

The Beachcomber

VOLUME 105, ISSUE 5

MAY 2008

From the Desk of Pastor Bjorge

A friend of mine recently attended the largest evangelical church in Milwaukee, WI. Their pastor got up and said, “We don’t do this here but, just for fun: *The Lord be with you!*” The entire throng of thousands of worshippers cried in unison, “*And also with you!*” What my friend realized in that moment was that this worship hall/auditorium was packed with former Lutherans and Catholics.

Which begs the question: Why? What’s the draw? Why, year after year, is the Lutheran church (as well as many of the mainline churches) declining in membership while non-denominational and large evangelical churches seem to be thriving? More to the chase: Why are their worship halls filled with our former members?

I have no easy answers, only observations. One factor is that within mainline denominations these days there exists a certain measure of entropy – a general malaise that has allowed those on the fringes of our tradition to come to places of power and articulate agendas which have made many head for the hills and left others of us simply scratching our heads. Sadly, in mainline Protestantism, we’ve taken our eyes off that which really matters or, worse yet, simply become bored with what God died to give us.

The churches that are growing have not! They’ve passionately and enthusiastically committed themselves to the things that most all our churches had once committed themselves to: excellent preaching, anointed teaching, inspiring worship, passionate evangelism, compassionate outreach, worldwide mission, and dynamic children’s ministries which, collectively, demonstrate to the world their profound dedication to making Christ Jesus known, experienced, and adored.

Some have tried to right the ship within

our denomination with a focus on being “confessional” or “orthodox.” While that may be all fine and well, we will not attract new followers and move the kingdom forward by focusing on who it is we used to be or by reestablishing bygone structures. Our problems run deeper.

The root disease we are experiencing is less doctrinal and more spiritual. Just as with the church in Ephesus (Rev. 2:4), so too have we lost our first love! We have turned the gospel into things like justice, inclusion, affirmation, community, welcome, environmentalism, activism, etc. and, of course, these things can each be good. But to make them the gospel makes them nothing but another good-work! People will tire of such works and yearn for places where Jesus himself is made known – places that have a theocentric thrust rather than an anthropocentric one; places where Jesus is worshipped and glorified, where his Word is proclaimed and taught with relevance, where his Spirit takes cold hearts and weekly warms them with his grace; places where broken lives can weekly find healing; places where God is seen, heard and experienced and where the kingdom moves forward into people’s hearts, into their homes, and into their little communities.

My experience is that churches that do that with passion, creativity, and excellence will grow! The boats have stopped coming from northern Europe, and unless we recommit to making *First things First*, we will go the way of many churches that exist for little other purpose than being a funeral society with weekly meetings. May we do all that the growing evangelical churches are doing—after all, my friends, they learned their methods from us—we’ve simply forgotten them along the way! People: it’s time for a revival! Let’s let Jesus fill us again with his passion, his love, his life, his grace!

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Check out our new, improved, and updated Website at www.flrb.org

Sign Up for Pastor Bjorge’s weekly emails entitled “**First Things First @ First**” by emailing him at pastorjohn@flrb.org

PREACHER'S TOOL KIT: USING TECHNOLOGY IN PREACHING

Media moguls bet billions of dollars annually that with the right tools, people can be influenced in very dramatic ways. While we do not have their budgets, we do have one thing that is able to take our methods and give them power beyond any resource they may possess and that, of course, is God's Holy Spirit.

What if you were to have the technology to use inspirational images before the service to prepare your people's hearts and minds for worship? What if you could project an image that links with a theme or hymn being sung—or project an image related to a Bible reading—or were able to bring a sermon illustration to life—or could use art to stimulate your people's thinking—or could use contemporary news images during your prayers of intercession for the world? What if you could have a member share a personal story of faith that authentically drives home your point but is done consistently at all the services and is edited for the greatest impact? Rightly used, technology can add so much to your preaching and the worship life of our congregations, making God's word come alive in multi-dimensional ways!

