

The Beachcomber

First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, Shoreline, Washington

Winter 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Sometimes our house gets messy. With both a teenager and a puppy, I'm not sure which is worse sometimes – the dirty clothes on the floor and the half-eaten dishes of food which sit long enough to become a science experiment, or the half-chewed-up socks, underwear, and shoes that the puppy leaves in his wake. But then I remember that this, too, will pass. The day will come when we'll be empty nesters with no more kids to care for under our roof, and the puppy will grow old, like

our other dog did, and will slow down, and lose his zeal for life. Having a teenager and having a puppy are a blessing, albeit a messy blessing.

But not every mess comes as a blessing. The mess of our world can feel like a curse. Immigrants massing at the border pleading for a new beginning, immigrant children still not reunited with parents, senseless violence and mass killings, ugly political rancor.... Every day the mess just seems to get worse. Sometimes the mess even hits us in our own homes and in our own workplaces!

Each week we come to church to escape the mess, to get a reprieve, a respite from all the mess that constantly barrages us in the world, in our country, or in our homes. Sometimes certain messes get foisted upon us from others; sometimes we create them ourselves.

But either way, I've got to tell you, I don't like messes. But, whether at home or elsewhere, ignoring something doesn't make it go away.

As we approach Christmas, the highlight for me is to remember that time when the angels announced to the dirty, messy shepherds out in the field that the Messiah was about to be born into the mess of this world. And in announcing this, they said a most unusual thing: "Here's the sign, here's the tip-off, here's the

dead giveaway that will enable you to recognize the real deal when you get to him."

Now if you're a shepherd, you most likely expect the angel to say "you'll recognize the newborn king because you'll find him wrapped maybe in silk and lying in a golden crib and living in a fabulous palace" because, after all, you've always been told that God resides in a Temple made of gold and that only the most holy can approach him. But the angel doesn't say anything like that. The angel says, "You'll find this baby born in a barn, wrapped in torn rags, laid in a feed trough."

The angels say this is a "sign" meaning the fact that Jesus ended up there is not an accident. The fact they would find Jesus in this condition is not arbitrary. This is a tip-off – a dead giveaway as to what's on God's heart: you can recognize him because he'll show up in the messiest place you can imagine – born in a barn, wrapped in rags, surrounded by animals, his paternity a question, entrusted to a poverty-stricken young couple with dirty, unclean shepherds invited as witnesses.

The king of the universe enters into human history wrapped in obscurity and poverty and humility, in order to communicate to us this one thing: that there is no place he won't go, no thing he won't do, no depths to which he will not descend in order to bring God's power and love and grace and peace and goodness to anybody who will have him. This will be a sign to you: You will see God in a messy place. The angel says, "Here's the good news of Christmas: Be not afraid... because our God's not afraid of the mess!"

We can get awfully discouraged by the messiness of life. God can seem pretty absent from it all. But this Christmas season, remember – what kind of king gets born in a barn? What kind of God comes and lives in the messy places? The God that loves you so much that he'd go anywhere and do anything, even die, to show you that deep, profound and enduring love that he has for you! So don't be afraid – we have a God who's not afraid of your mess!

Pastor John

ADVENT

Sundays in Advent

December 2 - Congregation-wide Preparation for Advent Event.

Help decorate the church, share a light lunch, make Advent and Christmas crafts!

December 9 - Blue Christmas Service: 2:00 pm, church library.

A Service of Remembrance and Hope for those experiencing loss and grief.

December 16 - Performance of Bach's cantata *Wachet auf* during our 11:00 am service.

December 23 - Christmas Pageant—8:30 am & 11:00 am services.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 24

5:00 pm - Family Service
with bell choir and trumpet

8:30 pm & 10:30 pm - Traditional Candlelight Services
with choir, brass and organ

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 am!

This year, Sunday School is focusing on the New Testament. We have a mix of classroom styles ending with a closing all together where the kids will learn songs and more.

The age break down is the following:

- Preschool
- Kindergarten – 1st Grade
- 2nd – 3rd
- 4th – 6th Grade

Confirmation/High School Sunday School

This year, youth in 7th-12th grades will meet together for Sunday School. The confirmation youth will split off part way through. More information to come.



WEDNESDAYS

JaM (Jesus and Music!)

