

A WORD FROM PASTOR BJORGE



Have you noticed how dark and foggy it's been? Welcome to fall and winter in Seattle! On the foggy days I miss the sunshine. I miss the wide open vistas of the Olympic Mountains and Puget Sound. I miss the warmth. I don't much enjoy fog. But, in a very deep and spiritual sense, I'm realizing that fog has its place.

There are days in which all I see before me are twisted, complicated paths, with branches seemingly going off in every direction. Anxiously I wonder some days how I'll ever find my way through the maze that's before me.

Then I remember the One who has promised to be with me always, holding me by my right hand. I recall God's promise to guide me with His counsel. (Psalm 73:23-24) And I begin to relax.

Then I realize that what God has done is that He's given me the fog as a gift—a peaceful fog that settles over the confusing path in front of me obscuring my view. I can see only a few steps in front of me, so what I do is I turn my attention more fully to the One who's holding my right hand. I begin to enjoy His presence and count of Him to be my guide. I realize it's no longer by my strength or wisdom but, amidst the fog, I've become totally dependent.

And what I learn is that the fog is for my protection because it calls me back to the present moment. The future has been shut off to me. All I can see is what's in front of me at that moment. And it's in that moment that God is present. Because, although God inhabits all space and time, the past and the future, I can only really communicate with Him in the here and now.

Someday I know the fog may well lift. Spring and summer will return. And someday fog may no longer be necessary for me because I'll have learned to keep my focus on God even when I can see the path way out ahead of me. But for now—in this season—there's fog.

God bless the fog—and even more bless our having to count on the One who's at our side as we venture down paths as yet untrodden knowing that He has our right hand securely in His.

I can see only a few steps in front of me, so what I do is I turn my attention more fully to the One who's holding my right hand.

As you prepare your hearts and homes this season for Christmas, remember today these words that hearken the advent of Christ's coming: "In that time, there will be no more gloom for those who are in distress.... The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:1-2)

Advent Blessings—

Pastor Bjorge

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A WORD FROM INTERN PASTOR MOOTZ



“THANKSGIVING”

Through “mission moments” and individual conversations over the last month, I’ve had the privilege of hearing many stories – accounts of God’s presence with First Lutheran members.

Whether it’s through a loving parent, a friend who was present in need, or children waiting on sick family members, God is clearly at work through relationships. These stories are testimonies of God’s daily love for us through the neighbor.

As many of you know, I spent two years with the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua (ILFE). The ILFE stresses the visible presence of Christ in others; it’s one of their primary theological tenets (based in part off Jesus’ famous words in Matthew 25). The church sees the “Crucified Christ” in those who are suffering as a result of other’s sins, and the “Risen Christ” in those who bring life and healing to the suffering. This belief isn’t particular to the Nicaraguan Church, but its heavy emphasis is striking. The majority of the church membership lives off less than \$2 a day. Therefore, it’s critical for them to remember that God is alongside them, reaching into their lives at every moment of every day. Of course, they rely on the sustenance God provides through the Word and Sacraments every week. The Word of God and his physical reminders of love and forgive-

ness are absolutely necessary. But in a daily life filled with so many options for despair, they are trained to see God’s hand reaching out to them through the love of others as well. In a sense, they are trained to have “new eyes” that see God at work in every moment. When this happens, God becomes visible as a constant presence in life. They are reminded that God is always with us; that is a unique characteristic of this God we worship!

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I am reminded of the countless ways that God has been present with me through the neighbor. Christian brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers have loved me and given me life in ordinary and extraordinary ways. Whether these were more mundane moments, such as my parents going to the extra effort of disciplining me, or the times when a friend has encouraged and supported me beyond the call of duty, I have “seen” God’s loving hand. During this Thanksgiving season, it seems appropriate for all of us to look back on the last month, the last year, or the last decade. We can jot down important moments when God has touched us through the neighbor. In doing so, we may be surprised at how often God has been present, through both the good and the bad. Immanuel, God with us, is something for which we can truly give thanks.

New Member Orientation

TUESDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 7TH

FROM 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Are you interested in becoming more connected to the church? Join us and discover what it means to be a member of First Lutheran. Meet other interested prospective members, hear about how we are structured and what ministry possibilities there are. The next New Member Orientation will be held Tuesday evening, December 7, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please let the office know that you’ll be coming by either calling or e-mailing!

