



@first glance

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

116 Bond St., Toronto, ON M5B 1X8

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A JOURNEY OF PASSION



Join Jesus and his
followers
on the week that
changed history

www.firstelc.ca/holyweek

HOLY WEEK @FIRST

Experience the emotion and drama of the days leading to the events that altered humanity's relationship with God forever.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Wed. Mar. 28 7pm

A special edition of The Table, our Wednesday night service. Come and sing along with the fabulous music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice in the original 1974 film directed by Norman Jewison.

Living Last Supper

Thur. Mar. 29 6pm

"On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends". Enjoy a meal with friends and hear the stories of those who spent that fateful night with Jesus.

Good Friday

Fri. Mar. 30 11:15am

We mark the day that Jesus carried the cross and died with a somber service of remembrance and meditation. **German service at 9:45 am.**

Walk for Justice: Dimensions of Poverty

Fri. Mar. 30 2pm

The 39th annual Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice follows a series of "stations" teaching and praying about poverty in our city. Starting at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, beside the Eaton Centre.

Easter Sunrise Service

Sun. Apr. 1 6:30am

Greet the sun and the Resurrection with other Christians at St. Luke's United Church, 435 Sherbourne St.

Easter Sunday Celebration

Sun. Apr. 1 11:15am

We celebrate the resurrection of Christ in our Sunday worship. **German service at 9:45am**

Join us for Holy Week at first including our special edition of *The Table* featuring *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Living Last Supper* on Maundy Thursday, and our *Easter Sunday Services*!



Letter from the Pastor:

"Render to God not a tenth, not a third, not a half, but all that is God's, be it more or less, by employing all on yourself, your household, the household of faith, and all people, in such a manner that you may give a good account for your stewardship when ye can be no longer stewards." (John Wesley, "On the Use of Money," 1760)

We all have very deep-seated reasons why we give to the church. Mine goes back to the day I was baptized in a Baptist Church at 9 years old and, the next Sunday, I was given a box of offering envelopes. I would take the 50 cents that my stepfather would give me for when the offering plate passed, and I would dutifully put it in my envelope, and place my envelope on the plate.

When I was a teenager and took after school and summer jobs, I no longer received money from my stepfather. I had to give from what I earned. No one told me how much of my earnings I should give, so I probably gave whatever was in my pocket if anything.

When I started studying for the Anglican priesthood, I came to understand that my relationship with money and goods was not just about how much I put on the offering plate but was also about my relationship with Jesus Christ. When I recognized that everything I have does not belong to me, but to God, I wanted to give a portion of what I had back to God in thanksgiving.

Our 2017 financial statements give a very clear picture of our financial future as things stand right now. Thanks to the generosity and stewardship of those who worshipped at First years ago, we have the resources to fund new ministries, to help us reach more people with the Gospel.

I hope you read more than the financial statements, but also the reports from me, our Council, and all our new ministries. To borrow a line from one of our local churches, "There's Life Here."

And this new life has been bearing fruit. Without too much asking, our offerings in 2017 increased by \$4,000. So, let me take this moment to say thank you. I take that as a gesture of hope, and hope will not disappoint.

In this newsletter you will read from our Pastor Intern, Jordan Smith, about why he gives. In future newsletters, I hope you will hear from more of our members. Take this time to consider why you give.

Blessings,

Pastor Dawn

Why I Give

By Jordan Smith

Stewardship is a topic we often don't like to discuss and yet it is an important item to keep in mind as a part of our participation in God's mission in the world. Along with other charities, I give offering to the churches I worship at to ensure they continue to be there when I need them. The church cannot function without its people and it cannot function without monetary resources to support it. Stewardship is a planned part of my life in the church: I plan out how I will give my time and I plan out my monthly offerings through Pre-Authorized Remittance. The church is an important presence in my life and I think it is an important presence in the community. That is why I give.

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Check out our New and Improved Website

Our website has gotten a much-needed update! After almost a month of hard work and many discussions our new and improved website is officially live!

