



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD DECEMBER 25, 2011

WELCOME TO  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FOUNDED 1890

*First Lutheran is 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 race, gender, sexual orientation or practice; regardless of social, economic, educational, linguistic or relationship status; regardless of citizenship, religious or cultural background or makeup of family; and regardless of physical, mental, emotional or spiritual condition. There is a place for you in our community worship, service and life.*

*To our Visitors:* You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex (lobby) and join us for coffee and conversation downstairs after worship.

*First Lutheran is easily accessible* via major city routes - 41<sup>st</sup> 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 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The wheelchair entrance is also the office entrance on 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 together.



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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
DECEMBER 25, 2011

*Those Serving the Servants Today*

*Presiding Minister/Homilist*

Pr. Hergy

*Assisting Minister*

Celly Manirakoze

*Lector*

Felix Opoku

*Acolytes*

Jordan Manu  
Emmanuel Manu

*Ministry of Music  
Organ/Piano*

Jeanette Price

*Gift Bearers*

June Schramm  
Ingrid Anderson

*Communion Servers*

June Schramm  
Mikhail Lennikov  
Felicia Quayson  
Irina Lennikova

*Coffee Hour Hosts*

Betty Wong  
Wayne Wong  
Alex Wilson  
Deanna Wilson

*Altar Guild*

June Schramm  
Mikhail Lennikov

*Offering Counters*

John Morley  
Betty Wong

**If you would 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 would like to help with Coffee Hour, please call Julie Bauming at 604 986-5389.**

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2011

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

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

### PRELUDE

Schlafe Mein Liebster  
In Dulci Jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Johann Sebastian Bach

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN # 287 "Let All Together" v. 3 - women; v. 4 - men; v. 5 - organ

### INVOCATION

#### SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of 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 52:7-10

Changing events in Babylon inspire this announcement of hope and joy to the people of Judah near the end of their exile. "Your God reigns," says the prophet. It is not some Babylonian god who rules. It is the dawn of comfort, redemption, and the salvation of our God.

How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news, who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

Response after the reading: **Thanks be to God.**

#### HYMN # 276 "Infant Holy, Infant Holy"

#### SECOND READING Hebrews 1:1-4

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Response after the reading: **Thanks be to God.**

#### HYMN # 272 "Lo, How a Rose" v. 3-unaccompanied

#### GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The poetic opening words of John's gospel refer to Jesus as the Word that became flesh-- that is, the one whose human existence incorporates God's very self.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was

before me.")<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**HYMN** # 295 *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"* v. 3 - unaccompanied

### **HOMILY**

**HYMN** # 268 *"From Heaven Above"* vv. 1 - 3; 12 - 14

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL/SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

*Forest Green*

Paul Manz

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Eternal God, **with Mary we treasure the gift of your Son,  
and in our hearts we ponder the mystery of his birth. Receive these offerings,  
that our lives may declare the wonders of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **MEAL**

**THE PREFACE** (*Tune: O Come, All Ye Faithful*)

Pastor: May God be with you

**People: And with you, God's servant**

Pastor: Oh come let us lift our hearts unto our God.

**People: With hearts uplifted, thanks to God we render:  
with joy we come before God, in gratefulness implore God,  
with thankful hearts adore God evermore!**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

**THE SANCTUS** (*Tune: "Hark! The Herald Angels"*)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord!*

*God of hosts, by all adored!*

*Heaven and earth cannot contain*

*All the glory of your name!*

*Hail, hosanna, God most high!*

*Blest is he who now draws nigh*

*In the name of God the King!*

*Hallelujahs glad we sing:*

*Hail, Hosanna! Praises due*

*Be forever, Lord, to you!*

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE GIFTS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Tune: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*)

**Our Father, Lord, on heav'n's high throne, most holy be your name  
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth — in heav'n the same  
Give us this day the good we need; forgiven we may be;  
into temptation do not lead, from evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto you in grateful love we bow;**

**and yours the power, Lord, let us view your mighty presence now.**

**The glory yours; your praise be sung by angel hosts and then,  
in ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue forever more. Amen**

## FRACTION

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to 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. The wafer is received in the open palm. All may drink from the first (common) cup or, intinct (dip) the wafer into the second (pouring) cup.*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION** # 291 *“Let Our Gladness Have No End”*  
*Legend* Peter Tchaikovsky

## SENDING

### PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

May Christ, born into time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

**SENDING HYMN** #289 *“Angels We have Heard on High”*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with us. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *From Heaven on High* Gordon Young

**The Church Office will be  
closed December 24 - January 2, 2012,  
and re-opening on Tuesday, January 2, 2012**

# Announcement

Please remember that the service at St. Thomas on January 8 at 10 a. m. will celebrate their 100th anniversary.

