

The BEACHCOMBER

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COMMUNITY NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RICHMOND BEACH

A WORD FROM PASTOR BJORGE



What do the adults in our congregation get really excited about? What will they give themselves to with great commitment and faith-filled abandon?

Well, certainly it's outreach! It's been fun to see all the people sign up to serve the homeless

at the Community Lunch Program down at Central Lutheran. So often I've stood back in awe to watch the levels of generosity poured out by this congregation toward those in need. Whether it's in supplying Thanksgiving food baskets, offering gifts for Operation Christmas Child, giving money to the Pastor's Care Fund, in bringing hygiene products for Hopelink and the Compass Center, or the passion we have for investigating a new third-world ministry relationship, it's safe to say outreach is in our blood. How exciting to have time this Lenten Season to sit with others in a small groups to talk about the kinds of outreach ministries that we can get even more excited and passionate about doing!

What also excites this congregation is education. To have nearly 200 people come on a weekday afternoon to hear Helen Thayer speak of her adventures, heroism, and courageous faith trekking to the North Pole with only her dog, or to see the large crowd of you who came to hear David and Virginia Anderson tell of their time in Egypt where their eleventh story hotel room afforded them a front row seat to a historic revolution, or to have the 70-80 of you turn out week after week for our New

Community Bible class shows that this congregation values education! And to hear at our Semi-Annual Meeting the support we have from the congregation to further grow into our identity as a teaching congregation by deepening our commitment to seminary interns by desiring to invite another one for next year is inspiring.

But my real hope that that worship becomes the most important thing we do—the thing that gives us our vitality and our passion to do all the rest.

But while these things are wonderful and should be lifted up as real strengths of our congregation, there's an area of our ministry that stands at the heart of who we are and what we're about: worship! What happens at worship matters! It really matters!

When this congregation comes to worship, we come with anticipation, believing in our hearts that God is going to speak to me today. We anticipate: God is going to show up and bless and empower and transform these hearers. The preaching will be inspired and inspiring, the music will lift our spirits, and the people will be warm and welcoming.

My hope is that through our outreach and through our education, we will continue to draw people. But my real hope that that worship becomes the most important thing we do—the thing that gives us our vitality and our passion to do all the rest. It's in worship that God meets us with his grace and reminds us of who we are in Christ and the lengths that he goes to keep us close to his heart.

Blessings to you this Lenten season!

Pastor John

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A WORD FROM INTERN PASTOR MOOTZ



"GIVE UP" OR "TAKE UP"

In Nicaragua, Christianity is still deeply embedded in the culture. Liturgical seasons and church holidays are openly celebrated by all leading political figures. The season of Lent is as much a part of the culture as Christmas or Thanksgiving are here. In fact, most companies shut down for a large part of Holy Week.

During my time with the church in Nicaragua, I worked with a middle school youth group. As Lent approached, we were discussing what kind of activities we wanted to "do" to celebrate the season! One of the particularly rough boys in our group instantly started the discussion. Unsolicited, he offered up what he would "give up" for Lent. He proudly stated that he had decided to make a major sacrifice during this season; he was going to "give up" making fun of Maria, one of his friends. He was serious. He was quick to add that he would only "give up" this activity for the forty days of Lent. Once the season had finished, he would resume his previous lifestyle.

As adults, it's easy to laugh at that story. We dismiss it as a child who doesn't understand the deeper meaning of Lent. I

wonder though, how often do we act similarly? How often do we "sacrifice" something small for Lent with the intention of resuming it right after the season finishes? In the Bible, we hear the focus of Jesus' clarion call, not necessarily to "give up" something, but instead to "take up" something, specifically the cross (Matt. 16:24). The Lutheran Church in Nicaragua goes to great pains to remind their people of this call.

