

# The Beachcomber

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RICHMOND BEACH

Spring 2016

## A WORD FROM PASTOR BJORGE



Ever get a sense that people are watching... watching you and me... watching our church? They're curious if we're going to fit their stereotype. So, in their mind, they have questions. They're not curious if you go to church on Sundays. Instead, they want to know if you live your faith 24/7. They don't want to know what you believe. They want to know what your experience of Jesus is. They

don't want to know if your worship is proper. They want to know if your worship will be a life-changing encounter with God. They don't want to know if you have a faith that makes sense. They want to know if you have a faith that works in real life. They don't want to know if you are sincere. They want to know if you are authentic. They don't want to know if you know the Lord's Prayer. They want to know if you can teach them to pray. They don't want to know about a theological Christ. They want to know a personal Jesus.

But it doesn't stop there. They don't want to just know if you give money to worthy causes. **They want to know if you live a life of extravagant generosity.** Do you orient your lifestyle around your giving? Or does your lifestyle determine your giving? Because how we spend our money affects who we become!

Everyone, put your hand on your wallet or purse. Whose money is in there anyway? It's God's, isn't it? Everything we have and are is a gift from him. That's what stewardship means, right? We are caretakers of what has been entrusted to us. It's an amazing system. God has designed his Kingdom on earth so it

can only work with our input. He entrusts the money he needs to expand his Kingdom with us. He also does this because he knows how much we need to give and share.

So how much is appropriate to give? There is no formula. Faith must grow in order for giving to increase and that's a slow process. If you don't have enough faith to give generously, then **ask God for more faith.** He loves to answer prayer like that.

When thinking about giving, it's important to give enough to cause downward mobility in your lifestyle. Several years ago I attended a prevailing church conference at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago. I was impressed to learn that one of their core values in this wealthy area of Chicago is downward mobility. They literally encourage people to drive older, smaller cars, live in smaller houses and spend less on vacations to make available more resources for building the Kingdom of God. There are many ways in which we could do that.

In "The Weight of Glory" by C.S. Lewis, Lewis writes:

*For he has, in the last resort, nothing to give us but himself; and he can give that only insofar as our self-affirming will retires and makes room for him in our souls. For he claims all, because he is love and must bless. He cannot bless us unless he has us. When we try to keep within us an area that is our own, [like our money] we try to keep an area of death. Therefore, in love, he claims all. There's no bargaining with him.*

Do you want to be wealthy? Then read this carefully. Wealth is not in what one possesses, but by whom one is possessed.

—Pastor John

## Meet Girmay Micael



Meet **Girmay Micael** on Sunday, February 7 at 9:45 during the New Community Hour. Girmay will be sharing his story, blinded 37 years ago in Eritrea and his coming to the United States. He will demonstrate his knowledge of Computer Information Systems and the use of Assistive Technology. You will be AMAZED at the gifts and skills of teaching and resolving computer technology!

## EVENTS

### Music Rehearsals

Jubilate Bells -- Alternate Mondays, 6:30 pm

Cantorei Choir -- Wednesdays, 7:30 pm

Sounds of Grace -- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm

### St. Patrick's Day Lunch

The Women's Bible Bunch ladies are planning a St Patrick's Day Luncheon following the 10:00 Bible Study on Wednesday, March 16th. So mark your calendars ahead of time for this special event. As the time draws closer, you can expect more information to follow. Contact: Pat Shilt 206-542-2359 or Dorothy Clausen 425-776-2694.

## CARING MINISTRIES



### Walk to Jerusalem

We are “walking” virtually to Jerusalem. We started January 3 and hope to get to Jerusalem on Easter, March 27. We are accumulating miles and logging them on the charts in the church lobby weekly. If you know your mileage, log them in; if not, email Cathy Thomas at [nurse@flrb.org](mailto:nurse@flrb.org). Each 20 minutes of exercise equals a mile. This a terrific way to improve your exercise plan, to plan time to pray and walk (scripture cards by the sign-up sheets). No miles are too small, no time like the present! Prepare your heart for Easter!

### Cancer Support Group



The Cancer Support Group meets every first Tuesday of the month, 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 with any questions.

