

A WORD FROM PASTOR BJORGE



Spring is such a beautiful time of year. It's a time filled with new life—a time of growth and regeneration. Who doesn't love the flowers and trees bursting with color and life after a winter of dormancy and death?! For those reasons and many others, I love spring! But I probably wouldn't have loved it as much during King David's era.

In 2 Samuel, the infamous David and Bathsheba story begins with an ominous observation: "It was spring, the time that kings go to war." Instead of spring training, people in those days went to war! It was simply the culture in which they lived. But for some reason, that year David didn't go to war. He decided to stay home and literally sleep in while his army marched without him. I wouldn't normally advocate anyone going to war. But had David done what he was called to do, namely lead as the king of his people and do what kings did that time of year, he could have avoided a whole lot of trouble.

It's spring at First Lutheran, the time that we...celebrate Easter and Pentecost...the time we honor our graduates...the time for Confirmation! But it's spring and what is our leadership called to do? Well, for us it's time to check to see if the orchards we've planted are beginning to flower so that the harvest might one day be plentiful. In other words, it's time for our leadership to assess the health and vitality of our various ministries.

There are really eight ministries that need to be healthy for a community of faith to grow and flourish: empowering leadership, gift-based ministry, a passionate spirituality, effective structures, inspiring worship, holistic small groups, need-oriented evangelism, and finally, and perhaps most importantly, for there to be among us loving relationships. While every church has these areas of ministry in one form or another, not every congregation has ministries that you'd choose to give the above descriptors: inspiring, loving, passionate, effective, empowering, etc. The life and vitality of a congregation is in how well we embody those adjectives.

...it's time to check to see if the orchards we've planted are beginning to flower so that the harvest might one day be plentiful.

What we'll begin to assess is whether, and to what extent, these descriptors are true of us in these particular areas. Following that, the leadership of FLRB will be putting together implementation plans that will work to increase our capacity to offer ministries as thus described. We'll be using principles gleaned from the created order to do that, so that just as there is growth and fruitfulness that automatically takes place in nature when these principles are allowed to happen, so growth and fruitfulness will mark our ministries in even greater ways.

In the months to come you'll be hearing more about those principles and how they're going to be applied to our specific ministries. For now simply pray that while every spring we plant seeds and water, that the Lord will bring the growth, and that He will again show His glory by then also being praised as the Lord of the Harvest! Happy Spring!

Pastor John

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A WORD FROM INTERN PASTOR MOOTZ



As winter turns into spring/summer, and Lent turns into Easter/Pentecost, I'm always reminded that new life is right around the corner. The flowers are blooming, the sun shines a little brighter, and I can feel an extra skip in my step.

There's something about a new season, a time when we leave the long dark days of winter and move into the bright, life-filled days of summer. Can you feel that difference? Can you feel how your mood changes around this time of year? If given a choice, how many people do you know that would stay in winter instead of moving into spring and summer? That seems like a silly idea, doesn't it?

In the Bible, we find countless stories of people who are on journeys, literally or metaphorically. They are called to leave behind what they know, a season of life perhaps, for an unknown future full of God's blessings. More often than not, these people struggle. It's hard to leave behind something you know, even if it's unpleasant, at least it's known! Of course, the most famous of these stories is the Israelite passage into the Promised Land. In Numbers 13 we see that God's people are on the edge of a new land, a new life their maker has called them to. Their scouting reports are glowing, most notably claiming that the land "flows with milk and honey!" (NIV). The Israelites were so close to leaving the wilderness

and tasting a new life full of God's blessings; and that is exactly when fear set in. They were afraid to challenge the status quo, afraid to leave the old life behind because the journey to the new life (Promised Land) wasn't easy. The wilderness may not have been fun, but at least it was known, at least they had control of their lives there. If only they had trusted in God's faithfulness, their future would have been so different. Instead, they remained in the known wilderness. They never tasted the "milk and honey" of God's promised new life.