The Bishop used to state that as Christians, we often prefer to view Lent purely as a reflective season; we view it as a call to "give up" trivial things for 40 days. We often believe that these small, superficial "sacrifices" help us to momentarily partake in Jesus' journey. Otherwise, we treat Lent primarily as a reflective season where we watch Jesus "do his thing." Off course, this reflection is important and has its proper place in our faith. However, the Bishop adamantly reminded people that Jesus also calls us to follow him on this journey to death and resurrection. This call occurs daily! When we "take up" the cross with two hands, we automatically let go of other things in our lives. When we take up the cross, we take up Jesus' call to love God and others, and to give of ourselves for their sake. During this time of Lent, I pray we may all hear Jesus' call to "take up" our new life in him – a new life that Jesus made possible through The Cross.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION



NEW COMMUNITY

SUNDAYS AT 9:45 A.M. IN THE UPPER ROOM

In our New Community Class this month Pastor John will be finishing his class on Moses and shift our attention to another great leader in the Old Testament: King David. The Bible says that David was a man after God's own heart. He just had this stubborn love for God. What if, after we spend the next several months considering David's love of God, what if God were to say of us, "This is a people after my own heart. They follow me with reckless abandon, and they worship me from the depths of their heart. And they loved with a stubborn love."

WORD OF LIFE

WEDNESDAYS - 10:00 A.M. IN THE LIBRARY

This class is a conversation based on the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday and is led by Pastor John and Intern Pastor Justin.

CARHARTT'S FOR CHRIST - FOR MEN

WEDNESDAYS - 6:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY

Join Alan Herr Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Library

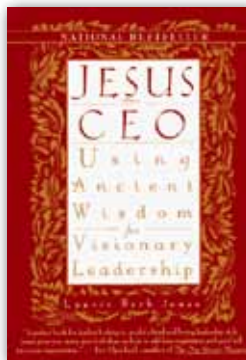
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MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN

MONDAYS - 7:00 P.M.

IN ROOM 207

This class is studying N.T. Wright's material on the book of Hebrews. All women are welcome to share in this fellowship, and feast on God's word. For more information, contact Fran Uchida at 425-778-7846.



TO ALL MEN...

Are you looking for a way to apply Christ and his teachings in the workplace and your life? Come join us at the Richmond Beach Coffee House at 6:30am. Plan for a weekly interesting one hour discussion where we will talk about God, family, life and maybe solve one of the world's problems. Jim Smith will lead off with some of his favorite passages from the book "Jesus, CEO" by Laura

Beth Jones. No need to buy the book, just join us for coffee, fellowship and conversation.

CARING MINISTRIES



HOUSE OF PRAYER

We are past the time of New Year Resolutions – how is your house of prayer really doing as we begin our Lenten Season? Prayer is an amazing step in Faith – and it opens the door to Our Father! Prayer reaches His Heart! He delights in hearing our concerns, anxieties, worries and He delights in hearing our praises! He delights being in relationship with us – each of us!

Have you thought about a prayer journal? Dear Solveig Schweiss

was my mentor and a prayer partner, and she kept prayer journals. It was/is amazing to see what God is really really doing! Write down your prayers, for yourself and for others. Write down what you feel, what you see, what you read, what you sing. God uses all these elements and others to reach you in prayer. During the very difficult times in our lives and walks, it

can be very difficult to see where He might be, or where you might be going. This is when you may need to lean into someone else to pray for you. In time (His), you will see and “prove” Faith.

Psalm 40 “ I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.” (verses 1-5)

During this Lenten Season, reach out to our Lord, support others in a small group in their prayers and yours...and wait upon the Lord.

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Are there prayer concerns on your heart for yourself or other people? Please write these down on a pew card and place in the offertory plate, give to an usher, or talk with a Stephen Minister (wearing a blue badge) for confidential prayers. Private prayers times are available! Written prayers will be given to our

Prayer Chain (24/7) and if desired placed in the church bulletin. Highly confidential prayers can be given to the Prayer Cord only. It is a privilege to pray for others! When appropriate, it is a delight to share God’s greatness in answer to prayers, too!



WE PRAY FOR...