Office Phone: 206.546.4153
Office E-mail: office@flrb.org



SENIOR MINISTRY

ATTENTION SENIORS

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON.

*December 1st, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.
In The Fellowship Hall*

First, you may want to attend the special 10:00 am Bible study, then attend the luncheon or just come to the luncheon.

But come with great expectations for good food, fellowship, singing Christmas Carols & much, much more!

Mark your calendar! You won't want to miss the Senior Christmas Luncheon!

Questions? Contact Person: Dorothy Clausen 425-776-2694 (back from vacation Nov. 15th.)

CARING MINISTRIES



BLUE CHRISTMAS

The holidays are joyous and festive occasions for many of us. However, for some people this time of year can be quite painful and distressing. For those who have suffered a loss, a loved one, a job, or who are separated from family, friends and the familiar, loneliness is often

more acute at Christmas. While others are singing carols and feasting at parties and family reunions, these folks feel cut off and isolated.

We know our Savior as Emmanuel, which means God with us. Jesus comes to all, especially the downcast and brokenhearted. He reaches out to bring comfort and solace to those who are grieving.

First Lutheran will offer a special worship service on Sunday, December 12th, at 2:30 P.M., for all who may be feeling alone or down this year. The service is called "Blue Christmas, a Service of Remembrance and Hope." Blue Christmas worship is quiet and meditative, with candles and soft music, and speaks of hope, comfort, and light in the midst of darkness.

This service is for our members, of course, but is especially designed for our neighbors who may not have a church home. Do you know anyone who is lonely or hurting? Please invite him or her to come to the Blue Christmas worship. Offer to pick up and sit beside your friend through the service. (The present that is most appreciated by others is often the gift of our presence!)

Our Lord Jesus comes among us to heal, restore and save, and invites us to join Him in ministry to our neighbors.

WHO IS MISSING?

Are you aware of anyone who hasn't been to church lately? Perhaps they are ill and in need of prayer, or might benefit from a meal from the Nourishment Ministry team. Please help us to reach out to those in need! We also have Eucharistic Ministers, who find it an honor to bring communion into the home or hospital for someone unable to participate with us in worship. Please contact the church office, Pastor John or Cathy Thomas if you know of someone needing support.

LET US PRAY

"Let Us Pray" – you will find some Stephen Ministers with their blue name tags on at church on Sundays. They are available to pray with individuals desiring prayer after church services. Stephen Ministers are trained in one on one caring, and all prayers are confidential.



HELP BRING SERMONS TO SHUT-INS

There are a number of people in our church family who, for health and other reasons, are no longer able to attend worship. We would like to purchase 2-3 MP3 players and small speakers so that our

Stephen Ministers and others who visit shut-ins can bring the sermons to them. Our hope is to have several available at the church office to be checked out. If you'd like to make a donation, please place it in a pew envelope marked MP3 Player or give your donation to Anita Riksheim.



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:

Alysa Sturm, Bob Krock, Kenith, Shaelyn Morrison, Esther Zahnow, Cindy Brovald, Walter Winrow, father of **Jackie Turcott, Joe Jordan**, family of **Dennis Lindberg**, father of **Scott Lindberg** and father-in-law of **Kate Nesse Lindberg**, and **Lisa Everitt**.



PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

We have had some very busy months here at First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten. The Pre-Kindergarten Lions had Pumpkin Carving, the Kindergartners had a Pumpkin Math Night, the Kangaroos went “Down on the Farm” with their Dads and the Lambs and Doves had all kinds of transportation themed fun at their annual Dads night— “Away we Go!”

OUTREACH

We have chosen “Mary’s Place” as our outreach emphasis this year. We collected backpacks and school supplies in September and October. In November and December we are collecting socks, mittens, hats for both adults and children and PJ’s for adults. We have a collection box outside the school office if you would like to contribute. The school staff will be serving lunch at Mary’s Place on December 20. We are looking for food contributions and there is a large sign-up sheet on one of the rolling boards.

