



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022



WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1890

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

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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

As a sign of our care and love for one another, we are requiring everyone over the age of 3 to wear a properly fitted mask covering both nose and mouth while inside the church building. (Masks can be briefly lowered for Fellowship Hour while eating). We strongly encourage all worshipers age 5 and up to be fully vaccinated.

Worship attendees will be greeted at the 42nd street entrance off of the narthex when doors open at 10am. Please be sure to sign in when you arrive! 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

Assisting Minister	Elina Singh	Coffee Hour Hosts	Sandi Strate Michael Ray
Lector	Marly Zell	Offering Counters	
Musician	Ginger Shaw		
Livestream Tech	Emmanuel Manu		
Flute	Anne Johnson	Church Admin	Norita Dobyns



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SEASON OF CREATION—SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRELUDE— *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* (J.S. Bach)

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 Tsleil-Waututh nations.



GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.



GATHERING SONG — For the Troubles and the Sufferings (ACS 1051)

For the trou - bles and the suf - f'ring's of the world,
God, we call up - on your mer - cy: the
whole cre - a - tion's lā - bōr - ing in pain! Lend an
ear . . . to the ris - ing cry for help from op -
pressed and hope - less peo - ple: Come! Has - ten your sal -
va - tion, heal - ing love! We pray for peace,
the bless - ed peace that comes from mak - ing
jus - tice, to cov - er and em - brace us.
Have mer - cy, Lord! We pray for pow'r,
the pow'r that will sus - tain your peo - ple's wit - ness:
un - til your king - dom comes. Ky - ri - e - le - i - son!



GREETING

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.



KYRIE (ELW 153)



Nko - si, Nko - si, yi - ba nen - ce - ba.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy up - on us.



Kres - tu, Kres - tu, yi - ba nen - ce - ba.
Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy up - on us.



Nko - si, Nko - si, yi - ba nen - ce - ba.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy up - on us.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE YOU ARE HOLY (ELW 525)



 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.
 2 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!
 Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* *May be sung in canon.*

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling

Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you call us back to yourself when we wander away. You also call us to connect with one another. Preserve us in your loving care, that we may reject whatever separates us from you and of one another. Help us follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen. (*You may be seated*)

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 4:11-28

A reading from Jeremiah.

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse — a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

Look! He comes up like clouds,
his chariots like the whirlwind;
his horses are swifter than eagles —
woe to us, for we are ruined!

O Jerusalem, wash your heart clean of wickedness
so that you may be saved.

How long shall your evil schemes
lodge within you?

For a voice declares from Dan
and proclaims disaster from Mount Ephraim.

Tell the nations, "Here they are!"

Proclaim against Jerusalem,

"Besiegers come from a distant land;
they shout against the cities of Judah.



They have closed in around her like watchers of a field,
because she has rebelled against me,
says the LORD.

Your ways and your doings
have brought this upon you.

This is your doom; how bitter it is!
It has reached your very heart."

My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain!

Oh, the walls of my heart!

My heart is beating wildly;

I cannot keep silent;

for I hear the sound of the trumpet,
the alarm of war.

Disaster overtakes disaster,
the whole land is laid waste.

Suddenly my tents are destroyed,
my curtains in a moment.

How long must I see the standard,
and hear the sound of the trumpet?

"For my people are foolish,

they do not know me;

they are stupid children,

they have no understanding.

They are skilled in doing evil,
but do not know how to do good."

I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.





I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not
make a full end.

Because of this the earth shall mourn,
and the heavens above grow black;
for I have spoken, I have purposed;
I have not relented nor will I turn back.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 14

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

Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, every deed is vile; there is no one who does any good.

The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all,

to see if there is anyone who is wise, who seeks after God.

They have all proved faithless; all alike have turned bad;

there is none who does good; no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers

who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the Lord?

See how they tremble with fear,

because God is in the company of the righteous.

Your aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted,

but the Lord is their refuge.

Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion!

When the Lord restores the fortunes of the people, Jacob will rejoice
and Israel be glad.



SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from 1 Timothy

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God. (*You are invited to stand*)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (ELW 172)



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON— Elina Singh







HYMN OF THE DAY — Shepherd Me, O God (ELW 780)

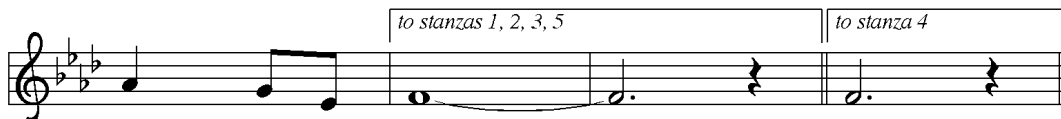
(You are invited to stand. The offering will be brought forward at this time.)

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent-ly you raise me and heal my wea-ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan-der the val-ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith-ful-ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ-teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e-vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui-et wa-ters of peace.
spir-it shall sing the mu-sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com-fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.





5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptises this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.**



**We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.**

[Gurukul Theological college, India / adapted by Keld B. Hansen 2009]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, for those in need, and all of God's good creation. *(A brief silence).*

Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and bless all denominations with the will to unity and collaboration. Guided by the British Columbia Synod Prayer Cycle we pray; for our bishops Susan and Kathy, for our Assistant to the Bishop Rebekah, for Faith Lutheran in Powell River – Rev. Paula Sampson (Anglican) - Interim, for Our Saviour's Lutheran in Prince George - Rev. Fleming Blishen.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats. Provide rains to put out the raging wildfires, and bring heatwaves to an end. Comfort those impacted by the fires in California and BC, the floods in Pakistan, and the drought and famine in Eastern Africa.