We ask God’s blessings and care for the following members and friends of First Lutheran who are ill or in need:

.....HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION:

The family of Randi Eaton (Cathy Yocom’s sister), **and her husband Doug**, whose father passed away Sunday night, February 6th. Please pray for **Jane Anderson and her family**. Jane’s husband of 57 years, Cliff Anderson, passed away in November. Please pray for **the family of Laurie Dressler**, sister of Bob Riggle, one of the people killed by Somalian pirates earlier this month. Laurie is a dear friend of Maret Syberg. We pray for **Bill Grotjahn and family** at the death of **Judy**.

.....HEALTH & HEALING

Lisa Everitt, Tina King’s sister; Kimberly Lindgren and her family, friends of Erin Ellersick; Kären Beasley’s daughter, Jennifer Petersen; Marge Strandoo; Sandy Bailey.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN



MAGIC PENNY DRIVE FOR MARY'S PLACE

Mary's Place is a day activity center in downtown Seattle, providing food, clothing, social services, resources, and a safe haven for homeless women and children. Mary's Place is the year long mission emphasis for First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten.

MAGIC PENNY DRIVE

Each classroom has a "Magic Penny Jar" to collect pennies (& other loose change). By itself, a penny can't do much for anyone. BUT when we combine all our pennies, we can all do a lot to help others! Our Goal is \$250.

With the "Magic Pennies" we collect in February and March we could purchase two storage units and bins, for the family/playroom, PLUS donate the excess to be used toward bus passes for Mary's Place clients!!!

If you would like to help with our coin drive, drop your change off in the school office or with one of the teachers. Thanks!!!!

During "Qq" week the Lions (4 & 5 year olds, Pre-K classes) paid a visit

to the In-As-Much quilters!



FIRST LUTHERAN SCRIPS

Scripts are gift cards that can be used for everyday items just like cash. They are great as gifts, but they can be used for your weekly groceries, gas and entertainment! A little goes a long way! Don't forget to pick up an order form by the Preschool office!!!

Thanks for supporting our school



SCRIP gift cards make great Easter gifts!
Use them for your spring and summer trips or home improvement projects!!!

DESTINATION RAFFLE

Yes, it's time for our ANNUAL SCHOOL RAFFLE!!!! This year it is a Destination Raffle. Two baskets - "Off to Maui" and "All Around Puget Sound". Each basket will be full of fun coupons and such to make your trip complete. Look for more information in the weeks to come. We will be selling tickets on the following Sundays March 13, 20 & 27... The drawing will occur the evening of March 31!!!! Tickets will be \$5.00 each and you need not be present to win!

REGISTRATION BEGINS ON MONDAY JANUARY 31

First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten offers classes for children 2 1/2 years of age through Kindergarten. We offer a variety of days, morning and afternoon programs - all are age dependent. The 2011-2012 school year will mark 39 years of early childhood ministry for the Shoreline/Edmonds area. If you would like more information, set up a time to tour our classrooms and meet our teachers or you know someone who might be interested in our classes, please give us a call. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Kären Beasley, Director 206-546-0320, preschool@flrb.org or you can see our page on the church web site @www.flrb.org

MARCH CALENDAR

Mar 1 9:00am - InAsMuch
 Mar 2 *Regular Wednesday Schedule*
 Mar 3 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
 Mar 4 7:00pm - Spring Concert - Sounds of Grace
 Mar 6 *Sunday Morning Schedule*
 Mar 7 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
 Mar 8 9:00am - InAsMuch
 Mar 9 10:00am - Word of Life Bible Study
 5:15pm - Children's Choir
 6:00pm - Ash Wed. Dinner
 6:30pm - Ash Wed. Service
 7:15pm - HS/MS Youth Group
 7:15pm - Bell Rehearsal
 8:00pm - Cantorei Rehearsal
 Mar 10 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
 10:00am - Mary & Martha Circle
 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
 Mar 12 5:30pm - Daddy Daughter Dance
 Mar 13 *Sunday Morning Schedule*
 Mar 14 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
 Mar 15 9:00am - InAsMuch
 4:00pm - Finance Committee
 7:00pm - Church Council
 Mar 16 *Lenten Wednesday Schedule*
 Mar 17 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
 6:30pm - School Board Meeting
 Mar 20 *Sunday Morning Schedule*
 Mar 21 12:00pm - Bible Bunch - Women's
 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
 Mar 22 9:00am - InAsMuch
 Mar 23 *Lenten Wednesday Schedule*
 Mar 24 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
 Mar 25 Elementary Retreat/Lutherwood
 Mar 26 Elementary Retreat/Lutherwood
 Mar 27 *Sunday Morning Schedule*
 Mar 28 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
 Mar 29 9:00am - InAsMuch
 Mar 30 *Lenten Wednesday Schedule*
 Mar 31 PS-Art Walk/Ice Cream Social
 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace

