

The Beachcomber

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RICHMOND BEACH

Spring 2015

A WORD FROM PASTOR BJORGE



SBNR – **Spiritual But Not Religious**. So many people identify themselves that way these days. What does it mean to be *spiritual* but not *religious*? Does it mean that I can feel certain things in my heart (that which feels *spiritual*) but not have to allow it to affect my life, my behavior, and my actions, and my attitudes (those things that look or seem *religious*)? Does it mean I can take the parts of God that I like but ignore those things that actually put a claim on my life and might affect

the way I live? I'm reminded of one of my favorite Old Testament verses, it's the favorite of many of us, from the prophet Micah: "*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*" Is that spiritual or religious? It involves walking with God but in a way that involves doing and being that is uniquely a result of that walk.

Maybe it's a false choice. If our spirituality is going to be worth anything, it has to translate to action. If our actions are going to have any power to them, if they're going to be sustainable and not simply flame out, they have to have some spiritual power.

I once served as the president of the alumni council for my seminary alma mater. Every year the different Deans and the President would meet with us and we would ask them questions. An older member of the Council asked one of the Deans, "*What are the seminary students like morally these days?*" The Deans looked at each other, wondering how to answer that question. Finally one of them took a stab at it.

"Well," she said, "*I think you'd be basically pleased. The students are very dedicated to their education, but that's not all. A lot of them tutor kids after school. Some work in a night shelter and in a soup kitchen for the homeless. Last week a group of students protested for an end to the war in Iraq...*"

As she talked, one of the older members of our group, a retired pastor, began to grin. The more she talked, the bigger he grinned, until finally it became distracting. "*Am I saying something funny?*" she said to the retired pastor. "*No, no, I'm sorry,*" he replied. "*I was just sitting here thinking. You're saying that the seminary students are good people, and you're right. And you're saying that they're involved in good social causes, and they are. But what I was thinking is that the one thing they lack is a vision of salvation.*"

We all looked at the wise old pastor. "*No, it's true,*" he said. "*If you don't start with some vision of what God is doing to repair the whole creation as well as each one of us, you can't get up every day and work in a soup kitchen. It finally beats you down.*"

If you don't have some vision of what God is doing, your work to help and care for others will finally beat you down.

Each Sunday, during this season of Lent, we'll be looking at the practices that have helped people over the centuries bridge the gap between what they believe and how they behave so that they can have the power to live out their faith with passion. These disciplines of faith are based on biblical practices that have long characterized individuals with living, active faith. It's my prayer that we will join together in accepting our call to be disciples of Jesus and, in so doing, commit to the personal practice of our faith by employing the *Marks of Discipleship!*

Those marks are:

To the glory of God, I believe I am called...

"to the measure of the full stature of Christ." – Eph. 4:12

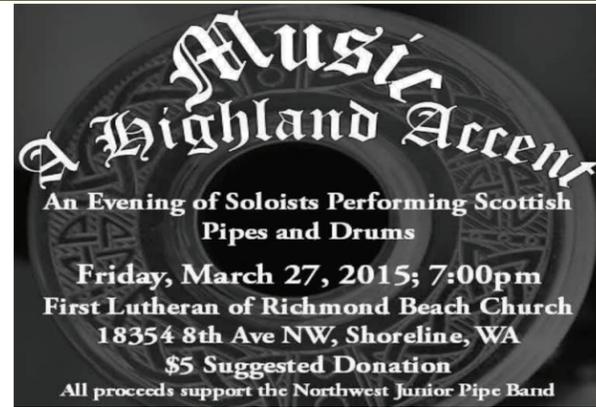
I will strive to...

- PRAY daily
- WORSHIP weekly
- READ the Bible
- SERVE at and beyond First Lutheran Church
- Be in RELATIONSHIP to encourage spiritual growth in others
- GIVE of my time, talents, and resources

LENTEN BOOK STUDY RETURNS

This year we are reading together as a congregation Max Lucado's "Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine." We are offering multiple small groups for you to join. To see when groups are meeting and where, look on the Lenten table in the lobby. Every group is open to new people and plans to meet throughout the season of Lent. Any and all groups would love to have you join them. If you are interested in hosting a group please contact Terry Baird - Faith Formation Director – at ffd@flrb.org.