Having used audio/visual technology in my preaching for over the past seven years let me share some practical wisdom:

- Less is more. A few good images can do more than a plethora of images. Images can function like sound – don't shout!
- Make sure the images are thematically 'spot on' with your topic and that the theme runs throughout the worship service, beyond simply the preaching event.
- Project words on the screens sparingly as it can often seem quite pedagogical. While there is always a need to educate in the sermon and will be times to use more text for particular services, a good maxim is "the didactic must always be in service to the

kerygmatic." Finally, it is not what gets remembered by your listeners but what happens within them!

- Do it all striving for utmost excellence. Projection equipment should offer enough lumens for greatest visual impact and sound equipment should be able to allow video to be heard by all in ways that are not distorted. Practice with your tech people well in advance to work out any glitches. *Nothing* is worse than technology poorly used!
- Build a team. To put this into place can be time consuming. Find those high school techies and build into them. Have a team of folks who can look for images, videos, etc. for you ahead of time. It will take planning, but we should always be working weeks, more often months ahead.
- Depending on your church's culture, use technology sparingly for greatest impact.
- Make sure the technology is your servant and that you do not become its servant.
- Pray. Pray over the use of your technology every bit as much as you pray over the words you are scribing on the paper and speaking from your pulpit. God's Spirit must enliven what we do for it to have any impact at all.

Unless you are in a church that has a huge tech budget, find resources and websites where you can purchase images and videos for your uses rather than attempting to create it in-house. www.sermonspice.com is just one resource among many for well-done and inexpensive videos and www.textweek.com has a wonderful library of lectionary-based art.

Most of all have fun—it's like learning to preach all over again!



The above article was written by Pastor Bjorge and has been reprinted from the April 2008 edition of WorkingPreacher.org.

Pastor Bjorge completed his Doctorate in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in 2007, writing his thesis on "Preaching for Conversion from a Theology of Grace."

Find more of Pastor Bjorge's articles on using technology in preaching at WorkingPreacher.org.

Note: FLRB's sanctuary will soon be equipped with a projection system designed to enhance worship and the proclamation of God's living-giving Word!

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Staff:

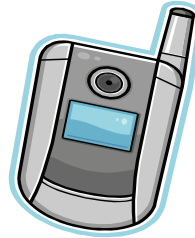
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Last Month to Donate Cell Phones, Cartridges

May is the last month Confirmands will be collecting cell-phones and inkjet cartridges.

Please drop off any items in the containers located by the entry doors in the Narthex by May 31st.

Thank you for helping the Confirmands with this recycling project. Donated cell phones and inkjet car-



tridges are sent to Phoneraisers, who pay us for them and then recycle them

Thank you *from*
the Confirmands

An Empowering Promise from God's Spirit

..... our Abundant Response!

“Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” Acts 2:43-45

This description of the first Pentecost invites every Christian community of faith that follows to ask itself how God's Spirit shapes our life together. We are told these first witnesses were in “awe” of the many ways God's Spirit was empowering the very people with whom they worshipped and prayed. They trusted how this Spirit was working through them so that they “**were together and had all things in common**”. They discovered in the process that they could “**distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.**”

Each new day we are invited to understand ourselves through First Lutheran church of Richmond Beach, as God's present day Pente-

cost people. We are in “awe” of the many ways God's Spirit brings healing to our broken lives and empowers us to live out our daily walk of faith. We have called upon and trusted God's Spirit to bring us together as we pooled our resources to encourage staff to partner with us in the work God calls us to do, we “**were together and had all things in common.**” And we have the enriching experience of bringing the brokenness we are as God's people, and the abundant gifts we have, to a community and world yearning for peace and healing, “**distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.**”

