

DISCIPLES WHO WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, AND STE

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The Color of Joy

Colors matter. Red ties are considered "power" ties. Yellow signs usually denote caution. Purple is known as a royal color. If you are "green" you have a sensitivity to preserving the world, gardening (if it's your thumb), new and inexperienced, and/or feeling motion sick. Colors communicate!

When it comes to liturgical colors, the same is true. During Advent, the beginning of the Church year, here at RLC we use blue to symbolize hope, hope in Christ. In the church I grew up in we used purple to symbolize royalty, Jesus the King. Either one is appropriate during the season of Advent.

Therefore, our Advent wreaths can use either blue or purple candles, depending on the tradition of the congregation. Side note. Did you know we use both at RLC? Many of you will be most familiar with our sanctuary Advent wreath where we use blue candles. Some of you will also be familiar with our chapel wreath where we use purple candles. The latter is what I'm most familiar with, purple.

If you, like me, use purple candles in your Advent wreath, you most likely also use one pink candle. That's because pink is the color of joy. If you remember, the first candle is the Prophecy candle representing Hope. The second is the Bethlehem candle representing Peace. The third is the Shepherd's candle representing Joy. And the fourth and last, sans the center Christ candle (always white), is the Angel's candle representing Love. At this point you might be thinking, "Pastor, you're a bit late on this one, Advent is already come and gone." If that's you, hang in there a moment longer.

Because of this ancient liturgical practice, I've come to think of pink as the color of joy all year round. As cousin Eddie responded to Clark Griswold's reveling of his Christmas bonus, "It's a one-year membership to the Jelly of the Month Club," saying, "Clark, that's the gift that keeps on giving the whole year." So too, I see pink reminding me of joy the whole year, not just at Advent.

Seeing pink then becomes a reminder of God's joy revealed all around me. When I see a pig, a flamingo (not very often), cherry blossoms, hydrangea, raspberries, a pink hat, even a Baskin Robbins sign, I am reminded of God's joy. I remember the third Sunday in Advent, the pink candle among the purple, the angel's announcement to the shepherds saying, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." That then is truly, "The gift that keeps on giving the whole year."

Grace and Peace, Pastor Steve

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Congregation Council

Council Members

Rick Budzeck, President
Kristen Imhoff, Vice President
Brandon Wheeler, Secretary
Jeanne Dillner, Finance Officer
Jen Ranta, Member-At-Large
Glenn Edgemon, Member-At-Large
Vicki Glasford, Member-At-Large
Jim Lachut, Member-At-Large
Todd Maier, Member-At-Large

Ex Officio Member

Pastor Steve Ernst, Lead Pastor

Minutes of Council meetings are available on the website.

RLC Staff

Rev. Steve Ernst, Lead PastorMinistry Lead for Worship, Spiritual Growth, Christian Service, and Biblical Stewardship steve.ernst@richlandlutheranchurch.com

Rev. David Hogan, Pastor Emeritus Rev. Paul Berthelot, Pastor Emeritus

Amanda Daniels, Youth and Family Minister amanda.daniels@richlandlutheranchurch.com

Merri Buck, Ministry Assistant for Christian Service

merri.buck@richlandlutheranchurch.com

Jenny Page, Ministry Assistant for Spiritual Growth, and Worship

jenny.page@richlandlutheranchurch.com

Lisa Wiegand, Ministry Assistant for Biblical Stewardship

lisa.wiegand@richlandlutheranchurch.com

Sue Meek, Traditional Choir Director Susan Miller, Organist Paula Cox, Contemporary Worship Keith Lozano, Choir Accompanist Korbin Harris, On-Call Maintenance Trey Wiegand, On-Call Maintenance

Notices

Updated addresses and phone numbers are available by logging into the CCB online directory.

Deaths:

Russ Hamilton

Pastoral Acts for December 2023

Baptisms

Autumn Pleyo (12/17/23) Matthew Wheeler (12/24/23)

> Weddings None

Memorials/Funerals
None

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The Preview

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From the Council Vicki Glasford - Congregation Council Member



To Serve or Not to Serve...