EVENTS



Mount Olivet Choir to lead Worship

The Mount Olivet Senior High Youth Choir will be leading us in worship on April 19th at 10:00. There will be only ONE service that day as we, together, join them in song and worship. Mount Olivet is the largest ELCA Lutheran church and is located in Minneapolis,

MN. This will be their only time of singing while visiting the Pacific Northwest and we are very blessed they've asked to sing with us. Join us on this special day of worship as we hear this large choir lead us in music and praise.

Music Rehearsals

Jubilate Bells -- Alternate Mondays, 6:30 pm
Cantorei Choir -- Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Sounds of Grace -- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm

NEWS FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Walk to Jerusalem

Our congregation is "virtually walking" to get from Shoreline to Jerusalem by Easter—a walk of 13,000 miles! This is a walk as a congregation using scripture cards as a resource. Our miles have been accumulating and as of this writing we are due to arrive in Casablanca, Morocco soon, 5500 miles into our journey. It is not too late to join us. Sign up by the library and record your weekly "miles" on our tracking sheet posted on the wall near the library. You may record any form of exercise, just convert 20 minutes of exercise into 1 mile. Any exercise and at any rate benefits you and benefits our churches journey. The scripture cards are available so you can walk and pray. This is a great Lenten activity to do...by yourself, with a family member, or with a small group!



St. Patrick's Day Lunch

On March 18th we will have a special "St. Patricks' Day" lunch following the morning bible study. Lunch will be served around 11:30 and in addition to corned beef, we will have cabbage and boiled mashed potatoes, salads and deserts. Pastor John will bring an inspirational message. Bring your friends and join us!

FLRB Saturday Bike Rides

We have organized some short and easy Saturday bicycle rides this spring and summer for fun, fitness, and fellowship. Seattle has many places for scenic rides. The monthly rides will visit the Ballard Locks and Golden Gardens Park, Seward Park and Lake Washington Boulevard, Gas Works Park and Interlaken Boulevard, Alki Beach and Lincoln Park, and the Sammamish River Trail and Marymoor Park. Singles, couples, and families are all welcome. Rides will be geared to a moderate pace on mostly flat routes and will involve only about 1- 1 1/2 hours of riding. Singles, couples and families are all welcome. We particularly encourage people who have little or no recent bicycling experience to participate. If you would like a description and/or schedule of the rides or to obtain additional information, please visit the Events page on the FLRB website, or contact:

Glenn Nelson at 206-542-9467/ glennnelson@hotmail.com.

Wonderful Wednesdays—Every Wednesday!

Watch the Navigator, weekly E-blast and church website for upcoming news on planned events for Wednesday nights! During Lent each Wednesday we will have our Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 followed by:

Lent Worship	6:30-7:00
Kidz Klub	6:30-8:30
Youth Group	7:00-8:30
Cantorei Choir	7:30-9:00

Bethel Series resumes after Easter and is held Wednesdays at 6:30.

Service of Prayer and Healing



A Service of Prayer and Healing will be held the first Sunday of every month following the last service, at 12:10. This will be a time that we can pray for people requesting prayer and healing; we can also pray in intercession for those people not in attendance. We are hopeful this will be just the beginning of something wonderful happening in the prayer life of our church family and those we care for and with.

As always, if you have any health or emotional concerns, would like a visit in the hospital or at your home, want prayer for yourself or a family member, or would simply like someone to talk with, please feel free to reach out to the Parish Nurse, Cathy Thomas. She is available Tuesdays and Wednesdays at church or at other times by appointment.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

new community

Each Sunday you are invited at 9:45 am to the Upper Room for an hour of teaching that is meant to refresh your soul and be relevant to your daily life. Through a mix of humor and insight, Pastor Bjorge opens up God's Word and offers a 45-50 minute teaching that is meant to make your hearts come alive to God's presence in your life and the world. This spring he has been teaching on *Soul Care* and the strategies that the Scriptures give us for dealing with soul fatigue. Join us each and every week for this time of inspiration and this breath of fresh air!

Women's Monday Night Bible Study

The Monday Night Women's Bible Study would like to invite all women to join in studying the Book of John. We meet Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in room 221. If you have any questions please contact Fran Uchida [425-778-7846](tel:425-778-7846).

Word Of Life

Wednesday mornings, at 10 am, we gather in the Library to discuss and study the Scripture passages that will be preached on the upcoming Sunday. This is a time for everyone to share their thoughts, ask their questions, and be guided into seeing what these Scripture readings mean for us and our congregation. This hour of study will help you hear the sermon each week differently and, at times, even allow you to shape it through offering your ideas as to what these Scriptures mean for you. Join us each Wednesday.

