

CHRISTMAS @ FIRST**December 16** 10:30 am

Lessons and Carols followed by Cookies and Carols

December 21 7 pm

The Longest Night service

December 24

5 pm Heiligabend

7 pm Christmas Eve service with Communion

December 25

10:30 am Christmas Breakfast

11:15 am Christmas Day service with Communion

**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

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE**

Whether you are new to First or just want to know more, visit our recently renovated website.

Type the URL www.firstelc.ca into your web browser.

We have information about our ministries, upcoming events, and even a sermon page where you can listen to recent sermons which are regularly uploaded online.

**@first glance**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

116 Bond St., Toronto, ON M5B 1X8

Phone: (416) 977-4786 • Email: pastor@firstelc.ca**LETTER FROM THE PASTOR: A CHEERFUL GIVER**

This fall, we are holding a time of teaching and visiting to help you determine how you can offer your gifts to the ministry of God at First called *Joyful Giving*.

Along with this newsletter, you have received some information about Joyful Giving.

- An introductory letter
- A budget that tells the story of what we have done and what we hope to do
- A worksheet to help you determine your 2019 gift
- A pledge form

During the period of October 12-25, council members and visitors will call you to arrange a visit to review this information with you. This is a wonderful way to share about your life at First, to ask questions about our ministries, and to offer your input. Your pledge will be kept strictly confidential.

In addition to this visitation, we will hear from members about what motivates them to give to First, and other teaching on Sundays and on social media.

Practicing stewardship intimately ties us to who we are as a Christian people. Stewardship is an expression of faith. It is not simply the church's way of raising money; rather, it is a spiritual discipline that encompasses our very being as Christians. It is a radical departure from our secular understanding of charity where we give to an external need. Instead, as stewards, we are motivated to give because it is something we internally need to do; it is intrinsic to our very understanding of what it means to be fully human. Giving is not predicated on a certain act, nor is it something we do just because it is convenient. Our vocation as a Christian is that we give freely and in great generosity "for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)." Recognising that God actually gave us everything we have in trust, we, in turn, share the gifts that we have been given. (Stewardship Development Department, Diocese of Toronto, February, 2015)

Pastor Dawn Leger

Thank you to all this edition's contributors!

Submissions from: Pastor Dawn Leger, Roy Wick, Rita Wagner, Michael Rehberg, and Scott Weidler

Editing and Layout by: Elizabeth Keith

Deadline to submit content for the Winter 2019 addition of the newsletter is December 14th. Please email any submissions or ideas to web@firstelc.ca to see your work in At First Glance!

SPECIAL EVENT: PATRICK TEVLIN & THE MAGNOLIA BRASS BAND

LOCATION: First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 116 Bond Street, Toronto, ON M5B 1X8

DATE AND TIME: Friday, October 12, 2018 @ 7:30 PM – 8:45 PM

Enjoy a bit of Mardi Gras in October. Internationally known trumpeter, Patrick Tevlin, and the Magnolia Brass Band bring New Orleans Dixieland Jazz to First. They kick-off with a short New Orleans style street parade (weather permitting) around the Ryerson University Image Arts Building, starting and ending at First Lutheran, with the concert continuing inside the church.

If you can afford it, we hope you will purchase a \$30 ticket, through our Eventbrite page, otherwise we invite you to come and just pay what you can.

**Patrick Tevlin
& the Magnolia
Brass Band**

Dixieland
Jazz stars,
Patrick Tevlin
& the
Magnolia
Brass Band,
lead a New
Orleans style
parade
around the
Ryerson
Visual Arts
Building and
perform in
First
Lutheran
Church

**Friday
October 12
7:30pm
to 8:45pm**

First Lutheran
Church
116 Bond St.
Toronto

\$30
otherwise pay what you can
Tickets at [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca)

Produced by
First Lutheran Church
[firstelc.ca](https://www.firstelc.ca)

FIRST LUTHERAN SUFFERS BREAK-IN

On the night of Sunday, July 22, our church had a break and enter and suffered significant damage to our office, vestry, and archive cabinets. The music school also suffered significant losses.