It is with this vision, as God's Spirit shaped people that we are invited once again into a time of hope, prayer, and evaluation of God's never ending gifts. As we approach summer and the end of our church fiscal year (July) and look back at the year past, we are “awed” by the remembrances of God's work among and within us. As church leaders work to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year, and evaluate our staffing, pro-

gram, and benevolence responsibilities and opportunities, it is so important that we keep reminding ourselves of the promised Pentecost presence of God's Spirit in our lives. One of the most effective reminders of this promise is sharing or “letting go” of ourselves and our gifts to be used by others for the spreading of Christ's message of hope and the healing of brokenness. Please remember your support of First Lutheran during these quieter months after Easter. Let the office know if you would like to direct deposit through “Simply giving” – it really is a blessing to the church when you are gone. We celebrate your continued generosity and ask for your support, as we project a budget for next year, and look forward to meeting this years budget, in order to accomplish what we dared to dream of doing a year ago – we “**were together and had all things in common**”.

Carolee Grumm Parish Administrator

Preschool News

What's new at preschool? Well....we are waiting for SPRING to arrive. The calendar says it's here, but as I look outside at the gray and rain—and the possibility of snow this week-end, I'm not to sure. Our year is winding down. Our Ice Cream Social and Art Walk are the next events on our calendar and then Mother's Day....it will be the last week of school

before we know it! We have had a great year. Thank you for supporting the staff and this ministry for 35 years. Registration is going on for next fall. If you or someone you know has children 2 1/2—5 years old and are looking for a “High Quality” early childhood experience for children, please feel free to give them our phone number. Thank you for your prayers, toilet paper rolls, meat trays and Campbell Soup Labels!

Have a Blessed Month of May!

Kären Beasley, Director
206-546-0320
preschool@flrb.org



Lambs Love Snacks and
Reading Books

Preschool News - Family Faith Walks—May Lilies and Birds

“Look at the birds in the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” Matthew 6:26

Faith Walk:

Walk through a park with flowerbeds or a botanical garden. Keep your eyes open for wildlife, especially birds. Look for the most beautiful flower you can find.

Faith Talk:

- How does God take care of birds, animals and flowers?”
- God loves His creation and His people, but which is of the most value to Him?
- How has God taken care of you?

Faith Activities:

- Make a bird feeder:
 1. Tie a string to a pinecone
 2. Spread peanut butter onto the pinecone
 3. Roll the pinecone in birdseed
 4. Hang your bird feeder from a tree as a snack for birds.
- Visit a humane society and learn what it takes to care for a pet. How does God care for us?
- Cut pictures from magazines and make a collage of the ways God takes care of you.

Dear God, Loving Father,

Help us to give our worries to You in faith and trust knowing that You are in control and that you love us. We pray in the name of Jesus, who nailed our worries to the cross. Amen

**From : “FAMILY FAITH WALKS”
By Kelly J. Haack, Concordia
Publishing House**



Widows Bereavement Group

A small group of widows gathered in April to uplift each other with God's presence and the sharing of stories. The group shared some tears, and laughter bound the stories together. If you are interested in fellowshiping in this small group, you are invited to come May 19th to the home of Cathy Thomas. The only guideline is that stories shared are intentional in lifting each other into strength. Please contact Pr John or Cathy Thomas 206 542 9161

CENTRAL LUTHERAN THANK YOU – CONTINUED

In last month's Beachcomber we ran a list of all of our volunteers who helped at the Community Lunch Program at Central Lutheran in February. In trying to get everyone in, we inadvertently missed four people: LaRae Ellingson, Oddny Johnston, Cathy Thomas and Glenn Schmidt.

Our apologies to those four, and another big THANKS to all who participated this year.

Summer @ 1st

Looking ahead to the summer (no more snow?), there are some things you need to know as you plan your time.

- The summer worship schedule begins on June 1st. Worship will be held at 9:00 and 10:30 AM on Sundays. This schedule will continue through August 31st.
- Confirmation Sunday is June 1st.
- Graduation Sunday is June 8th
- The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is June 22nd.
- EVBS will be July 14-18 at Richmond Beach Congregational.