5:00-6:00 pm: 3yr-6th grade kids will get a chance to grow in their faith and participate in Children's Choir. This year we will break JaM into several sessions:

- 11/7 to 12/19 - Sing 12/23 and 12/24 Pageant and Christmas
- 1/9 to 2/27 - Sing 3/3 School Celebration Sunday
- 3/13 to 4/14 - Sing Lent and Palm Sunday 4/14
- 4/24 to 5/15 - Sing 5/19 Music Sunday and 5/22 Talent Show

Middle/High School Youth Group

6:30-8:30 Youth Group – 7th-12th Grade



YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

This summer 17 youth (9th-11th graders), along with Terry and Pastor John, will be heading to Puerto Rico. Thousands of Puerto Ricans have been living without electricity, safe water or reliable sources of food since hurricane Maria struck. The youth will have the opportunity to work alongside the local church and help families rebuild their homes and lives. During the year, the youth will be working on raising money for their trip this summer. There will be many ways to support the youth throughout the year. Here are a few upcoming opportunities:

Parents' Night Out

December 8th, 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Children 4 months-6th grade
\$30 for 1st child, \$15 for 2nd child,
\$10 for each additional child.

Dinner will be provided.
Crafts ~ Games ~ Movie
Christmas Fun!!!

Fundraiser for FLRB Youth.
Contact Terry Baird: ffd@flrb.org



Sauerkraut and Lefse are Coming!!

To honor both our German and Norwegian roots the youth will be selling both Lefse and Sauerkraut that they have made. A big thank you to Jim Shilt and Judy Paulson for leading the efforts in making Sauerkraut and Lefse.

Watch for it to be on sale!!
Makes a great Christmas Gift!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2018

December 23rd – Both Services

The talents of our congregation will collide together to tell of God's love through the gift of his Son. Children and youth are encouraged to participate.

Ways to Participate:

- Kids singing: Kids going to JaM and Sunday School will be learning the songs for the pageant.
- Kids Speaking: There will be a few short parts for Elementary students.
- Youth Speaking: The youth will work on speaking parts during youth group.

All Speaking Parts Rehearsal: Wednesday December 19th,
6:00 pm-8:00 pm – Potluck Dinner!

Dress Rehearsal: December 22nd, 9:00 am – 11:00 am.
Do you have talents you can offer? Contact Terry Baird,
ffd@flrb.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hello from the music program at FLRB! Fall seems to come more quickly every year, a harbinger for the holidays that we will soon be celebrating with family and our church community. We have many music events coming up in the next few months that you won't want to miss:

Sunday, December 2nd: Advent & Christmas Music during Adult Education hour @ 9:45 am in the Upper Room. Come and get into the holiday spirit! This will be a time to sing many of your favorite seasonal Advent and Christmas hymns with piano and guest musicians.

Sunday, December 9th: Our Adult Choir will be joining forces with the choir of Sand Point United Methodist at their church for the first performance of Bach's well loved cantata *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* BWV 140 with orchestra and guest soloists.

Saturday, December 15th: Dickens Carolers Dinner in the Upper Room @ 7:00 pm. This will be a time to enjoy family and friends over dinner and beautiful Christmas music.

Sunday, December 16th: The choir of Sand Point United Methodist Church and orchestra will join us for a performance of Bach's cantata *Wachet auf* during our late service at FLRB.

Sunday, December 23rd: The children and youth at FLRB will be presenting a Christmas Pageant at both Sunday services! Filled with music and the youth's perspective on the nativity, this pageant was written and directed by our own staff at First Lutheran.

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Eve services at FLRB

- 5:00 pm: Family Service with bell Choir and trumpet.
- 8:30 pm & 10:30 pm: Traditional Candlelight Services with choir, brass and organ.

Friday, February 8th: St. Mark's Compline Choir concert at FLRB @ 7:30 pm. Come and enjoy the music of Seattle's well-known men's ensemble in our own sanctuary! This choir has been singing for the service of compline at St. Mark's Cathedral since 1956 and performs Gregorian chant, works from the Renaissance, and newly composed a cappella music.

We hope to see you at any or all of these services! If you have interest in joining (or checking out!) any of these ensembles, need information about how to get your kids involved, or know of anyone who might like to get involved with the music at FLRB, let me know! I would love to talk with you. *Or just show up!*

Joel Bevington, Director of Music



Music Rehearsals

Mondays: Bell Choir — 6:00-7:30 pm

Wednesdays: JaM (Jesus and Music!) 3yr-6th grade kids: 5:00-6:00 pm; Praise Band: 6:00-7:20 pm; Adult Choir: 7:30-9:00 pm

DICKENS DINNER

Tickets on Sale Now

The Dickens Dinner at FLRB will be held on Saturday, December 15. Doors open at 7:00 pm and dinner will be served at 7:30 pm. The ticket price is \$25 per person and only one hundred tickets are available. The evening meal will be beef stroganoff, vegetables, salad and dessert.