APRIL CALENDAR

Apr 3 *Sunday Morning Schedule*
 Apr 5 9:00am - InAsMuch
 Apr 6 *Lenten Wednesday Schedule*
 Apr 7 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
 Apr 8 7:00pm - Music Concert
 Apr 10 **Quilt Sunday**
Sunday Morning Schedule
 Apr 11 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
 Apr 12 9:00am - InAsMuch
 Apr 13 PS- Lambs/Doves Special Celebration
Lenten Wednesday Schedule
 Apr 14 PS-Lambs/Doves Special Celebration
 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
 10:00am - Mary & Martha Circle
 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
 Apr 17 **Holy Week - Palm Sunday**
Sunday Morning Schedule
 Apr 18 PS-No School-Spring Break
 12:00pm - Bible Bunch - Women's
 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
 Apr 19 PS-No School-Spring Break
 9:00am - InAsMuch
 7:00pm - Church Council
 Apr 20 PS-No School-Spring Break
 11:30am - Senior Luncheon
Regular Wednesday Schedule
 Apr 21 PS-No School-Spring Break
 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
 7:00pm - Maundy Thurs. Service
 Apr 22 PS-No School-Spring Break
 7:00pm - Good Fri. Service
 Apr 24 Easter Sunday
 8:00am - Service
 8:30am - Easter Breakfast
 9:30am - Service
 9:45am - Confirmation Class
 11:00am - Service
 Apr 25 Office Closed
 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
 Apr 26 9:00am - InAsMuch
 Apr 27 *Regular Wednesday Schedule*
 Apr 28 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
 4:15pm - Youth Choir
 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
 Apr 29 Club 56 Lock-in
 Apr 30 Club 56 Lock-in

REGULAR WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. - Word of Life Bible Study
 5:15 p.m. - Children's Choir
 6:30pm- HS/MS Youth Group
 6:30pm - Bell Rehearsal
 6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
 7:30pm - Cantorei Rehearsal

LENTEN WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

10:00am - Word of Life Bible Study
 5:15pm - Children's Choir
 6:00pm - Lent Supper
 6:30pm - Lent Service
 7:15pm - HS/MS Youth Group
 7:15pm - Bell Rehearsal
 8:00pm - Cantorei Rehearsal

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30am - Classic Worship
 9:45am - Children's Ministries
 9:45am - Confirmation Class
 9:45am - New Community
 11:00am - Praise Worship

2011 LENTEN JOURNEY: LIVING OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Lent is a time for us to step back and look anew at our faith commitment. This year, we at FLRB are inviting everyone to do this with a particular focus on looking at how we act out our faith through hospitality, service and outreach.

How are we going to do this? We are asking people to gather as small groups of faithful in individual homes two times during Lent.

- The first gathering is intended to be an act of hospitality where we gather to share food and drink and to have the chance to renew or create new relationships with members of our faith community – open our homes of hospitality!
- The second gathering will be a place where individuals can share their passions for faith in action – where do you personally want to bring Christ and his mission into community. This could be within the FLRB community, the local area, State, National or Global areas that need Christ's hands of hospitality, service or outreach. For those interested in pursuing their passions, we will collect your information in order to help facilitate the creation of groups with shared passions for action.
- After these Lenten gatherings, we will identify individuals who share common passions and invite folks to gather to see how to carry those passions forward beyond Lent - connect with others who share passions for faith in action!

