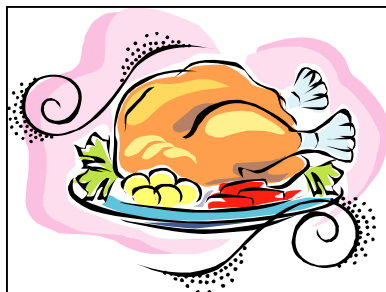


## Thanksgiving Baskets Galore...

Thanks to the great outpouring of generosity from the members of First Lutheran this year we were able to reach and **exceed** our ambitious goal of 50, as **55** families in the Shoreline and Edmonds areas received a turkey and all of the extras for a Thanksgiving meal. This has been a tradition for many years at First Lutheran, and every year we are able to do more as our list of families grows. All of the extra items we received were donated to the Shoreline Food Bank.

A project of this type takes lots of work, and a big **“thanks”** goes to Candy Gaul for organizing the gathering and distribution of all of the food. Nancy Dalan also plays a big part in this



process by coordinating the list of recipients. Special thanks go to Dave & Joan Rice and the Food

For Thought group for all of their work. Also very much appreciated are all of the sorters, and those who delivered the food and turkeys. This is another example of putting our **compassion** into **action!**

2Corinthians 9:7

So let everyone give as they purpose in their heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.

## The Beachcomber by Internet?

Yes, we ARE trying to move farther into the 21st century. First has been experimenting with this idea for awhile. *The Beachcomber* has been posted on our web site for a few years. Recently, we have been sending it as an attachment to a few volunteers who wanted to receive it via internet as opposed to snail mail. Now we have a new software program which will allow us to create and send a version of *The Beachcomber* to all the e-mail addresses we have for our members and friends.

This program will allow you to “opt out,” easily. If you make that election, we will receive a notice and you will continue to receive your *Beachcomber* by mail. If you would like to continue receiving the paper copy, you can opt out of the e-mail version, or receive both.

If we do not have an e-mail address for your household, please feel free to provide one to us by calling the office, sending an e-mail (office@flrb.org), or writing your e-mail address on a pew card when you are here on a Sunday.

The December e-mail will be a “first format,” with bet-

ter, more streamlined formatting developing as we have a chance to learn more about the process. All the written information that is in the paper will be included in the internet version. Linda, the office manager, would love to have any comments. We want to make our newsletters, both the paper copy and the internet version, meaningful and informative for you.

We anticipate cost savings for our budget by saving on paper and mailing costs, and are interested to see the results of this effort. Remember, you can chose the method you like, or both!

## A Word from Intern Wolfgang Laudert

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Greetings to you from your new intern! So, first and foremost, let me say THANK YOU for your amazing welcome. I’m settling in nicely. I love my new place where I live...it’s great; and my Office too. Feel free to come and check it out sometime. I’ve enjoyed getting to meet many of you. I’ve been in some of your homes, and have felt warmly welcomed. As a newcomer in your midst, I have to say that I’ve been touched, and my heart has been warmed by your deep faith, and your love for Jesus Christ! Moreover, your hospitality has been wonderful, and I’ve been blessed richly by this congregation’s worship. I sense and have seen with my own eyes, even in the

first month that I’ve been here, that you are truly gathered by the Holy Spirit, loving and serving as Jesus did—so that all may know Him! As a seminarian preparing for pastoral ministry and congregational leadership, it’s been most rewarding and encouraging. And this is a happening place with lots going on, and I love that!!

I’m looking forward to learning under Pastor John and I appreciate his deep love for the Lord and his Word! And what a great staff I get to work with too! I’m excited for the opportunity to preach and teach, including Confirmation. We are currently making our way thru the 10 Commandments... (Kids: Bring your Catechisms and Bibles!!)

With that, blessings to you in the days ahead as we enter

this new season of Advent! Grounded in the hope of the Gospel, this is a season of joyous anticipation as we prepare our hearts for God’s coming among us. We reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation, as we think of those prophets from long ago that waited for so long... even as we look ahead and hear Christ’s promise to come again.