The Dickens Carolers will again perform, featuring John Huddleston and Jason Studstill. This event is a fundraiser to help the Music Department hire additional musicians (brass instrumentalists) for the Easter services.

Join us for great fellowship, conversation, music and food and begin your celebration of the season! Signups begin November 18th in the Narthex.



CARE MINISTRY

Prayer Participation

Our congregation is blessed with amazing pray-ers! We have an amazing prayer chain, trusted with prayers from our congregation and others. We have liturgical (prayer) assistants joining us in worship, sharing their prayers with us. We have an adult education group of several people reading 50 Ways to Pray, and we will get together December 16 to discuss this book. Following the last service on the first Sunday of each month, a service of Prayer and Healing is held in the Sanctuary. This year during Lent, we will focus on The Lord's Prayer. Consider participating in these groups, flexing your prayer "muscles," and building the strength and faith at First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach. Contact Cathy Thomas, RN, Parish Nurse with your questions and interest!

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".

Monthly Cancer Support Group

You are welcome to join our cancer support group. We meet at church on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm to share our stories and lift each other up. We share bumps in our care and offer support and uplifting suggestions. It is good to be able to share our concerns and thoughts in a confidential group. About 10 people come, and that varies with the month. Members are cancer patients, cancer survivors, and family caregivers. Sherry Shellman, cancer survivor leads the group with medical support from our Parish Nurse, Cathy Thomas, retired oncology certified nurse. Upcoming meetings: November 27, *no December meeting*, January 22, February 26.

Care Teams

Last Spring, a wonderful group of caring people from FLRB got together to share their hearts and interests in serving/helping God's people. It was heartwarming to share why we serve, how we can and enjoy serving, and reaching out to those people who need a little help, for a little while.

Over 30 people have signed up, giving us enough people to care or decline when there is a need. There was enthusiasm for including kids, youth and adults too. It's not too late to join this team effort. Cathy has a spreadsheet with names, emails and interests/strengths. There are many ways to care—including doing yard work, make a meal, drive people to appointments, or praying. Thank you for all who came...and it is an honor to support those of you who have a need. If you know of someone with a need, put a request on the pew card and turn it into the office, Pastor John or Cathy Thomas (Parish Nurse).

GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS

Blue Christmas Service

Many people are facing the holidays with a different viewpoint, having lost a loved one, lost their health, lost employment among other losses. How do we face the merriment when our hearts are so very heavy?

We invite you to our Service of Remembrance and Hope. First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach offers this special time to honor your loss, remember and hope on Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 pm in the church library.



Sometimes it might be difficult to come alone so invite someone you know who is struggling, and share with them the solace our Lord alone can give. There will be resources and support available. This is sponsored by the Care Ministries of First Lutheran. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Thomas, RN, Parish Nurse.

FUN FOR ALL AGES

Fourth Friday Game Nights

You are invited to join in the fun on the 4th Friday of the month from 7:00-9:00 pm. Check the Navigator to verify dates. You may bring your cards or games or just come and have fun in the fellowship hall. (Coffee, tea and water will be available, but no childcare at this time.)



FLRB PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

School News

We have had some very busy months here at First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten. The Pre-Kindergarten Lions had Pumpkin Carving, the Kindergarteners had a Pumpkin Math Night.

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!

We are also hosting a **Giving Tree for Mary’s Place**. Look for the Christmas Tree under the Noah’s Ark picture near the elevator. There will be tags for toys for the kids and gifts for the kids to give their parents. **Please return them by December 2.**

Christmas Programs: If you need a little something to get you into the “Christmas Spirit,” First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten has just the ticket for you! Join us on either Tuesday or Wednesday, December 18 or 19, at 10:30 am for the Doves and Lambs Christmas programs. On Thursday December 20 the Pre-K Lions & Kindergarteners will present “The Light of the Whole World” at 11:00 am. Please join us for one or all of these events. Refreshments will be served following each performance!

January Registration: January will be here before you know it and with it brings In-House and Congregational Registration starting January 28 for First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten for the fall of 2019. If you are interested in more information or would like a tour—please call Kären in the school office after the first of the year. 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!



BACKPACKS FOR KIDS



Each week FLRB delivers 15 backpacks of food to Syre Elementary School. They are distributed to children who receive free or reduced-fee lunches at school during the week but who otherwise might go hungry on week-ends. This program is supported by the generous donation of food from our congregation and First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten families. Please look over the list and pick up some items when shopping to contribute to this Outreach ministry. There is a box in the lobby to receive your donations.

