The Beachcomber

Spring 2018

Community News from First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach

A WORD FROM PASTOR JOHN

How wonderful it is to be back here at First Lutheran after my time away on sabbatical. I found a lot of personal refreshment, experienced a lot of new things, drew closer to my kids and my wife Jill, and came back to find that the church hadn't missed a beat. I'm so thankful to our incredible staff, to the ministry of Pastors Jan and Jim, and to our Council for providing wise and gifted leadership in my absence. It was a real gift to have been gone for four months, and so I thank you, as a congregation, for affording me this time away by offering me this benefit in my letter of call. Your generosity is so appreciated.

I find myself coming back to the same church, to the same office, to the same pulpit, and am working with the same people, but yet, nothing is the same. We all change, we grow, we evolve, and mature. I see it in myself. I find myself much more relaxed, having less of a need for control (which is a good thing), and much more wanting the congregation to engage in a ministry that they see and experience as their own. Learning to rest, learning what it is that brings me vitality, deepening relationships, seeing the breadth of God's work in some beautiful place in Europe, taking a cooking class in Tuscany, learning to let go, and trusting those around me better… these were important and refreshing learnings.

Now it's time to move forward. We have recently begun a time of strategic planning among the staff and leadership of the church. For me, there's nothing more exciting than to ask those vested with leadership where it is they see God leading us and then for us to work together to figure out how we're going to get there. We're in the midst of discussing where we believe God is leading us in the next 1-3 years. We stand on the foundation of our Mission, Vision, and Values. We look at where God has uniquely positioned and gifted us, we seek God's leading asking that the Holy Spirit fill us with wisdom and discernment, and then we watch God at work forming and shaping new areas of ministry while, at the same time, renewing old ones.

Already what is becoming clear is the need for church growth. God has placed us strategically into a mission field. The news we have is too good to sit on and we've been called to share it; to be a light to those around it, and to invite more and more people to experience a faith that works in the real world. Experts tell us that the viable ministry of most mainline churches is only 23 more years. After that time, enough of the core of the mainline churches will have aged out that most will have to shut their doors. The need for growth is imperative to our survival, but more than that, it is a gospel imperative.

The most important word to Christian disciples in the Bible is the word "go." Unfortunately, all too often we focus solely on the opposite word, "stop." I've spent much of my life thinking God's basic call on my life was to stop doing this, stop doing that, stop, stop, stop. I hear this all the time when people tell their story of coming to faith, and they say something like, "I gave my life to Jesus and then I stopped…" and then give me the list of sins they've tried to put off.

Now please hear me on this, it's a really, really good thing to put off habits and behaviors that are sinful or harmful or not of God. But the heart of Christian discipleship is not the word stop. If it was, we'd all be better off just staying home and hiding in the bathroom. The heart of Christian discipleship is the word *"go."*

When God calls Abraham, he says, I want you to leave behind your city, your family, your stuff…. and "Go." When God calls Moses, he says, I want you to stop being a shepherd in Midian and "Go" back to Egypt. After his resurrection, Jesus told his followers, "Just as the Father sent me, I am sending you." In other words, *"Go!"*

At the heart of Christianity there's a movement, an outward focus, a going that we can easily forget as we face the demands of our lives, but God doesn't forget, nor can we.

Additionally, our leadership is looking at ways we can better stimulate a culture of generosity, better engage new members more deeply in the life of the congregation, to better increase the number of ministry entry points, to further strengthen our worship experience, and to create sustainable internal systems and expand our ministry teams.

There is even more than this and all of this will take a lot more work to flesh out as we attach specific goals and action plans to these dreams.

God is doing a new thing in our midst and is bringing us into a season of revitalization. I encourage you to find new ways to deepen your engagement in this ministry we share. Many hands make light work and it truly takes a village to see and to put into action all that God has in store for us.

— Pastor John

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Lent and Easter

Jam Wednesdays at 5:00 –5:45 pm
Soup Dinner 5:45-6:30 pm
Worship 6:30-7:00 pm

Wednesday night Youth Group is
6:30-8:30 pm after service. 7th-12th Grade

Family Good Friday Service
March 30th 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

Join us for Easter Breakfast Easter morning

9:00am-11:15 am!

Fundraiser for Youth Trips!

Youth will be going to Montana to work with the Forest Service and to Tillamook OR to serve with Habitat for Humanity.

Lent Small Group Study

Join or lead a small group for Lent. Each year during Lent we take this time to focus on God and his work in our lives. This year we will look at Health and how to be spiritually healthy when it comes to many aspects of our lives. This study was developed by Pastor John, Terry Baird, and Cathy Thomas. Please watch for opportunities to sign up or contact Terry Baird for more information.

Here is a brief overview of the study and suggested weeks for each study:

Lent Study - *It is Well with My Soul*

From Ash Wednesday (February 14th)

to Easter (April 1st).