In addition, we will provide a list of readings that folks could use to explore our call to action and ideas for being the active hands of Christ in our world.

WHAT TO DO!

First, we need folks to volunteer to host gatherings at your home twice during Lent (probably 8-12 people). We will have sign up sheets for this at church on Feb 20, 27 and March 6. At the sign up table, we will be able to provide an outline of what is expected of the host and assistance that is available to help you.

If you are not a host then please sign up with a host for whatever time frame is convenient for you. Our hope is to build a stronger community of service, so sign up regardless of whether or not you know the host!

Amy and Cliff Day (dayway06@yahoo.com) and Linda and Harlan Patterson (aelhp@comcast.net) are coordinating this effort. Please feel free to contact any of them for more information. We will also be making announcements at services. Please do join in this journey of renewal and rededication to our faith lives in action. We cannot wait to see what God has in store for our community in the coming months and years!!

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

God: A.K.A.

Sometimes during Lent churches focus their attention on their own spiritual disciplines: prayer, devotions, giving up certain habits, forsaking the seven deadly sins, etc. I'll admit, that's where my mind has gone. Our tendency is to want to focus on us! This Lent our focus will be different - it's going to be first on God and then on our neighbor.

Our midweek Lenten services will have as their preaching theme **"God: A.K.A."** God goes by different names and differing metaphors are used to describe what God is like. This Lent we'll examine how the Bible lifts up for us a God who comes to us in a multiplicity of ways.

Knowing who God is and coming to love God with our heart, soul, mind, body, and strength, we then turn to our neighbor. Our Lenten Small Groups will focus on what passions and callings has God placed upon each of our hearts for the sake of our neighbor. This is where faith turns to action. This Lent, may we fall in love with God and our neighbor all over again!

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP


APRIL 17TH - PALM SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. - Classic Worship
11:00 a.m. - Praise Worship

APRIL 21ST - MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. - Service

APRIL 22ND - GOOD FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. - Service

APRIL 24TH - EASTER
8:00 a.m. - Worship
9:30 a.m. - Worship
11:00 a.m. - Worship

8:30 a.m. - Easter Breakfast



OUTREACH

WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH OF STEADFAST LOVE

(COMPASS HOUSING ALLIANCE)
SUNDAY EVENING MARCH 27TH

During 2007 the Compass Center (now Compass Housing Alliance) changed from offering traditional chaplaincy services to the establishment of a new ELCA congregation in the Pioneer Square location called the Church of Steadfast Love.

Pastor Kristy Daniels has preached here at First Lutheran in the past, and this year as a part of our Outreach support of Compass Housing Alliance during March, we will have a group going to worship with their congregation on Sunday evening, March 27th.

For those of you who have not been to the Pioneer Square location, this will be a great opportunity to see the facility, and learn more about all of the services provided by Compass Housing. This location is a newer building on the site of

the original Compass Center. In addition to the congregation, they provide transitional housing for 78 men, a bank, a post office and the hygiene center we are supporting with our sock drive this month. Our congregation also prepares a dinner in their kitchen each year for the residents.

The service starts at 6:30, so we will be car-pooling, leaving FLRB by 5:30 PM.

To sign up or for more information, stop by the Compass Housing display in the narthex, or call Jim Borrow at 546-3716.



March Hygiene Drive

A big thank you to all who donated in September! It was such a HUGE success the Outreach Committee has decided to try it again in March.

The following list is the items they are most in need of:

- Travel size shampoo & conditioner
 - Deodorant
 - Feminine Hygiene Items
 - New, unused nail clippers
 - Razors
 - Toiletry bags
 - Shaving Cream
 - Travel size lotion
 - Toothbrushes
 - Travel size soaps & body wash
 - Toothpaste
 - New, unused combs & brushes
 - Travel size soap & body wash
 - Chap stick
- Hotel samples are gladly excepted.
 - New socks and men's underwear (larger sizes) are also needed.
 - Please, only new unused items in their original packaging.

Donation boxes will be in the narthex.