In the season of Lent, we don't only remember Christ's journey to the cross, but also his call that we "pick up our cross and follow [him]." He calls us into a new life with him on the other side of the cross, a life marked with the blessings of discipleship: A life full of forgiveness; a life full of love, even of enemies; a life full of abundant joy found in generosity; and a life of advocacy for justice. This is the Easter life! This is the new life, the new heart that God gives us on the other side of the cross, when we die in him and are raised to something different. All we have to do is believe in Christ, give our life to him, and we can receive this new life. The question is, are we willing to trust in God's promises? Are we willing to cross the river from the wilderness into a new life with Christ? Are we willing to move from winter into spring?

SPIRITUAL FORMATION



NEW COMMUNITY

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

Jonah was a prophet; he was not a priest. Priests served in the temple. A prophet was a different character. A prophet was a reformer, an activist, a troublemaker. They were always pricking people's consciences. Israel always had a lot of priests, but generally just one prophet at a time because that was all Israel could stand. The Word comes to Jonah and says, "Go to Nineveh." When you hear from God, and sometimes you will, sometimes it's just three little words, and they can change your life. "Go to Nineveh." Jonah was a prophet called to people beyond his comfort zone. Who is God calling you to go to?

Join us for four Sundays in May (May 8, 15, 22, and 29) as we unpack the story of Jonah and learn more clearly God's call upon all of our lives. The New Community Class will take its summer break beginning in June and will resume following next September's "Round Up Sunday."

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. Class will recess June-August.

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 on Friday mornings. 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

It's important to set aside a period of time for intentional prayer. Some days, the prayers may be shorter; some days you get lost in prayer and what a gift. We must realize our utter dependence on up God – we must partner with God!

Do you have a "Sanctuary" for prayer? Is it in your home? Do you have a special chair or room that leads you in prayer as soon as you reach it? Is it a log on the beach? Have you found the church

chapel, down the hall from Pastor John's office – it's a quiet out of the way place with a small altar. Sometimes it's humbling to sit in our church sanctuary alone in the quiet. Wherever it is, I encourage you to discover or create a sanctuary for yourself. Psalm 63:2 "I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory." When you enter this special place, you can easily slide into place with God. He is present with you, and He delights in His time with you!

PRAYER SUPPORT

Stephen Ministers are ready to pray with you at any time. They have been trained to pray with others in a one on one, confidential manner. They often wear their blue badges on Sundays and other church activities to show you, they are present and available.

The prayer chain is also available 24/7 by email – let us carry you in prayer, and lift your burdens to the Lord. You can contact the church office by phone 206 546 4153 or email office@flrb.org, or Cathy Thomas 206 542 9161 or hcthomas@aol.com. The prayer cord is available for highly confidential concerns – you can contact Pastor John through the church office or PastorJohn@flrb.org or contact Cathy Thomas at above numbers. It is a privilege to pray for our church family and their extended concerns.

NOURISHMENT MINISTRY

There are several people in our congregation who delight in bringing meals to those in short term situations that need support! It is not difficult to double the meal preparation, and pray for the family in need. If you would like to be added to the ministry of preparing, or if you know of someone or yourself needing a meal (or 2), please contact the church office or Cathy Thomas.

WHO ISN'T HERE?

Easter brought visitors to our congregation this year, and some came who haven't been here in a while. We want to reach out and connect with them, and gather them back to our "family". If you are aware of someone who hasn't been here, please contact Pastor John, the church office, or Cathy Thomas. Perhaps

they are unwell, and we can offer them support in prayer, meals or communion brought to them in their home. Jesus extends his love to all! Isaiah 40:11 "Jesus tends his flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; He gently leads those that have young." Let us be the one who reaches out as Jesus extends his love to all.



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:

We pray for.....

.....HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION:

For the **Vemo Family**, as they mourn the passing of Arnie; for **Glenn Schmidt**, as he mourns the passing of his mother, Anne.