We pray for God's blessings and care for: members and friends of First Lutheran who are ill or in need:

For **Shawn Childs**, brother-in-law of Rick and Annalise Nye; for **Amber**, daughter of Patricia Hurd; for **Erin Ellersick**; for Craig Forehand's father-in-law; for **Bev Clausen**; for **Karen McKinley**; for **Kathy Goertzen**, friend of Anne Hyde; for **Niels Clark**; for **Wally**, friend of the Lundes; for **Don Warrick**, friend of the Haugens; for **Lynn Rolfing**, friend of Carl Lindberg; for **Jane and**

Kermit Hanson; for **Fran Vitalich**; for **Ruth Cone**, mother of Nels; for **Stephanie Speed**; for **Roger Stones**, brother of Ellie Meyer; for **Hans Jensen**, friend of the VanHoosiers; for **Beth Burk**, friend of Chris and Maret Syberg; for **Edna Dyke**, grandmother of Steve Ellersick; for **Cathy Cangiano**, co-worker of Marin Brustuen; for **Dick Craig**; for **Ken Petty**, friend and partner of Jeff Johnson; for **Anna Carroll**, preschool student; for **Jay Graff**, friend of Elizabeth Jordan; for **Karl Bennett**; for **Jack Ward**, uncle of Tina and Kevin King; and for **Kristen Jaquish**.

*We pray for God's comfort and care for families and friends of those who have passed away: **Ruth Sturm**,*

mother of Steve Sturm; **Ed Anderson**, grandfather of Stephanie Wick; **BJ Hem**, niece of Connie Sullivan.

*We pray for strength and safety for **Tara Ashelman**, who is nursing in a mission orphanage in Honduras this year.*

*We pray for safe travel to the Philippines for **John, Carmel and Isabelle Rice**.*

May 11th is Pentecost
Red is the Color of the Day!!

May 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- May 4th—Music Appreciation Sunday)
- May 9—6:30 PM: Kid Moves/KidSong Concert
- May 16—Annual Report Due
- May 18th—Teacher Appreciation Sunday & Last Sunday School/ Education Hour until fall
- May 21st—Village Night Closing BBQ

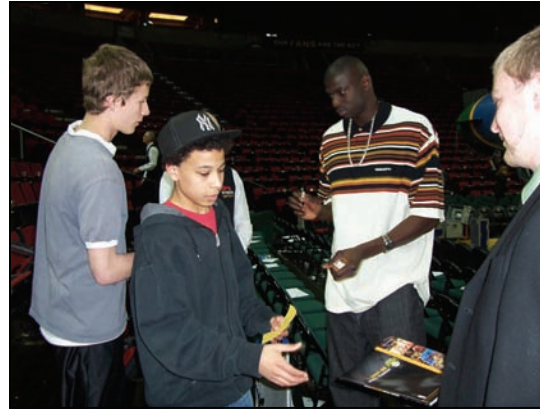
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>June/July Beachcomber Deadline: May 21st</i>				1 9:00 Staff Planning Day 11:30 Writers' Class 4:30 Alleluia Choir 5:30 Sounds of Grace 7:15 Handbell Choir	2	3 11:30 Memorial Service
4 <i>Music Appreciation Sunday</i> 8:30 Worship 9:45 Education 11:00 Worship 3:00 Elizabeth Jordan Concert	5 7:00 Women's Bible Study	6 9:00 InAs-Much 1:30 Staff 7:00 Pre-School Staff	7 5:45 VN Dinner 6:30 VN Education 7:00 Youth Groups 7:45 Cantorei	8 9:00 PS Mothers' Day Tea 10:00 Mary Martha Circle-OOB 5:30 Sounds of Grace Band 7:15 Handbell Choir	9 6:30 Kid-Movews/KidSong Concert	10 AM—Property Committee Work Party
11 Mothers' Day/Bibles for Kids 8:30 Worship 9:45 Education 11:00 Worship	12 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Women's Bible Study	13 9:00 InAs-Much 1:30 Staff 7:00 Church Council	14 10:00 Bible Study 5:45 VN Dinner 6:30 Education 7:00 Youth Group 7:45 Cantorei	15 11:30 Writers' Class 5:30 Sounds of Grace Band 7:15 Handbell Choir	16 <u>Annual Report Deadline</u>	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Youth Retreat</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">NW WA Synod Assembly</div>
18 Teacher Appreciation Sunday 8:30 Worship 9:45 Education 11:00 Worship 12 N syttende mai	19 7:00 Women's Bible Study	20 9:00 InAs-Much 1:30 Staff	21- <i>Beachcomber Deadline</i> 10:00 Bible Study 5:45 VN Closing Bar-B-Q 7:45 Cantorei	22 5:30 Sounds of Grace 6:30 Youth & Family Comm 7:15 Handbell	23	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Last Day of Preschool</div>
25 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship	26-Memorial Day Office Closed 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Women's Bible Study	27 9:00 InAs-Much 1:30 Staff	28 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Youth Group	29 5:30 Sounds of Grace	30	31 6-10 PM Parents' Night Out