FUNDRAISING

Our ongoing fundraiser is our “SCRIPS” program. With each gift card purchased the preschool receives a percentage back. If you are planning to purchase gift card for Christmas giving or Birthdays during the year—please pick up an order form—look for Snoopy and Charlie Brown—and then return it to the school office. Our Annual Appeal letter will be in the mail soon—look for it and help support our Tuition Assistance Program and enhancements to our staff technology.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

If you need a little something to get you into the “Christmas Spirit” First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten has just the ticket for you!!! Join us on either Monday or Tuesday December 13th or 14th at 10:30 a.m. for the Doves and Lambs Christmas programs. On Thursday December 16th the Pre-K Lions will present “A Night of Great Surprises” written by Elizabeth Jordan at 11:00 a.m. and the p.m. Pre-K Lions and Kindergartners will present their version of “A Night of Great Surprises” at 3:00 p.m. Please join us for one or all of these events. Refreshments will be served in the Upper Room following each performance!

JANUARY REGISTRATION

January will be here before you know it and with it brings In-House and Congregational Registration for First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten for the fall of 2011. If you are interested in more information or would like a tour—please call Kären or Christine in the school office after the first of the year.

STAFF DIRECTORY

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 206.546.4153

John M. Bjorge, Lead Pastor	Ext. 225	pastorjohn@flrb.org
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MUSIC MINISTRY



AN ADVENT OF SONG AND PRAYER

People of God!

A new season is at hand. Advent is here and we are reminded to be alert and watchful. Once again we hear the perennial proclamations of John the Baptist, “the kingdom of heaven has come near” and the whole Church longs for the day when creation will be made whole. As Christmas approaches, we turn a new leaf and rejoice when we hear the anticipatory notes of the prophet Isaiah, reminding us of a future where the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will walk and the tongue of the speechless will sing for joy. Once more, the blue paraments adorn the sanctuary and we are invited to ask ourselves, “How can we wait for something that we already have?”

Every year, we are confronted with this seemingly paradoxical question, thanks to the arrival of a new liturgical calendar. The long-expected coming of our Messiah is near, and yet, we know He is always with us. So, how do we wait indeed?

As those questions floated about in my head, I was reading through the texts and translations of several hymns for possible use in our worship. Suddenly, something clicked in my head and I thought that I stumbled upon a possible answer. This poem, written by Charles Coffin reads:

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

The answer suggested in this quatrain is continuous prayer and singing. The welcoming bit, in particular, drew my attention. The poem points to an ongoing process: we invite and welcome Jesus into our hearts continually. May I suggest, that this never-ending process is nothing but a gesture of thankfulness and gratitude? Are those sentiments fueling our prayer and energizing our song?

Interestingly, when I read these four lines, I noticed the way prayer and song were framed as two distinct things, as if they were to be considered discrete and isolated aspects in our devotion. Something about that separation seems artificial, and insisting upon it, would, in my opinion, be a mistake. For example, what exactly do we mean when we sing “Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise” (as we plead when we sing the well-known song *Take My Life*)? That our lives become wholesome through the presence of Jesus. It tells us to look at every individual action in our lives and consider them as offerings to God. In this context, prayer and song become two more aspects in the continuum of our praise to God (which is a radical concept that has been around from the beginning of Christianity itself).

*The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.*

This Advent I would like to invite all of us to reignite our passion for singing and prayer. Let us start thinking about the words of every song as part of our ceaseless praise to the Almighty. Let us then dwell on those “strains of holy joy” and lustily give thanks to God for the wonderful gift of His son who came to redeem the world. Finally, keep in mind that when we pray, we pray once, but when we sing, we pray twice. Let the praise *begin*.



