125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 15, 2015
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

Twenty Fifth Sunday
After Pentecost
November 15, 2015

Those Serving the Servants Today

Presider/Homilist          Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
                                Rev. Michael Batten

Assisting Minister          Celly Manirakoze

Lectors                     Felix Opoku

Ministry of Music
Organist/Pianist            Jeanette Price
Guest Pianist               Kathryn Roller
Flutists                    Amy MacLeod
                           Anne Johnson
                           Karl Maier
Musicians & Singers
                           Evening service team

Gift Bearers
Felix Opoku
Julie Bauming

Tray Holders                Ashlee Van Spronsen
                            Stephanie Van Spronsen

Communion Servers
Karl Van Spronsen
Julie Bauming
Dennis Reid
Doreen Reid

Coffee Hour Hosts
125th Anniversary Potluck Lunch

Altar Guild                 Jackie Cleroux
                            Betty Wong
                            Wayne Wong

Offering Counters
Amy MacLeod
Frank Filippelli

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 Deanna Wilson at 604-430-5893 or Betty Wong at 604-877-1578.
INTRODUCTION
Can we pray the way Bartimaeus prays? People try to hush him up because by addressing Jesus as “Son of David” he is making a politically dangerous claim that Jesus is the rightful king. Could our prayers ever be heard as a threat to unjust powers-that-be? Bartimaeus won’t give up or go away quietly, but repeats his call for help more loudly. Do we ask so boldly? And are our prayers an honest answer to Jesus’ question, “What do you want me to do for you?”

PRELUDE
Now Thank We All Our God
Sinfonia (from “Solomon”)  
Paul Manz
George Frederic Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN

# 526 “God Is Here!” (Please rise)

GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 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. O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and our passion for mission in this world. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
Denise Pawliuk, Director of FLC Sunday School
Life is short, Lord.  
Like a breath in the night, it sinks into silence.  
Human relationships all pass away;  
we cannot always count on them for comfort in old age.  
Only you, God, are forever.  
Why should I put anything else first in my life?

Many people claim to put you first,  
but they chase riches and popularity, privilege and power.  
I say that there is nothing in life but God.  
You are all anyone needs.

In the silence of the night, I listen for the breath of God;  
in the bedlam of a busy day, I wait for whispers of wisdom.  
I keep my mind on God.  
You surround me like the air I breathe;  
you buoy me up like water.  
Even in a time of loss, I raise my arms to your embrace;  
my heart rests easy.

For you are a loving God.  
Though our lives end, we do not vanish into a lifeless void.  
You gather us into your eternal warmth,  
where we will enjoy the endless sunshine of your love.

HYMN  
“Amazing Grace” (My Chains Are Gone)  
Led by Evening Worship Team

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed

CHORUS
The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures  CHORUS

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below, will be forever mine. (x3)

READING: Hebrews 10:11-25  (adapted from Eugene Peterson’s, The Message)  Led by FLC Youth

Every priest goes to work at the altar each day, offers the same old sacrifices year in, year out, and never makes a dent in the sin problem. As a priest, Christ made a single sacrifice for sins, and that was it! Then he sat down right beside God and waited for his enemies to cave in. It was a perfect sacrifice by a perfect person to perfect some very imperfect people. By that single offering, Jesus did everything that needed to be done for everyone in this purifying process. The Holy Spirit confirms this:

“This new plan I’m making with my people isn’t going to be written on paper,
isn’t going to be chiseled in stone;
This time, “I’m writing out the plan in them,
carving it on the lining of their hearts, and stamping it on their minds…
I’ll forever wipe the slate clean of their sins.”

Once sins are taken care of for good, there’s no longer any need to offer sacrifices for them.
So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into ‘the Holy Place.’ Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The ‘curtain’ into God’s presence is Jesus’ body.