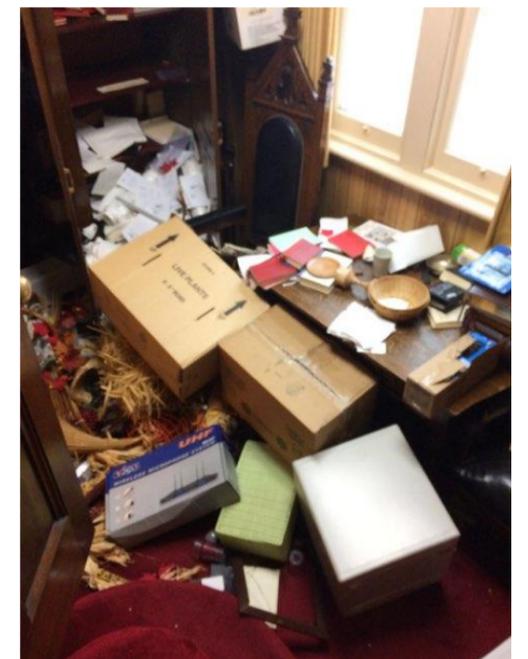
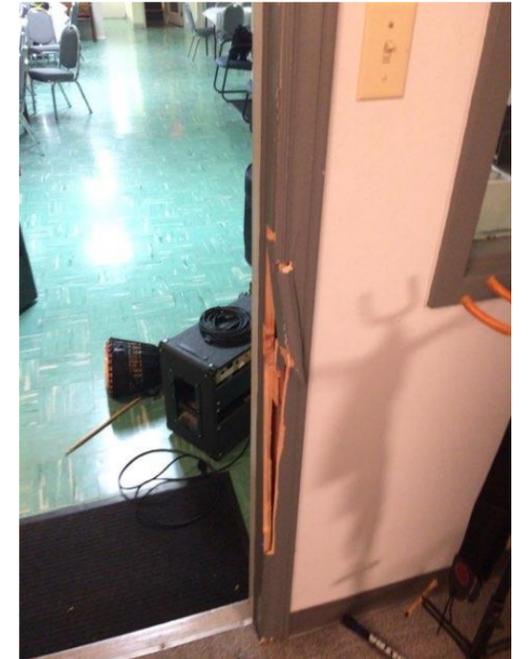
Thankfully, no one was hurt, our worship space was undamaged, and nothing is missing. Most of our doors were broken as well as a skylight. The office and the vestry were ransacked.

The week following, Kurt Walter, Oswald Holder, David Berg, and Dennis Miles worked tirelessly to repair the damage. All of our locks have been re-keyed. Peter Vanderkooy did the rest of the work repairing doors and doorframes. New archive cabinets, as well as a new keyboard and monitor for the office, have been purchased.

Following the break-in, Pastor Dawn sent the following message through email and social media.

It is easy to become bitter, angry, and discouraged after an event like this. I have been recalling the Apostle Paul's words from the letter to the Hebrews (10:23-25): "Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near."

May God grant us the strength and courage to walk together through this setback, encouraging one another, praying for those who hurt us, and sparking love and good deeds.



WHY I GIVE

By Michael Rehberg

The people of ancient Rome had a saying in regard to why they made offerings to their gods. "Dō ut des," in Latin, means "I give so that you might give." In this case, the 'you' was meant to be the god who was receiving the sacrifice. As the Roman gave his coins, he was expecting the gods to give him something back in return. Religious giving in ancient Rome was essentially a contract. If the Roman did not fulfill his obligation, neither did the god.

We may not think of creating a contract with God when we give today, but in many we still have this ancient notion of religious giving. I think it is still common for many of us to ask God for something, and in return we will give more of our time and money to the church. However, our Christian faith and Lutheran understanding of God's grace means we do not have a contractual understanding with God. The Lord's gifts are freely given, and we know that nothing we can give could ever equal what we receive. So why should we give of *our time, ourselves, and our possessions*? We give our time and thoughts to God because it makes us better Christians and, as a result, better people. I give to show thanks for the existence of the church and what it provides. I give because I want First Lutheran to be a part of my life, my family's life, and the life of my city. We are all better because the church is here.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

On July 4, we reluctantly accepted the resignation of Adrienne Findley-Jones from our Council.

To take her place until the end of her term, Council has called Michael Rehberg to sit on our Council.

Michael and his wife, Marina, have been faithful members of First for almost 2 years. Michael is a teacher of History and Theory of Knowledge at TFS-Canada's International School.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

By Rita Wagner

Don't forget our Coin Gathering Service is taking place on Tuesday, October 30.

Please bring your "least coins" (nickles, dimes, etc.) for the BIG jar, which is located at the back of the church.

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry.

