



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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June 16, 2026

Media Advisory

First Lutheran, Toronto: 175th Anniversary Service and Reunion Tea, August 9, 2026

In 1851 Toronto had a population of 30,000. Ten years earlier Charles Dickens had described Toronto as "full of life, motion, business and improvement." Imagine the visionary hope of a small band of German Lutherans, 12 in number, who signed the constitution of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Toronto on Aug. 9, 1851. Eight generations of faithful dedication have kept that vision alive. In the post-war era, First Lutheran was a landing place for hundreds of refugees and immigrants from Europe. It also provided a temporary home for Lutherans from Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, and others as they formed congregations and built their own worship spaces. For this reason, First Lutheran has sometimes been referred to as a "Mother Church" in the GTA. Today, inspired by the love of Jesus, First Lutheran's mission is to be a diverse, accessible, justice-seeking, welcoming, engaged community in a complex downtown neighborhood. We welcome friends old and new any time, but especially on our anniversary Sunday.

Celebrate with us on August 9, 2026, for two events:

175th Anniversary Reunion Tea, 1:00 pm, at 116 Bond St. Free pre-registration will be greatly appreciated <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/118918341RR0001-first-lutheran-church/events/175th-anniversary-reunion-tea/>

175th Anniversary Holy Communion, 3:00 pm, 116 Bond St. Toronto. The Rev. Carla Blakely, Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, preaching.

For more information email: anniversary@firstelc.ca

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