Week 1 (2/18-2/24) - Physical

Week 2 (2/25-3/3) - Technology

Week 3 (3/4- 3/10) - Community

Week 4 (3/11-3/17) - Family

Week 5 (3/18-3/24) - Wellness

Week 6 (3/25-3/31) - Faith

STEWARDSHIP

"Through GENEROSITY we CHANGE LIVES."

Join us on a journey as we hear more about our 2018 stewardship theme and how we at FLRB are affecting change and can continue to make great impacts in our communities through our combined efforts.

We'll take three Sundays in our lead up to Generosity Sunday (March 18th) to highlight the missions of FLRB and it's members and get inspired for more possibilities as we investigate the following:

February 25th - "The Future of Our Church - How We Change the Lives of Our Children"

March 4th - "Our Life Together - How We Change the Lives of our Congregation"

March 11th - "In the World - How We Change the Life of our Community Outside These Walls"

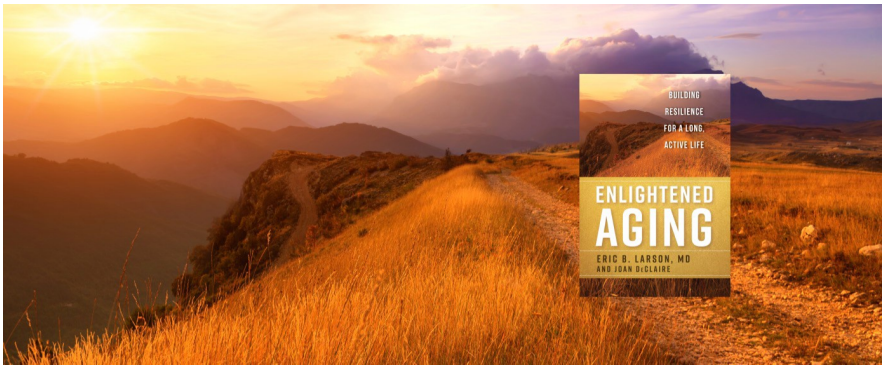
March 18th - Generosity Sunday - An opportunity to pledge.

A letter with more information about this important time in the life of the church will be mailed soon.

"The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25

"How can I make a return to the Lord for all the good things He has given to me?" Psalm 116

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY



ENLIGHTENED AGING: BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR A LONG, ACTIVE LIFE

by Eric B. Larson, MD, and Joan DeClaire

Plan to come to the Upper Room on **March 4, 2018 at 9:45 am** as FLRB Member and author, Eric Larson, shares insights from his new book.

CARING MINISTRIES

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 12:10pm. 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.

Cancer Support Group

Join us on February 27 (& most 4th Thursdays) at 6:30pm in the FLRB Narthex. This is for cancer survivors, cancer patients in treatment, newly diagnosed people and caregivers or family members who have a loved one with cancer.
Questions, contact Sherry Shellman 206-794-6508.

Sharing the Peace while Sick

With the cold and flu season in our congregation, it is very appropriate to share with "Peace be with you" in words only, and not a handshake. This way, you can keep your own germs and not share, and protect others. In addition, several members of our congregation are going through chemotherapy, and for their protection, please extend the peace of the Lord with your words, and not your hands unless THEY reach out first. It is important that we show respect for their health in a caring way. Hand sanitizer is available in the back of the sanctuary. Please cover your cough and sneeze into your "cough pocket".

FLRB PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

School News

Outreach: **Backpack Kids** – The children have been collecting food each week so that our congregational volunteers can bag it up to be delivered to Syre Elementary. They provide 6 meals & 2 snacks for the weekend for needy children. We are collecting high protein foods that packed with vitamin C and easy to "cook". Some of the items they collect are beef ravioli, fruit cups, Mac & cheese, pork & beans etc. If you would like to help out—look for the rolling board with our display on it in the Narthex!

Registration for Fall 2018: Hard to believe—but it's time to register for the fall of 2018. In-House and Congregational Registration starting January 29th. If you are interested in more information or would like a tour, please call Kären in the school office. We will again have classes for 2 1/2 year olds through Kindergarten. Join us for our 47th year… Please tell your friends and neighbors as well!

First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten

Basket Raffle

It's Basket Raffle time again!!!

This year we are looking to replace the grass in the playground around our track and purchase iPads for the teachers. They love taking pictures and recording the interactions between kids.

Our Basket/Open House Theme is: Love Is…….

Basket themes include Community, Family, Global, Teamwork, Amore, Creation.

Tickets will be on sale in March.

Open House and Ice Cream Social will be March 23 (we will pick the tickets then too!)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Word Of Life

Each Wednesday morning at 10am join the Pastor in the Library. 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.