In eager expectation, we wait for Christ’s return, even as we prepare ourselves to celebrate once again our dear Savior’s birth!

See you in church!

In Him,  
Vicar Wolfgang



## Heifer International—A Giving Opportunity

Is there someone dear to you who has everything they need? We find people are delighted to receive a card from Heifer International, indicating someone else who really needs it will be receiving an animal and training in honor of him/her. There is often a tie-in with some specific ani-

mal story or country, which can even enhance the joy of knowing in their name a family now has real hope for a much brighter life. Children can overcome malnutrition and even attend school, now that the family has a means of self support. Isn't this the real joy of Christmas giving?

The Heifer table with the tri-fold board of pictures and information about this in depth charitable program will be available in the narthex each Sunday prior to Christmas.

Evie Hutton

## FLRB Preschool SCRIPS

Scripts is our on-going fundraiser. With the Holidays fast approaching, don't forget to fill out an order form!!! The Preschool gets a percentage back for every dollar spent on Scripts (or gift cards). What an easy way to support this ministry!!!!



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

December Order Dates  
4th & 11th

## What is an endowment fund? Why does First Lutheran need one?

The First Lutheran endowment fund is designed to collect special undesignated gifts from members and friends of the congregation that are invested to preserve and grow the capital and generate income that can be used over the years to help fulfill the changing mission needs of the congregation. Typically gifts are provided through bequests in wills, related estate planning, planned giving, life insurance, gifts of appreciated property or stock, charitable remainder annuities and

other methods that flexibly meet different family situations and donor intentions. The First Lutheran endowment fund is specifically chartered to use earnings to support mission projects within the congregation, community, ELCA churchwide ministries, extraordinary congregational programs or capital campaigns.

First Lutheran needs an endowment fund to meet the needs of givers who want their assets and gifts

to support the congregation through many years in the future. Endowment funds are a great way to fund start up ministries, special needs or major projects that are not easily accommodated by the operating budget but which can bless the community of faith for many years.

For more information please contact Glenn Nelson, FLCRB Endowment Fund Chair, or Carolee Grumm, Parish Administrator.

## 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, 2009.** 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** 2009 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 2010 will come to you in the mail quarterly.



If you have never received envelopes and would like to have them come to you, please call Carolee at the church office.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

### Family Faith Walks—December Quiet Christmas

“And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son, She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

#### Faith walk:

Take a walk at night or in the early morning when few people are around. Stop. Stand very still. What sounds do you hear amidst the quietness? Imagine the cries of a newborn baby breaking the silence of a certain quiet night.

#### Faith Talk:

- Jesus, the King of kings, came into the world quietly, without the fanfare of a royal court. He was born in a stable and laid in a manger, a feeding trough for animals.
- Jesus' parents were poor in money but humble and rich in faith. Why do you think God chose to send Jesus to be born into this family instead of a rich family, a royal family?
- God wants us to have faith. That means He wants us to believe without seeing. Would it take more faith to believe that Jesus is the King of kings if He was born into a poor family or into a royal family.
- What can you do to quietly celebrate Christmas?

#### Faith Activities:

- Jesus came into the world to be a servant. His greatest act of service was to die on the cross for us. In love we want to serve Him back. Read Matthew 25:40 and plan a family servant event. Ideas could include cleaning the church for Christmas, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or collecting items for a gift drive.
- Turn off the television, radios, computers and iPods for a day and spend the day talking in hushed voices. At the end of the day, ask God to help you treat one another with quiet love
- Draw names from a hat. Be a Secret Pal to that person until Christmas. Do special things to show one another God's love.