### Prayer Ministries

We have an amazing group of Prayer Warriors here at FLRB and they would love to carry your concerns in prayer to the Lord. No need is too small, and we have an AMAZING BIG and Gracious God! The prayer warriors are available by email 24/7 so please submit your concerns to the office, to Pastor John, or to Cathy Thomas, RN, Parish Nurse at [nurse@flrb.org](mailto:nurse@flrb.org). If you want the congregation to pray, we will publish the name in the Navigator...or if you wish your concerns to be totally confidential, they will be submitted to the prayer cord. If you would like to be a part of this prayer group, contact Cathy Thomas.

### 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.

### Communion

As we approach Ash Wednesday (February 10), go through Lent and celebrate Easter joy on Sunday March 27, there are some individuals who are shut in and unable to participate in the unique season of Lent. If you know of anyone who would like communion brought to them, please contact Pastor John or Cathy Thomas, RN. If would like to be a part of this ministry, please let us know as well. There is nothing more special than receiving and/or giving communion when you have not received it in awhile. A woman with memory loss, but steeped in her faith and the Lutheran traditions received the “bread” with tears flowing from her eyes, “broken for me?” Oh yes...broken for you.

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

**We are blessed to have many wonderful ministries at FLRB. From Bible studies, men’s and women’s group, to missions, endeavors and service ministries. Please join us in being the ‘hands and feet’ of Christ to others.**



Pastor John has started a new series that will take us through the entire spring, entitled “Christianity Illustrated.” He will show how through the use of stories, parables, and parabolic sayings, Jesus would take a common, everyday occurrence and teach us something important about God’s kingdom. Come and learn about God’s kingdom and start to see and discern for yourselves how so much of what goes on around us every day says something important about the way God works in our lives and in the world. New Community is the class that Pastor John teaches in the Upper Room between services each Sunday from 9:45-10:45. All are welcome!

### 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.

### 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

### Carhartts for Christ—Men’s Ministry

Our men’s group meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. For more info contact Alan Herr at alanjherr@gmail.com.

### Mary-Martha Circle

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

### Women’s Bible Bunch

If you are you looking to join a group of women who are interested in studying God’s Word, growing in faith, having special fellowship, and a group who enjoys joy, fun and laughter as well as serving God, helping to plan luncheons and special events....then you will want to join our WOMEN’S BIBLE BUNCH. We welcome women of all ages. We meet in the Library at 12:00 on the third Monday of the Month unless there is a conflict which will be noted in the Sunday Navigator. Come and join us...bring a Bible, paper & pen, a sack lunch and a expectation for God’s blessings. Dessert and beverages are provided. CONTACT: Dorothy Clausen 425-776-2694.

### Mom’s Bible Study

On Friday’s at noon, Terry Baird (Faith Formation Director) has a Mom’s Bible study group. This was developed for mothers of young children to take a break, do some scripture study and conversation. Contact [Terry Baird](#) for details.

### Bethel Series

We are currently in the midst of covering the final 10 sessions of the New Testament . We meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 and you can pre-read the chapters in advance of each Wednesday night class.

### Knit-Witz

Knit Witz is a group of folks that get together and knit prayer-shawls as a Ministry of the church. They meet once a month off-site at one of the member’s homes. If you are interested in joining this ministry, contact Miriam (Mim) Brustuen at 206-542-2610 or [mimiemb@yahoo.com](mailto:mimiemb@yahoo.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 4-5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch squares to make into a 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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!

## 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) or email ([parishadmin@flrb.org](mailto: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 44th year of ministry!!! Come be a part of this blessed ministry!

It’s Basket Raffle Time!!! This year we will have 5 fabulous baskets to win! This year’s themes are:

- \* Gardening Galore
- \* Sports Fanatic
- \* Family Fun
- \* All Around Town
- \* Spa

Tickets are on sale in the Narthex starting February 21st. They will sell for \$5 each. This year we are hoping to add sturdy outdoor furniture to our play house. Thank you for all your support throughout the years!

**Open House**

Join us on Friday night March 4<sup>th</sup> 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!!!!