With apologies to William Shakespeare, that truly was the question before me in the Summer of 2022. I had just received a phone call from a member of the Nominating Committee, asking me to consider serving on the RLC Council for 2023-2024. My immediate reaction was "just say NO!" Instead, I asked for time to pray about it. You see, I have always been more of a behind-the-scenes kind of gal. For high school plays, I was the prop person, the costume maker, the backstage help – never was I open to being out on the stage. At RLC, I was content to attend church, go to a Bible study, give items for Operation Christmas Child, the Giving Tree or VBS. If called upon, I was willing to help here and there. But a commitment of two whole years to serve on the Council!? A position where people might get to know me and look to me in a leadership role? Certainly, they might expect things from me that I was not remotely capable of, or even aware of yet. This was not only out of my comfort zone, it was so far out that you'd need the Hubble telescope to find it! But I asked for time to pray, and pray I did. It didn't take long for me to understand where the Lord was leading me. I had been given so much from this church that I had loved, for thirty plus years...my prayers were answered by a simple idea "it's time to give back." Stepping out in fear and trepidation, but also in faith, I agreed to run for Council.

A year has passed, quickly as they always seem to do, and here it is 2024. And do you know what? I have thoroughly enjoyed being on the Council. It was daunting at first, truth be told. What did I know about serving the church? Well, I knew that I loved the church, and that I loved the people. I prayed for guidance before every council or meeting, prayed to the Holy Spirit to show me God's will. Prayed that decisions made would serve and glorify Him. I learned that in serving on the Council, I am serving RLC and the congregation, of course, but more importantly, I am serving our Lord Jesus Christ. I never realized how much it takes to "run a church." I just took it for granted for thirty years that it ran itself and we all just showed up on Sundays. I have learned it takes so much more than that; it takes a lot of time and effort and prayers of the people who serve our church in so many ways. The Pastors, Staff, Council, and those who lead committees or serve on a task force. The fundraisers and the technical experts. Those who organize block parties and VBS. Those who volunteer in the Food Pantry and those who teach Sunday School. Education is pivotal, as we raise the next generation of Christians. Those who lead Bible studies, those who function as ushers, lectors and communion assistants. And those who clean up after communion. These and many more roles are filled, quietly and without fanfare, "behind-the-scenes." I hope and pray that I have been a good steward, a good servant this past year. I will try to do my best in my role on Council in the coming year, with God's help. And this came as a total surprise to me, serving on the Council has returned blessings to me ten-fold. Being a Council member has given me so much. I have found myself in fellowship more, in prayer more, in the Word...yes, much more. All good things that are beneficial to my life. I've come to know so many of you and have enjoyed our interactions. I have thanked and praised the Lord for this opportunity that I expected to be a burden but turned out to be a joy.

So, that is my story about serving. It is one of having faith, receiving blessings, and returning gratitude. I want to thank each of you that already serve in one or more roles at RLC. Thank you for the past year of sharing your time and your talents. And if you are not currently doing so, I pray that you might ask yourself where you might be called to serve our church. Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9: 37-38 NIV). I'm asking, Lord: We need workers for our harvest here at Richland Lutheran. Our Ministry Plan for 2024 is "Just Do One." I encourage you to pray for this new year to supply a new opportunity to serve. If you feel led, please fill out one of the purple slips found in the Narthex. If you get a phone call asking you to serve in some way, please prayerfully consider doing so. Or speak to the Pastor, a Staff member, or a Council member. If each person could "Just Do One," think how mighty we would be as One Body in Christ at RLC!

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Financial Update

From Jeanne Dillner, Finance Officer

If you have any questions please contact Jeanne Dillner or Lisa Wiegand.

January - November 2023 RLC Financial Snapshot

Budget Gain/(Loss) Income **Expenses** \$708,263 \$800,553 \$735,061 (\$26,798)

Offering Envelopes

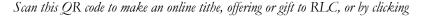
Please remember to pick up your 2024 offering envelope box from your mailbox in the Prince of Peace fellowship hall. Please do not use the envelopes from 2023! Your offering number may have changed in 2024, and if you use a 2023 envelope in 2024, your contribution may be mis-attributed to someone else!