Dear Jesus, King of kings,  
You came into the world quietly. Few people knew or even cared who You were. Yet You are the greatest gift this world has ever received. Open the eyes of all to see that you are our Savior King. Amen

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



## PRESCHOOL NEWS Continued.....

We will be collecting Stocking Stuffers for Homeless Children. For the past several years we have been in partnership with the Coast Guard Aux. to be a collection place. If you would like to help out—look for the collection boxes next to the Christmas tree outside the Preschool Office. We will be collecting all kinds of stocking stuffers through December 10. For more information see the flyer on the collection boxes or call the Preschool Office 206-546-0320 or preschool@flrb.org

## Holiday Greetings from our Treasurer

Christmas is all around us. The practices at church have started for Preschool programs, Sunday School pageants, dances, singing and instrumental expressions of all kinds. Christmas has been called the "season of giving." If you are like us, you have received numerous letters and solicitations from all of the non-profit organizations you have ever contributed to, asking for your continued support. During this beautiful season, our hearts are warmed with thoughts of the Christ child coming to be among us and we often feel called to respond by giving of our treasures back to the world. In this season of giving, will you also please remember to give to First Lutheran of Richmond

Beach? The church counts on the fall and winter months to catch up the budget from the vacation days of summer when contributions traditionally drop off. The church is only able to provide for its ministry activities through your conscientious donations.

We are 5 months into our fiscal year and are lagging behind with expenses out pacing giving by about \$12,000 at this time. The church council approved accepting an intern (we hope you have met Wolfgang Laudert by now; he is already a valuable asset to our ministry) for a 10 month commitment. This affects our income needs



by another \$12,000 over the budget. There are many costs involved to doing the business of the church, some planned for and some unforeseen. This congregation's spirit of giving is awesome.

In a society of consumerism, the church is a welcome place where the value of giving, not getting, is taught. First Lutheran is a worthy steward of our gifts. Please review and consider your giving to your church. If you have not been a regular giver, will you begin? Will you consider a gift to the Church and its many missions during this Christmas season?

Mike Strand

## Operation Christmas Child—YES, YES, YES!

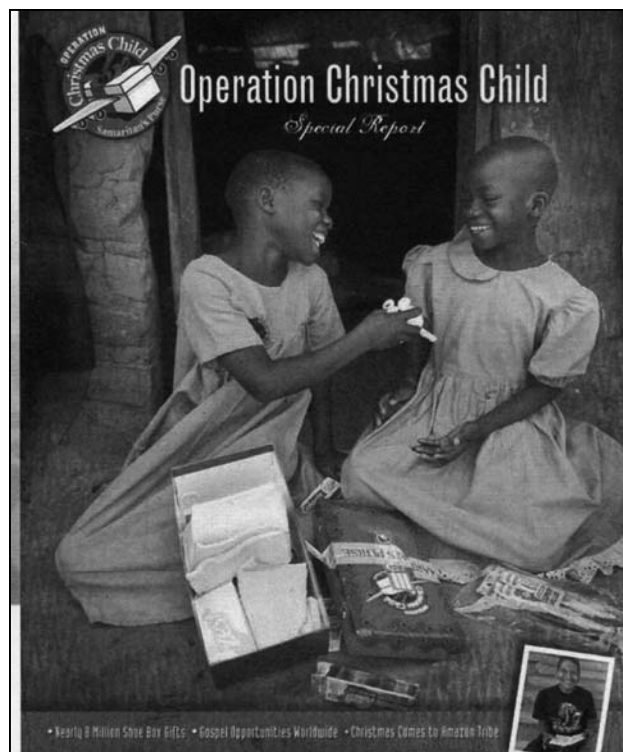
Hats off, First Lutheran! Many, many shoeboxes were lovingly filled and have been donated to Operation Christmas Child. Our Preschool families set a new record of 95 boxes, which were added to the collection of about 100 from the congregation.

If you would like to learn more about this very special project, go to the web site:

[www.operationChristmasChild.org](http://www.operationChristmasChild.org)

[child.org](http://www.operationChristmasChild.org) for some wonderful stories about those who are receiving these great gifts. Sometimes, what we think is a small effort is truly huge in the lives of others.

Operation Christmas Child is a global charity, with givers and receivers from all over the world. This is a way that we, as God's children, celebrate our many blessings in the Christmas Season!



## Encore!: Charitable IRA Legislation Passed

The charitable IRA legislation is back for a repeat performance—don't miss this second-chance opportunity to receive tax-free gifts from IRA accounts!

