

The Beachcomber

First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, Shoreline, Washington

Winter 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



The beginning of November I had the blessed though difficult task of officiating the funeral for my mother. I've done hundreds of funerals and memorial services and I've always seen my task as trying to bring comfort to the bereaved friends and family members offered through the hope given us through Jesus Christ. But how does one preach when the bereaved family member is the preacher?

I found solace in one of my mom's last conversations with my sisters. My sisters asked how my mother would like to be remembered. She simply said, "I loved the Lord; I loved my family." And that she did! I used that line as the refrain of my sermon, reflecting on the many ways she did both of those things so well.

I spoke of how she had always loved the Lord ever since she was a small girl growing up as the daughter of Norwegian immigrants in Iowa. I spoke of how she'd always dreamed of sharing her love with a family of her own and of how once she'd gotten married in August of 1953 she wanted to start that family—one she could raise, care for, and love as she had always hoped to do. But despite her dreams, her desires, and her prayers to do just that, having children wouldn't come quickly. For ten long years, despite every effort, my mother was denied her heart's desire. Her love for family would only happen after an excruciating time of waiting, longing, and praying.

Isn't that a bit of what Advent is all about?! Advent is about waiting, and longing, and praying; it's about yearning, and craving, and wanting our heart's desire to be satisfied. It's

about living in darkness and craving light; about living amidst sadness and despair and yearning for redemption and hope; about living amidst the dissatisfaction of a broken world and wanting everything set right.

Something happens during these times of waiting. One either gives up, giving into bitterness and hopelessness and despair, or one learns to wait, and trust, and live in faithful expectation of what will be. It's that time of waiting that teaches the faithful to love even more, for we know that we can trust our Beloved to always have our best interests at heart. Those of faith learn that waiting is a gift given to us to teach us to trust in a God who's promised to always be faithful.

So it was with my mom. Ten long years of waiting, and hoping, and yearning. Ten long years of growing in her faith, deepening her trust, and learning to love the Lord even when things aren't as you want them to be. After ten years I was placed in their home as their adopted son. On that very night, after such a time of waiting, God answered their prayer twice—by giving them that son, and by allowing them to become pregnant so that exactly nine months later they'd have the first of two daughters born to them...a family to love!

My mom loved the Lord; she loved her family...and maybe she loved her family so well because she learned through an advent of waiting that she could trust so well the Lord who loved her so faithfully.

Pastor John

ADVENT

Sundays in Advent

December 1 - Preparing for Advent: Coffee and Treats - 12:00 pm

December 8 - Blue Christmas Service: 2:00 pm, church library.

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

December 15 - Special Music during Worship

December 22 - Christmas Pageant—8:30 am & 11:00 am services.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm - Family Service
with Brass Quintet and Children's Choir

8:30 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service
with Chorus and Organ

10:30 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service
with Bell Choir, Chorus and Organ

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Children and Youth Ministry at FLRB

God has made each of us, God knows each of us and God has created each of us to be unique. We want kids to feel known and cared for and be able to be who God has made them to be. When we design Sunday school, confirmation, youth group and JaM we keep this in mind. Each program is created in a way to help show kids a God who loves and cares for them. God is Love and through love we get to know God. Therefore we need many caring adults to show God's love to all the 75+ children and youth of our congregation. We are so grateful for the many adults who care for our kids. If you are interested in joining our team please contact Terry Baird ffd@flrb.org



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Sunday School - Sundays 9:45 am - 10:45 am, 3 years- 6th Grade Preschool Sunday School

Preschool Sunday School is self-contained in their classroom and learn the story, do a craft and play.

Kindergarten age kids are welcome to go to either to Preschool Sunday School or Elementary Sunday School.

Elementary Sunday School Schedule:

9:45-9:55 am - "Hook" – *This is something that relates to the story or concept that gets kids excited for what they will be learning.*

10:00-10:20 am - "Book/Look" – *Looking into the Bible in an age appropriate way.*

Age Groups- K-2nd or 3rd-6th

10:25-10:45 am - "Took" – *Bible Application/Exploring. Using different learning styles to come up with a take-away from the lesson.*

Kids will have the opportunity to choose to explore the Bible story more in a way that appeals to them.

Examples include: Music, Craft/Art, Games, Service Projects, and more.

