

Congratulations to **Sandi S.** whose first grandchild, **Wyatt Joseph N.-S.**, was born in Toronto on Sunday, August 30. His parents, Jennifer and Graeme, are doing well although. As Jenn wrote, "He has slayed his parents' previous belief that night time meant sleep."

Update on Mikhail Lennikov

On **Thursday, September 10**, a Federal Court hearing will take place concerning Mikhail Lennikov's application for Judicial Review of the decision made by the Minister of Public Safety that his presence in Canada is "detrimental to the national interests." If you are able to attend the hearing (it is open to the public) please consider doing so. It begins at 11:00 am at 701 West Georgia Street, 3rd floor. If you cannot attend, please remember Mikhail in your prayers that morning asking for a favourable ruling. While this hearing is not the final step on Mikhail's long journey toward receiving Permanent Residency Status in Canada, it is an important event, particularly if the judge rules in his favour.

Please note that once again we are asking for coffee donations for our Fellowship Hours on Sundays since our supply is getting low.



Donations Needed

We are looking for scooters, skateboards and medium-size girl's and boy's bikes.

If you have anything to donate, please bring them to the church.

Thank you



Have you signed up in the worship leaders sign up sheet posted on the narthex bulletin board?



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 6, 2009**

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“Spoken Service”

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

James tells us to stop showing favouritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honour than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honour as a child and heir.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Larghetto
Prelude on 'Morecambe'

Arcangelo Corelli
William France

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER OF 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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness,
confessing our sin and trusting in God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of truth, we have all sinned and fallen short of your glory.
We have turned away from you. We have not kept your commandments.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have neglected the poor,
and we have not welcomed all people in your name.
You know the fullness of our sin. Forgive us, and turn us again to you,
so that we may receive the fullness of your mercy. Amen.

Our great high priest, Jesus Christ, sacrificed himself for us and for our sins.
In Christ, you are freed from your sins and given a place in God's household forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN #720 “We are Called”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to bear Christ's love to the world. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Toccata in F*

Dietrich Buxtehude

Announcements

This Week

Monday
Office is closed

Tuesday
Worship and Music, 9:30 am

Thursday
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Saturday
ABBA Cadabra Concert
7:00 pm, FLC

Next Sunday
Sunday School, 9:15 am
Worship, 10:30 am
Avalon Dairy Fair, after church

Please Mark Your Calendar

ABBA Cadabra LIVE!
Saturday, September 12, 2009
First Lutheran Church

Doors open at 6:00 pm
Show starts at 7:00 pm

For tickets call 604 583-5969
or email errolp@shaw.ca

Avalon Dairy Country Fair
Sunday, September 13
after church to 5:00 pm

Any and all are invited!

Sunday School resumes September 13 at 9:15 am
with registration and games.

MEAL

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.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (Prayer over the gifts)

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

and 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

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.

After receiving the bread into the open, upraised palm, all may drink from the first (common) cup or, if desired, have an individual glass filled from the second (pouring) cup.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

#781 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

In Heavenly Love Abiding

arr. Alice Jordan

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, in this meal you sustain the weary and heal the broken.

May the gift of your word made flesh, the body and blood of Christ,

inspire our tongues to praise you and proclaim to the entire world the Saviour,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

#532 "Gather Us In"

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

The sayings in the book of Proverbs impart the collective wisdom of centuries. Speaking of wealth and poverty, these particular verses teach that those who are blessed by God should honour the poor, for they are within God's special care.

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold.

²The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.

⁹Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate;

²³for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Response after reading: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: James 2:1–17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said,

"You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

LESSON HYMN #715 "Christ, Be Our Light"

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24–37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

Response after announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go — the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY #765 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord of creation, with confidence in your abiding care, we are bold to pray for the world, the church, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for courage in the church, that we may take your love into places where healing is desperately needed, into lives where hope falters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for unity of purpose and for your guidance as we strive to be better stewards of your good world, for our sake and for those who follow us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray that all who labour receive just compensation, that the unemployed find meaningful work, and that all employers create workplaces where justice, fairness, and equity thrive. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who give their lives for peace, for international organizations bringing medicine, food, shelter, and comfort into forsaken places and into refugees' shattered lives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for competence in exercising the ministry of healing you place into our hands for all who need your presence, *especially...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those whose lives have pointed us to you, *especially...* Keep us in union with them through faith until we celebrate together at your heavenly feast. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Lord, Listen to Your Children* arr. Jack Schraeder

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of majesty, in your might you have created all things, and you entrust to our care what you have made. Receive our offerings, and make them a sign of our dedication to provide for the needs of all people and creatures, in the name of the one who sustains all things by his word, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**