

First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach

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First Lutheran Church
of Richmond Beach

Volume 107, Issue 1
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The Beachcomber

A New Year at FLRB

Join us for ministry in this New Year!

WORD OF LIFE

Each Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Library—we gather to study God's Word and learn together how to be 'doers of the Word.'

VILLAGE NIGHT

An intergenerational gathering of food and education for all ages... Each Wednesday beginning at 6:00 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

Join other women in the study of the Bible Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

CARHARTT'S FOR CHRIST

A time for Men to strengthen one another in faith. Join Alan Herr and dive into the gospel of John—Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

NEW COMMUNITY

Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Upper Room! This in-depth teaching has touched many lives and is open to all adults!

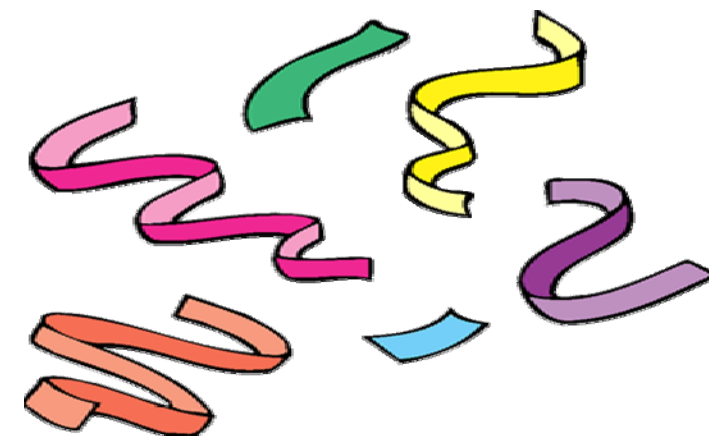
WOMEN ON SUNDAY

Each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in room 202—women of First gather for a book study which examines our faith in the everyday life of a woman.



Alpha

Coming to FLRB this Spring:
The Alpha Course
www.alphana.org



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Mary's Place Luncheon Thanks YOU

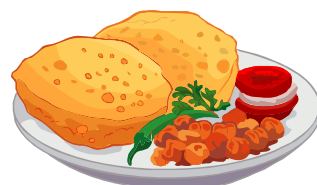
Thanks to all who donated time and pies to provide a Christmas dinner for the women of Mary's Place. This year we had even less space to work in, but with God's help, all went well. The total meal count was about 300, but in the organized chaos, a firm figure was hard to determine. In addition to serving the meal on Saturday, 15 people from First Lutheran met with 15 people from Richmond Beach UCC to make up the appetizer trays, pea salad and to carve the turkeys. We also

peeled 100 # of potatoes and made real mashed potatoes with them the next day. The Mary's Place dinner will move again next year, so we don't know where or how the meal will be served. We plan to participate again just to see what God has planned for us.

First Lutheran volunteers were David Anderson, Virginia Anderson, Rick Ashelman, Sheri Ashelman, Greg Borrow, Emily Brown, Marin Brustuen, Candy Gaul, Kyle Gaul, Bruce Johnson, Frankie

Johnson, Harlan Patterson, Linda Patterson, Barb Matlock, Dan Matlock, Dave Rice, Karen Sandusky, Sudaniel Schmidt, Jim Shilt, Pat Shilt, Mike Strand and Priscilla Strand. The other churches involved in preparing the food were Richmond Beach Congregational Church and First Methodist of Bellevue. Volunteers to help serve came from many other churches and groups in the Seattle area.

The Outreach Committee



Waffle Feed—fun while serving together!

The Waffle Breakfast Fund-Raiser and Cookie Bake Sale (12/20) turned out to be a most fabulous event. This was a full on congregation function that everyone was involved in. The Bake Sale, who's cookies were donated by many, made out for a wonderful selection, brought in over \$98. Most of the groceries/supplies to make the home made waffles were donated. In total, the event raised around \$900 which will be allocated towards the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which gives emergency support to people in need.

There were so many volunteers, I can't begin to name just one. Even all the help for clean up, we got to go home at a reasonable hour. Thank you ALL. The Gold Team. Stephens Ministry, First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach Council, Clergy, and Congregation.

Thanks to the graciousness of the volunteers who stepped in and helped in so many ways. Keep

doing what you're doing: bringing in, building up and sending out!

This idea all started out simply by a fascination with a special whipped cream dispenser, Krista Kleven's passion for baking and fundraising for cause, and my desire for creativity.