God, in whom all creation subsists,

Help us listen as you do.

Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Give wisdom and humility to the elected leaders, so that we may know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. We pray





especially for Ukraine, for Yemen, for Ethiopia, for Syria, and all those who live in war-torn lands. With the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayers Cycle, we join voices all over the world in praying for the following countries & territories this week; for Ghana and Nigeria.

God, to whom all creation responds,

Help us respond to you.

Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. We pray especially for those impacted by the recent violence in James Smith Cree Nation and Weldon, SK, and all who are struggling with the impacts of intergenerational trauma. Remind us of our responsibility for one another.

God, to whom all creation responds,

Help us respond to you.

Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community, that we are for our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name. Revive in us your call to serve as you served, to be your presence in the world.

God, who is present with your creation,

Help us be present too.

Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you. We give thanks for the life of your servant, Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless us as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us. We pray also for her whole family.

God, who is present with your creation,

Help us be present too.



Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth: teach us to listen. Give your Spirit to guide us, to inspire us, and to encourage us to work for justice and wellbeing of all creation. Hear our prayers, the ones we have spoken, and the ones that remain silent in our hearts.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Amen.

PEACE

If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.

We see God around us.

We see God within us.

We give thanks to our Creator.

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

And also with you.

You are invited to care and share peace with your neighbor, and speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather, and the creatures who share this common home.

[adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA]

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.



By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (New Zealand Anglican Version)

**Our Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come
on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**



From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

[The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa]

SENDING

BLESSING

May God who established the dance of creation,

Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,

Who transforms chaos to order,

Lead us to transform our lives and the Church

To listen to the voice of all creatures,

That reflect God's glory in creation.

[adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme]

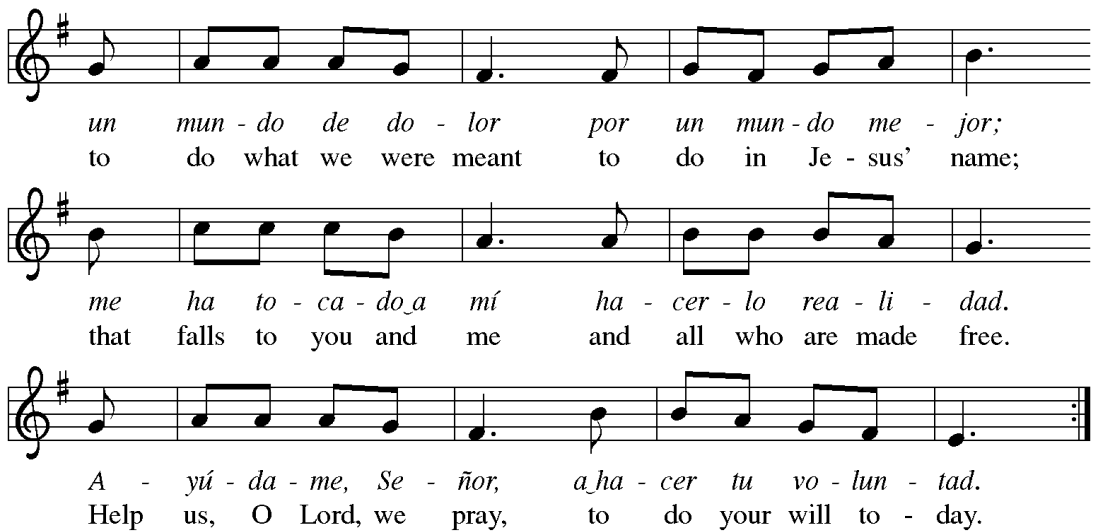
SENDING HYMN — The Lord Now Sends Us Forth (ELW 538)

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta - es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain





un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Creator walks with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE—*Autumn Leaves* (Music: Joseph Kosma, Lyrics: Johnny Mercer)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Julie B. Carol L. Eulalie N.
Anne J. Jean Claude N.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

The church council met on Thursday, September 7th. We were joined by Bishop Kathy who discussed the pastoral call process. Bishop Kathy presented council with the option of starting the permanent pastoral call process right away (a process that takes approximately one year to complete) or of having an interim pastor first. In the interest of stability, the church council decided it would be best to have an 18-month interim pastor first. Bishop Kathy is working on providing 1-2 names of possible interim pastors that will be presented at a later date yet to be determined.

Preliminary draft minutes for this meeting will be forwarded to members in the coming week. As always, please reach out to a member of council if you have any questions or concerns.

CHARITABLE NOMINATIONS CLOSED

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for the tithe on Selma's gift! We have now closed the nominations as we have received so many responses. We will determine our donations in the coming weeks.

PRAYERS FOR CREATION

During this Season of Creation, we have set up a space in the narthex where you can add your prayers for creation. Please take a moment to write down a prayer or a reflection on the paper leaves—these will be added to our tree every week.





Listen to the Voice of Creation

SEASON OF CREATION 2022

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.*

*Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.*

*There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;*

*yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.*

Psalms 19:1-4

During the Season of Creation, our common prayer and action can help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we center the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. We can amplify the voices of young people, Indigenous people, women and affected communities who are not heard in society and we can remember those who are displaced or have disappeared from public spaces and political processes.



DIRECTORY

Ministers	God's People
Office Administrator	Norita Dobyns
	[Sunday 8-1, Mon-Thurs 9-2, Fridays Closed]
Caretaker	Peter Dela Torre
Altar Guild Coordinator	TBD
Chancel Care	Linda C. & Marion M. & Beverley F.
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

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