NEWS FROM FAITH FORMATION

3 AND UNDER PLAY GROUP

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Calling all parents of 3 and under's!! Looking for away to connect into the church..here it is. FLRB playgroup meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 9:30-10:30.

Come join us for this relaxed time with other kids and parents.

BUTTERFLY KISSES

DADDY DAUGHTER DINNER DANCE

MARCH 12TH

Tickets \$15 per couple \$5 for each additional girl

Uncles, Grandpas, Welcome as well

Tickets on sale at church or through Terry Baird

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS RETREAT

APRIL 15-17 Contact Justin Mootz at jmootz001@luthersem.edu for more information

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS RETREAT

APRIL 15- 17 Contact Marin Brustuen at mbrustuen@hotmail.com for more information

EASTER BREAKFAST

APRIL 24TH 8:30-11:30

Come eat a great breakfast and support the middle and high school youth going on trips this summer.

CLUB 56 LOCK-IN

APRIL 29-30

7pm -7am

Cost:\$15

Sign up by April 17th

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

MAY 6-7TH

After school on Friday to Saturday Evening.

There is no cost and this is a confirmation requirement

3YEAR OLD AND 2ND GRADE BIBLE

MAY 8TH

Each year we give bibles to both the 3year olds and the 2nd graders. If you would like your child to receive a Bible please make sure to fill out a form. It is a tradition to put the Bibles out for a couple of weeks ahead of time so that the congregation can sign them.

Forms due to Terry by April 3rd . Pick forms up in Sunday school or at the front office.



HOLDEN MAY HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WEEKEND

MAY 14-16

This is a great weekend up in the Mountains hanging out with youth from other churches and growing closer to God.

Registrations available now. Due ASAP



CONFIRMATION CAMP

JULY 17-22

Youth going in to 7th –going into 9th are highly encouraged to attend this week of camp. Each confirmation

youth is required to go to confirmation camp once in their 3 years of confirmation. Fun and Faith Formation are the traditions of this week. Come join us for a week with your fellow confirmands from around the state. See your pastor or youth director in a whole new way! Churches provide curriculum and Lutherwood staff takes care of the rest! Games, swimming, challenge course, and faith all wrapped in one! This is a great way to connect with your youth, connect to Christ and to the church.

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

(GOING INTO 9TH-LEAVING 12TH)

Packet Available at church

Wilderness Servant and back packing trip to Montana

With Flathead Bible Camp

August 6-13, 2011

Youth going into 9th-leaving 12th

Cost \$500

\$50 deposit due with registration

This year we will be doing a slightly different mission trip. We will be combining the idea of an adventure trip with a service opportunity.

This trip is great for exploring the beauty, wonder, and challenge of wilderness. Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp partners with the U.S. Forest Service to provide meaningful creation care projects for your group. In the past, the Camp has assisted with trail maintenance, campsite restoration, fire lookout repair and demolition, and nature trail construction. It is definitely hard but rewarding work, and youth learn a lot about the environment. For these trips, the Camp will either backpack in to a site or set up a base camp at the trailhead and hike in each day.

For more information on any of the event please contact Terry Baird: ffd@flrb.org

MUSIC MINISTRY



"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands".
Psalm 19:1.

There are there are special moments when we can be surprised by unexpected beauty, and be completely awed by the spectacle of Creation. Just the other day, the unique display of a setting sun, alighting the sky over the Sound with an indescribable range of fiery hues left me speechless. It happened again when, on a late night, I left the church building and the moon was the perfect center of an immense disk of light, the outer rim of which was drawn in the clouds. I had the urge to stop, lie on the asphalt, renounce time, and just watch. On both occasions, I had never seen anything so peaceful and so delicate at the same time. Those vivid images are forever seared into my mind. I like to think of them as God's unexpected surprises.