Thanks for letting me be of service and for serving,

Leslie Phillips

About The Beachcomber... This is the second month in which you will receive your *Beachcomber* by mail and by e-mail, if we have your e-mail address. If you do not "opt out" in the e-mail or contact the office, you will receive future issues via e-mail only beginning in February. You are welcome to request it in both the paper and internet versions, or switch your sending method at any time. As always, we hope you will find *The Beachcomber* to be both informational and enjoyable.

A Word from Pastor Bjorge

Happy New Year... happy new beginnings! God is always a God of new beginnings! **No matter what you've gone through in your life, God is always ready to start over!**

In some respects, this past year has been hard! We've faced very contentious issues in the ELCA. We've disagreed with one another in love. But we've also seen the strength of our community of faith, the resiliency of our people, and the passion of their faith. We've seen that, despite our differences, our unity is in Christ Jesus and, because of that, our mission as a congregation and the power of God's Word in our midst is as strong as it's ever been.

And so we're ready to move forward. **New beginnings, fresh starts, and do-overs: it's what we all yearn for.** And this is the time of year for new beginnings.

New Year's is a time for re-evaluation and a season to begin afresh. Paul writes: "*One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" (Philippians 3:13-14)

I believe God wants to create a sense of newness in each one of our lives. I believe it's always God's desire that we be filled with a sense of newness and freshness of what He desires and wants to do in our lives. He desires greatly for us to be filled with a renewed sense of purpose and destiny. But if we hang too much onto our past mistakes, we can be robbed of that purpose and destiny.

Isaiah proclaimed: "*Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*" (Is 43:18-19)

Over the years I have had a lot of realized goals, and a lot of failures and unrealized goals as well. The beautiful thing about being a Christian and knowing the Lord is that we don't have to live our lives in guilt and condemnation for our failures and un-achieved goals. We get to wipe the slate clean and start over. God doesn't hold our past against us as long as we sincerely turn to his grace and continually press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **We are a new creation in Christ every day of our lives.**

"*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

No matter how miserably we failed in life God's desire is for us to receive His forgiveness and move forward. Hanging on and dwelling on the past is like air moving through a dirty filter. Even though something new and fresh enters into the filter it comes out dirty and tainted because of the filth it must flow through. David prayed for God to create a new heart and renew a right or steadfast spirit with in him. This should be our heart attitude: "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*" (Psalms 51:10)

God can only create a sense of newness when we yield ourselves to Him with an open and contrite heart. The cry of our hearts should be for God to continually create a new heart within us and to continually renew our spirit in Him. As we do this it will put us in the proper position for God to speak and create new things in our lives.

This New Year, may we all learn to wait on God with the expectation and remember: "*He who has already been doing a good work in you is going to keep on doing it until Jesus returns*" (Pr. John's translation—Philippians 1:6).

Happy New Year!

—Pastor John



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Family Faith Walks—January New Year's Blessings

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him." Psalm 103:11

Faith walk:

Walk through your home, your year, and your neighborhood. Look for ways the Lord has blessed you (e.g., a place to call home, a pet to love, neighbors who help etc.)

Faith Talk:

- Reflect on the past year. How has God blessed you?
- Why does God bless you? Re-read the Bible passage.
- What is our response to God's blessings?
- How can we be a blessing from God to others?

Faith Activities:

- Cover and decorate a shoebox. Label it "Blessings Box." In the months ahead, drop a coin in the box each time you take note of how God has blessed your family or someone in your family. At the end of the year, donate the money to a missionary your congregation supports or to an organization that serves the needy.
- Be a blessing to God's creation. Scatter birdseed, breadcrumbs and bits of fruits and vegetables outside for the birds and squirrels.
- Write a family psalm recalling God's blessings. Use it as a prayer before meals or at bedtime.

Dear Loving Father,,

You have blessed me with many gifts. For this I praise and thank You. Most of all, I thank You for the blessing of sending Jesus as my Savior. Help me to be a blessing to others. In the name of Jesus, My Gift. Amen

From *Family Faith Walks* by Kelly J. Haack-Concordia Publishing



PRESCHOOL NEWS Continued.....Thrivent Update

Thank you to all the Thrivent members who filled out the Simply Giving Matching Funds forms in October and November. We recently received matching funds from Thrivent in the amount of \$8585.00!!! We are excited to share this between the Congregation and Preschool! Thank you for being a blessing to us all!