.....HEALTH & HEALING:

Please pray for **Emma**, friend of Chela Causey; Gerry Boursse's son, **Terry Ranger**; **Cristin and Kevin Osterhout** to deliver a healthy, full-term baby; **Diana Hoffman**; **Shirley Fjoslien**; **Phyllis Frick**; **Kelly McGill**, friend of Nels Cone; **Lisa Everit**, Tina King's sister; **Mike Fasani**, friend of Darryl & Jane Pedersen; **Sena**, friend of Anita Riksheim; **Jon Dalan**; **Merrilee Bradshaw**, sister of Maret Syberg.

.....FOR OUR WORLD:

We ask for peace and unity for the people, Libya, and the Ivory Coast. We continue to lift up Japan in our prayers, as the need there is so incredibly great. We pray that all of the leaders of the world can come together and work for merciful and loving solutions to the many crises around the globe.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN



MAGIC PENNY DRIVE FOR MARY'S PLACE

We are very excited to report we have raised \$692.00 for Mary's Place...it's amazing how many "extra pennies" and change we all have laying around the house! The teachers will be spending a day at Ikea (during Spring Break) purchasing the storage units and some toys to go in them!

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 yearlong mission emphasis for First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten.



FIRST LUTHERAN SCRIPS

Scraps 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 School office or from the Scraps board!!!

Thanks for supporting our school



HEY CHARLIE BROWN, WHEN IS THE NEXT ORDER DUE?



WELL LUCY ITS MAY 13 & 27 JUNE 10 & 24

SCRIP gift cards make great Mother's or Father's Day, birthday or graduation gifts!

Use them for your spring and summer trips or home improvement projects!!! They are very versatile!

DESTINATION RAFFLE

WOW!!! What great support from the congregation, the community, staff, parents and board! We raised almost \$7000 on our Destination Packages. We had over 20 door prizes and best of all we had Ice Cream!!! Kids artwork and stories adorned the walls. The Kindergartners researched a favorite animal from Woodlawn Park Zoo, wrote reports and displayed their animals in our library zoo! A GRAND time was had by all. Pastor John pulled the winning tickets and Terry and Liam greeted our families! Thank you for your support!

INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2011-2012 school is well underway!. 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 check out our page on the church web site @ www.flrb.org

MAY CALENDAR

- May 1 *May Sunday Schedule*
- May 2 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- May 3 9:00am - InAsMuch
12:00pm - Quilters
- May 4 *May Wednesday Schedule*
- May 5 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
4:15pm - Youth Choir
5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- May 8 **Bible Sunday**
Preschool Sunday
May Sunday Schedule
- May 9 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- May 10 9:00am - InAsMuch
12:00pm - Quilters
- May 11 *May Wednesday Schedule*
- May 12 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
10:00am - Mary & Martha Circle
4:15pm - Youth Choir
5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- May 15 **Music Ministry Sunday**
May Sunday Schedule
12:00pm - Norwegian Lunch
- May 16 12:00pm - Bible Bunch - Women's
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- May 17 9:00am - InAsMuch
12:00pm - Quilters
7:00pm - Church Council
- May 18 *May Wednesday Schedule*
7:00pm - Youth Talent Night
- May 19 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
4:15pm - Youth Choir
5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- May 22 **Teacher Appreciation**
May Sunday Schedule
- May 23 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- May 24 9:00am - InAsMuch
12:00pm - Quilters
- May 25 *May Wednesday Schedule*
- May 26 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
4:15pm - Youth Choir
5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- May 29 *May Sunday Schedule*
- May 30 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- May 31 9:00am - InAsMuch
12:00pm - Quilters

MAY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

MAY WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

(runs through June 1)