So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. God always keeps God’s word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

The reading is concluded: Holy Wisdom, holy Word. Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM I Will Sing Praise Joseph M. Martin

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung twice before and after reading. Please rise)
GOSPEL: Mark 13:1-8

The gospel is announced. The holy gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” When Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY Silence for reflection follows

HYMN OF THE DAY # 765 “Lord of All Hopefulness”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Let us pray”, and all will respond by singing “Lord, listen to your children pray.”
PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*All may greet one another saying, "Peace be with you".*

### MEAL

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY** *Polonaise In A Major*  
**Frederic Chopin**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

As part of our celebration of FLC’s 125th Anniversary, we invite you to make an additional family donation of $125 this Sunday. 50% of the fund raised will be directed to SUMS and the other half goes to FLC building fund. Thank you for your generous giving.

*During this time, the table is set with the gifts of bread and wine which are brought forward. After the offering is gathered and presented, the assembly stands*

**OFFERING PRAYER** (Please rise)

Let us pray. **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

**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.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE** *(Prayer over the gifts)*

In the night of his offering, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

*“Take, and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this to remember me.”*

After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying:

*“Drink of it, all of you, this cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.”*

We thank You, God of Abundant Love, for these gifts given in love for us. Accept us, forgive us, heal us, and free us to live abundant lives, renewed with hope. Let us pray together the prayer 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.

HYMNS DURING THE MEAL  # 773  “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
# 459  “Wade In the Water”  (led by Evening service team)
# 642  Ubi Caritas et Amor  (repeat)  Taize

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION  (Please rise)
Let us pray. Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by your life-giving love, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING  “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”  Peter C. Lutkin

PRAYER OF BLESSING
Go forth in peace and with the courage of faith. Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. Amen.

The God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.


SENDING HYMN  # 859  “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

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

POSTLUDE  Toccata in De Minor BWV 565  Johann Sebastian Bach
This Week

Today
Evening service, 5:30 pm
“Welcoming Peace”

Monday
Centering Prayer, 7 pm

Wednesday
Communion Service at St. Thomas, 10 am

Thursday
Choir, 7:30 pm
Ministerial at Oakridge Lutheran
10 am study; 11 am service followed by Noon presentation on Gospel of Luke
MVA seminar: Habit of Action, 7 pm
(See announcement elsewhere)

Next Sunday
Bible study on Ephesians, 9:30 am
Christ the King, 10:30 am
Sunday School, 10:45 am
Confirmation, 4:30 pm
“Welcoming Peace” evening service, 5:30 pm

Thank you for coming to our service this morning. A special thank you for the support of our friends from St. Thomas Anglican Church worshiping with us today. Everyone is invited to partake in the potluck lunch on the lower level to celebrate First Lutheran’s 125th anniversary.

Confirmation class 2015, 4:30 pm
November 22 December 13

Students and families are enthusiastically invited to stay for the evening service as part of formation.

Adult Study Group will meet on Nov 29.
The Adult Study will explore a series called “Animate Faith”. The upcoming topic for Adult Study is “GOD | Faith is a quest.”
See bulletin board in the narthex for more details.

Christmas Bazaar at St. Thomas Anglican Church

Saturday, Nov. 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
St. Thomas Anglican Church
2444 East 41st Ave, Vancouver
(at St. Margaret’s Street)

A wide range of Christmas items, stocking stuffers, gifts and crafts, pet gifts, gourmet jams, jellies and pickles, home baking, jewelry, knitting, raffle baskets, “new to you” items, refreshments and more.

“Welcoming Peace” evening service
5:30 pm on Sundays
November 15, 22

Advent Evening service starts at 5:30 pm
“Waiting in the Darkness”
November 29
December 6, 13, 20
No service on Dec 27 and January 3, 2016.
**Introducing the Metro Vancouver Alliance Seminar Series**

A space to stretch your brain! For those who want to dig a little deeper into the ideas that sustain our work, we'll gather in small groups to discuss readings and events broadly relevant to our goals. Our facilitator is Deb Cameron-Fawkes, an MVA Board member and part of the Leadership Training team. Deb is a theologian and preacher, and also a union steward with the United Food and Commercial Workers.