*Soli Deo Gloria,
Omaldo*

IMPORTANT MUSICAL DATES

DECEMBER 5TH: *Advent II*

DECEMBER 12TH: *Advent III*

DECEMBER 15TH: *Christmas Pageant*

DECEMBER 17TH: *FLRB's Christmas Concert*

DECEMBER 19TH: *Advent IV*

DECEMBER 24TH: *Christmas Eve (4 services)*

DECEMBER 26TH: *Service of Lessons and Carols*

DECEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 10am - Word of Life Bible Study 11:30am - Senior Lunch 12pm - Lutheran Secretaries Lunch 5:15pm - Children's Choir 6pm - Pageant Rehearsal 7:30pm - Cantorei Choir	2 11:30am - Writers Grp 4pm - Social Skills 5:30pm - Sounds Grace	3	4
5 2nd Sunday Advent 8:30 - Classic Worship 9:45 - Children's Ministry 9:45 - New Community 11:00 - Praise Worship 12:00 - Confirmation	6 6pm - Cub Scouts Pk325 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Kindergarten Info Mtg 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Women's Bible Study	7 9am - InAsMuch 12pm - InAsMuch Luncheon/Staff Mtg 6:30pm - PS Staff Mtg 6:30pm - New Member Orientation	8 8am - PS Hapbdy Jesus 10am - Mary/Martha Circ 10am - Word Life Bible St 5:15pm - Children's Choir 6:30pm - FLOW 6:30pm - HS Youth 6:30pm - MS Youth 6:30pm - Carharts4Christ 7:30pm - Cantorei Choir	9 8am - PS Hapbdy Jesus 10am - Mary/Martha Circ 4pm - Social Skills 5:30pm - Sounds Grace	10 5pm - Dinner prep for Mary's Place	11 9am - Cooking Turkeys 9am - Cantorei Choir
12 3rd Sunday Advent 8:30 - Classic Worship 9:45 - Children's Ministry 9:45 - New Community 11:00 - Praise Worship 12:00 - Confirmation 2:30pm - Blue Christmas 6pm - Staff Christmas Pty	13 7pm - Stephen Ministry 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Webelows Pk325 7pm - Women's Bible Study	14 9am - InAsMuch 1pm - Staff Mtg 6pm - Executive Council 6:30pm - Pageant Rehrls 7pm - Church Council	15 Beachcomber Deadline 10am - Word Life Bible St 5:15pm - Children's Choir 6:30pm - Christmas Pageant 7:15pm - Dinner 7:30pm - Cantorei Choir	16 11:30am - Writers Grp 4pm - Social Skills 5:30pm - Sounds Grace 7pm - Young Adults	17 HS/MS Lockdown 7pm - Christmas Concert	18 HS/MS Lockdown
19 4th Sunday Advent Family Craft Morning 8:30 - Classic Worship 9:45 - Children's Ministry 9:45 - New Community 11:00 - Praise Worship	20 PS Christmas Break 12pm - Deborah Circle 5:30pm - Cub Scouts Pack 325 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Women's Bible Study	21 PS Christmas Break 9am - InAsMuch 1pm - Staff Mtg	22 PS Christmas Break 5:15pm - Children's Choir 6:30pm - HS Youth 6:30pm - MS Youth 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Cantorei Choir	23 PS Christmas Break 4pm - Social Skills 5:30pm - Sounds Grace	24 PS Christmas Break Staff Christmas Eve Dinner 4:30pm - Family Service 7:30pm - Cntrmp. Service 9pm - Candlelight Service 11pm - Candlelight Service	25
26 8:30 - Classic Worship 9:45 - Children's Ministry 9:45 - New Community 11:00 - Praise Worship	27 Office Closed PS Christmas Break 7pm - Boy Scouts	28 PS Christmas Break Office open 9am-12pm 9am - InAsMuch	29 PS Christmas Break Office open 9am-12p 5:15pm - Children's Choir 7:30pm - Cantorei Choir	30 PS Christmas Break Office open 9am-12p 4pm - Social Skills 5:30pm - Sounds Grace	31 PS Christmas Break Office Closed	Jan 1

DATES TO NOTE...

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION
TUE. DECEMBER 7TH - 6:30 P.M.

Discover what it means to be a member of First Lutheran

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
WED. DECEMBER 15TH - 6:30 P.M.

This year the Christmas Pageant will be held on a Wednesday night.

FLRB CHRISTMAS CONCERT
FRI. DECEMBER 17TH

Enjoy the sounds of the season with Omaldo and company...

DECEMBER WORSHIP

ADVENT is a time of hope and joyful expectation. During Advent we emphasize the joy that compares to the months before a child is born: excitement, wonder, and joy in expectation of the life that is in our midst right now, yet about to be born. Advent offers a time to connect with our longing and hope for the saving presence of the one called Emmanuel (God-with-us.)