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| Chocolate Milk
(8 oz. shelf stable) | Applesauce Cups (4 oz) | Granola Bars |
| Canned Soup (15 oz) | Pudding Cups (4 oz) | Mac and Cheese (boxed) |
| Chili (15 oz) | Fruit Cups | Easy Mac (individual pkt) |
| Mini Ravioli (15 oz) | Chicken Ramen pkg | Sleeve Soda Crackers |
| Tuna Fish (5 oz) | Belvita Breakfast Biscuits | Cheese and Cracker pkg |
| Peanut Butter (16 oz) | Fruit Snack pkg | Peanut Butter/Cracker pkg |
| Small Juice Box or Pouch | Oatmeal pkg | |
| | Hot Chocolate pkg | |

LEADERSHIP

Church Council 2018-2019

The Church Council is your elected leadership at FLRB. Please contact council members with your questions, concerns or suggestions. Council Meeting are usually on the second Tuesday of each month.

President - Laura Schleede
Vice Pres. - Chris Verschuyf
Secretary - Laura Marchisio
Treasurer - Mike Laslavic

At-Large - Bev Klein
At-Large - Cory Heins
At-Large - Stephanie Bertges
Past President - Jim Borrow
Lead Pastor - John Bjorge

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Roof Cleaning

As you may have noticed, the roof of the sanctuary and education wing were recently cleaned, killing the moss, sanitizing the surface and extending the life of the roof by another 3-5 years. This was performed by All-Clean! Softwash who donated their services for the education wing. Consider supporting this local business for your home for roof, gutter, window and siding cleaning. This time of year they also have a holiday lighting program, where they install lights on homes. For more information contact All-Clean! at 425-353-6368.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

InAsMuch

From Matthew 25:40, King James Version... "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." The InAsMuch Quilting Ministry meets every Tuesday morning from 9:00 am -12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The group crafts quilts to distribute through Lutheran World Relief. No sewing experience is required. There is a refreshment and fellowship break at 10:00 am, so please come join in! For questions or more information about how you can help, contact Judy Poulsen 206-542-3995.



Art at FLRB

A group of artists meets every second Thursday evening. They draw, paint, knit, crochet, embroider, and bead. If you have any artistic skill, please come and join us. We meet from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Artists will be sharing their work at an art show in the spring. If you have questions, call Shirley Fjoslien at 206-645-3964 or sfjoslien@msn.com



The Knit-Witz

Do you know someone who is going through some tough times? Has suffered a loss of some kind? Whose physical or emotional health is fragile? Or who has just gone through a big life change (a move loss/change of job, divorce, health issues)? If you or someone you know finds themselves in any of these situations, perhaps they would be encouraged and comforted by a prayer shawl. The shawls are meant to be tangible evidence of God's loving presence and comfort. The shawls are knit by a group, affectionately known as "The Knit-Witz." The group meets once a month in members homes, as well as knitting on their own.

The group is blessed every time they sit down to knit and, as each shawl is given away, feels honored to pass along God's love and care. The shawls are kept in the prayer chapel and are available to ANYONE with a need! The shawls will be blessed during the December 9th worship services and will also be available to the attendees of the Blue Christmas service that afternoon.

Knit-Witz is always ready to welcome new members. If you would like to become involved in this ministry, please contact Mim Brustuen at 206-542-2610 or mimimb@yahoo.com



Writers' Group

The Writers' Group at FLRB has been active for 30 years. The original idea came from Myrta Klinkman and she is still an active member of the group. (If you want more history - Myrta is the source). Members of the group are encouraged to write something to share and in this way we become closer friends as we laugh, sometimes shed a tear or two and get to know one another and ourselves better. Writing opens the heart and mind and allows our innermost spirit to shine forth.

We invite anyone who is interested to stop in at the Church Library on the 1st or 3rd Thursday. 11:30 am coffee is on - bring a sack lunch if you like. Sharing begins around noon and lasts until about 2:00 pm. Contact Marian Schroedl, marian_ps_mo@frontier.com or 206-533-8994 for more details.

SPECIAL EVENT

Church-wide Preparation for Advent

December 2nd, 12:15 pm

Help Decorate the church for advent!

Share in a light lunch!

Make Advent and Christmas Crafts!

Join us as we celebrate and prepare for the coming of our Savior!



SPIRITUAL FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

Word Of Life

Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am, join Pastor John 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.