**Dates:**
Nov 12, 7-8:30pm: The Habit of Relating
Nov 19, 7-8:30pm: The Habit of Action
Nov 26, 7-8:30pm: The Habit of Organization
Dec 3, 7-8:30pm: The Habit of Reflection

Please RSVP to MVAseminar@shaw.ca or at the website [http://www.metvanalliance.org/mva_seminar_series_relating](http://www.metvanalliance.org/mva_seminar_series_relating) for our host's downtown address and directions. You need not attend all four sessions, but registration is required as space is limited.

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**50 Plus Group Grey Cup Party**

3 pm, November 29

Michael Ray’s residence
(206-612 Fifth Ave, New Westminster)

**Come and join Vancouver Christian at Ecumenical Advent Service**

**December 6 at 3 pm**

**St. David’s United Church**
(1525 Taylor Way, West Vancouver; exit Taylor Way from Upper Level HWY)

More info: 604-922-2680
admin@stdavidsunited.com

Donations are deeply appreciated.

Proceeds will be donated to Syrian refugees.

**JOINT ST THOMAS/FIRST LUTHERAN ADVENT STUDY:**
"THE FEMININE FACE OF GOD"

**DECEMBER 2 and 9, 7:30 - 9 pm**
**at First Lutheran Church**

How do we understand and conceptualize God? Is there room in our faith to see and imagine God as feminine?

This short study will provide the space to reflect upon our conceptualization of God and humanity, and will open up our understanding of the Divine based upon our scriptures and liturgical tradition.

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**Sunday School 2015 last session:**

November 22
January 10, 24
DIRECTORY

Ministers  
God's People

Pastor  
Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford  
604.720.7255

Minister of Music  
Jeanette Price  
604.251.2656

Friends InDeed Lead Coordinator  
Rev. Margaret Marquardt

Friends InDeed Information and Communication Coordinator  
Elina Singh

Office Administrator  
Iris Kong

Caretaker  
Peter dela Torre

Altar Guild Coordinator  
Janet Schreiber

Liturgical Artist  
June Schramm

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Church Council
Lanny Harris - Chairperson  
John Morley - Vice Chairperson & Property  
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer  
Jen Langerud - Secretary & Human Resources  
Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary  
Alex Wilson - Property  
Wayne Wong - Property and Fellowship & Hospitality  
Deanna Wilson - Fellowship and Hospitality  
Betty Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality  
Debbie Powell - Outreach Adult (seniors)  
TBD - Outreach Technology  
Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults  
June Heywood - Education & Human Resources  
Marly Zell - Human Resources  
Brad Langerud - Music and Worship  
Ray Hartley - Member at large

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Mutual Ministry Committee:
Sandi Strate - Chairperson  
Russell Collins  
Anne Johnson  
Arvid Vimb  
Shannon Ingersoll

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Free Wifi is now available at First Lutheran. To log in:

User name: flcwifi  
Password: flc1890

You can find First Lutheran on:  
FB: First Lutheran Church Vancouver  
TWITTER: FirstLutheranVan
PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “Let us pray”,
and all will respond by singing “Lord, listen to your children pray”.

We give thanks to you for the members and ministry of First Lutheran and St. Thomas
Anglican: for those who had the vision to begin this congregation, those who sustain its
present ministry, and those who will carry its mission forward into the future. United into
one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with all God’s saints for healing, wholeness,
and peace in all the earth.

A brief silence.

For stars and planets, black holes, and all the wonders of the universe; for astronomers and
aerospace engineers; for science teachers and curious students; for the renewal of all creation.
Let us pray. Sing...

For political refugees and all who seek asylum; for war-torn nations and our global
neighbours accustomed to the sound of bombs and gunfire and division, and for the peace of
all nations, and for peace within our community. Let us pray. Sing...

For new parents and grandparents; for families grieving a miscarriage; for foster parents and
homeless youth; for families living with domestic violence; for the newly married, recently
divorced, and happily single. For the family, friends, caring for those with illness, and for all
who mourn and suffer, especially those whom we name now aloud or silently in our hearts...
Let us pray. Sing...

In thanksgiving for all the faithful departed who now sing your glory, especially those whom
we now name aloud and silently in our hearts... Let us pray. Sing...

Into your care, Alpha and Omega, we entrust all for whom we pray. Be with us now and
always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.