Council Highlights—December, 2009

- Reviewed book by George Barna: Habits of Highly Effective Churches. The 9 beneficial habits discussed.
- Thanksgiving baskets—60 families received baskets of food. Over 2000 pounds of food was collected.
- 198 shoeboxes we delivered to Samaritans' Purse for distribution.
- Minutes of 11/10/09 approved as written.
- Minutes of 11/17 Special meeting approved. This meeting was called to ap-
- prove the letter to the congregation regarding our position on the ELCA vote. Unanimous approval.
- Treasurer: November was an improvement over October. We are \$34,000 short year-to-date of our budget.
- Finance Committee: No meeting in January. Prepare audit recommendation, revise offering deposit procedure, feasibility of intern next year.
- Endowment Board: Brochure published to encourage fund-
- ing. Current: \$100 in account, CD of \$2,413.49.
- Lenten preaching series: "Seven Deadly Sins."
- Roof continues to leak.
- Thrivent funds received \$8,585. Preschool will add \$4,200 to their scholarship program, and the remaining will be used for shared space needs.
- By-laws are being reviewed, rewritten as needed and will be made available.
- Next meeting is January 5. Submitted by *Jane Pedersen, Secretary*



Faith Formation Children, Youth, and Family

Children's News Sunday School Living Inside Out

January's Unit for Living Inside out is called: **Storm Chasers** Your children will discover how Jesus' beatitudes apply to their lives and practicing living out the beatitudes in daily life.

Village Kids Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 Club 56 Sunday's 9:45-10:45 Wednesday's 6:30-7:30

Club 56 is our ministry that is specifically aimed towards the 5th and 6th graders of our congregation. Sunday's they focus on Bible learning and on Wednesdays they apply some of that same Bible learning to fun activities and service projects.

Confirmation Information

Confirmation resumes on January 10th.

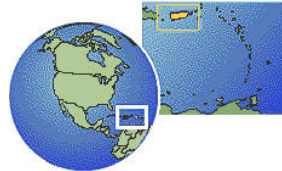
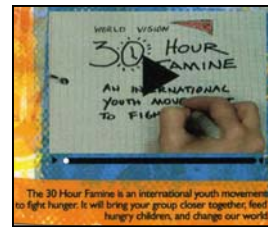
Depending on how many confirmation youth are on the ski trip we may or may not have class the 17th watch for emails.

30 Hour Famine Meeting January 6th 5:30pm - See information below

High School Happenings

30 Hour Famine Meeting January 6th 5:30pm

The second annual 30-hour famine is this February 26th and 27th. The 30 hour famine is a weekend long service event where youth raise money for hungry children around the world. Youth will work on fundraising the weeks leading up to the event. During the event, youth will participate in service projects as well as fun activities that will help keep their mind off of not eating. It is possible to participate and still eat. Please come to the informational meeting on January 6th to find out more information and to pick up the fundraising packets. Last year we raised \$2597.46 That fed 7 children for one entire year.



Puerto Rico Mission Trip July 24-30

There is still room on the mission trip this summer. Please let Terry know ASAP if you would like to join the group on the mission trip this summer.

Our Prayer for Friends and Community

We pray for God's blessings and care for the following members and friends who are ill or in need: For **Jane Hanson**; for **Steven Matheson**, brother of Andrew and Amy Day; for **Bev Claussen**; for **Jerry Lewis**; for **Bill Meyer**; for **Marilyn Sharp**, friend of the Manssons; for **Kay**

Haw, sister of Joan Rice; for **Josh Mousette**, son of Kathy Adams; for **Lisa Santroch**, friend of Erin Ellersick; for **Jane Hanson**; for **David Bisson**; **Lisa Everitt**, sister of Tina King; **Eric Pedersen**;

We pray for peace and God's comfort

for those who have lost loved ones: **Gary Hudwin, Jr**, brother of Leslie Phillips; **Barbara Smith**; **Kristoffer Harlson**, friend of **Leslie Phillips and husband of Alice**; James Harlan Park, Sue Kimpton's **father**



A Word from Intern Wolfgang Laudert

Let me take this opportunity once again to wish you a most blessed and Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! We celebrate Jesus' birthday for 12 days, until the great feast of Epiphany, on January 6th, when we celebrate the implications for our lives of the Incarnation. As we enter the Epiphany season, a season of celebrating the light of the world coming into our midst, we will follow the star. We will hear the stories once again of the Wise Men, of Jesus in the Temple as a little boy, of his Baptism in the Jordan River by John, the story of Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana, and of our Lord preaching and teaching in his hometown of Nazareth. This is a great season when we think about God being revealed to all the nations, opening up salvation for all, through his Son.

I have settled in nicely in my new place, and I am continually being blessed at First Lutheran of Richmond Beach. Just to let you know, I have my teaching more or less planned for Confirmation thru Easter. (Kids: Bring your catechisms and bibles to class. January 10th, we will begin our study of the

Apostle's Creed! Memorize it including the meanings as found in your catechisms!! You all should have the faith on the tip of your tongue, in order to share the gospel with your friends and whoever else you meet!)