After making your December 31 contribution, please dispose of any unused envelopes in your 2023 box. You may begin using your new box of envelopes on Sunday, January 7, 2024.



Pushpay. Online giving - Convenient. Easy. Secure.





RLC Foundation Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend the RLC Foundation meeting on Sunday, February 4th at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All RLC members are part of this important ministry. RLC eligible voting members are qualified to vote.



Refreshments will be provided. Please join us!

Invitation

With joy and thanksgiving we are invited to the installation of **Kelly Westlund** as the pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Kent, WA. The service will be held on Saturday, January 13th at 1:00 pm with a luncheon following. If you would like to attend, **please RSVP** by calling Zion Lutheran at 253-631-0100 or visit their website at www.zionkent.org before January 8th.



Grief Share

Our GriefShare Support Team will be starting the next 13-week session on Tuesday, February 6th, from 6:00—8:00 PM on Zoom. The fee is \$20 for materials. For more information and to register, please go to www.griefshare.org or contact Sandi Edgemon or Merri Buck.

Altar Flowers

Have you wondered where the beautiful flowers for the altar come from each Sunday? Each week someone has the opportunity to sign up (in the Narthex, near the acolyte robes) to provide an arrangement in honor/memory of a special occasion or loved one or just for sheer joy of knowing you provided a bit of beauty. There are two options for the arrangements, either two smaller arrangements or one large for the same cost, \$50. After the 11:00 AM service on Sunday you may take the arrangement home we just ask that you return the vases within 2 weeks.



RLC Flower Sign Up forms are located in the Narthex and the flower sign up sheet is on the wall near the restrooms. If you have any questions, please contact Merri Buck or Lisa Wiegand in the office.

Lost & Found

Have you lost an item at RLC? Well we might just have it! Several pairs of reading glasses, a travel coffee cup, a jacket or two, some earrings, miscellaneous kitchen items and several items that are on the top of the coat rack, near the mailboxes in the Prince of Peace/Fellowship Hall or in the kitchen are waiting on someone to find them! Thanks for checking to see if your lost item is there!



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The Men's Ministry would like to thank the RLC men, Denny's men's breakfast group, and the Scout troop for their generous free will offerings towards the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, and Men's breakfast. Also thank you to those of you who provided extra donations during this time to help with the meals. May God bless you and keep you safe.



A huge thank you for all who helped contribute through the Giving Tree again this year. As a reminder we collect items throughout the year too. There is a blue bin down by the food pantry area where you can place any donated items. Please remember that knickknacks are not encouraged, but jeans are. If you have any questions, please see Betty Ouinn.



Did you notice how nice and clean the sanctuary was for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services? We had a team that came in and cleaned for several hours to spruce things up! Thank you so much for caring about our church and getting things all ready for our visitors. Many hands make light work!



January Operation Christmas Child REQUEST: Toothbrushes, Hand towels, and Washcloths!

This month, we are collecting toothbrushes, new washcloths and hand towels.

Items may be placed in the Christmas Box near the mailboxes in the fellowship.

The boxes shipped by RLC in November 2023 have been sent to children in the El Salvador, the Phillipines and Ukraine. Please continue to pray for those recipients!



Youth Activities

Super Kids! is a mid-week ministry for children in kindergarten thru 5th grade.

We meet in person on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15 PM, in room 4!

Each week, we learn biblical truths from God's Word, and have a lot of fun with crafts, games, and silliness. Come join us!

This year, we will experiencing the whole story of the New Testament! It's more than just the "greatest hits" or "most popular stories," it's "What's In the Bible!" This curriculum is designed to engage children in the whole narrative of God's Word. The Bible is not just a book of rules, but a book of rescue — the beautiful story of the Father who longs to be in relationship with every one of us, and who went to extraordinary measures to bring us into His Kingdom! We want children to be on a lifelong journey of relationship with the Living God!

Jan. 3 — No Super Kids Jan. 10 — Who is Saul/Paul?

Jan. 17 — Paul!