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

JUNE CALENDAR

- June 1 *May Wednesday Schedule*
- June 2 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- June 5 **Confirmation & Grad Sunday**
Summer Sunday Schedule
- June 6 7:00pm - Bethany Lutheran
Sonrise Singers Austin Texas
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- June 7 9:00am - InAsMuch
- June 8 6:30pm - MS/HS Youth Group
6:30pm - Bell Rehearsal
6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
7:30pm - Cantorei Rehearsal
- June 9 9:30am - 3 & Under Play Group
10:00am - Mary & Martha Circle
5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- June 12 *Summer Sunday Schedule*
- June 13 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- June 14 9:00am - InAsMuch
- June 15 6:30pm - MS/HS Youth Group
6:30pm - Bell Rehearsal
6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
7:30pm - Cantorei Rehearsal
- June 16 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- June 19 **Annual Meeting**
Summer Sunday Schedule
- June 20 12:00pm - Bible Bunch - Women's
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- June 21 9:00am - InAsMuch
7:00pm - Church Council
- June 22 6:30pm - MS/HS Youth Group
6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
- June 23 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- June 26 *Summer Sunday Schedule*
- June 27 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- June 29 6:30pm - MS/HS Youth Group
6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
- June 30 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:00am - Classic Worship
- 10:30am - Praise Worship

YOUTH TALENT NIGHT

Please join us on Wednesday May 18th at 7 pm, when FLRB will celebrate the end of the program year with a Youth Talent Night. It will be a fun evening featuring the many talents of our young people. Omaldo Perez will be the master of ceremonies that evening so please contact him if you or someone you know wishes to share their gift on what promises to be a lovely evening. Join us at 6:00pm for a potluck Dinner.

JULY CALENDAR

- July 3 *Summer Sunday Schedule*
- July 4 7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- July 6 6:30pm - MS/HS Youth Group
6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
- July 7 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- July 10 *Summer Sunday Schedule*
- July 11 9:00am - EVBS @ RB Congregational
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- July 12 9:00am - EVBS @ RB Congregational
- July 13 9:00am - EVBS @ RB Congregational
6:30pm - MS/HS Youth Group
6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
- July 14 9:00am - EVBS @ RB Congregational
5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- July 15 9:00am - EVBS @ RB Congregational
- July 17 *Summer Sunday Schedule*
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- July 19 9:00am - InAsMuch
- July 20 6:30pm - MS/HS Youth Group
6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
- July 21 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- July 24 *Summer Sunday Schedule*
- July 25 7:00pm - Stephen Ministry
7:00pm - Womens' Bible Study
- July 26 9:00am - InAsMuch
- July 27 6:30pm - MS/HS Youth Group
6:30pm - Carhartt's for Christ
- July 28 5:30pm - Sounds of Grace
- July 31 *Summer Sunday Schedule*

Calendar info is subject to change. Please view the online calendar at www.flrb.org or call the church office at 206.546.4153 for the most current information.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE SET

The Church Council has set the date for our Annual Meeting to Sunday, June 19th at 11:45 a.m. (after the second service) in the Upper Room.

SUMMER PREACHING SERIES

This summer's sermon series will focus on our becoming the Church that Jesus longs for us to be—a church that lives in love! The church is called to embody and imitate the very life of Jesus. While only He can and will make the church what God intends for it to be—a community of belonging, a loving home, a foretaste of heaven—the New Testament provides detailed instructions for what that's to look like. The "mutuality commands" found in the New Testament help us to be able to translate love into action, and they help to mitigate the tensions that invariably surface among Christians so that instead of there being suspicion, conflict and division within the church there can be trust, harmony and unity despite our differences. They enable us to be the community of love Jesus longs for us to be.



SUMMER SERMON SERIES SCHEDULE (some shifting in this schedule may still occur):

June 19	Love One Another	John 13:34-35
June 26	Welcome One Another	Romans 15:7
July 3	Be Subject to One Another	Ephesians 5:21
July 10	Bear with One Another	Ephesians 4:2
July 17	Forgive One Another	Colossians 3:12-13
July 24	Confess Sin and Pray for One Another	John 5:13-16
July 31	Serve One Another	Galatians 5:13-14
August 7	Encourage One Another	1 Thessalonians 5:11
August 14	Comfort One Another	2 Corinthians 1:3-4
August 21	Bear One Another's Burdens	Galatians 6:2
August 28	Stir Up One Another	Hebrews 10:24-25
September 4	Admonish One Another	Colossians 3:16