THE ADVENT SEASON offers us not the chance to “pretend” that Jesus has not been born, but rather to bring our experiences, hopes, and fears to the celebration of new life that is ours because of Christ’s coming. We make room in our hearts, not for One who is absent, but for a renewed sense of wonder and awe at the gift of God’s Incarnate love.

THE ADVENT WREATH is a symbolic wreath of evergreen, a circle with four candles (three blue and one rose). Some say that the blue candles (First, Second and Fourth Sundays) are the color of the sky just before the light comes in the morning – a fitting symbol of our anticipation of the “Morning Star” rising in the darkness and banishing that same darkness forever. It is also the color of hope. The rose candle for the third Sunday (“Gaudete,” meaning “rejoice”) is the symbol for hope surrounding the impending birth of Jesus. The circle reminds us that God is eternal, with no beginning and no end. As we light the candles, we remember that Jesus is the Light of the World and soon we will celebrate the day of His birth.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

This year the Christmas Pageant will be held on a Wednesday night. Children and Youth 3yr-12th grade will be able to participate. We will be having practices both on Sunday’s and Wednesdays. We will this year assign parts based on commitment level. Please look for more information and contracts to be coming out the early part of November.

Adult help needed with the following:

Costumes, Set, Rehearsals, Set up take down. For more information on how you can help please contact Terry Baird

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:30 p.m. - Family Service
7:30 p.m. - Sounds of Grace
9:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service
11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

Service of Lessons and Carols



2010 CONCERT SERIES

Christmas Concert

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
7:00 P.M.

FIRST LUTHERAN OF RICHMOND BEACH
18354 8TH AVE NW
SHORELINE, WA 98177

*A freewill offering will be taken
Proceeds support FLRB Music Programs*

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DECEMBER OUTREACH

MARY'S PLACE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Help to provide 300 meals for a woman's shelter located downtown in Seattle.

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, it is time to get ready to help with the annual Christmas dinner at Mary's place. The meal will be served this year at Immanuel Lutheran Church, located at 1512 Thomas Street, just one block west of the downtown REI building. We will be working along with Richmond Beach Congregational Church, a church from Tacoma and the staff from Mary's Place. You can help by going down on December 11th to help serve, working with the group doing the prep work at church the evening (7:00) of December 10th or by



ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY GIVING THROUGH HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Again, the Heifer International table will be in the narthex each Sunday in December prior to Christmas. This has

been welcomed by many members as a way to provide desperately needed people around the world with bred gift animals, preceded by close to a year's worth of training. The trainers speak their language, are trusted, and oversee the project helping recipients develop their own plans. These recipients maintain their dignity through passing on the first born female of their gift animal to another family, following a list made with the most needy being helped first. This exponential giving has enabled Heifer International to give this helping hand to 12.5 million families worldwide in its 67 years of existence.

With your monetary gift you are entitled to a gift card which notifies your relatives/friends that such a gift has been given in their honor. Appreciation is great, knowing they really do not need more things, but the future of needy families can be truly changed through this manner of giving.

A TERRIFIC WAY TO START THE HOLIDAY SEASON

If you have never visited this yearly event, it is heartily recommended you do so. For many years a family who has a vast collection of creches from around the world, brings this to Cristwood Nursing/Rehab center. Children are given check lists to encourage them to look for specific items, and adults also appreciate this opportunity. It is so well done, and it is interesting to see how other parts of the world depict the nativity scene as if in their own locality.

The event will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3rd, and from 9a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sat. Dec. 4th. This can be very crowded, so an early arrival would enable you to have better visibility.

providing pies for us to take down with us. We also need van drivers to help shuttle our guests from downtown to Immanuel Lutheran. We will be using the church van. Sign-up sheets will be located in the narthex on November 28th and December 5th. If you have questions, please see Jim Shilt in the narthex or call (206-542-2359).

Thanks for your support of Mary's Place!
The Outreach Committee



Need the perfect gift for your spouse this Christmas?

Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking your spouse on a **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend**.