It is funny what happens afterward--after I have encountered a "sweet spot" in my sometimes perfectly ordinary day. Without fail, I am inspired, and I want to somehow capture the moment, or the feeling, give back, create in response. "At the touch of Love, everyone becomes a poet", Plato said. I would like to say that in the presence of beauty we could be like the psalmist and offer God a song. The heavens do declare God's glory! But what song shall we offer? A line from a poem I sang many years ago comes to mind: "Struck by the new vista, I am that poor child, who receives a gift so large that it cannot held" We all have been that child at one point or another. I wonder also if this isn't perhaps God's own way of making me bubble up gratitude? ("What song shall I offer?")

Just as a moonlit sky has stopped me on my tracks, similarly, the beauty found in the words of a poem have filled me with amazement and wonder many times. And while I am aware that a particularly memorable sunset and a poem -- however arresting-- belong to two completely different magnitudes of aesthetic appreciation, in the continuum of creation, they both neatly align under the mystery of God's frolicking holiness we call beauty. Remember psalm 100? Remember psalm 96?

*We are part of God's
creation and by
extension, so are our
poems, our music, our
works and endeavors!*

"We are God's people, the sheep of his flock"
"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness"

We are part of God's creation and by extension, so are our poems, our music, our works and endeavors! So what song? The answer to the question is my life. My life is the song that I wish to offer in gratitude to the creator. As Lent approaches, my prayers will reflect my fervent desire that our lives and our communal song find themselves at the center of that divine and universal symphony; a symphony that is rooted itself on the great pedal point of the cross. In the coming months we will have the chance to sing a new song; a song that I find is a gorgeous and fitting description of our life as a community:

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go;

You alone are our life and our peace and our love.

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your bur-

dens and tears.

For you saved me by giving your body and blood.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the fam'ly you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of your journey.

Try to imagine what would be the fitting attitude to accompany that song. Wouldn't it be Soli Deo Gloria? Yes indeed, to God Alone be the Glory, and may our efforts and our zeal be available to point to the good that flows from God alone. Amen.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

March 4th, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Sounds of Grace and Guests will lead us in a night of exultation and praise! Come and join us for lots of fun and Christian camaraderie.

April 8, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Sonia and Omaldo Perez will be performing "Girl Singer" *The Songs of Rosemary Clooney*. Come and join us in celebrating the music of the Golden Age of Radio.

NEWS AND NOTES



CHURCH SHIRT AND APPAREL DESIGN CONTEST

We would like to have official Church shirts and sweatshirts that we can wear on church outings and events. So we are holding a contest for the best design.

Guidelines for contest:

- Church Name must be clearly displayed
- A one-color design must accompany all full-color designs
- Must be original work
- Deadline for submission: Sunday, April 10th

Winner will be announced April 17th and pre-orders will start. We hope to have the shirts available by May 15th. Shirt designs can be e-mailed to Terry at ffd@flrb.org or brought into the church office.

“WOMEN’S BIBLE BUNCH”

(NEW NAME, NEW STUDY. FORMERLY DEBORAH CIRCLE)

Interested in studying Proverbs? Join us at 12:00 on the third Monday of each month.

Contact Person: Dorothy Clausen 425-776-2694

FIRST LUTHERAN ON FACEBOOK

Search “First Lutheran of Richmond Beach adults” on Facebook to connect with other adults at First Lutheran of Richmond Beach. We’re using Facebook more and more to connect with people online.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Please read the Council highlights on the bulletin board outside the church office any time the church building is open.

NEW FLRB PLAY GROUP

WHO: Parents/caregivers and children 3 years and younger

WHEN: 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month

TIME: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Coffee provided and snacks for the kids.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND INFORMATION

If you are a senior over age 70 1/2, consider using your required IRA distribution as a charitable donation to the First Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER EXTENSION

President Obama signed into law on December 17, 2010 new tax legislation that will be in effect for the next two years. While the primary purpose of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 was to extend the Bush tax rates, the Act also contains some incentives for charitable giving. From a gift-planning perspective, the most important was the extension of the IRA charitable rollover, which was first included in the 2006 Pension Protection Act and subsequently extended through the end of 2009. The IRA charitable rollover provision is retroactive to January 1, 2010 and is effective through December 31, 2011. The provision provides that an owner of a traditional or Roth IRA may distribute to a public charity, up to \$100,000 a year without the distribution being included in taxable income, and the distribution will count toward the donor's mandatory withdrawal amount.