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. CLASSIC SERVICE
10:30 A.M. PRAISE SERVICE

**Includes Sundays in June, July & August
 **No education offered during summer*

STAFF DIRECTORY

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 206.546.4153

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

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

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

FRIDAY

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

John M. Bjorge, Lead Pastor	Ext. 106	pastorjohn@flrb.org
Justin Mootz, Intern Pastor	Ext. 105	jmootz001@luthersem.edu
Carolee Grumm, Parish Administrator	Ext. 139	parishadmin@flrb.org
Omaldo Perez, Music Ministries	Ext. 201	omaldoprz@hotmail.com
Terry Baird, Director of Faith Formation	Ext. 225	ffd@flrb.org
Kären Beasley, Preschool Director	Ext. 140	preschool@flrb.org
Erik Steen, Communications Coordinator	Ext. 103	comm@flrb.org
Maret Syberg, Office Coordinator	Ext. 136	office@flrb.org
Girmai Berhe, Facilities	Ext. 220	gmilkiyas@gmail.com

OUTREACH

2011 COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM RECAP

2011 was another big year for First Lutheran at the Community Lunch Program on Capitol Hill, held at Central Lutheran. First, a big "Thank You" to all of those who went to Central to cook and serve and those that sent desserts. We had another tremendous turnout with a total of 55 people volunteering this year, including several of our youth as part of their "30 Hour Famine". Since many people were able to go more than once, we were not lacking for help! We also wound up with large numbers of "guests" this year, serving from 250 - 300 meals each week. These numbers continue to increase each year, so unfortunately we see that the problem of homelessness is not going away, especially in light of the continuing weak economy.

First Lutheran brings the largest group of volunteers to Community Lunch each year. There are a few part-time assistant staff people who are there every week and one of them told us several times that we were the most organized group he had worked with. He also liked the food. We are fortunate to have many members who are able to volunteer every year to provide continuity, while also involving many new volunteers each year. Of the 55 people participating this year, only 36 were involved in 2010.

First Lutheran continues to provide a valuable service to our community through this program, but we also benefit from the gratitude shown by the guests, and the knowledge that we called to this ministry to be a blessing to others.



SARATOV OUTREACH

The Saratov Committee says a big THANK YOU! for the outreach offerings for the Saratov, Russia, mission this month. Your generosity amounted to \$2,252, which will be very much appreciated by Pastor Alexander Scheiermann and the Saratov congregation.

RESULTS OF THE COMPASS HYGIENE DRIVE

Wow!

Once again the generosity of this congregation is truly a blessing!

We were able to give 2 microwave Ovens and many boxes of socks, underwear and toiletries.

A big Thank You to All!

The Outreach Committee.

HOPELINK FOOD DRIVE

During the month of July, the Outreach Team will be sponsoring a food and fund drive to help feed children in our community. Start stocking up now on food items most needed during the summer months: applesauce, juice (100% juice only), canned fruit, peanut butter and other nut butters, jams and jellies. Please do not include items that have expired or those in glass containers. This year, with your help, we'll feed more kids and more families, ensuring that everyone has a bright summer.

STEWARDSHIP

2011 YEAR END

As we approach the end of the fiscal and program year at First Lutheran, we ask "What is God saying to us in the year 2011 in this place? Has God not been with this congregation during this time of great unrest in the world? Where is God in the decision making process of the congregation? After the first nine months of the fiscal year (at the time of this writing), the projections are that we will meet 94% of the budget adopted June 2010. Good, but not good enough. Your prayers, and financial support are important in making sure we meet that projection, or even better, meet the budget this year. A year ago we met to approve the present budget and felt much concern regarding the global financial crisis and could we in fact, support a budget \$30,000 more than projected. There was strong feeling that we should Call an Intern. In the end we accepted the challenge of the Intern, and voted to look upon ourselves as a "Teaching Congregation" that looks forward to supporting the larger church through the training of Interns each year. But that would mean stepping up our giving for that support. And the Lord has been good. The economy has improved, your support of the ministries has been strong, and we have maintained financial stability through these months. But there is still a quarter year to go and the major celebrations are behind us. So it is up to you. Please consider a special gift at this time or prayerfully attempt to bring your pledge up to date so that we can end the year in the black, meet the above projection, or better yet, fund the budget to the fullest, giving us much needed cash flow.

