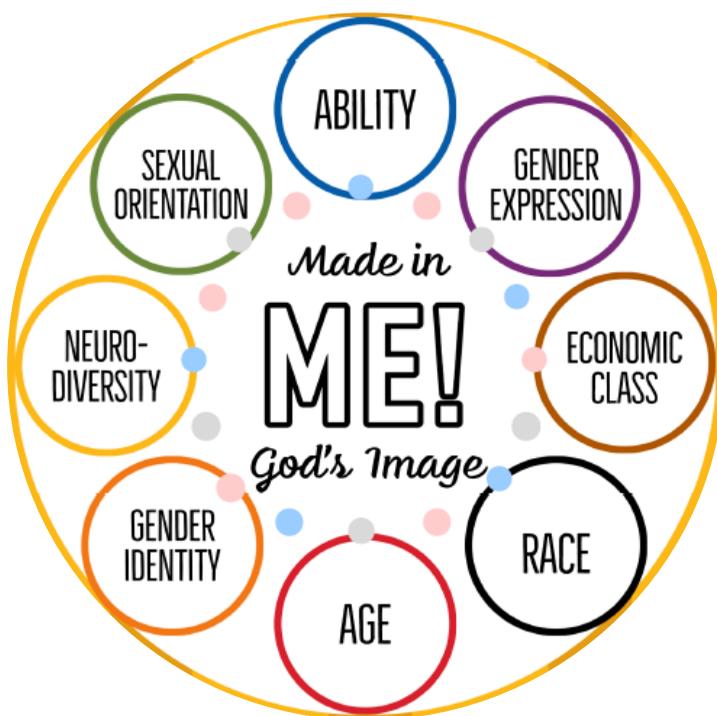




FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 29, 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-Waututh 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	Sylvia Schmidt	Usher	Draw Nicholson
Assisting Minister	Linda Collins	Coffee Hour Hosts	Russell Collins Leanne Harder
Lector	Russell Collins	Livestream Tech	Kevin Li
Musician	Ginger Shaw	Communion Set-Up	Carol Laslett
Cantor	Heidi Ackermann		

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 29, 2023

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

PRELUDE

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.





Your people everywhere, Lord, long to feel seen, named, and valued. Your church throughout the world, we push each other away with labels of “different,” and “other,” expecting those who are harmed to lead the work of reconciliation.

Open our hearts and minds today as we gather in public prayer. Ready us for the holy ministry of justice and equity.

As people of your creation, we know that you, God, are with all of us
And that your Holy Spirit makes reconciliation possible.

As we seek to make the church a safer space,

We trust the Spirit's guidance.

As we seek to be advocates with our LGBTQ2SIA+ siblings and all who are told they are "other",

We trust the Spirit's guidance.

As we seek to understand the intersectionality of ministry ,

We trust the Spirit's guidance.

It is with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and grace of Jesus, that we confess and ask forgiveness. Help us to proclaim with joy and love that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions matter; that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) matter; that neuro-diversity and differing abilities of bodies are sacred; and that we as a church stand firmly against racism, homophobia, transphobia. Help us to commit our words and action in advocacy with all people in your Kin-dom. Holy Creator, we give thanks for your boundless diversity, and celebrate the ways we are made in Your image.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG — Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)





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.

Mighty God, soften our hearts this day as we seek to hear your word. In a world where we are daily confronted with ways in which we are different, where we are told to make ourselves smaller for the convenience of others, teach us as your people how to celebrate your boundless diversity reflected in every person who is made in your image! To have safe spaces is to experience your saving grace. Guide us to be people of faith who are committed to learning and re-learning what is means to welcome, include, celebrate, and advocate for all you call Beloved. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;





for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM 15

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

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do¹ what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the



power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.





“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON— Rev. Sylvia Schmidt

HYMN OF THE DAY — He Comes To Us As One Unknown (ELW 737)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with the words, “God, in your mercy”. You are invited to respond “Hear 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 you who are weak and weary, come you who are persecuted and abandoned, come you who are cast to the margins, come you who search for love and wholeness. Come if you are LGBTQ2SIA+ and an ally. Come as you are for yours in the kin-dom of God. These are the gifts of God given for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

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

COMMUNION HYMN—One Bread, One Body (ELW 496)

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

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO GINGER

BLESSING

Go out into the world in peace.

Have courage!

Hold fast to what is good.

Return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering.

Honor all people.

Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN — Oh, Sing to the Lord (ELW 822)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

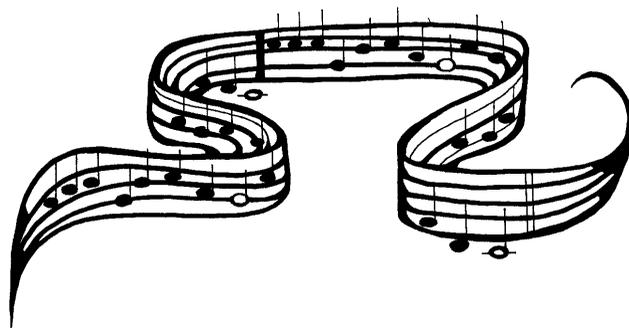
MINISTER OF MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcoming Rachel Alflatt + thank you to Ginger Shaw!

Church Council is pleased to announce that Rachel Alflatt is our new Minister of Music. Rachel is coming to us from Queen's Avenue United Church, and will start with us Sunday February 5th!

We will miss Ginger Shaw's musical talents! Ginger has been our faithful "interim" since spring 2021. Graham Pudek & Barry Waterlow have also helped us out on Sundays!

ALL our musicians have musically praised God & uplifted our Sunday services!





HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Aria A. Janet S. Barbara S. Phil S.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Amelia K. Soriya S. Marly Z. Al S. Michael R.

UPCOMING AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Sunday, February 5th

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)
Coffee and Conversation, 11:30am (Social Hall)

Sunday, February 12th

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)
Coffee and Conversation, 11:30am (Social Hall)

SAVE THE DATE—AGM:

Sunday, February 26th

After the Sunday service
Reports will be available by February 12th

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

Vancouver, BC V5J 1Y5

Ph: 604-435-6020

info@firstlutheranvancouver.com

Office hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 9am-2pm