The new site includes an updated theme, friendlier colour scheme, and improved user interface. Among the new features is an embedded Calendar. Here you can see all the events happening at First! Some events have an option to RSVP through Eventbrite, giving us a better idea of how many people will be attending. The site also now includes a donation page, a facilities rental page to aid us in renting our beautiful space out, and a place to publish sermons and podcast (stay tuned for more on this in the future)!

While our site is up and running we will still be updating content throughout the month. Some updates to expect in the future are more details on Our Ministries and an improved About Lutheranism page.

If you are online head over to www.firstelc.ca to see the shiny, new site. Make sure to check back regularly to stay up to date on any events going on and for any new information!

ComeSing @first

A COMMUNITY OF SINGERS, SINGING JUST FOR FUN! NO AGENDA, NOT TOO CHURCHY!

Come Sing @ First is our monthly community singing event. Please note we will be taking a break for the month of April but will return on Thursday, May 10th! Can't make it that month? Don't worry, we sing the second Thursday of every month!

Changes to the German Service Schedule at First

After consulting with the regular attendees of the German service and considering available leadership in the city, Council has moved to change the schedule, beginning in April, to one German service a month. It will take place on the first Sunday of the month at 9:45 and will include communion.

German services will be:

Sunday, April 1 9:45 Easter Sunday with communion

Sunday, May 6, 9:45 with communion

and continuing on the first Sunday of the month.

If you have any concerns about this change, please speak directly with Pastor Dawn or a member of Council.

Stay Connected

Are you online? Make sure you visit First Lutheran Church on social media!

Like and Follow our pages to stay up to date on all the latest news and engage with the community.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @firstelc!





Ryerson Ministries

Located in the heart of Ryerson University campus, First Lutheran Church is in a unique position to minister to students. This past year has seen a lot of growth in our outreach and involvement in the Ryerson community. Check out some of the things we have done this year:

- In September First hosted a BBQ for students during Ryerson's Welcome Week to make our presence known on campus and feed some hungry students with free hot dogs!
- Recently First partnered with the Ryerson Student Union (RSU) Good Food Center. This student run center helps fight hunger and poverty by providing community meals, emergency food relief, and education to students in need. This center is part of RSU's commitment to equity service. First is proud to welcome the Good Food Center into our space. See them left preparing a meal in our kitchen!
- Another partnership is with the RSU Wellness Center, a space where students can go to decompress, relax, and seek resources. Pastor Dawn will be provided spiritual ministry to students out of their space.
- Finally, Pastor Dawn is excited to be serving as a Chaplain with the Multi Faith Association at Ryerson (MFAAR). See her picture below with some other chaplains Susan Goncz and Yasin Dwyer.