Baskets  
from  
2015



# 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”*

## Youth Nicaragua Mission—July 2016

We have 10 youth and 6 adults going to Nicaragua this summer. This will be a great opportunity for parents and kids to serve side by side and experience God working in great and amazing ways. We don’t know what kind of work we will be doing yet and may not know until we get there. We know that we are sent to be God’s hands in service whatever that may mean.

## November 2015 Mission Trip

In November 2015 we sent our sixth team to Nicaragua in the past two years. We sent Medical and Construction teams during this trip. The team consisted of Cathy Thomas, Donna Olsen, Lauren Olsen, Sue McCormick, Barb Matlock, Bev Klein, Pat Shilt, John Redford, Duane Clocksin, Bill Forney and Pastor John Bjorge.



## Saratov Mission Update



## Building of the church

( In Pastor Alexander’s own words )

In October (2015) we could finish a long planned work. We made the ground and the isolation, because of the help of the “Martin Luther Bund”. We are really happy that the heating system in the big hall in the church functions and exists. Furthermore we have to fettle the walls and tile the floor. After that we can celebrate the service in our big hall. We are looking really forward to finish that work.

Check out our [Saratov page](#) on our FLRB website to see the latest reports and news on our Saratov mission.



# OUTREACH

Reach Out • Motivate • Provide

## New Outreach Ministry: Backpack Kids

Backpack kids is a program that provides food for the weekend for kids who are on free and reduced lunch. The church in partnership with the preschool is providing food for kids at Syre Elementary. If you would like to donate food you can pick up a list from the board by the Mary's place boxes and drop the food off in a bucket near the same place. For more information on how to get involved talk to Judy Borrow or Karen Neumeister.



*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 20th Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 24th -- Maundy Thursday  
Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, March 25th-- 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, March 27th-- 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.

## Central Lutheran Lunch

### Community Lunch on Capitol Hill

FLRB has been providing meals at Central Lutheran Church for mostly homeless and some low income people twice a week for the past 30 years. We have been an active participant since the beginning, and February is our month to cook and serve lunch. This year the dates we will serve are Fridays: 2/5, 2/12, 2/19 and 2/26.

It is not too late to sign-up to volunteer. If you can't help in person, we can always use cookies or brownies, and by all means financial support. This year we are also collecting purses and hygiene items to distribute as described in the article below.

Your monetary donations during February go to offset the cost of the food purchased in order to prepare these meals and to replenish the pantry at Central Lutheran. Please 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 546-3716.

### NEED PURSES - HANDBAGS - POCKETBOOKS

During the month of February when FLRB members are cooking and serving at the Community Lunch on Capitol Hill, we also have the opportunity to rid our closets of unused purses. Slightly worn purses filled with personal care items for the women who come to Central Lutheran are sure to be welcomed. Probably we have purses bought impulsively that don't go with anything in our wardrobes. Maybe we have purses received as gifts that we really don't fancy. Bring them to church during the month of February - ready to be filled or already filled with toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, snacks, sanitary supplies, lip balm, hand sanitizer - whatever a women struggling with poverty and homelessness might use. Look for a drop off area in the narthex! Thank you.

## LEADERSHIP

### Church Council

Your current Church Council is: **Marin Brustuen**, Council President; **Bill Neumeister**, immediate past president; **Phil Turcotte**, Vice President; **Sue Fulkerson**, Treasurer; **Tamarah Lee**, Secretary; **Duane Hoffman**, **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](http://www.flrb.org)

#### Staff:

|  |          |  |
|--|----------|--|
| John M. Bjorge, Lead Pastor              | Ext. 106 | <a href="mailto:pastorjohn@flrb.org">pastorjohn@flrb.org</a>   |
| Terry Baird, Director of Faith Formation | Ext. 225 | <a href="mailto:ffd@flrb.org">ffd@flrb.org</a>                 |
| Joel Bevington, Director of Music        | Ext. 201 | <a href="mailto:music@flrb.org">music@flrb.org</a>             |
| Kären Beasley, Preschool Director        | Ext. 140 | <a href="mailto:preschool@flrb.org">preschool@flrb.org</a>     |
| Mike Harris, Office/Facilities Manager   | Ext. 136 | <a href="mailto:office@flrb.org">office@flrb.org</a>           |
| Karen Ewing, Bookkeeper                  | Ext. 139 | <a href="mailto:parishadmin@flrb.org">parishadmin@flrb.org</a> |
| Cathy Thomas, RN, Parish Nurse           | Ext. 103 | <a href="mailto:nurse@flrb.org">nurse@flrb.org</a>             |
| Rob McCuiston, Communications Coord.     |          | <a href="mailto:comm@flrb.org">comm@flrb.org</a>               |
| Girmai Berhe, Facilities Supervisor      | Ext. 220 | <a href="mailto:office@flrb.org">office@flrb.org</a>           |