This is an integral part of our Walk with Jesus!!!!!!!

June 19th is the Annual Meeting of the congregation to adopt our 2011-12 Budget and elect new officers. Please make sure you are there to partner in the decision making of this congregation and hear what God has been saying to us through the ministries of the past year. Annual Reports will be available mid-June.

NEWS FROM FAITH FORMATION



This has been a busy season for me and will continue to be. This is the time of year I love. I get to go on retreats and hang out with children and youth. I was even able to go to a ministry conference. Through all of that I am reminded of how important it is to share the love of Christ with our children and youth. I am also reminded that there are many ways to do that. We do it each week at church, but we also can each do it in our own way. God has gifted us with many different and unique gifts that he has given us to use for his glory.

CHILDREN

BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday is May 8th we will be giving out Bibles to 3yr olds and 2nd graders. Each year we ask the congregation to sign the kids Bibles before we give them to them. Please take the time to sign the Bibles.

TEACHER/VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

May 22nd during service we will be honoring all those who have served in the children youth and family programs this year.



EVBS JULY 11-JULY 15 AT RICHMOND BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Theme Shake it Up Café
In this kid-friendly café full of chef's hats and aprons, pots and pans, checkered tablecloths, and chalkboard menus, kids explore the Bible as a cookbook

filled with recipes for living out God's word. Through interactive lessons, that are easy for kids to apply to their lives today, boys and girls will celebrate biblical festivals that reveal ingredients for being a follower of God.

Be ready for God
Give happily to God
Believe fully in Jesus
Remember Jesus often
Celebrate God forever

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MAY 6-7TH CONFIRMATION RETREAT

This is the retreat where the youth plan the confirmation service. Location of retreat is Lutherwood Bible Camp. We will be leaving church Friday afternoon at 4pm and returning Saturday night around 6pm. Please let Terry know if you are not able to attend. Confirmation Day is June 5.

This year the theme for the girls retreat was "You're a Firework". This theme has two main ideas for me. The first one has to do with our own self worth. We each have something inside of us given to us by God. The second part is that gift is to be used to help others and to spread God's love. My encouragement is for you to think about this and to think about your role in the life of kids in our congregation. How can you be a Firework in the lives of our children and youth?

TILLAMOOK MISSION TRIP JULY 24-31

Tillamook is a mission trip for all youth currently in grades 6-9. Youth will spend a week working on a Habitat for Humanity house. Registration forms available at FLRB or contact Terry Baird.

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

MAY 14-16 HOLDEN MAY YOUTH WEEKEND

We have an extra girl spot open. Please contact Terry Baird if you are interested.

JUNE 5TH CONFIRMATION AND GRADUATION SUNDAY

JUNE 12TH YOUTH CAR WASH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

We have many exciting programs coming for the fall, to pull them all off we need many volunteers. This summer please think about how God may be able to use you in the life of children and youth this next school year.

FAITH FORMATION (CONTINUED)

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

SCHOOL KITS - 2011 GUIDELINES

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One eraser approximately 2 1/2" long
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

FABRIC KITS - 2011 GUIDELINES

Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester); fabric should have no stains or holes and be cut into pieces measuring:

- 2 1/4 yards of 60" wide fabric, or
- 3 yards of 44" wide fabric, or
- 4 yards of 36" wide fabric

Two spools of matching general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each

(was sewing kit)

PERSONAL CARE KITS - 2011 GUIDELINES

- One bath-size towel (approximately 52" X 27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers, remove packaging

(was health kit)



CHANGES FOR 2011

The InAsMuch quilters are collecting items for Lutheran World Relief. You can leave donated items in the InAsMuch box which is located in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall. Here are LWR recommendations for assembling the kits. You can donate full kits or individual items and we will complete the kit. Look for sale items to maximize your donation.