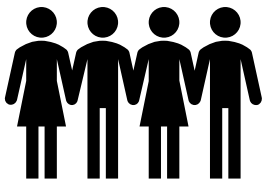


Upcoming Events @ First

Seniorenverein

Wednesdays 11am-1:30pm

April 4, April 16
May 2, May 16
June 6, June 20



Church Council

6:30pm

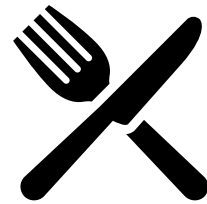
April 3
May 1
June 5



Men's Breakfast

Cora's – 27 Carlton St.
8am

April 7
May 5
June 2



Come Sing @ First

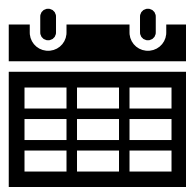
Thursdays 6pm – 7pm

May 10
June 14



Church Office Closed

Easter Monday – April 2
Victoria Day – May 22



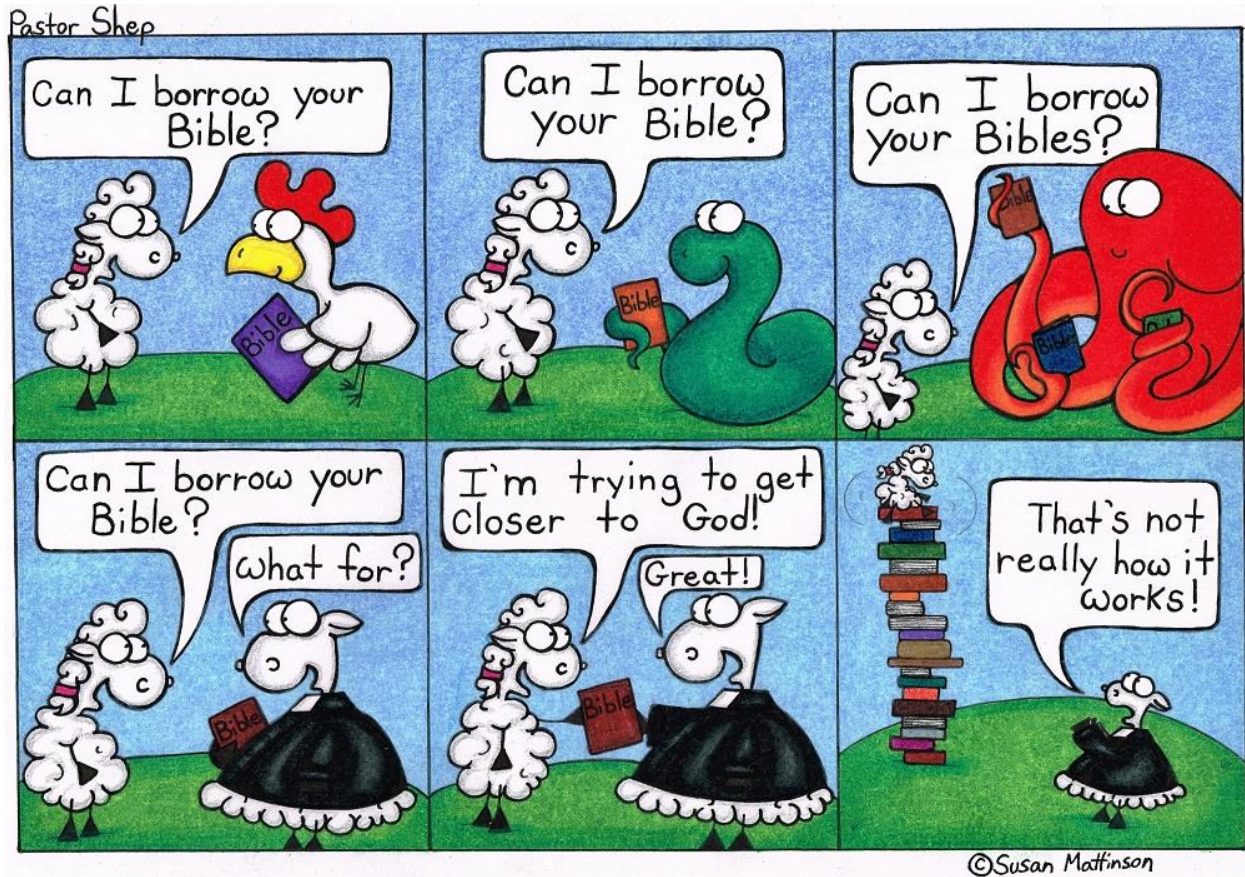
The Table

Wednesdays 6pm

June 27 is the last week
before the summer break



To stay up to date on upcoming events @ First view our full calendar on our new and improved website: www.firstelc.ca/calendar



Holy Humour:

A priest and a pastor are standing by the side of a road holding up a sign that reads “The end is near! Turn around now before it’s too late!”

A passing driver yells, “You guys are nuts!” and speeds past them. From around the curve, they hear screeching tires—then a big splash.

The priest turns to the pastor and says, “Do you think we should just put up a sign that says ‘Bridge Out’ instead?”

Thank you to all this edition’s contributors!

Submissions from: Pastor Dawn Leger, Jordan Smith, and Elizabeth Keith

Editing and Layout by: Elizabeth Keith

Deadline to submit content for the Summer 2018 Edition is June 15th. Please email any submissions or ideas to web@firstelc.ca to see your work in At First Glance!

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