Women's Bible Bunch

Attention Ladies! If you are looking for a special women's group, you will want to attend our Women's Bible Bunch which meets at noon on the third Monday of the month, in the Library. Please join us for a new beginning with a pot luck lunch. But if you are new, be our guest and enjoy the fellowship. Bring your Bible, pen, paper and expectations for a blessing!
Contact Person: Dorothy Clausen [425-776-2694](tel:425-776-2694).

Writers' Class

This group meets the first and third Thursday of every month in the library, starting at 11:30 am.
Contact: Dorothy Clausen at [425.776.2694](tel:425.776.2694)

Mary-Martha Circle

Mary-Martha Circle meets the Second Thursday of the month at 10 am, in the library. New members welcome.

NEW! CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

A new Cancer Support Group has started at First Lutheran. Beginning March 3, and every first Tuesday of the month, we will meet from 5:00-6:15 pm in the church library. This is for cancer survivors, cancer patients in treatment, newly diagnosed people and caregivers or family members who have a loved one with cancer. Our own Sherry Shellman will facilitate... *"As a cancer survivor myself, attending support groups helped me get through grueling treatments and ups and downs that comes with cancer diagnosis and treatment."* Our Parish Nurse, Cathy Thomas RN, OCN, will join in to answer more in-depth questions.
Contact Sherry at [206-794-6508](tel:206-794-6508) with any questions.

Lutheran Heritage Tour with Pastor Bjorge

April 8-20, 2016

This is still a long way off, but with such a push by so many groups to take this tour, it was imperative that Pastor Bjorge book early. 2016 is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Join us as we travel to Krakow, Auschwitz, Prague, Erfurt, The Wartburg Castle, Wittenberg, Eisleben, and Berlin. Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic, all in 13 days! Cost: \$4698 from Seattle. Brochures are available at the Hospitality Desk. Please speak with Pastor Bjorge soon if you are interested. Deposits are due in April. **An informational meeting will be held on March 8th after the late service (12:30) for anyone interested in learning more.**

Carharts For Christ— Men's Ministry

Our men's group meets on Thursday nights in the library at 7 pm. For more info, contact Alan Herr at alanjherr@gmail.com.

InAsMuch

We work from 9-12, each Tuesday, with a break for prayer, coffee and goodies at 10. If you are a late sleeper, come and join us for coffee and then sew until 12. If you would like to pick up a kit to sew a quilt top at home, we have the kits available along with bags of sorted 4-5¹/₂ inch squares to make into a 10¹/₂ square (it takes 48 squares to make a top). We have lots of materials and just need willing hands to assist us. It's always great to get back in with our old friends and catch up on what has been going on in their lives the past couple of months and to meet new friends too. Looking forward to seeing you!

Bethel Series

The Bethel Series will take a break during Lenten and will resume on April 8.

OFFERING OPTIONS

Ways you can give:

Simply Giving: You can setup automatic payments by checking/savings or by debit/credit card. Forms are on the bulletin-board behind the Hospitality Desk.

Bill-pay from your bank: Do you already pay your cable and phone bills through your bank? Add us as a payee and they will send us a check when you want to contribute.

Online donations: The link on our website will take you to an online donation page where you can make one-time contributions or setup a recurring payment.

If you have questions or if you are interested and ready to give it a try, phone the office ([206-546-4153](tel:206-546-4153)) or email (parishadmin@flrb.org).

First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten *Basket Raffle*



Board Members Wanted!!

Do you love kids? Are you looking for a place to volunteer? If you answered "Yes" – we have just the place for you. The First Lutheran School Board is looking for volunteers for next year. The board helps with the long range planning, yearly finances and programming for our school. We meet once a month. You do not need to have children in the school – just a love for children and a desire to help us continue providing an excellent early childhood experience for the children and families in the Richmond Beach & Edmonds area. This coming September we will begin our 43rd year of ministry!!! Come be a part of this blessed ministry!

It's Basket Raffle Time!!! Yes, once again we will have 6 - count them 6!! - fabulous baskets to win! This year's themes are:

- Gardening Galore
- Sports Fanatic
- Family Fun
- All Around Town
- Hawaiian Condo
- Restaurants Galore

Tickets are on sale in the Narthex starting March 8th. They will sell for \$5 each. This year we are hoping to add iPads to the Kindergarten classroom, purchase new sensory tables and new manipulatives. Thank you for all your support throughout the years!