A potluck lunch will follow, so please bring something to share. Thank you.



### CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### January 1

First Sunday after Christmas, 10:30 am  
A Festival of Christmas Hymns

#### January 8

Feast of the Epiphany  
**AT St. Thomas Anglican, 10 am**  
(The 100th Anniversary of St. Thomas)  
Potluck lunch follows  
(Please bring food to share)

#### January 15

Baptism of Our Lord, 10:30 am  
at First Lutheran

## Seniors, Soup, Sandwiches and Socializing

Are you 55+? Would you like to get to know others in the congregation of a similar vintage? If so, please mark your calendar for lunch on Thursday, January 26th at 12:30. Soup and dessert will be provided. Bring a few sandwiches to share. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex by January 23rd if you plan to attend. Or talk to Russell and Linda Collins or Karen Duddy for more information.

**Sunday School will resume  
on January 15 at 9:45 am.**

The ordination of Fleming Blishen will take place on Tuesday, January 3rd at 11am. It will be hosted by the Surrey Urban Mission Society (13388-104th Avenue, Surrey). Everyone is invited! Following the service there will be a BBQ lunch. If you plan on going to the service and the lunch, please RSVP to [sums@telus.net](mailto:sums@telus.net) so they have an idea of numbers.

## A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

As most members know, First Lutheran tithes on our annual offerings (that is, we give away 10% of what we receive). We do this as a sign of our gratitude to God for the many blessings given to us--one of them being the steady and generous financial support of our members. As most members also know, First Lutheran received a substantial and unexpected bequest this past year in the amount of \$250,000 from the estate of Miranda Li (a woman who was not even a member of this congregation and chose us as one of her beneficiaries because of her long and very close relationship with Lanny and Sylvia Harris who are members here).

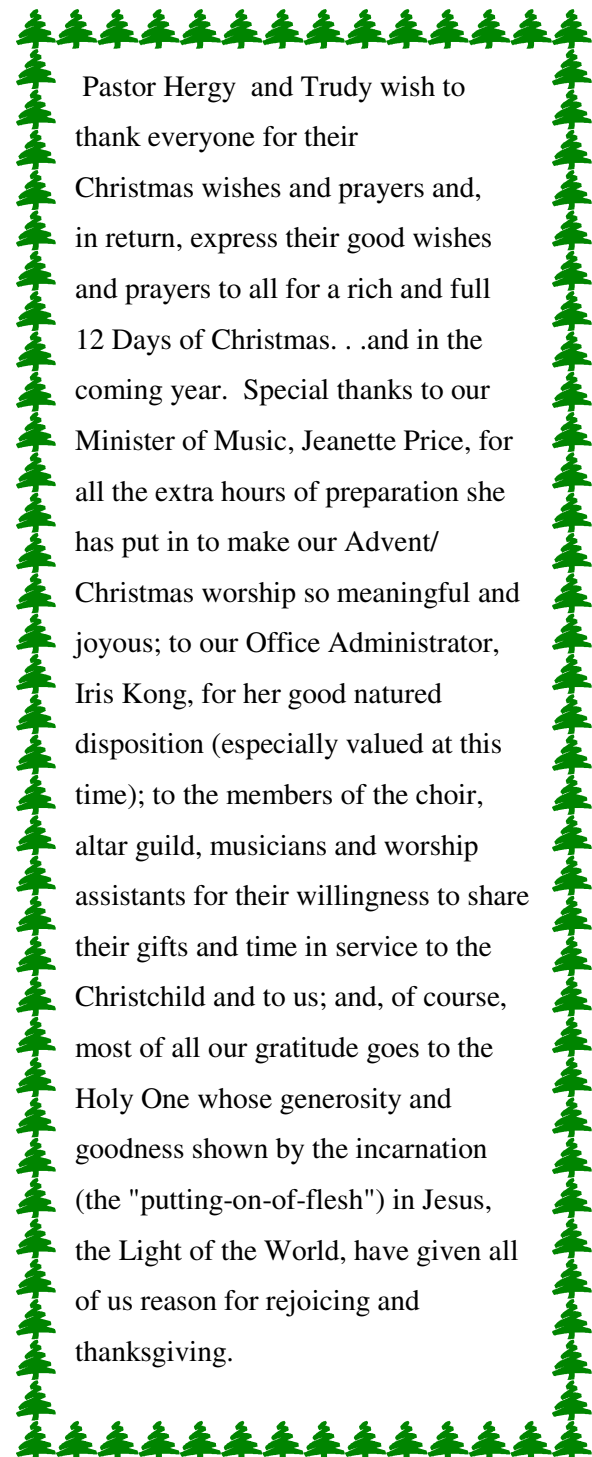
At last council meeting, we made the decision to tithe on that gift--which means giving away one-tenth of it (\$25,000). In doing so, we demonstrate our thankfulness to God (and Miranda) by sharing our blessings with others.