Writers' Group

The Writers Group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. Even if you don't write, you're welcome to attend and hear the writers read their work. Arrive between 11:30am and noon. Bring a sack lunch. Adjournment is typically about 2pm The writers are a diverse group… some write children's stories, others write poems or memoirs, some writing is fiction, some non-fiction… it's always a surprise. Questions? Contact Marian Schroedl: 206-533-8994 or marian_ps_mo@frontier.com

InAsMuch Quilters

We work from 9am-12pm, each Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall, with a break for prayer, coffee and goodies at 10am.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Monday Night

6:30 pm Bell Choir

Wednesday Night

During Lent, this schedule shifts to accommodate the Soup Supper and Wednesday Lent Worship Services.

5:00-5:45 pm	JaM – Jesus and Music
5:45 pm	Soup Supper
6:30 pm	Lent Worship Service
7:00 pm	Youth Group - Come for Soup Supper and Lent Worship Service then stay for youth group
7:00 pm	Adult Choir

Thursday Night

5:00 pm Praise Band

LEADERSHIP

Church Council 2017- 2018

The Church Council is your elected leadership at FLRB. Please contact council members with your questions, concerns or suggestions.

President - Jim Borrow
Vice President - Laura Schleede
Past President - Phil Turcotte
Secretary - Laura Marchisio
Treasurer - Mike Laslavic
At-Large - Duane Hoffmann
At-Large - Cory Heins
At-Large - Bev Klein
Lead Pastor - Rev. John Bjorge

The Council usually meets the second Tuesday of each month.

Women's Bible Bunch

Attention to all women: If are you looking for something new for 2018, we invite you to join us! Together we will discover refreshment in studying God's word, sharing fellowship, prayer, joy, laughter and sometimes tears. We also enjoy planning luncheons and events. All you need is your Bible, paper and pen, a sack lunch and a whole lot of expectation for God's blessings! Beverages and dessert will be provided. We meet at 12 pm in the church library on the 3rd Monday of each month. If there is a date change, it will be noted. The following is our annual schedule: January thru May (break for summertime), September thru November (break for Advent & Christmas). Contact Person: Dorothy Clausen 425-776-2694, daclaus@comcast.net

Mary-Martha Circle

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

Mom's Group

Join us Tuesdays from 11:30am to 1pm for a time of discussion, prayer and study. This is a time for moms to gather with other moms and share in joys and struggles and find hope and strength in God. We meet at First Lutheran. Grab a cup of coffee and join us. Lunch bunch provided for children 2 years and older. Please sign up with Karen Beasley (there is space). Children younger than 2 are welcome to join us. For more information or any questions contact Terry Baird ffd@flrb.org

OFFERING OPTIONS

Ways You Can Give

- Simply Giving: You can set up automatic payments from 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.

FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Tuesday's regular activities include: 9am InAsMuch 10:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Mom's Group 7pm Yoga-Exercise			Wed. evening activity times during Lent: 5pm JaM Youth Group - Come for Soup Supper and Lent Worship Service then stay for youth group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1 11:30am Writers' Group 5pm Praise Band	2	3 2pm Les Poole Memorial
4 8:30am Classic Service 9:45am Education Hour 11am Praise Service 12:10pm Service of Prayer & Healing	5 6:30pm Bell Choir	6 Tuesday Activities	7 10am Word of Life 11:30am Mardi Gras Lunch 5pm JaM 6:30pm Youth Group 7:30pm Choir	8 10:00am Mary-Martha Circle 12 pm-4pm Leadership Retreat 5pm Praise Band	9	10
11 8:30am Classic Service 9:45am Education Hour *New Member Orientation* 11am Praise Service	12 6:30pm Bell Choir	13 Tuesday Activities 7pm FLRB Council	14 *Ash Wednesday* 10am Word of Life 6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service **no JaM, or Youth Group**	15 11:30am Writers' Group 5pm Praise Band	16	17 11am Geneva Van Horne Memorial
18 8:30am Classic Service 9:45am Education Hour 11am Praise Service	19 *Presidents' Day Holiday* *Office & School Closed* **No Bell Choir**	20 Tuesday Activities	21 10am Word of Life 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship Service Wednesday evening activities	22 5pm Praise Band	23	24
25 8:30am Classic Service 9:45am Education Hour *Stewardship Class* 11am Praise Service	26 12pm Women's Bible Bunch 6:30pm Bell Choir	27 Tuesday Activities 6:30pm Cancer Support Group	28 10am Word of Life 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship Service Wednesday evening activities			