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Terry's Thoughts on Youth and Mission

Every year our youth go on at least one mission trip. Every summer we take a group of youth to Tillamook Oregon to partner with Habitat for Humanity as well as other service organization. This trip is open to youth entering 7th grade and older. It has become a well loved and important trip amongst our youth. For many this is the first time that they have spent this much time away from their parents as well as the first time they have been not only expected to work a full day helping others but also take part in chores such as cleaning and cooking for the group.



We also take the high school youth on larger trips often out of the country. Here youth see how other people live and experience a different culture. Their world view gets expanded on these trips.

The most important part of each of these trips is Christ. God works in and through these experiences. These days are filled with prayer and time in the bible. These weeks where kids leave there everyday life and spend a week not only serving but digging into God's word are life changing/ altering experiences that last a life time.



Registration for our Tillamook mission trip will start soon. If your youth has not yet been on a mission trip I highly encourage you to send them on this trip. This is a great introduction to what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ.



This summer we have a group going to Nicaragua. Which means lots of fundraisers. Each youth is expected to participate in fundraisers and only those youth who do receive money from the fundraiser. The fundraiser in it's self is part of the experience. Many of the skills the youth learn in the fundraisers they will use while serving others. The youth learn the importance of working together and the need for everybody to do their share.

Join us for Easter Breakfast Easter morning  
9:00am-11:15 am!

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



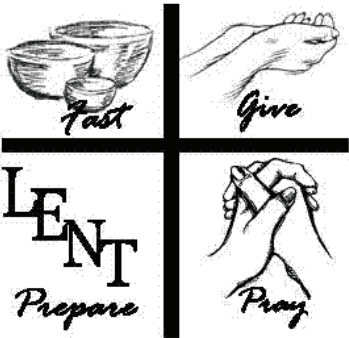
Lent and Easter

Jam Wednesdays at  
5:30 –6:00pm

Wednesday night  
Youth Group is  
7:00-8:30 after  
service. 7th-12th  
Grade

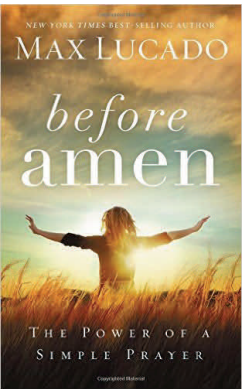
Family Good Friday  
Service  
March 25th 6:00 pm

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



Lent book study is back!!

This year we will be reading Before Amen. In Before Amen best-selling author Max Lucado joins readers on a journey to the very heart of biblical prayer, offering hope for doubts and confidence even for prayer wimps. Distilling prayers in the Bible down to one pocket-sized prayer, Max reminds readers that prayer is not a privilege for the pious nor the art of a chosen few. Prayer is simply a heartfelt conversation between God and his child. Let the conversation begin.







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Website: [www.flrb.org](http://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)         |

## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

March 24 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm

March 25 Good Friday Family Service 6:00 pm  
Good Friday Traditional Service 7:00 pm



March 27 Easter Sunday Traditional Service 8:00 am  
Easter Breakfast 9:00 am to 11:15 am  
Easter Sunday Traditional Service 9:30 am  
Easter Sunday Praise Service 11:00 am

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook or check out our website at [www.flrb.org](http://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!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 10 Ash Wednesday - 6:30 pm

Feb 24 New Member Orientation class

Feb 28 Nicaragua Medical/Construction Teams Reunion

Mar 20 - Palm Sunday

April 29 / 30 - Craft Fair