JaM (Jesus and Music)

Wednesday 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Kindergarten - 6th Grade

JaM is FLRB's mid-week program for kids. JaM is a combination of kid's choir and Bible learning. This program is broken into 5 sessions. At the end of each session the kids will have an opportunity to perform what they've learned.

JaM Sessions:

Christmas Session: Oct 30-Dec 18—Christmas Pageant, Dec 22

Winter Session: Jan 15- Feb 19—Bells for Elementary

Easter Session: Mar 4-Apr 1—Sing during Lent & Palm Sunday

Spring Session: Apr 22-May 13—Talent Show May 20

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Youth Group - Wednesdays 6:30 pm-8:30 pm Middle School and High School (7th-12th Grade)

Each week during the school year the youth get together for a meal, Bible study and fun. Once every few weeks the youth have outings such as ice skating, pump it up, bowling and others.

Confirmation Ministry - 7th, 8th, 9th Grade

The confirmation program is a time where youth learn about and explore their faith so that they can stand in front of the congregation and proclaim their faith. The hope and expectation is that this is a step in learning how to live, love and serve. The confirmation program is a 3-year program with expectations that must be met in order to be confirmed at the end of 9th grade. Youth are welcome participate in the program without being confirmed.

High School Ministry - 10th, 11th, 12th Grade

High School is a time where youth can grow in their faith. On Sundays they will look at how each part of our mission statement effects them, their church, and their community.

Sauerkraut is Here!!

Watch for it to be on sale! Makes a great Christmas Gift! A big thank you to Jim Shilt and crew for making this fundraiser possible!

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS

Are you a parent looking to grow in faith and connect with other parents? You are not alone. The joy of a church is the community that we have in Christ. You are invited to join other parents during Sunday School for a time to connect and discuss the scripture for the week. Sunday Mornings, 9:45-10:45 am in the library. Begins December 1.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music during Advent and Christmas has always been a vital means of reflection, celebration and worship for everyone everywhere, and at First Lutheran Richmond Beach we have been blessed with so many wonderful musicians and congregation members who desire to share their musical talents to help us celebrate the season! Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. The programs we have to share this season at FLRB are intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. As we journey through sacred Word and music this season, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God's message of love and redemption.



Please join us this season as we prepare for the true joy of Christmas:

Sunday, December 15th: Come celebrate Advent with a presentation of the ancient O Antiphons at both worship services at FLRB. Every year since the 8th century the Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons during advent, using biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. Music combined with readings and carols will accompany these special worship services as we reflect on the coming of Christ.

Saturday, December 21st @ 7:30 pm: Candlelight Dessert Concert with Brass Quintet and Christmas Carols. Help support our Music Program by attending this special event! This Christmas season we have invited the Seattle Brass Quintet to join us for an evening of carols and festive music to be enjoyed with special desserts made by members of our congregation. Tickets will be sold for \$25 and can be purchased in the narthex after worship services on Sunday or during the week by calling the church office. This year, all proceeds will go toward our need for a new sound system in the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 22nd: 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. This year the pageant will reflect upon the Jesse Tree, the lineage of Jesus Christ, our coming Emmanuel.

Tuesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve services at First Lutheran:

- 5:00 pm: Family Service with Brass Quintet and Children's Choir.
- 8:30 pm: Traditional Christmas Service with Choir and Organ.
- 10:30 pm: Traditional Christmas Service with Bell Choir, Chorus and Organ.

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!) Kinder-6th grade kids: 5:00-6:00 pm; Praise Band: 6:00-7:20 pm; Adult Choir: 7:30-9:00 pm

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2018

December 22nd – 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 many short parts for Elementary students.
- Youth Speaking: The youth will work on speaking parts during youth group.

All Speaking Parts Rehearsal: Wednesday December 18th, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm – Potluck Dinner!

Dress Rehearsal: December 21st, 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Do you have talents you can offer? Contact Terry Baird, ffd@flrb.org

CARE MINISTRY

A Note From Our Parish Nurse

Sometimes it's difficult... Thanksgiving and Christmas might be different this year with the loss of health, employment, a loved one. Traditions bring memories, both good but difficult. Here at First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, we have some resources available to give you and those around you, support and care:

- * Sunday December 8, 2019 at 2pm we have our Service of Remembrance and Hope (often termed Blue Christmas service). This is a time we gather in the Library with quiet music, some uplifting scripture readings, Holy Communion and candle lighting to honor the losses faced during the year.
- * Grief and the Holidays is a booklet available to suggest different things to do this year.
- * Cathy Thomas, RN, our Parish Nurse is available to meet and pray with you if that would be helpful.