MARCH 2018 CALENDAR

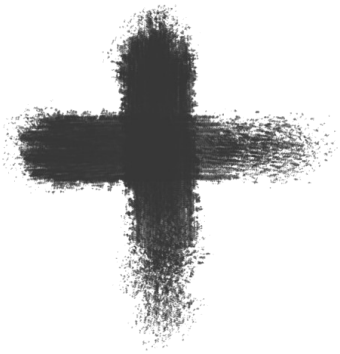
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:30am Writers' Group 5pm Praise Band	2	3
4 8:30am Classic Service 9:45am Education Hour *Eric Larson Class* 11am Praise Service 12:10pm Service of Prayer & Healing	5 6:30pm Bell Choir	6 Tuesday Activities	7 10am Word of Life 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship Service Wednesday evening activities	8 10:00am Mary-Martha Circle 5pm Praise Band	9	10
11 8:30am Classic Service 9:45am Education Hour *First Communion Class* 11am Praise Service	12 6:30pm Bell Choir	13 Tuesday Activities 7pm FLRB Council	14 10am Word of Life 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship Service Wednesday evening activities	15 11:30am Writers' Group 5pm Praise Band	16	17
18 *Generosity Sunday* 8:30am Classic Service 9:45am Education Hour *with Bishop Kirby Unti* 11am Praise Service	19 12pm Women's Bible Bunch 6:30pm Bell Choir	20 Tuesday Activities	21 10am Word of Life 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship Service Wednesday evening activities	22 5pm Praise Band	23	24
25 *Palm Sunday* 8:30am Classic Service 9:45am Education Hour 11am Praise Service	26 6:30pm Bell Choir	27 Tuesday Activities 6:30pm Cancer Support Group	28 **No Word of Life, JaM, or Youth Group** 6:30pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	29 *Maundy Thursday* 7pm Service	30 *Good Friday* 6pm Family Service in the Upper Room 7pm Traditional Service	31

LENT - HOLY WEEK - EASTER

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday — This is a time where we remember our mortality and that "from dust we have come and to dust we shall return."

February 14 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service



Wednesdays during Lent

Each week Pastor John will be presenting a different aspect of his learnings while on last year's sabbatical.

February 21st through March 21st:
5:45 pm Soup Supper
6:30 pm Lent Worship Services

Holy Week

Palm Sunday — This day marks Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and begins his journey to the cross.

March 25 8:30 am Classic Worship
11:00 am Praise Worship

Maundy Thursday — At this service we remember Jesus' command to love one another as He loved us. We also remember His last supper.

March 29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday — Good Friday remembers the somber events of Jesus' crucifixion and his seven last words from the cross.

March 30 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

Easter

Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and how we are saved by his triumph over death.

April 1 8:00 am Classic Worship
9:30 am Classic Worship
11:00 am Praise Worship

Easter Breakfast served 9:00-11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall
This breakfast is a fundraiser for the youth trips.

He Is Risen!

MARDI GRAS LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, **February 7th at 11:30 am** there will be a fabulous Mardi Gras celebration at FLRB (who knew that Lutherans celebrated Mardi Gras??) Chicken gumbo and other special items are on the menu, all served up by Jim Shilt and his talented crew. While feasting on the delicious food, strains of smooth jazz will fill the air as Joel Bevington makes us think we are dining on Bourbon Street !! Bring friends and sign up (in narthex after services or call church office) before February 5th. Hope to see you there !!

First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach

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Community News from First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach

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Front Office Hours
M-Thurs. 9:00am - 5:00pm
Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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WORSHIP TIMES

Program Year Worship Schedule

8:30 am Classic Worship
9:45 am Education Hour
11:00 am Praise Worship

Lent

2/14 6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesdays from 2/21 - 3/21:
5:45 pm - Soup Supper
6:30 pm - Lent Worship Services

Holy Week

3/25 8:30 am & 11:00 am - Palm Sunday
3/29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
3/30 Good Friday Services
6:00 pm Family Service; 7:00 pm Traditional Service

Easter Services - April 1, 2018

8:00 am & 9:30 am Classic Worship; 11:00 am Praise Worship

Staff/Office Holiday Closures - 2/19 & 4/2

STAY CONNECTED

Social Media, Website, Newsletter

Follow us on Facebook or check out our website to keep up to date. 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 seasonal Beachcomber newsletter electronically, please contact the front office.

OUTREACH

Reach Out • Motivate • Provide

February

Community Lunch at Central Lutheran Church
The Community Lunch on Capitol Hill, at Central Lutheran Church, has been providing meals for mostly homeless and some low income people twice a week for more than 30 years. February is the month for FLRB's annual trek to Capitol Hill to cook and serve lunch on Tuesdays (2/6, 2/13, 2/20 and 2/27).

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 Central Lutheran lunch program.

Questions? Call Jim Borrow at 206-546-3716.

March

HopeLink Can Madness– Last year the youth decided to participate in HopeLink's Can Madness food drive. This is a competition between local business to collect the most food. It is done using a basketball style bracket system. Last year we made it to the top 16. This year, please consider helping us move higher in the bracket by brining non-perishable food to church in February and March.

Like us on Facebook!