If you think you qualify, please review the requirements that are posted on the bulletin board by the church office or see Glenn Nelson or Sam Capps, Endowment Board members.

YOU ARE INVITED



Please join us at the Museum of Flight

Saturday, March 12, 2011

6:30 PM

**Compass Housing Alliance
Auction Gala and Dinner**

Register Now

for an evening of fine dining and fabulous auction items in support of Compass Housing Alliance!

Tickets: \$150

Early Bird ticket rate: \$125

Early Bird table rate (10 seats): \$1,250

(Early Bird rate available until Feb. 11th)

Register online:

www.compasshousingalliance.org

206-357-3138



A LUTHERAN ORGANIZATION

SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Friends & Family at RB Lutheran!

All the women and children, staff and Board deeply value your gift of mittens, hats, pajamas, diapers, wipes, toys, and clothing received on 12/4/2010.

At Mary's Place and the Church of Mary Magdalene it isn't hard to see miracles happening every day! In the last 4 weeks...Victoria gave birth to Jordan, Michelle awoke from a month-long hospital stay to have her respirator removed and her life restored, Gloria found housing after being on the streets for 10 years and Denise has found help for the depression that has consumed her for the past 12 years.

Thank you for being part of the miracle! Your gifts are saving lives, restoring health, and bringing hope and relationship where there was pain, trauma, misunderstanding, loneliness and hopelessness. You are truly a miracle to us!

May you continue to experience the gift of miracles in your own life and the lives of those you love!

You are our hope & light! Your gifts and visits bring us joy and comfort! You are the angels we prayed for! Thank you for heeding God's call to bring life-saving love to all of us. We are sooo grateful!!

Love All your sisters at Mary's Place

Dear Friends at Richmond Beach Lutheran Pre-School,

Thank you for caring and all you have done for me. You uplifted my spirits and made me feel loved.

The gifts were luxuries I couldn't afford on my own. Thank you for choosing to bless my family when I couldn't. If it weren't for you I wouldn't have had Christmas. You brought hope to me.

Please pray for me to find housing. Thank you! I'll pray for you!

Love Janet & all my sisters @ Mary's Place

APRIL 20TH SENIOR LUNCHEON

Mark your calendar for the third Senior Luncheon on April 20th at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Our guest speaker will be Kirsten Larsen.

Kirsten will speak about her experiences growing up as a teenager in Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II. She was a runner of secret communications among members of the Danish underground.

Kirsten and her husband Leif lived in Denmark until 1955.

When Leif retired, they moved to the Seattle area where their daughter and her family live.

STAFF DIRECTORY

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The
BEACHCOMBER

FIRST LUTHERAN OF RICHMOND BEACH

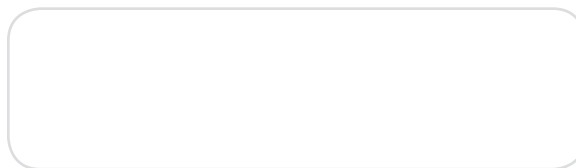
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST LUTHERAN'S NORWEGIAN DAY

You don't have to be Norwegian to be a part of this event! But if you are Norwegian, you may want to wear your Bundas on this special day at First Lutheran. Everyone who is interested in this event, is invited! There will be sign-ups on May 1st. & May 8th. to reserve your place for the Norwegian Luncheon. So mark your calendars ahead of time with the following information, this is an event you will not want to miss!

WHEN: May 15th. following the 11:00 service.

WHERE: In The Fellowship Hall

WHAT: A Norwegian Luncheon

WHO: Everyone is invited to attend.

You can expect delicious opened face sandwiches, cucumber salad, pickled herring, Julekaka, Krumkaka, Marsipan Cake, hot coffee & much, much more! We will also have the privilege of hearing Bob Johnston & his Norwegian Male Chorus!

To add ideas & volunteer, call Dorothy Clausen 425-776-2694.

Tusen Takk!