I thought as we enter this New Year of grace, 2010, as your intern I pledge to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Word of God, the creeds of this church, and the Lutheran Confessions. (I can't help it... I'm a seminarian!) One of my greatest joys of internship so far has been visiting some of you in your homes and wherever you find yourselves. I intend to continue that. As I recognize more and more of your faces, and learn your names, I am continually blessed as we are gathered Sunday after Sunday around the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper. As I reflect on my first 2 months in your midst, I continue to enjoy the staff, the Youth Group, and the whole congregation, and I pledge to continue to learn from all of you what it means to be a pastor. Your welcome has been amazing, so again, let me say thank you!

Lastly, as we enter the New Year, I'm reminded of God's love shown most clearly thru the life, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. Through Christ, and thru his Word given to each of us in Baptism, we have the constant promise of new beginnings, *even daily!* So, blessings to you as we enter this New Year together, and Happy Epiphany! I'm excited to see all that God has in store *for us*, in the coming year. One of my resolutions is to take advantage of the Pacific Northwest, and to climb at least one mountain.

See you in church!

In Christ,
Intern Pastor Wolfgang

P.S. After Christmas, I'll be taking a little vacation, with some holiday cheer, visiting family and friends in New York City, and the Twin Cities. I'll be gone Sunday, January 3rd, but I'll be back in church on the 10th. Pray for safe traveling mercies!



Facility Update

The building looked beautiful for our Christmas services and activities and a special thanks to all those who worked so hard to decorate for the festivities. It is a wonderful facility and allowed for many wonderful gatherings. **Thank you faithful volunteers!**

Just before Christmas, we did experience some difficulties however. Following the big freeze, we experienced a broken drain pipe in the ceiling of

the west side office wing, along with at least 6 other roof leaks, most of them in that area. The roof there has been patched so many times that we have reached the point of needing a major fix. There are also serious concerns regarding the damage that has developed due to water in the ceiling, carpets, insulation, light fixtures etc. Our property committee has done a valiant job of trying to keep the many flat roofs throughout the older parts

of the church viable, but simply patching is no long an option. In early January the property and building task force members will meet to go over recommendations we are obtaining from several firms, and take these to the Council for action. If you take a stroll down the office wing, you can see for yourself what we are dealing with. Stay tuned for further developments...

Seniors' Luncheon Going Strong!

A wonderful luncheon of ham and scalloped potatoes was enjoyed by the attendees of the December Seniors' Luncheon. The meal was followed by an extraordinary presentation by author Hanna Helmersen, who spoke about her book War and Innocence, a young girl's life in occupied Norway. By her words, our

minds and hearts were opened to the trials of that time in our history.

January 20th is our next opportunity to gather for food and fellowship. Jim Shilt is cooking, and his offerings are always heart-warming and sustaining. Our presentation will concern "Safety—Cons and Scams." We will learn what is a con or scam,

a con artist, the anatomy of a con, how to spot a con, and how to put a stop to it. Please come for lunch at 11:30 am. If you are able, come at 10:00 for the *Word of Life* Bible Study and stay for lunch!

FLRB Preschool SCRIPS

Scripts is our on-going fundraiser.

Thank you to everyone who ordered SCRIPS during the month of December. We sold about \$6000 in Scrip which garnered us about \$500. Thank you again! What an easy way to support this ministry!!!!



Snoopy just loves it when someone buys SCRIP and supports the Preschool!!!!

January Order Dates
8th & 22nd

What is Planned Giving?

“Planned Giving” means creating a specific plan for future gifts to benefit our church and other charities important to us. These gifts may be made during our lifetime or at death. Many people first consider planned giving when preparing a Will or along with other estate planning, but planned giving can be made part of our financial plans at any time in our lives. The donors who make planned giving arrangements are usually motivated by a strong commitment to a particular project or mission of the

church. Their planned gifts allow them to acknowledge their gratefulness to God and fulfill their goal of supporting charitable work important to them, work that reflects their values and commitments. In addition, donors may receive tax benefits and lifetime income through several types of tax-favored plans.

Planned giving takes many forms; each planned gift must be tailored to meet the needs and goals of the donor. Each person’s dreams make each gift unique and important and

planned giving is not only for the wealthy – each of us finds ourselves materially blessed in many ways. Martin Luther stated, “The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.”

Planned gifts to our church Mission Endowment Fund will ensure that the mission of the church will continue into the future. Please contact Fund Committee chairperson Glenn Nelson or Parish Administrator, Carolee Grumm for more information.