In order to help us spread the joy, and the money, around, everyone is invited to "nominate" an organization or agency which would benefit from an unexpected donation. Recipients may be involved in work carried out in other parts of the world, the larger church, the Greater Vancouver area, our local community (Collingwood-Renfrew) or our immediate neighbourhood.

The process will be to put forward the name(s) of the recipient(s), provide a short list of reasons why that organization should be considered (what services they provide, to whom, where they operate, etc). The names and rationale for each can be emailed to [info@firstlutheranvancouver.com](mailto:info@firstlutheranvancouver.com), or written out and left in the church office, or dropped into the box in the narthex labeled "Gift Recipient Nomination".

After assembling a list of nominees by the end of December, council will select those it considers to be the worthiest and most beneficial, as well as the amount of the donations to be given to each. The results will then be presented to our Friday evening Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 10.

Miranda's gift has blessed us enormously, and now we have the exciting opportunity to be a blessing to others by sharing our abundance, our gladness, and our gratitude. So, since today is the last chance available, please start thinking, start writing and start nominating. There is only one week left. Thank you.



Pastor Hergy and Trudy wish to thank everyone for their Christmas wishes and prayers and, in return, express their good wishes and prayers to all for a rich and full 12 Days of Christmas. . .and in the coming year. Special thanks to our Minister of Music, Jeanette Price, for all the extra hours of preparation she has put in to make our Advent/Christmas worship so meaningful and joyous; to our Office Administrator, Iris Kong, for her good natured disposition (especially valued at this time); to the members of the choir, altar guild, musicians and worship assistants for their willingness to share their gifts and time in service to the Christchild and to us; and, of course, most of all our gratitude goes to the Holy One whose generosity and goodness shown by the incarnation (the "putting-on-of-flesh") in Jesus, the Light of the World, have given all of us reason for rejoicing and thanksgiving.

## DIRECTORY

<b>Ministers</b>	God's Baptized People
<b>Pastor</b>	Richard Hergesheimer 604.430.2536
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Iris Kong 604.456.0476
<b>Caretaker</b>	Peter dela Torre
<b>Altar Guild Coordinator</b>	Janet Schreiber
<b>Liturgical Artist</b>	June Schramm
<b>Church Council</b>	
	Russell Collins - <i>Chairperson</i>
	Sandi Strate - <i>Vice Chair &amp; Human Resources</i>
	Ernie Neumann - <i>Treasurer</i>
	Sylvia Harris - <i>Envelope Secretary</i>
	Julie Bauming - <i>Secretary &amp; Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</i>
	Karen Kerfoot - <i>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</i>
	Ingrid Bielenberg - <i>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</i>
	Alex Wilson - <i>Property</i>
	Kim Hoath - <i>Property</i>
	Mikhail Lennikov - <i>Outreach</i>
	Karen Duddy - <i>Seniors</i>
	June Heywood - <i>Education</i>