

The BEACHCOMBER

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RICHMOND BEACH

February 2012



I'll admit, wanting the church to grow can get me thinking about how to make what we do that much more exciting, exceptional, and attractive to those who visit so that they'll want to return and even join our church! It's made me cringe when things don't go off just right, when there are glitches, or something falls flat or ends up being more of a distraction than something that I think might glorify God.

But then I got thinking... Was the paralyzed man lowered from the rooftop in the middle of a teaching a distraction? Was the Canaanite woman who harassed Jesus and his disciples about healing her daughter a distraction? Was the blind Bartimaeus who annoyed the crowd with his relentless cries a distraction? Did these things somehow distract Jesus from his ministry? Did they bring less glory to God by keeping Jesus from what he was really all about?

Jesus didn't think so. In fact, he seemed to think that they were the point. Jesus taught us that when we throw a banquet or a party, our invitation list should include *"the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind."*

Our stuffiness shows up when we forbid others from contributing art and music and other gifts because we deem them unworthy of glorifying God, or when we feel like we don't have anything to contribute because we don't do things as well as others, or we don't have as many resources to share as others.

The truth about us is that we're all broken. It's just that some of us wear our brokenness on the inside, while others of us wear our brokenness on the outside. When you think about it, none of us are all that exciting, exceptional, or attractive! We're all in need of a Savior. So let's give up on thinking that the more entertaining we can be, the more people will like us and want to come to church. Let's embrace even the distractions in worship knowing that, even then, Jesus would feel right at home!

—Pastor John

Music for your Soul



An Evening of Song

The first concert of the 2012 Season at FLRB will feature a veritable cornucopia of love songs in different languages presented by the members of The Inverse Opera Company. On Friday **February 3rd**, at 7:00 pm, The members of Inverse Opera Company will present the Liebeslieder Waltzes by Johannes Brahms, and many other musical jewels from the art song tradition.

Sounds of Grace: Dark Wood and Clear Waters

The second concert of the Spring will feature FLRB's house band: Sounds of Grace. On Friday, February 17, at 7:00 pm SOG will raise a mighty noise in God's house and bring to our community a sense joy, fellowship and wonder through music as we thank God for all his blessings.

The Esoterics! Performing "Sirene"

One of Seattle's finest a cappella ensembles is returning to FLRB and will bring to Shoreline their latest project: *Sirene*. This concert will feature music in a multiplicity of languages, from Greek to Quechua, and its unifying theme is the ancient call to consciousness.

New Community Worship

Our popular New Community Class which meets between the two worship services each Sunday has become the NEW COMMUNITY WORSHIP. Worship and praise music will be included with Pastor John's prayers and teaching, both before and after the lesson. Those who'd like to consider this their worship experience for the morning, can certainly do so.

However, if you're considering the New Community Service to be your Sunday School time, have no fear. The 8:30 am and 11:00 am services will continue to be different in format and theme.

In February, the first two Sundays of the month will be taken up with special events. February 5th the Health Cabinet will hold a Health Forum and on Feb 12th Bishop Chris Boerger will present regarding the work of the synod. On February 19th Pastor John will resume his six week focus on the prayer our Lord gave to His disciples—what we call the Lord's Prayer. Join us each Sunday at 9:45 in the Upper Room and experience the power of God's Word as it comes to Life!

community creativity
teaching worship
space

Dave Ramsey's

Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

Come to First Lutheran of Richmond Beach to learn how to better manage your money and your life. We are hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace classes to teach God's way of handling money. The class consists of Dave's teaching on video, followed by small-group discussion. The principles in Financial Peace apply to everyone- whether you're financially secure or are struggling with debt. A preview course of the Dave Ramsey

series on finances and money management will be held at 7:00 p.m., February 6th. This 13-week course will begin on February 27th, at 7:00 p.m. if there is sufficient interest. Course fee of \$99.51 includes books and materials.

Cost is per family, couple, or individual. Sign up online (<http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu>), at the welcome center, or at the preview night. Please make plans to join us on the journey to true financial peace! Hope to see you there!

Something Special!

Be a part of FLRB's ministry to the homeless as each Friday in February our congregation serves at the **Community Lunch Program at Central Lutheran Church** on Capitol Hill. Each Friday we will prepare and serve lunches there. All outreach money collected in February will go to the Community Lunch Program. See article on the back page.

On February 12th **Bishop Chris Boerger**, bishop of our Northwest Washington Synod, will be preaching and holding a forum to share with us the work we participate in on a synodical, national and global level. Join us for that special Sunday!

FLRB CONCERT SERIES

Friday, February 3rd **An Evening of Song**
Friday, February 17th **Dark Wood and Clear Waters**
Friday, March 2nd **The Esoterics**

All Performances are at 7:00 pm, followed by a reception in the church library.

Study opportunities at First Lutheran to bless your heart, soul and mind!