Women's Bible Bunch

Women are invited to join us at anytime as we continue our amazing study in God's Word in the inspiring book of Isaiah. We meet at 12:00 pm in the Church Library on the 3rd Monday of each month. If a date changes, it will be noted. We enjoy a time of special fellowship, prayer, and serving God in the planning of luncheons and events. A volunteer offering is taken and used for the needs of the Church. Bring your Bible, paper and pen, a sack lunch, and an expectation for God's blessings. Dessert and beverages are provided. Our Schedule ends this year on November 19th as we break to prepare for Christmas. We continue after the New Year on January 21st and continue following the 3rd Monday of each month thru May 20th. Then we take a break for summertime. Contact Person: Dorothy Clausen 425-776-2694 or daclus@comcast.net

S.T.A.R.S. (Singly Together After Retirement)

The STARS are making plans for November and December to help keep us active and enjoying the holiday season. We have plans to attend Taproot Theater's presentation of "Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberly" on November 29th. December 3rd, we will attend the PLU Christmas concert at Benaroya, with dinner prior to the concert. On December 13th we are invited to visit the Hearthstone for dinner in a private room.

We have enjoyed our first year singly together after retirement. We have made new friends, visited museums, plays, concerts, and been hosted in the homes of STAR participants. We look forward to more activities in the new year! Keep watching the Navigator for details about upcoming events. Contact Sylvia Pugh (206-522-8945) or Bev Klein (206-801-7871) with questions.

Mary-Martha Circle

Mary-Martha Circle meets the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 am in the library. New members welcome.

Adult Education

We are beginning a new adult education series in January! It is based on the Alpha series to explore the basics of Christian faith. Unlike the series this fall, these sessions will be focused on small group discussions. Each week we will watch a short video together on topics such as "Who is Jesus?" and "How can I have faith?" Then there will be opportunity to hear from fellow congregants and share your perspective and understanding in a small group. The goal is to grow our faith through reflection and fellowship. This is not a sequential series and there is no requirement that people attend all of them. Everyone should feel free to drop in and out as the topic interests them, just as they did this fall. It is also a great way to get to know the church and the congregation for visitors and prospective members!

The committee is beginning to plan for the September to December 2019 and we want to hear about your thoughts and ideas. What intrigues you? What would you like to explore? Have you heard of interesting programs in other churches? Do you know someone – or have you heard of someone who might be available for a Sunday morning presentation? The committee members will be happy to follow up on making connections, but it would be helpful to have any resources and ideas that YOU might have! Our hope is that this adult education time will continue to be an avenue for learning and spiritual growth within our FLRB community. You can contact Kate Nesse with ideas at kate.nesse@gmail.com or 651-366-7736.

- December 2: Christmas Carol Sing-a-long
- December 16: Book discussion – 50 Ways to Pray: Practices from Many Traditions and Times by Teresa A. Blythe (Feel free to come and hear about the practices even if you have not read the book!)
- January 6: A New Beginning – Stories of Accomplishments and Plans from FLRB Ministry Teams
- January 13 – April 7: The Basics of Christianity

New Beginnings Event

Have you made up your mind to make this new year different? Do you feel like God has a call on your life? He does! Come and be inspired at a *New Beginning* event.

When: Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 9:45 am

Where: The Upper Room

What: Stories of Accomplishments and Plans from FLRB Ministry Teams

Questions? Contact Dorothy Clausen at 425-776-2694 or daclus@comcast.net

The Beachcomber

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Office Hours

M-Th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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WORSHIP TIMES

Worship Schedule

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

Christmas Eve Services - Monday, December 24

5:00 pm - Family Service with bell choir and trumpet.
8:30 pm & 10:30 pm - Traditional Candlelight Services with choir, brass and organ.

ONLINE GIVING

Download the GIVE+ App Today!



Give+ Mobile

You can make regular offerings and youth trip fees payments here. If you don't have this time saver setup, why not? If you need more help, or if you have questions, please contact Karen Ewing. Direct links to the app store of your choice:
bit.ly/androidGive bit.ly/appleGive

Vanco, our service provider for automated giving, has increased their options with new apps for both Apple and Android. The GIVE+ app shows the same giving options as our website.

STAYING CONNECTED

Social Media, Emails, Seasonal Newsletter

Follow us on Facebook or check out our website to keep up to date on events happening this fall. 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, 206-546-4153 or office@flrb.org

Church Staff

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Girmai Berhe, Facilities Supervisor	

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Navigator

Announcements due **Tuesday** for the following Sunday.

Beachcomber

Article submissions due **February 8, 2019**.

The focus for this issue will be on the season of Lent and Easter.