Sunday Worship

Service at 10:30
Coffee & Conversation following the service
German Service - first Sunday of the month at 9:15am, coffee at 10:30, English service at 11:15



Seniorenverein

Meetings at 11 am

October 17
November 21
December 5



Come Sing @ First

Thursdays 6pm - 7pm

October 11
November 8
December 13



Special Sundays

Anniversary Sunday-
October 21 at 10:30am
Reformation Sunday -
October 28
service at 10:30 am
Totensonntag -
November 25
Bilingual service at
10:30 am



Church Council

6:30pm

October 16
November 20



Church Office Closed

Thanksgiving Monday -
October 8



Special Events

Patrick Tevlin & The
Magnolia Brass Band -
October 12
Joyful Giving Visits - Oct.
12 - 25
Ryerson Jazz Event -
October 28 at 2 pm



Men's Breakfast

Cora's - 27 Carlton St.
8am
October 6
November 3
December 1



The Table

Every Wednesday
Supper at 6 pm
Worship at 7 pm



NEW TELEPHONE BROADCAST: FIRST REACHES OUT TO SUNDAY SHUT-INS

By Roy Wick

Here at First we have been working hard to reach out to community in all forms. One of those groups has been in our hearts and minds for many years. Those are our sick, our shut-in members, and those who for whatever can not manage to get downtown for Sunday services.

We have already been sharing the sermons online via computers which is great for those with home internet access. However not everyone has access to computers. For that reason we have been working on some form of telephone access to hear our services even if not in high fidelity. Fortunately, some computer services also have phone line access and computer access.

Our goal will be to have a phone number so those important to us can call and hear the full service. If it works, someone who is sick or limited to home would just dial a local Toronto number and then dial the meeting number we would send out. At that point they would hear the live sounds from our PA system microphones. If they have a speaker phone it would work even better.

A bonus is that those with computers can link up via the internet link and both will hear the same.

We have often thought about those at home for whatever reason and I know that when I was home recovering Sunday morning service was something I truly missed.

With God's help we will trial this on Thanksgiving Sunday. If you are interested in using this service, please let us know by leaving a message at the office (416-977-4786) or email at pastor@firstelc.ca.

To access from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android, download the software at zoom.us/j/401273968

To access from Telephone:

Dial 647 558 0588

Listen for the invitation to enter Meeting ID

Dial 401 273 968 # Please keep your phone on MUTE to avoid interference with others listening to the service.

Jazz: Improvised Art, Improvised Life

When: Sunday, October 28, 2018, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Where: First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 116 Bond Street

Jazz is an in-the-moment, improvised art—much like the social achievement of living and working together. Going with the flow, listening to the voices of others and contributing one's own voice, paying attention to and collaborating with others, learning to lead and to follow, and breaking out of non-creative routines.

Experience a performance by world-class teaching, recording, and touring jazz musicians that will serve as the experiential ground for an exploration of the conditions needed for making works of art out of our communities.

Performers: Getting in the Groove

Getting in the Groove represents a synthesis of Brian Hayman's varied experience in a steel company, an executive in a financial services organization, an organizational consultant in a global professional service firm, an adult educator, a jazz pianist and, above all, someone with an abiding interest in how people learn, individually and collectively.

Register at ryerson.ca/ce/concertseries

COME SING @ FIRST

By Scott Weidler

On the second Thursday of each month, from 6:00 to 7:00 in the evening, a small group of singers gathers for the simple purpose of singing together. Singing has proven to be a great way to destress, relax, have fun and meet some great new friends. You don't even have to be a professional singer!

What do we sing? Well, nothing too churchy. We usually start with something relaxing. We have a few favourites that often come up. The rest of the hour is filled with singing a variety of songs around a particular theme. For the next few months our themes are:

- October 11: DISNEY
- November 8: SONGS FOR HUMANITY, HOPE & REMEMBRANCE
- December 13: CAROLS

If you've never been to COME SING, please join us. It would be fantastic to have more members of the church join this emerging group of neighbourhood friends.

FACTS @ FIRST By Rita Wagner

Faithful people have been members throughout 167 years.

Inspired worship has maintained us for 167 years.

Resourceful congregations have struggled through 167 years.

Strong faith and hope in God's word have carried us through 167 years.

Trust in God allows us to face new challenges now, as God has always been with us for 167 years.

Join us for a Celebration Service on October 21, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Praise followed by a **POT-LUCK LUNCH**

All members, friends and guests are welcome.

DID YOU KNOW: The present Church building of First Lutheran is 120 years old.

Thank you to all the faithful members who: help maintain, provide support, pray for and worship in this beautiful small church with a **BIG HEART** in the downtown core of Toronto.