APOSTOLIC BEDS - THE SECOND COMING

Last year a dedicated crew of volunteers took turns taking care of the many special planting areas around our facility by weeding, pruning, and watering. Because of this wonderful effort, our church grounds not only looked great, but the overall health of our landscaping improved.

We hope that another group of volunteers, repeaters and newcomers, sign up to take charge of one of our aptly dubbed "Apostolic beds." The church grounds have been "divided" into eleven sections—each named for one of the eleven disciples. The task is to weed one of these sections once this spring (May or June), once this summer (July or August), and once again this fall (September or October). Each time should only take 15-30 minutes if we have a full schedule of volunteers.

Please consider taking care of Matthew, James, John, Simon Peter, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddeus, or Simon.

Sign up now with Janet Caruso: (425) 774-4101 or jpcaruso@comcast.net

MUSIC MINISTRY



A GRATEFUL DISPOSITION, PART II

A funny thing happened to me. As I was preparing to write this article, I decided to review some of the previous Beachcomber installments I have had the temerity to share with you over the last few months. I undertook this review not solely with the purpose of attempting to come across some loose end that might serve as inspiration, but more importantly, holding in my chest the precarious hope of not repeating myself.

As it turns out, I was both surprised and relieved. I discovered that I had yet to plagiarize myself, and that the tenor of much of my previous entries runs along the lines of gratitude. It made me smile for a moment. But the self-contentment quickly gave way to a pause. I started thinking about my journey, the path I have taken over the years that has brought me to this moment -that peculiar admixture of decisions and events that can claim some bearing on the circumstances of one's life. It was at this point, that a flicker enlightened my state of mental disarray: the sudden realization that there is a good reason as to why I tend to gravitate to subjects of Grace and Gratitude.

As many of you know already, I migrated to the United States when I was nineteen. In the Dominican Republic, the country where I was born, about ninety-five percent of my education was in Spanish, and the English that was taught in school - I can assure you- was not geared for an eventual relocation to the United States of America. Educationally, I can claim that I came across music almost by chance. Furthermore, for some reason (or for lack of it on my part) I took a chance on a career path that was odd and according to friends and family, would not be "practical" in the real world (musicians are traditionally underpaid, underemployed, or both). Nevertheless, many other wonderful things have hinged on that impracticality: finding a lovely and talented wife, finding a way to bring together both a musical and a spiritual calling, among them.

That pause allowed me to think about the years that have gone by (almost twenty) and the journey that has brought me to this day, and to this community of faith. After considering all of this, I can only see with amazement that God has blessed me immensely. And all that thinking inspires me to give....

Thanks! As we approach the end of the program year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the music program that have made so much possible this year. I am thankful not only for your time and talents, your singing and your playing, but also for your prayers, support, good advice and all the "how-can-I-help you's" you have sent my way. Your untiring commitment and dedication is a source of inspiration to me. Thank you! We've come this far by faith, trusting in the Lord.

Praise! As we await the arrival of warmer weather and we get to dream of new and exciting prospects for our life as a community of faith, it is my desire that our praise to God grows stronger, more heart-felt and that our song can join that of all the choirs of faithful servants through the ages and across the world in praising God for all of the wonderful blessings bestowed upon creation. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

I am reminded of the words of the Greek stoic philosopher Epictetus, who once said:

"Had we but true understanding, what duty would be more perpetually fitting

than to hymn the Divine Power, both openly and in secret, and to tell of all his benefits? ... I ought to praise God. This is my work. I do it. I will never desert this post as long as I am permitted to hold it; and I beseech you to join in the self-same song."

Easter Blessings!