Mondays	12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Women's Bible Bunch (3rd Monday of each month) Women's Bible Study
Tuesdays	9:00 am	InAsMuch Quilting Group
Wednesdays	10:00 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Word of Life Bible Study Carhartts for Christ, Men's Bible Study Women of the Word Bible Study, plus the Knit Wits (prayer shawl knitters)
Thursdays	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Mary & Martha Circle (2nd Thursday of each month) Surrendered Life Bible Study
Sundays	9:45 am	New Community Worship/Sunday School

If you have questions regarding any of our study groups, give the church office a call at 206-546-4153, Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am - noon.



Preschool News

It's Registration time!!! Yes, can you believe it – it's time to register for the 2012-13 school year. If you are counting, next fall we will celebrate 40 years of ministry!!!! Look for more information in the weeks and months to come for our 40 year celebration! In the meantime.....if you are interested or you know someone with young children who might be inter-

ested in a GREAT early learning experience please send them our way. We have classes for 2 ½ - 5 years of age. In addition we have a parent participation class (Kangaroos) for the 2-21/2 yr. olds and a half day Kindergarten class!!! If you would like more information please call the office at 206-546-0320 or check out our website <http://school.flrb.org>.

Thank you

A huge Thank You to all of our congregation and friends who supported our Annual Appeal drive in November and December! We raised over \$3000. We will be able to use some additional funds for Tuition Assistance and some to start our "Playground Renovation" fund. We are hoping to spiff up the grass and the materials around out bike track this spring! Thank you again for all your prayers and support!!!!



Service Sunday February 5th

During Sunday school on February 5th the children will have a chance to serve our community. We will have multiple stations set up that the kids will rotate through and create valentines for homeless people, place mats for central Lutheran and other service projects.

Family/ 7th-12th Grade Ski Trip February 18th

Cost: Adult (16-61) \$62; Student (13-15) \$52; Youth (7-12) \$42 — Plus money for Food

Meet at Church at 7:00 am. Adult chaperones/drivers will be needed. The Ski trip is open to the entire church, however, kids younger than 7th grade must come with a parent. Join us for a great day up in the mountains!!

Middle School Girls Retreat March 3-4th

Mark your calendars for this new event, a middle school girls' retreat. This is a time for girls to grow in their faith together. It will run Friday night through dinner on Saturday. More details on theme, price and exact times to come.

Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance March 10th

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

Girls of all ages are encouraged to come to this great event. Bring your dad, grandpa, uncle, or godfather.

Tickets on sale at church or through Terry Baird.

Elementary Retreat March 16-17

Grades 1-6; cost: \$35 per participant

This is a fun weekend intro to Camp Lutherwood. If your child has never gone to camp, this is a great way to test the waters! If they have been to camp before, this is a great winter retreat that brings the joy of camp back.

For more information on any of the children, youth or family programs contact Faith Formation Director Terry Baird.



VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH

First Lutheran is saving a place for you on Tuesday, February 14, at 12 noon, to enjoy another wonderful luncheon. Our guest speaker will be Edmond's own **RICK STEVES**, President and Owner of Europe Through the Backdoor. We are so pleased that he will be joining us and sharing his stories and travel wisdom with us. Jim Shilt will be cooking another wonderful meal for us to

enjoy so mark your calendar for February 14th. Sign ups will begin on Sunday, January 29, in the Narthex. People of all ages are welcome! Looking forward to seeing you all there!



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OUTREACH

Reach Out • Motivate • Provide

FEBRUARY OUTREACH COMMUNITY LUNCH ON CAPITOL HILL

The Community Lunch on Capitol Hill has been providing meals for mostly homeless and some low income people twice a week at Central Lutheran Church for more than 25 years. Last year they also added a dinner once a week at All Pilgrims Church. First Lutheran has been participating in this effort since the beginning, and February is the month for our annual trek to Central Lutheran to cook and serve lunch on Fridays.

Each year we seem to say that the demands keep going up, and unfortunately they do.

Last year we were serving an average of 275 meals each week. By the end of 2011, that number approached 300 per week, and in November more than 3,000 lunches were served. We prepare every year to make sure we have enough for everyone who comes through the serving line.

Signups for volunteers have already started. If you would still like to volunteer, check the board in the narthex. Or if you can't help in person, we can always use cookies or brownies, and by all means monetary donations.

Your monetary donations during February go to offset the cost of the food we purchase in order to prepare these meals. You can just use the "Outreach" section of your envelope to designate your gift to the Community Lunch program.

If you have questions or would like more information about the lunch program, call Jim Borrow at (206) 546-3716.

LIFE TRANSITIONS CLASS

Pastor John has created a "Health Cabinet" in our congregation to assist in wellness and health information in our congregation. The group has several medical doctors, RNs from many specialties, Medical Assistants and others. Please join us on **Sunday February 5 in the Upper Room** (during the New Community Class) as we address **Life Transitions!** It's no surprise that no one is getting any younger! This is an opportunity to have conversations with your physician, your spouse or your children – or your caregiver, about what is important to you! This is an opportunity to seek what is important to you, and how that might look and feel in YOUR family and your world. This may be a tool to open conversations into some difficult topics. There will be some presentations, time for questions and a resource table for support. Please join us and bring your questions and concerns!!