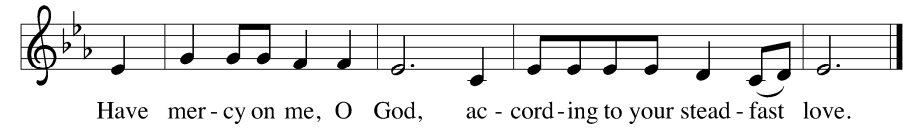
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

PSALM 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

Refrain



Tone



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through ¹from my wickedness, and cleanse me ¹from my sin.**

³For I know ¹my offenses, and my sin is ev- ¹er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹in your judgment. R**

⁵Indeed, I was born ¹steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my ¹mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth ¹deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear ¹joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹may rejoice. R**

⁹Hide your face ¹from my sins, and blot out ¹all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean ¹heart, O God, and renew a right spir- ¹it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away ¹from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- ¹it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of ¹your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- ¹tiful Spirit. R**

¹³Let me teach your ways ¹to offenders, and sinners shall be re- ¹stored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of ¹my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing ¹of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, o- ¹pen my lips, and my mouth shall pro- ¹claim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or ¹I would give it.
You are not pleased ¹with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a ¹troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will ¹not despise. R

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

²For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

LESSON HYMN # 325 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

Response after announcement: Glory to you, O Lord.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father

who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Response after reading: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY (*Silence for meditation follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY # 328 "Restore in Us, O God"

INVITATION TO LENT

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All those desiring a cross of ashes to be marked upon their foreheads are invited to come and stand on the main floor all across the front to receive the sign of mortality and penitence.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Response: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

PEACE / OFFERTORY (*as gift of bread and wine are brought forward*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*All rise*)

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus 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

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 gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING OF THE HOLY SUPPER

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.



It is Christ himself who invites all the baptized members of God's family — and all our guests — 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. During Advent, the wafer is received in the open palm. All may drink from the first (common) or, intinct (dip) the wafer into the second (pouring) cup. A gluten free option is available upon request.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (All rise)

Let us pray. O God, in this holy meal you have embraced us and gathered us into your arms of compassion and protection. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God our Father bless you and shield you. Christ our Mother shelter you and carry you. God the Holy Spirit guide your journey + both now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 319 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

There is no offering received in this service. A collection plate is near the entry way for those wishing to contribute gifts of money.

First Lutheran Church is a member of the *British Columbia Synod* (one of five regions) which make up the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)* which in turn belongs to the *Lutheran World Federation* which represents the 80 million Lutherans around the world. For more information on the ministries of the ELCIC (office in Winnipeg, Manitoba), visit its website at www.elcic.ca. For similar information on the BC synod, visit its office in New Westminster or its website at www.bcsynod.org.

Financial support of our congregation's life and mission is provided by the donations of our members given in thankful response to the generosity shown by God in the gifts given to us. Offerings of any amount are gratefully accepted and joyfully spent in our service to Christ and to others.

Have you remembered First Lutheran in your will? Consider how a bequest or gift might continue supporting our mission and ministry.

**Our service is web cast live
every Sunday starting at 10:20 am through
www.firstlutheranvancouver.com/webcast.htm**

Or

www.livestream.com/flcv

**Welcome to join us online
if you are unavailable to worship at church.
The recording of the service is available
for the whole week.**

DIRECTORY

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Office Administrator	Iris Kong 604.456.0476
Caretaker	Peter dela Torre
Altar Guild Coordinator	Janet Schreiber
Liturgical Artist	June Schramm
Church Council	Russell Collins - Chairperson and Seniors Alex Wilson - Vice Chairperson and Property Karen Kerfoot - Secretary and Fellowship and Hospitality Ernie Neumann - Treasurer Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary John Morley - Stewardship & Finance Lanny Harris - Fellowship and Hospitality Christine Neumann - Human Resource Ingrid Bielenberg - Fellowship & Hospitality Kim Hoath - Property Mikhail Lennikov - Outreach & Technology June Heywood - Education