Upcoming spring dates in Tukwila, WA
at the Courtyard by Marriott:

February 11-13, 2011
April 1-3, 2011



For more information or to register via credit card visit the website at
www.GodLovesMarriage.org

Or contact the area registration couple, Carl & Dallas Anne Presley,
Carl.presley@comcast.net or 206-522-6849.
Registrations are limited, so sign up today to ensure that you can attend the weekend of your choice.

STEWARDSHIP



Help Lutheran organizations that are near and dear to you -- even our school.

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can now help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funds through Choice DollarsSM, part of the organization's new Thrivent ChoiceSM charitable grant program.

Here's how Choice Dollars works:

- Eligible benefit members receive a letter about their designated Choice Dollars for 2010.
- Designated Choice Dollars are based on qualifying insurance premiums, qualifying contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership.
- Choice Dollars can be directed to thousands of Lutheran organizations nationwide, including our school, by visiting Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and saying, "Thrivent Choice."

Potential amounts range from \$25 to \$500 for each eligible benefit member.

Help support what matters to you most by directing your Choice Dollars

MISSION ENDOWMENT



I would like to give my home to the church, but continue to live in it during my life. Is that possible?

Yes. You can deed your home, your farm or your recreational home to the church now, reserving the right to live there for the rest of your life. You would have the comfort of knowing that some day the church will benefit from the value of your property without having to wait for a probate proceeding. You also would receive an income tax deduction right now. During your life, you would continue to pay for the costs of maintenance, insurance and property taxes. At the time of your death, the property would be sold for the benefit of the church's Mission Endowment Fund.

The Mission Endowment Fund can give you more information on how this type of gift might work for you. You can reach the Endowment through Carolee Grumm at 206.546.4153.

IMPORTANT YEAR-END TAX INFORMATION

Please remember that in order to claim a deduction for contributions you make to First Lutheran this year, the IRS states that we must receive your contribution by December 31, 2010. Contributions that you make in the New Year cannot be deducted on this year's tax return, even if the check is backdated. The one exception is if the check is written, mailed and postmarked 2010, it can be deducted even if it is not received by the church until the New Year. First Lutheran will follow these IRS guidelines in issuing your year end statements.

Offering envelopes for 2011 will come to you in the mail quarterly. If you have never received envelopes and would like to have envelopes please call Carolee at the church office.

THIS WEEK AT FLRB E-MAIL LIST



Are you on the e-mail list to receive weekly info about what is happening at First Lutheran?

If not, add yourself to the list by filling out the form on the First Lutheran web site (www.flrb.org).

All you need to do is type in your name and e-mail address and click subscribe. Then you'll be in the loop on all the activities of the church.

FLRB WEB SITE TIP

Did you know you can listen to sermons preached at First Lutheran on our web site?

All you need to do is visit:

<http://flrb.org/worship/sermons/>

From here you can search for a sermon by preacher, date, Bible text, and more! Sermons are available going back to June of 2008.

New sermons are added every Tuesday!

NEWS & NOTES

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The November Church Council meeting was held on Nov. 16. New business included a discussion and review around the "8 Quality Characteristics" from the Natural Church Development book that the council is reading. Lay leaders will be taking the Spiritual Gifts survey in January and Council will revisit our Action Plan and Goals to align with results from the survey.

Council members received ministry reports from Pastor Bjorge and Intern Mootz. They reported that the planned trip to Haiti has been cancelled. A spring time task force will be appointed to find a mission location that we can identify and connect with on an ongoing basis and forge a lasting relationship instead of picking random locations. The Surrendered Life meetings had approx. 45 people and the next series is Immersion weekend (one weekend instead of 6 weeks) scheduled for Jan 14 – 16. The Christmas program is on a Wednesday this year (Dec 15),

with meal served and with youth and teens participating. Staff are sending out postcards for Christmas eve Worship. The Wed evening program is in flux. The staff are getting clarity on what it can look like and will form a Task force in Jan and Feb to explore ideas for a whole new program format for next fall. The outdoor Signage has funding via the Memorial fund and ideas are for it to be front lit and made of stone and wood to complement existing new architecture, with the name of church and website. Intern Mootz reported that his learning goals and project (Young Adults) have been identified.