Coming UP:

Confirmation is June 1st!!

June 22nd—Annual Congregational Meeting

The next *Beachcomber* Issue will be a combined June/July Issue. Please be sure everything you want to submit for the **two** months is in the office by May 21st!



Youth get autographs from one of the Sonics players at Faith and Fellowship Night at a Sonics game.

High school

Mexico Mission trip Fundraisers

We have 15 youth and 4 adults going to Mexico this summer for a week to help with a kids club as well as work on a building project. The cost for this trip will be around \$900 a youth (due to airfare) we need your help to raise this money. Following are a few ways that you can help support the youth of the congregation.

Parents Night Out—May 31st.

We held one on April 26th, so we are experienced and would love to care for your children while you have some time out. See the ad on page 11 for all the details.

BeautiControl Spa, Skin Care and Cosmetics Fundraiser

Looking for a gift for Mom? Dad? Grad? Teacher? Give the gift of spa to friends and family to use in their own homes. Sheri Rockey will be sharing these incredible spa and skin treatments on May 4th from 9:30-1:00. No need to shop at Department stores, spas or the dermatologist's for high-quality spa and skin care. See Sheri or one of our high school youth to schedule your free one-on-one consultation or spa party, or to purchase some of these incredible treatments for yourself! **100% of the profits will go to benefit the high school mission trip.** Details and product guides can be found in the lobby. Early orders will be available for Mother's Day!! Call Sheri Rockey at 425-478-7252 for any information on how you can help the high school youth of our congregation reach their goal for their mission by participating in this event.

Cookie Lee Jewelry Sale

Cookie Lee jewelry features department store quality fashion jewelry specializing in cubic zirconia, Austrian crystals and semi-precious stones. Our jewelry is stunning! Stop by to see the current catalog. Lots for Mother's Day, Birthdays, or just because! Silver and gold plated! Come and help support our kids get to Mexico!

Syttende Mai Lunch and Auction May 18th noon

The high school youth will be putting on a traditional style Norwegian Lunch on May 18th. We will also be auctioning off some desserts and kids to help you with spring-cleaning, babysitting, whatever your need may be. The proceeds for this event will also go to Support those going to Mexico.

Buy Stock in Our Youth

We are selling stock in ourselves to support the mission trip. For \$25, you get a certificate with the youth's picture and information about him/her, a promise of a postcard from Mexico, and a ticket (and special seating) at the post-mission trip meal, where the youth will share pictures and stories of their experience.

All-Church Fishing Trip

Church members and friends are invited to participate in an all church trout fishing trip to be held on Saturday May 10, 2008. Boats, life jackets and gear can all be provided if you don't have your own and would like to participate. You do have to provide your own fishing license. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:30 AM

(Yes that's right!) and will return about 2:30 PM that afternoon. We can carpool to save on transportation costs. Please contact Dan Matlock at 206-542-4121 or dbb.matlock@comcast.net if you would like to come along. All ages (minors with permission form unless a parent is along) are welcome and

we'd love to have you join us for this time of fellowship. Those of you with small boats (motors optional) who would like to join in are also very welcome. We plan on going to Lake McMurray just south of Mount Vernon off I-5. A barbeque lunch will be provided.

