



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 4, 2011**

**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: 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 - 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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www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 4, 2011**

Those Serving the Servants Today

Presider/Homilist	Pr. Hergy
Assisting Minister	Michael Ray
Lector	Kim Hoath
Acolytes	Jean-Pierre Bizimana Vedaste Niyonsaba
Ministry of Music	
Organ/Piano	Jeanette Price
Cantor	Lorna Hau
Flutists	Anne Johnson Amy Collins
Guest Pianist	Kathryn Roller
Gift Bearers	June Schramm Betty Anderson
Communion Servers	Betty Anderson Jack Kuyer Diana Kuyer Betty Wong
Anointers	Linda Collins Pr. Sylvia Schmidt Sandi Strate Karen Kerfoot
Coffee Hour Hosts	Ingrid Bielenberg Trudy Hergesheimer
Altar Guild	Betty Anderson June Schramm
Offering Counters	Randy Enders Ernie Neumann

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.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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Holy Communion, Setting I

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

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

PRELUDE

*Saviour of the Nations Come
Prelude on 'Divinum Mysterium'*

Paul Manz
John Wilkonson

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP *"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"* (Women's Chorus)

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS p. 94

GATHERING HYMN # 246 *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"*
v. 3 - women; v. 4 - men

GREETING AND KYRIE (The festive Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent) p. 98

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SONG *"Light One Candle"* (Two Advent wreath candles are lit during the song)

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (*Cantor sings refrain first; then all sing refrain*)

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

Refrain



Righ - teous - ness shall pre -



pare a path - way for God.

Tone



¹You have been gracious to your ¹land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- ¹tune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity ¹of your people
and blotted out ¹all their sins.

**⁸I will listen to what the LORD ¹God is saying;
and to those who turn their ¹hearts to you.**

**⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell ¹in our land. R**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have ¹met together;
righteousness and peace have ¹kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up ¹from the earth,
and righteousness shall look ¹down from heaven.

**¹²The LORD will indeed ¹grant prosperity,
and our land will ¹yield its increase.**

**¹³Righteousness shall go be- ¹fore the LORD
and shall prepare for ¹God a pathway. R**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think
of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud
noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on
it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you
to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming
of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved,
and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise,
we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him
at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *"Let Your Steadfast Love"* (Sing before and after reading) p. 103

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1–8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

FLUTE SOLO "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Anne Krentz Organ

CHOIR ANTHEM "We Are Waiting" Jay Althouse

HOMILY *(Silence follows for reflection)*

HYMN OF THE DAY # 249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" v. 3 - unaccompanied

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "Hear us, O God", and all will respond by singing "O Lord, Hear My Prayer". (words and music below)

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
or The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY *Pastorale (Christmas Concerto, op.6, no. 8)* Arcangelo Corelli

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All rise)* p. 107

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(The three-fold exchange is sung unaccompanied)*

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(for Advent)* p. 110

LORD'S PRAYER

"LAMB OF GOD" p. 112

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. During Advent, the wafer is received in the open palm. All may drink from the first (common) cup or, instinct (dip) the wafer into the second (pouring) cup. Those who desire prayer and anointing for the healing of any illness or brokenness in mind, body or spirit are invited to receive these blessings after communing.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 254 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
He Shall Feed His Flock (Messiah) George Frederic Handel

"NOW, LORD, YOU LET YOUR SERVANT" p. 113

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(All rise)*

SENDING

BLESSING p. 114

SENDING HYMN # 248 "People, Look East" v. 3 - unaccompanied

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE *Hark, the Glad Sound* Paul Manz

Announcements

This Week

Wednesday

Noon-hour Vigil
Advent Adult Education, 7 - 9 pm

Sunday

Sunday School, 9:45 am
Advent III Worship, 10:30 am



For those who would appreciate extra care and support (and food) during the holiday season, Joseph Nurani

invites you to a scrumptious sit down full menu dinner, program and prizes on Wednesday, December 21 starting at 4:30 pm in Pacific Grace Mennonite Brethren Church in Richmond.

For those who would like to volunteer with preparing and cooking, please contact Joseph at 604-931-0858 or email him at jnur@live.ca for more information.

Friday, December 16, 2011 at 7:30 pm

“Evening of Chamber Music at First Lutheran”

W. A. Mozart, Piano Quartet in E-flat Major,
K. 493

F. J. Haydn, String Quartet in D Major,
opus 20, No. 4

Players:

Peter Rohloff, David Shih - Violins
Ian Gay - Viola,
Hui Hua Lei - Violoncello
Mikhail Lennikov - Piano

Admission by donation.

Proceeds to support the Lennikov family
and the Love Fund.

Please remember our special “Fourth Sunday in Advent Dessert Feast” on December 18. Lots of wonderful music and musicians plus an array of Christmas goodies makes for a wonderful morning. (This is a really good Sunday to invite a friend or two to come to church with you.)



8th Annual Advent Vigil

For the Silenced

The eighth annual, noon-hour, downtown, *Advent Vigil for the Silenced* started on November 30. On Wednesdays in Advent, supporters gather at four different locations in the downtown core from noon - 1 p.m. You are warmly invited to join us this Wednesday, December 7, in the Vancouver Public Library courtyard; on December 14 at the soon-to-be-shut-down Seniors Drop-in Centre at 411 Dunsmuir (near Holy Rosary Cathedral); and on December 21 on the steps of Christ Church Cathedral. All are welcome to stand in solidarity with the poor (especially children), the homeless, the seniors and disabled whose assistance programmes are being cut--all those whose voices are muted by government policies or drowned out by the noise of Christmas muzak and shoppers.

LOVE FOR LUMS 2011 Concert

*Featuring the See to Sky Wind Ensemble
Conductor Tak Maeda*

Date: Tuesday, December 13
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: Mt Olivet Lutheran Church
Address: 1700 Mountain Hwy
North Vancouver
Tel: 604-987-5710

Admission by Donation

Adult Ed Event

We resumed the first of our Advent adult education sessions this past Wednesday evening. After a brief time of worship, we view a short video followed by small group discussion. The video features the Rev. Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, an Anglican priest and professor of Religious Studies, especially Theological Ethics at Duke University (Divinity School and School of Law) in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Hauerwas is a noted author, lecturer, and "critic" of the North American church's tendency to downplay or hide its identity as a community of disciples of Christ. . . no matter what that might mean or cost us as Christians. He is a provocative thinker and speaker and we expect the group discussion and responses to be spirited and very animated. So please consider joining us for the remaining two sessions in Advent here at First Lutheran from 7 - 9 p.m. this Wednesday December 7, and then on December 14.

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 council meeting this past Monday, 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, or written out and left in the church office, or dropped into the box in the narthex labeled "Gift Recipient Nomination".

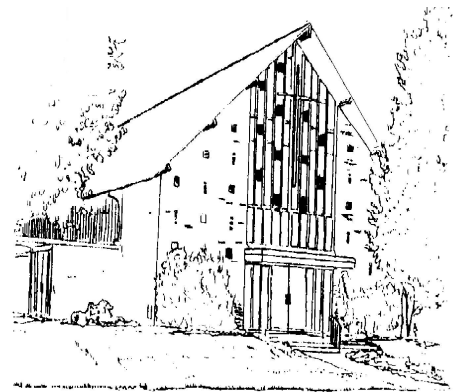
After assembling a list of nominees by the end of December, council will select those it considers to be the worthiest and most beneficial, as well as the amount of the donations to be given to each. The results will then be presented to our Friday evening Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 10.

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, please start thinking, start writing and start nominating. Thank you.

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.



DIRECTORY

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