From Omaldo Perez, our Director of Music Ministries

After a heightened season of collective anticipation, we moved almost breathlessly into a season of corporate joy. Advent gave way to Christmas and preparation gave way to celebration. During Christmas we welcome the baby Jesus; we celebrate God-with-us, Emmanuel, born anew in our hearts and in our lives. In retrospect, the gnawing perception dawns on us that, at barely under two weeks, we do not have enough time to sing all of the wonderful carols we know and love. For some of us, it is true, Christmas is really too short! But we take heart in the fact that for twelve whole days we remember that God chose to meet us and surprise us. In Jesus, God came to meet us in our brokenness.

If Advent was our “ARE WE THERE YET?” and Christmas was our goal in mind, as we embark on a brand new 2010, now we have to ask ourselves: “SO NOW WHAT?” Do we let ourselves slip into that lethargic state that has been dubbed by some as “post-holiday blues”? Do we go back to “life as usual”? Is it “another day, another buck”? As it turns out, it is not without significance that the answer seems poetically suggested by the Epiphany. The answer for us Christians must be clear and categorical.

No! We do not recline in our easy chairs and keep the good news to ourselves! We rejoice in the Light that shines unto our path! We bask in its lumines-

cence but we also must share it with those around us because this light has the power to save!

Starting on January 3rd, let us come to church ready to sing about this light (the manifestations of God’s glory and power in our world). Let us not lose our focus, but let us follow the Star! For seven weeks (Sundays after Epiphany) we will hear about His light, and on Sunday February 14th, we will reach the peak of this wonderful “season of light”, when we hear about the dazzling event that took place up on a high mountain: the Transfiguration of our Lord. On Shrove Tuesday (February 16th) at 7 p.m. come and join FLRB and Sounds of Grace in grateful celebration of the light that saves!

Thanks be to God,
Omaldo



▶ January 2010

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 New Years' Day—Office & PS Closed	2	• Youth Groups (HS & MS) meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm
3-Epiphany	4	5	6	7	8	9	• <u>No Sunday School</u> on January 3rd
8:30 Classic Worship 9:45 Women's Bible Study 11:00 Praise Worship 4:30 Confirmation	6:30 Preschool Teachers 7:00 Womens' Bible Study	9:00 InAs-Much 1:00 Staff Mtg 5:00 Prop/Bldg Task Force Mtg 7:00 Council	10:00 Word of Life 5:15 PM New Song & Alleluia Choirs 6:00 VN Supper 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 PRISM 7:30 Cantorei Choir	10:00 Pastors' Text Study 11:30 Writers' Class 5:45 Sounds of Grace			• High School ski trip to Lutherwood this month!
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
8:30 Classic Worship 9:45 Education 11:00 Praise Worship 4:30 Confirmation	7:00 Womens' Bible Study 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Stephen Min Training	9:00 InAs-Much 1:00 Staff Mtg 5:30 Finance Mtg	10:00 Word of Life 5:15 PM New Song & Alleluia Choirs 6:00 VN Supper 6:30 Education 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 PRISM 7:30 Cantorei Choir	10:00 Pastors' Text Study 10:00 Mary Martha Circle 5:45 Sounds of Grace		HS Ski Trip Jan 15-18	
17	18-MLKing Day	19	20	21	22	23	
8:30 Classic Worship 9:45 Education 11:00 Praise Worship 4:30 Confirmation	Office & PS Closed 12 N Deborah Circle 7:00 Womens' Bible Study 7:00 Stephen Ministry Trng	9:00 InAs-Much 1:00 Staff Mtg 6:30 Endowment Bd 7:00 Internship Mtg	10:00 Word of Life 11:30 Seniors' Luncheon 5:15 PM New Song & Alleluia Choirs 6:00 VN Supper 6:30 Education 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 PRISM 7:30 Cantorei Choir	10:00 Pastors' Text Study 11:30 Writers' Class 5:45 Sounds of Grace			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:30 Classic Worship 9:45 Education 11:00 Praise Worship 4:30 Confirmation	7:00 Womens' Bible Study 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Stephen Min Training	9:00 InAs-Much 1:00 Staff Mtg	10:00 Word of Life 5:15 PM New Song & Alleluia Choirs 6:00 VN Supper 6:30 Education 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 PRISM 7:30 Cantorei Choir	PS Parent/Teacher Conferences		10:00 Pastors' Text Study 5:45 Sounds of Grace	
31							
8:30 Classic Worship 9:45 Education 11:00 Praise Worship 4:30 Confirmation							

This calendar reflects only activities sponsored by FLRB—please check with the office to set any meeting.