Greetings from Texas...

to our dear friends at FLRB Praise the Lord, after 10 months our Shoreline home has finally sold and we have purchased one down here in the south of Texas. We miss you all dearly and thank you for your continual support of prayers and encouragement during all our family's various transitions. It is quite dif-

ferent being the "newcomers" at our current church but we are making friends quickly. Although there's never anything quite like home. We are learning the jargon of the south, ready to try new gardening challenges and are enjoying the warm tropical weather. I'm even going to learn this Tex/Mex cooking (thanks Jim

Shilt for the inspiring cookbook). Blessings to you all. We hold you dear to our hearts. Here's our new address if you're ever in the area. We'd love company.

*Doug and Randi Eaton
Sam (Ohio) and Kate (North Dakota) too.*

Collecting Outhouses

A few years ago my daughter bought me an outhouse. Once I read the card, I found out that the actual building went to a village in Africa that did not have good sanitation facilities. That was the best present I received that year and I couldn't have been more proud of my daughter.

I recently read that the United Nations has declared this year the "Year of Sanitation." They want to improve sanitation con-

ditions in areas of the world that still lose millions of lives each year (mostly children) to poor sanitary conditions. So this year I will be collecting outhouses. I have one more from my daughter for my birthday, one from my "two girl friends from the gym" that Pat and I go to for St. Valentine's Day and one that I bought myself for Easter. I hope to add to my collection as the year progresses.

If you are looking for a unique gift for someone that has everything, this may be just what you are looking for. You can get them through <http://www.oxfamamericaunwrapped.com/>. You could also buy one for yourself. The cost is tax deductible and you could help save a life.

Jim Shilt

Music Ministry

Music Ministry Sunday

May 4th

Please join us for a festive day of worship & music as we say thank you to the many hands & hearts of our music ministry.

Elizabeth Jordan will also give an organ and piano recital at 3:00pm.
All are welcome!

FLRB Youth Presents

Parents' Night Out

A Childcare Fundraiser

Saturday, April 26th 6pm-10pm OR Saturday, May 31st 6pm-10pm

Grab your sweetie or some friends for a night out on the town and leave the childcare to us!

**Drop the kids off at church...there's no need to worry!
*Cause we have fun stuff in store for your kids!**

Happy Meals - Games - Movies - Fun Snacks

\$20 first child - \$15 second child
\$10 third child - \$5 fourth child
(not to exceed \$50 per family per night)

Our High School Youth Group, High School Leaders and additional parents will be chaperoning.

If you wish to sign up please contact
Marin Brustuen at 206-370-9501
or mbrustuen@hotmail.com

**Nursery available
for smaller children!**



With the help of Diana Hoffman, our InAsMuch guru, our young folks learn to tie quilts during Sunday School as part of their service rotation.



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Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4

*We are a faith community
redeemed by grace through the
crucified and risen Lord, Jesus
Christ, to glorify God by
proclaiming this Good News
and by being God's Hands of
service.*

We're on the web: flrb.org

 * **MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US --YOU ARE INVITED!!** *
 *  *
 * **Syttende Mai Lunch and Auction** *
 * **May 18th at noon** *
 * The high school youth are hosting a traditional *
 * style Norwegian Lunch on May 18th. We will *
 * also be auctioning off some desserts and kids *
 * to help you with Spring-cleaning, babysitting, or whatever your *
 * need may be. The proceeds for this event will also go to Support *
 * those going on the mission trip to Mexico. *



 *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *
 * **Village Night Closing BBQ May 21st** — The last night of Village *
 * Night features a BBQ and family activities. Whether you have been *
 * coming all year or haven't made it yet, please join us for this night of *
 * family fun and good food! **Come celebrate another great year to-** *
 * **gether!** *  *  *  *
 *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *  *

Summer Worship Hours coming soon:
Sunday Worship from June 1st to August 31st: 9:00 AM—Classic
10:30 AM—Praise