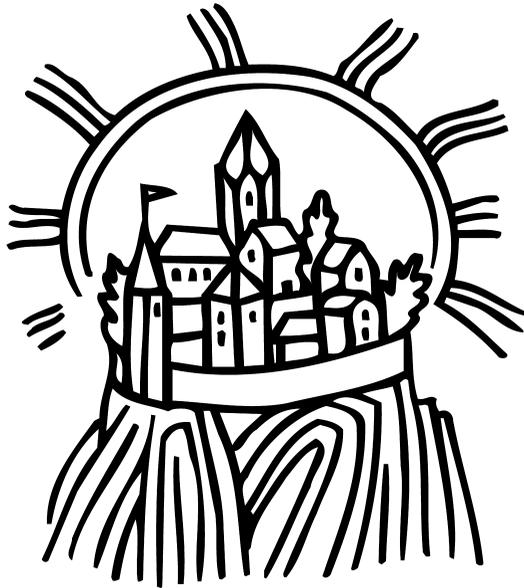




FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

**WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDED IN 1890**

**5745 Wales Street
Vancouver BC V5R 3N3**

PH: 604.435.6020

info@firstlutheranvancouver.com

www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

YouTube: youtube.com/firstlutheranvancouver

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.

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. We have proudly served as a Reconciled in Christ Congregation since 2000.

We acknowledge that we gather, worship, work, and play on the unceded and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Watuth nations. We are committed to learning and raising awareness of our country's historical relationship with First Peoples and continue to work toward true Reconciliation.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Masks are no longer required while attending worship. As a sign of our care and love for one another, all those wishing to wear masks for their own and others' safety are welcome to do so. We strongly encourage all worshipers age 5 and up to be fully vaccinated.

Worship attendees will be greeted at the 42nd Avenue entrance off of the narthex when doors open at 10am. All are welcome to join us for conversation and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall downstairs after the service.

If you feel unwell for any reason or cannot follow our COVID restrictions, please remain at home and participate online. We will continue to stream our services via YouTube.

(www.youtube.com/firstlutheranchurchvancouver)

For your convenience, there is an elevator in the southwest corner of the building. Accessible, gender neutral washrooms are on the main floor in the northwest corner. There are additionally two washrooms down the stairs at the east end of the lower level. A wheelchair accessible entrance (also our office entrance) is located near the parking lot on the 42nd street side.





THOSE SERVING THE SERVANTS TODAY

Presiding Minister	David Lefsrud	Usher	Michael Ray
Assisting Minister	Linda Collins	Coffee Hour Hosts	Sylvia Schmidt Paul Schmidt
Lector	Marly Zell	Livestream Tech	Emmanuel Manu
Musician	Rachel Alflatt	Communion Set-Up	Heidi Ackermann
Cantor	Arvid Vimb		

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

SETTING EIGHT – HOLY COMMUNION

PRELUDE

Blessed Jesus, We Are Here; Chorale Prelude

J.S. Bach

Christians, Let Us Praise God Together; Chorale Prelude

D. Buxtehude

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with a heart for reconciliation that First Lutheran Church acknowledges that we meet and work and worship on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the Coast Salish peoples — the Musqueam, the Squamish, and the Tseil-Waututh nations.





GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG — Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (ELW 301)





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.

KYRIE

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THIS IS THE FEAST

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9

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.

Yet 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.

“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.

Look, 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.

Is 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?

Is 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?

Is 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?

Then 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.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.





PSALM 112:1-10

(The psalm will be spoken responsively. The congregation will speak the portions in bold print.)

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to





you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (You may be seated)

SERMON—Rev. David Lefsrud

HYMN OF THE DAY — Jesu, Jesu (ELW 708)





APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends with the words, "Merciful God". You are invited to respond
"Receive our prayer".*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(You may share a sign of peace to those around you.)



OFFERING MUSIC— Light Shone in Darkness (ELW 307)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Saviour. **Amen.**

MEAL

DIALOG

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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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Mother, 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.**

LAMB OF GOD

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*(As a sign of abundant kindness & care for you, all those serving you
communion will wear masks.)*

COMMUNION HYMN—Now the Green Blade Rises (ELW 379)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
And breaks the oppressor's rod,



✠ Bless , strengthen, and uphold you
Now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN — I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude in E major

Vincent Lübeck

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WELCOME TO RACHEL ALFLATT

We are so pleased to welcome Rachel Alflatt in our midst as our Minister of Music. She comes to us after serving Queen’s Avenue United Church for the past 21 years. We look forward to wonderful music as she shares her many gifts with this community.

Please join us after the service for refreshments and a chance to meet Rachel.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Amelia K.

Soriya S.

Marly Z.

Al S.

Michael R.

UPCOMING AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Sunday, February 12th

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)

Coffee and Conversation, 11:30am (Social Hall)

Sunday, February 19th

Transfiguration Sunday, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)

Coffee and Conversation, 11:30am (Social Hall)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, February 26th

12 noon, downstairs in the Social Hall

The AGM will be in person only, there is no Zoom option this time. All confirmed members of good standing can vote at the meeting.

See bulletin insert for more information.



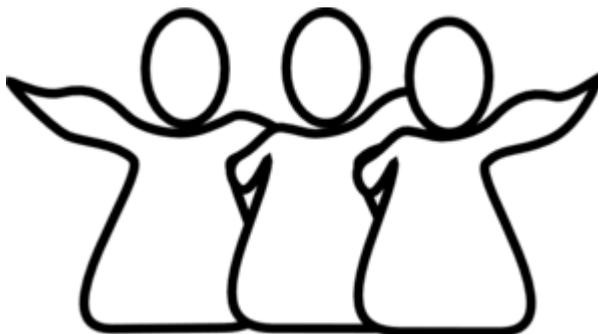
VISIONING OUR FUTURE

The Visioning Committee would like to invite you to gather after our church services (during our fellowship coffee hour) on January 22, 29, and February 19 for some fun and lighthearted small group discussions, led by Pastor Dave (and Pastor Sylvia on Jan. 29) along with members of the Visioning Committee. We would like to hear from all of you and recognize that it is not always easy to physically come to church, so there will also be an opportunity to participate via Zoom on February 12th at 7:00pm.

This is a time for us to reconnect with each other and help gain some feedback on things that we have enjoyed doing at FLC in the past and also things we hope to get back to in the future. We have been locked up for 3 years dealing with this pandemic and our congregation looks different, as do most congregations, so we felt that this is a good time to regroup and reconnect.

We hope to bring some laughter and cheer into these events and also hope to garner your feedback to help the Church Council complete the Congregational Mission profile, which is an important part of our calling process for a new pastor. You, our community, are included in every step of the way.

Please let the office know if you would like to join via Zoom for the February 12th event so that we can send a Zoom invite to you.



DIRECTORY

Ministers	God's People
Interim Pastor	Pr. David Lefsrud
Caretaker	Peter Dela Torre
Altar Guild Coordinator	Carol Laslett
Chancel Care	Linda Collins
Envelope Secretary	Gloria Tymm
Privacy Officer	Joel Westereng (privacy@firstlutheranvancouver.com)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Marly Zell	Council Chair
Joel Westereng	Vice Chair + Education Committee
Heidi Ackermann	Secretary + Visioning Committee
Sylvia Harris	Treasurer + Stewardship & Finance Committee
Carol Laslett	Music & Worship Committee
Emmanuel Manu	Property Committee
Kirsten Jensen	Constitution + HR Committee
Karl van Spronsen	COVID Task Force Coordinator

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

5745 Wales Street

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Office hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 9am-2pm