There's good news for individuals aged 70½ or older with individual retirement accounts. Thanks to the extended charitable IRA legislation, you can once again make outright gifts using IRA funds without tax complications.

If you are required to receive minimum distributions from your IRA and you do not need the money for personal use, consider using those funds as a charitable gift. While you cannot claim a charitable deduction for the IRA gifts, you will not pay income tax on the amount.

You may contribute funds this way if:

- \* You are 70½ or older
- \* Your IRA gifts total \$100,000 or less each year in 2008 and 2009
- \* You transfer funds directly from an IRA
- \* You transfer the gifts outright to one or more public charities (This excludes gifts made to charitable trusts, donor advised funds and supporting organizations.)

The Benefits—Music to Your Ears

- \* In most cases, the transfer counts toward your minimum required distributions.
- \* The gift generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so even those who do not

itemize their tax returns receive the benefit.

- \* You may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA in 2008 and 2009.
- \* The distributions may be in addition to or fulfill any charitable giving you have already planned.

The Next Step

Be sure to contact tax professionals and your IRA administrator if you are considering a gift under this law. Feel free to call Jim Leistikow, Director of Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium of Western Washington at 206-280-7328 or [jim.leistikow@elca.org](mailto:jim.leistikow@elca.org) with any questions.

## From Omaldo Perez, Our Director of Music Ministries...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write these words, I am looking at the calendar. It is the middle of November as I look ahead, I can't help but think that for us Christians living north of the Equator, the convergence of shorter days as well as the transition in the church's liturgical calendar in the months of November and December bring into focus the wonderful promises of God: We are in the Lord's keeping! God delivers!

Advent is a season of joyful anticipation! Think of it as an "ARE WE THERE YET?" for us Christians. *Vorfreude* is, in my mind, a word inextricably linked to this time of the year. More-

over, in Advent, we are called to practice hope in our waiting and patience in our trust. We long to welcome the Light in the midst of the darkness. We long to share the joy of being the recipients of God's grace. It is in that spirit of joy and trust that I invite you to join us for all the wonderful Advent and Christmas Eve services. Come and sing and let us make music together on Sundays and Wednesdays in preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Our Bethlehem Village (Dec. 16th) is going to be wonderful and it will have musical participation from several FL musical ensembles. On Christmas Eve, please join us and plan to arrive earlier since all the services will have at least 15 min-

utes of special prelude music. The Cantorei choir and our hand bell choir will be rehearsing on every Wednesday in December except the 30<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the festivities.

So this time of the year, as we embark on our Advent, we take courage in the promise of the Advent of our God (from the Latin *adventus Domini* meaning: "the coming of the Lord"), we prepare to receive Jesus in our hearts anew. We rejoice in the knowledge of God's fulfillment of that advent promise in the future (Christ will come again!).

Thanks be to God!