Open House

Join us on Friday night March 20th for our annual Art Walk/Ice Cream Social and Open House, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. We will also pull the winning tickets for our Basket Raffle at 7:30 pm. Come see the children's art, tour the classrooms and have some Ice Cream!!!!



MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The Music Director Selection Task Force has completed on-site auditions with 4 candidates for the music director position. Their recommendation will go to the church council for final review/approval before offering a formal call to the chosen candidate. Please continue to keep this process in your prayers as God guides us in the selection of our new Director of Worship Ministries.

MISSION UPDATE

FLRB's Nicaragua Mission purpose is to:

"share the gospel with the people of Nicaragua through our service in the areas of faith, community development, and health care"

Save the Date!

April 25 - Dinner and Auction

Nicaragua Dinner and Auction to benefit FLRB's partnership with Iglesia Roca Eterna and the community of Motostepe. Dinner and Auction will be held at the Innis Arden Clubhouse. Doors will open at 5:30 with a no host bar and silent auction with dinner at 6:30. Tickets will go on sale early April. More information to follow soon!



Saratov Mission Update



The final figures are in for the trip Pr. Alexander Scheiermann and Pr. Don Richman took across the northern tier states, starting here in Shoreline and ending in Minneapolis. They raised \$16,397 for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saratov, Russia, as a direct result of visiting churches and organizations on their way east in brutally cold weather! Saratov has been able to pay off its heating contractor, with some left for other debt and needed building projects. Also, the city recently affixed an official new postal address to the outside of the new church building: Bolschaja Sadowaja 14#, so it's official! The church is now known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mary Saratov.

The church was recently honored to host an ordination, with ELC Archbishop Dietrich Brauer presiding. Many church and local dignitaries attended. Also, Archbishop Brauer and Pr. Scheiermann drove out to the nearby city of Marx to see the progress of the restoration of Holy Trinity Church. Some members of FLRB visited that site some years ago. What is especially notable is that this church is the twin of the original Saratov church! Unfortunately, Saratov's lovely Gothic building was taken over for secular uses in the 1930's by the Bolsheviks, and it was razed in the 1970's.

Pr. Scheiermann expressed concern about the high cost of postage to the US and Canada for mailing their monthly reports. He sent his address list, and we determined the cost would also be very high if sent from the US., so Joan Rice volunteered to send a letter in mid-February to his mailing list asking recipients if they would be willing to share email addresses with him. We are praying the response will be good. FLRB and committee members have been successfully communicating electronically with Saratov for years. To read his monthly reports, check the bulletin board next to the work room.

Economically, the ruble is worth half what it was a year ago. Surely the populace there must be struggling with the daily effects of that. Keep our friends in Saratov in your prayers.

OUTREACH

Reach Out • Motivate • Provide

March

Lutheran Scholarship Fund

Outreach offerings for the first Sunday of March will go to the FLRB Lutheran Scholarship Fund.

Nicaragua

Outreach offerings for the remainder of March will go to the Nicaragua fund.

April

InAsMuch Sunday

Quilts created by our InAsMuch group will be on display on April 26th. Outreach offerings for the month of April will go toward InAsMuch.

May

Youth Ministries

Outreach offerings for May will go to our Youth Ministries for missions and trips.

If you would like to designate Outreach gifts to any particular ministry, you can do so at any time. Simply mark your checks appropriately.



Sunday, March 29th Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 1st -- No Wednesday Night Programs

Thursday, April 2nd -- Maundy Thursday
Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, April 3rd-- Good Friday
6:00 pm *Family Service* in the Upper Room. This service is family friendly and covers all the importance of Good Friday in an interactive age appropriate way for all. This will be a great way for your family to experience Good Friday together.
7:00 pm - Traditional Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5th-- Easter Sunday
8:00 and 9:30 am Classic Worship,
11:00 am Praise Worship
Easter Breakfast served 9:00-11:15 in the Fellowship Hall
This breakfast is a fundraiser for the youth programs.

A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER



I thought the message that was shared in the "Ash Wednesday and Lent in Two Minutes" video this week was really good. Lent is a time when many Christians focus their attention on Fasting, Praying and Giving. Why do we give? What we're given by God is not meant just for us, but for us to share with others, for the service of others. We are members of a wonderful community here at First Lutheran. Without a community you cannot be enriched by others or enrich them.