The council received the Treasurer's report from Mike Strand and a brief on "Faith in Action" (separate effort from Outreach, to identify common serving interests among the congregation) from guest Harlan Patterson. President Van Hoosier reported that Sauerkraut lunch was very successful and appreciated by veterans. Next meeting is scheduled for December 14.

You are cordially invited to
**A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS
AT THE HEARTHSTONE**

Open House
2pm - 5pm
Sunday, December 5th

*Come enjoy holiday music, cookies and
decorations with us.*

*New Village Cove
Living Life at Green Lake*

*While you are here, stop by the 10th floor to
learn more about our new retirement com-
munity scheduled to open late 2011.*

RSVP by calling 206.774.5153
by December 1st.

CARHARTTS FOR CHRIST

Carhartts for Christ will meet at 6:30 December 1st, 8th, and 22nd at Church. On the 1st we will finish our epic study of the Gospel of John. On the 8th we'll go with the 'Flow'. On the 22nd we'll meet at 6:30 for a little Christmas cheer and a DVD of the one man play entitled 'John in Exile'. Come join us!).

A word about the name... Carhartts are working clothes. They're what you put on when you're out in the mud and the rain. They're tough enough for the job and can weather the storm. Our men's group is a place you wear your mud-spattered clothes – where you can come with what life has thrown at you. You don't have to get cleaned up first! Of course there's a second part to that name. We are for Christ. We come together to get to know Him better – to clothe ourselves with Him (Romans 13:14). And time and again we discover that He is for us. He forgives, renews, and refreshes like nothing else. This is always the way it has been: it took God to make a man out of mud at the beginning and it still does today.

Contact Alan Herr for more information (alan-jherr@gmail.com; 206-546-2564)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION



NEW COMMUNITY

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

New Community is a class for adults held between worship services each Sunday, September through May. Since the very beginning, God has had it in His heart to extend the community He enjoys as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—God in community with God's Self. You might say to create humans in the imago Dei (the image of God) that God created us so that we, like God, could experience community. It didn't take long for that community to fracture such that our fear and shame and blame and sin kept us from being able to be in community with each other or with God. But God has tirelessly worked to heal our capacity to live in His image by healing our ability to be in community. This has been our sub-theme in this class—community has been what God has worked to create and re-create, something we've seen in our previous studies of the Old Testament, Acts (the early Christian community), Revelation (the vision of the future community), the Sermon on the Mount (Jesus' quintessential teaching on life in community), and Paul's letter to the Colossians (the ways in which community happens at the local level).

This year we look back at three Old Testament giants—Moses, David, and Daniel. We'll see how they worked as God's servants to build community amidst much opposition. Join us each Sunday as we look at God's dream for community in our midst today!

WORD OF LIFE

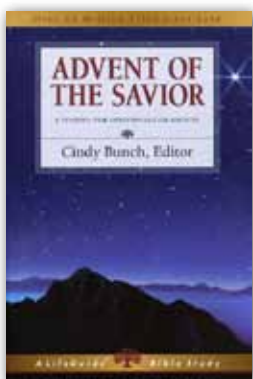
WEDNESDAYS - 10:00 A.M. IN THE LIBRARY

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



MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN

MONDAYS - 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 207

Monday Night Women's Bible Study is using a study by Cindy Bunch titled Advent of the Savior. Our last session of the year will be December 13th.

THE SURRENDERED LIFE

RETREAT JANUARY 14-16, 2011

Luke 9: 23-24 says,

"And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.'"

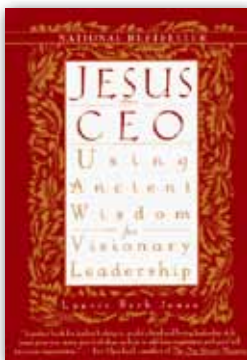
There is no greater joy than this!

True freedom is found in surrendering yourself to Christ so that His will and purpose for your life will be lived out. Please join us for a weekend retreat January 14-16, 2011. We will learn how to gain freedom from strongholds or obstacles that are preventing you from living the surrendered life! Please register by contacting Anita Riksheim at 206.361.2725, anitamariem@msn.com, or call Kathy Johnson at 206.542.5251.

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 starting Friday, October 8th. 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.



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