Omaldo

# December 2009

## Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:00 InAsMuch 12 N Staff Mtg  7:30 Intern Committee	<b>2</b> 10:00 Word of Life  5:15 PM New Song & Alleluia Choirs 6:00 VN Supper 6:30 Education 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 PRISM 7:30 Cantorei Choir	<b>3</b> 11:30 Writers' Class  5:45 Sounds of Grace	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 Classic Wor- ship 9:45 Education 11:00 Praise Worship 12N Confirma- tion Trip <b>3:00 Blue Christ- mas</b>	<b>7</b>  6:30 Financial Peace U 6:30 Pre- school Teach- ers 7:00 Womens' Bible Study	<b>8</b> 9:00 InAsMuch 1:00 Staff Mtg  7:00 Council	<b>9</b> 10:00 Word of Life  5:15 PM New Song & Alleluia Choirs 6:00 VN Supper 6:30 Education 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 PRISM 7:30 Cantorei Choir	<b>10</b> 10:00 Mary Martha Circle  5:45 Sounds of Grace	<b>11</b>  6:00 Wed- ding Re- hearsal  7:00 Cook for Mary's Place	<b>12</b>  5:00 Hoffman Wedding
<b>13</b> 8:30 Classic Wor- ship 9:45 Education 11:00 Praise Worship  4:30 Confirma- tion	<b>14</b> 10:00 PS Christmas Program  7:00 Womens' Bible Study	<b>15</b> 9:00 InAs- Much-w/ Chrsitmas Luncheon 10:00 PS Christmas Program 12 N Deborah Circle  1:00 Staff Mtg	<b>16</b> 10:00 Word of Life 11:30 Seniors' Luncheon 5:15 PM New Song & Alleluia Choirs 6:00 VN Supper <b>6:30 A Night in Bethlehem</b> 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 PRISM 7:30 Cantorei Choir	<b>17</b> 10:00 PS Christmas Program 11:30 Writers' Class  5:45 Sounds of Grace	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  10:00 Christ- mas Pagent Dress Re- hearsal
<b>20</b> 8:30 Classic Worship <b>9:45 Christmas Pagent</b> 11:00 Praise Worship	<b>21</b>  7:00 Womens' Bible Study	<b>22</b>  1:00 Staff Mtg	<b>23</b>	<b>24—Christmas Eve</b>  12N Office Closed 4:30 Family Worship 8:00 Praise & Wor- ship 9:30 Candlelight Worship 11:00 Candellight Worship	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>  Office & PS Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30 Classic Worship  11:00 Praise Worship	<b>28</b> <b>Christmas Monday</b>  Office & PS Closed  7:00 Womens' Bible Study?	<b>29</b>  12N Office Closed	<b>30</b>  12N Office Closed	<b>31</b>  12N Office Closed		

- Preschool is on Christmas Break from December 21st-January 1st
- Dec 16th @ 11:30—Seniors' Luncheon-Celebrate Christmas
- Dec 16th @ 6:30 -A Night in Bethlehem Christmas Event @ Village Night
- Dec 20th at 9:45 AM—Christmas Pagent

Something for everyone—Christmas Eve Services:

4:30 Family Worship

8:00 Praise and Worship

9:30 Candlelight Worship

11:00 Candlelight Worship

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

## Council Highlights—November 10, 2009

- Treasurer's Report: Income year-to-date is 81.95% of the budget while year-to-date expenses are 88.47% of budget. As of October 31st, we are \$12,000 behind budget.
- The Defibrillator that we planned to purchase has been recalled. We will wait for the new model.
- One laptop computer for staff has been acquired.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service will be at RBUCC at 7:00 PM.
- Womens' Candlelight Service will be at 6:30 pm on November 29th
- Blue Christmas Service will be Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Services: 4:30 Family; 8:00 Sounds of Grace; 9:30 and 11:00 Candlelight w/Cantorei and Bells. No Christmas Day Worship.
- We are preparing Thanksgiving baskets for 50 families.
- Stewardship cards will be out next week—this years' pledge is strictly between each member and God.
- Thrivent has given \$9,600 in matching of members' contributions to FLRB Preschool for its needs,

which also benefits the congregation.

- The ELCA Assembly Actions were discussed and a letter will be drafted stating the decision of the council supporting Pastor Bjorge's position. The letter will be approved in a special meeting on November 17th and mailed to each member family.



## Our Prayer for Friends and Community

*We pray for God's blessings and care for the following members and friends who are ill or in need:* For **Josh Mousette**, son of Kathy Adams; for **Lisa Santroch**, friend of Erin Ellersick; for **Jane Hanson**; for **David Bisson**; for **Beth Lie**; for **Mason Hoffman**, Duane Hoffman's father; for **Josh**, his mother, their family, friends and Shorecrest staff; **Nancy Gorgen**; for **Solveig Schweiss**; **Lisa Everitt**, sister of Tina King; **Eric Pedersen**;

*We pray for peace and God's comfort for those who have lost loved ones:* **Olga Lunde**, Kari Lunde's grandmother; **Ben**, son of Anita Riksheim's friend Marianne; **Ralph Garren**, husband of Elizabeth Bjorge's grandmother Frances; **Seth Fieser**, baby son of Megan and Patric and nephew of Bente Klatt; **Earl Waldal**; **SPD Officer Benton**



*We pray ...*