Through the context of community we continue to build on our relationship with God. We are so thankful for the generous hearts here at FLRB. All those involved in the Community Lunch program at Central Lutheran Church during February are a testimony to how we seek to serve and enrich others. Your incredibly generous offerings during December are another testimony to your generous hearts. During this season of Lent, as you contemplate the many gifts that God has given you, I pray that you will continue to bless our church and our community with your time, talents and offerings.

Praying God's blessings on you and your families during this season of Lent.

Anita Riksheim
Treasurer

LEADERSHIP

Church Council

Your current Church Council is: **Bill Neumeister**, Council President; **Bente Klatt**, immediate past president; **Marin Brustuen**, Vice President; **Anita Riksheim**, Treasurer; **Tamarah Lee**, Secretary; **Judy Borrow**, **Dick Craig**, and **Jim Annenberg**, At-Large members, and **Pastor John Bjorge**. The Council normally meets the second Tuesday of each month.

FLRB Church Staff Directory

Church office @ **206.546.4153** or visit www.flrb.org

Staff:

John M. Bjorge, Lead Pastor	Ext. 106	pastorjohn@flrb.org
Terry Baird, Director of Faith Formation	Ext. 225	ffd@flrb.org
Kären Beasley, Preschool Director	Ext. 140	preschool@flrb.org
Mike Harris, Office/Facilities Manager	Ext. 136	office@flrb.org
Karen Ewing, Bookkeeper	Ext. 139	parishadmin@flrb.org
Cathy Thomas, RN, Parish Nurse	Ext. 103	nurse@flrb.org
Rob McCuiston, Communications Coord.		comm@flrb.org
Girmai Berhe, Facilities Supervisor	Ext. 220	office@flrb.org

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

The Children and Youth put on an amazing Christmas Pageant this year!!



Upcoming Events and Information

FLRB at the Mariners Game May 13th



Talk to Terry Baird for tickets!!

Lent and Easter

Wednesday night Youth Group is 7:00-8:30 after service
The youth will be looking at the 7 practices of discipleship during Lent.

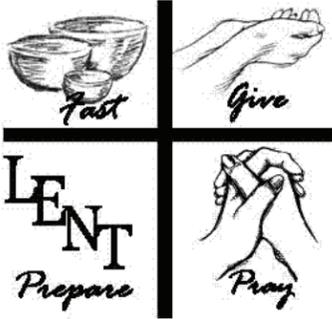
Family Good Friday Service April 3rd 6:00 pm
Family Service in the Upper Room. This service is family friendly and covers all the importance of Good Friday in an interactive age appropriate way for all. This will be a great way for your family to experience Good Friday together.
Volunteers needed to help with this service. Please talk to Terry Baird or Karen Beasley

Tillamook Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip

Middle School and High School July 19-26
Cost: \$250
This year we will be having a joint mission trip for the middle school and high school youth.



See Ter-





18354 8th Avenue NW
Shoreline, WA 98177

Phone: 206.546.4153
E-Mail: office@flrb.org
Website: www.flrb.org

Front Office Hours
M-Thurs. 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



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WORSHIP TIMES

Program Year Worship Schedule

8:30 am Classic Worship (Traditional)
9:45 am Sunday School/Confirmation/New Community
11:00 am Praise Worship (Sounds of Grace)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook or check out our website at www.flrb.org to keep up to date on events happening. We will be posting photos, events and articles on our Facebook page. If you would like to receive the weekly e-mail newsletter or would like to receive our bimonthly Beachcomber newsletter electronically, please contact the front office: 206.546.4153.

Like us on Facebook!



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

- Apr 2 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm
- Apr 3 Good Friday Family Service 6:00 pm
 Good Friday Traditional Service 7:00 pm
- Apr 5 Easter Sunday Traditional Service 8:00 am
 Easter Breakfast 9:00 am to 11:00 am
 Easter Sunday Traditional Service 9:30 am
 Easter Sunday Praise Service 11:00 am



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 1 New Members to be formally introduced at services
- Mar 27 Bagpipes & Drums Concert at FLRB 7:00 pm
- Apr 8 Return of the Wednesday Night Bethel Bible Series
- Apr 19 Mount Olivet Choir Leads Worship — One Service Only at 10 am.
- Apr 25 Nicaragua Auction Fundraiser - Innis Arden Clubhouse