Please allow us to support you where you are. If you are here, or reading this, God has invited you to receive love and care, in a safe community. May the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, come into your heart and home this day.

Cathy Thomas, RN, Parish Nurse

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: *no November meeting*, December 3, January 28.

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.

ELDER CARE

Elder Care Specialist to Speak

Elder care specialist Sue Stults will speak on caring for aging parents or spouses at the FLRB Adult Education hour between services on February 16, 2020.

Sue is the founder and president of Compelled by Compassion Inc., a Shoreline-based organization specializing in elder care, dementia and end-of-life issues for which she has more than 20 years of experience. She also is author of the groundbreaking book *Reaching Beyond the Rail* and its companion, *The Personal Health Care Manual*.

Sue's informative as well as entertaining talks are an outgrowth of her personal experiences caring for aging parents and her work in Care Ministry. She will talk about issues such as recognizing when you need help and where to find it, giving and obtaining the best care possible for your loved one, and supporting and sustaining family relationships during times of uncertainty, stress and grief.

FLRB PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

School News

This year is off to a great start! We've been settling in to the rhythm of the year and working with each child to build comfort and confidence at school. Through play, we've been making new friends, practicing sharing, learning about God and building problem solving skills. Some examples include Kindergarten students using pumpkins to explore math concepts and the Lions singing pumpkin and spider songs for their parents at the annual pumpkin carving night. Doves, Lambs and Kangaroos built new creations at the Dads and Donuts night in November. Students from the school worshiped with the congregation for School Celebration Sunday on November 17. We are preparing for our Christmas programs on December 17, 18 and 19.

This month kicks off the First Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten Annual Fund Drive to support our tuition assistance program. This program:

- supports families in covering the cost of tuition
- distributes more than \$6,000 in tuition assistance annually
- is funded primarily through donations

There are 3 ways to give to our Annual Fund Drive:

1. Go to FLRB.org, click on "online giving," and designate the amount to "Preschool Fund"
2. Download the Give+ by Vanco app and set up one-time giving
3. Send a check to FLRB Preschool & Kindergarten

This school seeks to provide a high quality, play-based and faith-filled opportunity for children to grow and thrive. Parents experience a community where they can feel connected and supported in faith. Thank you for all you do to support this ministry!



BACKPACKS FOR KIDS



Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and FLRB Preschool & Kindergarten families, our church is able to participate in the Shoreline Backpacks For Kids program. Each week FLRB is delivering weekend food for 13 Syre Elementary students who are eligible for free or reduced fare breakfast and lunch during the school week. Please consider purchasing some of the items listed below for this program. There is a collection box by the office for your convenience.

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|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chocolate Milk
(8 oz. shelf stable) | Applesauce Cups (4 oz) | Easy Mac (individual pkt) |
| Healthy Choice Soup
(15 oz) | Pudding Cups (4 oz) | Sleeve Soda Crackers |
| Mini Ravioli or Spaghetti
(15 oz) | Fruit Cups | Chili (15 oz) |
| Peanut Butter (16 oz) | Belvita Breakfast Biscuits | Mac & Cheese (boxed) |
| Small Juice Pouch | Fruit Snack pkg | Cheese and Cracker pkg |
| | Instant Oatmeal variety pk | Peanut Butter/Cracker pkg |
| | Hot Chocolate packets | |
| | Granola Bars | |

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council 2019-2020

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 - Chris Verschuyl
Vice Pres. - Fran Uchida
Secretary - Laura Marchisio
Treasurer - Mike Laslavic

At-Large - Bev Klein
At-Large - Matt Schleede
At-Large - Stephanie Bertges
At-Large - Steve Ellersick
Lead Pastor - John Bjorge

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Preparing for Christmas: A Coffee Invitation

When: Sunday, December 1, 2019 - following the second service
Where: Fellowship Hall
What: A Christmas Coffee—We will enjoy a variety of favorite Christmas cookies and delights, sing Christmas Carols, and listen to a special devotional by Dave Ellingsen. You are invited to sit at any table, each will be decorated with the beauty of Christmas.