Omaldo

After considering all of this, I can only see with amazement that God has blessed me immensely. And all that thinking inspires me to give....

SUMMER CONCERTS

MAY 13TH FLRB'S SPRING CONCERT

Join us for an evening of musical offerings that will range from introspective meditation to unrestrained Easter joy.

Both our Cantorei Choir and our Jubilate Bells, under the direction of Omaldo Perez, will present, among other works, Mozart's Kyrie in D minor, Pachelbel's cantata Christ lag in Todesbanden and Come Life,

Shaker Life, a west coast premiere written by NY-based composer Barbara Wesby, inspired in the religious songs of the Shaker community. A concert not to be missed.

MONDAY, JUNE 6TH

The Sunrise Singers of Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin Texas present their 2011 musical, The Waiting.

The group is made up of 40+ high school

young people. They will be touring throughout the Northwest of the United States and Canada. The Sunrise Singers have performed for the last 30 years all around the United States and in the Bahamas. The entire musical; script, songs and choreography was developed in house at Bethany.

NEWS AND NOTES

EMBRACE SHORELINE SCHOOLS

The Embrace Shoreline Schools event is going to occur on May 14 from 9am to noon. This event brings parents, neighbors, students and church volunteers together to help improve school grounds. Volunteers will participate in tasks such as weeding, pruning and laying mulch. FLRB will be supporting Syre Elementary this year. This is a great opportunity for church members to support the local schools and help the children of our community. For more information, contact Erik Dobson at erikdobson@comcast.net

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: Every Thursday

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

Coffee provided and snacks for the kids.

"WOMEN'S BIBLE BUNCH" NEWS

(Formally Deborah Circle)

ATTENTION SENIOR WOMEN. We have a special invitation for those of you who want to feast on God's Word, have wonderful fellowship & serve our incredible God in some special events during the year.

WHEN: 12:00 on the 3rd. Monday of the month.
The next meeting is on May 16th.

WHERE: In the Church Library, unless notified off site.

WHAT: Bring your Bible, a sack lunch & study Proverbs (Sue Edward's Inductive study Vol. 1)

Come join us! You'll be glad you did!

We break during the busy summer months of June, July & August & then return on Sept. 19th. So mark your calendars ahead of time.

Contact Persons: Dorothy Clausen at 425-776-2694 or Jane Pedersen at 206-542-3200

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

We are working hard to communicate news and information in a manner that is most convenient to you. We are also working hard to make sure that we are good stewards of God's resources. After considerable conversation and research, we have determined that a significant number of the printed newsletters we produce aren't read each month. We don't want to produce something that people are not using. We are also aware that many people really enjoy our newsletter and rely on it to stay up-to-date. So here is our plan...

1. We will continue to produce the church newsletter, but will do so less frequently.
2. The Navigator is a new piece we are producing for Sunday mornings. This serves as a mini newsletter each week.
3. We are installing TVs in the narthex that will display announcements during the week and on Sunday mornings.
4. We will be rolling out a new web site that will be loaded with easy to find information.

Our hope is that these efforts to improve communication will make us more responsive, more eco-friendly and better stewards of our precious resources. These changes will result in less staff time, less paper to purchase, fewer copies and a smaller postage bill.

In an effort to continue refining our communications efforts, please fill out this brief survey and return it to the church office at your convenience.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

We would like to continue to receive the newsletter via usps mail

We would like to live green and receive the newsletter via email.

We are NOT interested in receiving the newsletter at all.

We are no longer participating at First Lutheran Church. Please take us off the mailing list.

**If you don't respond to this survey, it is assumed you are happy with the future direction of Communications at FLRB.*

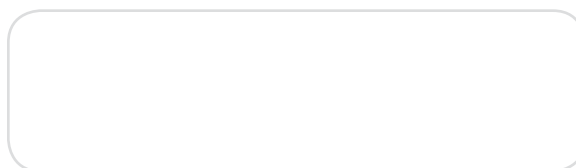
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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!