If you want to participate, you may bring your favorite Christmas treat with your name label on your own plate and remember to pick up your dish at the end of our event. Contact Dorothy Clausen, 425-776-2694 or daclus@comcast.net



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.



Writers' Group

Treat yourself to a FLRB Writers' Group meeting. It's a wonderful way to stay dry and warm during the rainy season. If you have ever jotted down a story, memory, poem, or even a song, you will fit right in. Come read your creation or just listen and enjoy. Meetings are held the first and third Thursday each month at 11:30 am in the church library. Bring a sandwich. Coffee and munchies are provided. For more information, contact Marian Schroedl at marian_ps_mo@frontier.com or 206-629-4691 (new number).

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 to *anyone* with a need! The shawls will be blessed during the December 8th worship services and will also be available to the attendees of the Blue Christmas service at 2:00 pm 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 mimiemb@yahoo.com



FELLOWSHIP



Join FLRB at a Silver Tips Hockey Game

All are welcome to spend a fun evening together in fellowship cheering on the Silvertips.

REGINA VS. SILVERTIPS

Event Date: Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 4:05 pm

Tickets: \$13 contact Terry Baird for tickets by 12/31/19

A Look Back

This summer, the FLRB cycling group met once a month to ride together. The monthly rides often included a shared meal at some point along the way. What a fun way to engage in fellowship with one another!



ADULT EDUCATION

Please join us every Sunday in Upper Room, 9:45 am -10:45 am.

Upcoming Schedule – Fall 2019 & Winter 2020 (tentative):

- Dec 1 “Songs of Christmas” by Pastor John Bjorge
see below for more information
- Dec 8 “Songs of Christmas” - *week 2*
- Dec 15 “Songs of Christmas” - *week 3*
- Jan 5 “Disaster Preparedness”
by Shoreline Office of Emergency Management
- Jan 12 “Accompanying Our Global Companions:
Young Adults in Global Mission in Madagascar”
by Kasey Shultz
- Jan 19 “Dementia: The Basics & What We Know About
Caregiving,” by Dr. Eric Larson, MD
- Jan 26 “Saratov: Celebration of a Ministry Accomplished!”
- Feb 2 “Self-Care: So We Can Care for Others”
by Lisa Marquart
- Feb 9 “How We Make Changes in Our Lives”
by Lisa Marquart
- Feb 16 “Elder Care,” by Sue Stults

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

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 study God's Word. 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. Contact Person: Dorothy Clausen 425-776-2694 or daclus@comcast.net

SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

When you think about it, the birth of Jesus inspired more music than any event in human history, from Bach, to Handel, to Charles Wesley, and many others. Something about the birth of Jesus just cries out for music. If I were to ask you what's one of your favorite Christmas songs, what would you say? What do you really look forward to hearing or singing this time of year?

For three weeks in December Pastor John will lead the Sunday morning adult education hour by talking about three songs from the Bible inspired by the birth of Jesus. They are prayers, but they were put into poetry in the form of songs in ancient times. They may be the most influential songs ever written. Amazingly enough, maybe the most profound, maybe the most insightful, was written by a girl, probably somewhere around 15 years old or so. The other two were written by older men—one, the girl's uncle, a priest; the other a wise old man who stood outside the Temple having been told by the Lord he was see God's Promised One before dying.

Join Pastor John December 1, 8, and 15 at 9:45 in the Upper Room for these insightful presentations on the Bible and the songs Jesus' birth inspired.

The Beachcomber

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Website: www.flrb.org

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 - Tuesday, Dec. 24

5:00 pm - Family Service with Brass Quintet & Children's Choir
8:30 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service with Chorus & Organ
10:30 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service with Bell Choir,
Chorus & 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

John Bjorge, Pastor	pastorjohn@flrb.org
Joel Bevington, Director of Music Ministries	music@flrb.org
Terry Baird, Director of Faith Formation	ffd@flrb.org
Laura Schleede, Preschool Director	preschool@flrb.org
Christina Nichols, Office Manager	office@flrb.org
Karen Ewing, Bookkeeper	parishadmin@flrb.org
Cathy Thomas, RN, Parish Nurse	nurse@flrb.org
Girmai Berhe, Facilities Supervisor	

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Navigator

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

Beachcomber

Article submissions due **February 7, 2020**.
The focus for this issue will be Lent (begins 2/26) through Easter.