Jan. 24 — The Epistles

Jan. 31 — Paul's Letters

Just a reminder that Super Kids will not meet from February 14-April 3 due to the Lent worship schedule. We will regather on Wednesday, April 10.

Questions? Contact Jenny Page (jenny.page@richlandlutheranchurch.com)



Kicks off on January 14th Meeting at RLC in the High School room Sunday's - 4pm to 6pm

Wednesday Night Youth Group

6pm - 7:15pm Middle School Room (upstairs)

*No Wed. Night Youth Group on 1/3 *

Join us on Wednesday evenings from for a youth group gathering. We will have some teaching or activity each week, and grow together!

Confirmation Hour

Sundays - 9:45 AM Confirmation Classroom

All middle school students are invited to join us for Confirmation instruction and lessons with Kristen Imhoff each Sunday morning! 2nd Sunday Parent/Family Coffee Hour

January 14th - 9:45 AM Friendship Room

Parents/families of RLC, come join Amanda on the 2nd Sunday of each month! There will be some teaching content, and we'll have some space to connect, and talk about raising kids together. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions about any of the above activities please contact Amanda Daniels.

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	January 2024		
Sun	Mon	Tue	
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248	
8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 9:45 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Confirmation Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Revelation Class 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 4:00 PM HS Youth Group 5:00 PM Evening Worship	8 12:00 PM Mary Martha Bible Study 3:00 PM GriefShare Leader Training Videos 5:00 PM Executive Committee	9 7:00 AM Men's Gathering at Denny's 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248 7:00 PM Regular Council Meeting	
8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 9:45 AM Second Sunday Parent Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Confirmation Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Revelation Class 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 4:00 PM HS Youth Group 5:00 PM Evening Worship	15 11:00 AM GriefShare Leader Training Videos 12:00 PM Mary Martha Bible Study 3:00 PM GriefShare Leader Training Videos 4:00 PM Deadline for Preview Articles 6:30 PM Kairos	16 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248	
8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 9:45 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Confirmation Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Revelation Class 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 4:00 PM High School Youth Group 5:00 PM Evening Worship	22 11:00 AM GriefShare Leader Training Videos 12:00 PM Mary Martha Bible Study 5:30 PM MALT—Biblical Stewardship	23 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 6:00 PM MALT—Christian Service 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248	
8:30 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 9:45 AM Coffee Hour 9:45 AM Confirmation Hour 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Revelation Class 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 4:00 PM High School Youth Group 5:00 PM Evening Worship	29 12:00 PM Mary Martha Bible Study	30 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 5:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248	

January 2024							
Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
9:00 AM Sewing Bee 9:30 AM Healing Prayer Advisory Team 10:00 AM Mid-Week PM Activities 11:00 AM GriefShare Leader Training Videos 11:30 AM Packing Wknd Lunches for kids 2:00 PM Knitting Group	9:00 AM Chapter a Day Bible Study 10:30 AM Preaching Team 10:30 AM Prayer for the Church 10:30 AM Preaching Team 5:00 PM Steele Small Group	5 5:00 PM Youth NA 6:00 PM AA	6 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution				
9:00 AM Sewing Bee 9:30 AM Healing Prayer Advisory Team 10:00 AM Mid-Week PM Activities 11:00 AM GriefShare Leader Training Videos 2:00 PM Knitting Group 6:00 PM Super Kids! 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Youth 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM Chapter a Day Bible Study 10:30 AM Prayer for the Church 10:30 AM Preaching Team 1:00 PM Outreach Team Meeting 5:00 PM Steele Small Group	12 5:00 PM Youth NA 6:00 PM AA	13 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution				
9:00 AM Sewing Bee 9:30 AM Healing Prayer Advisory Team 10:00 AM Mid-Week PM Activities 10:30 AM Luther Senior Center Luncheon/Bible Study 11:30 AM Packing Wknd Lunches for Kids 2:00 PM Knitting Group 6:00 PM Super Kids! 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Youth 7:00 PM RLC Foundation Board 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM Chapter a Day Bible Study 10:30 AM Prayer for the Church 5:00 PM Steele Small Group	19 5:00 PM Youth NA 6:00 PM AA	7:00 AM Men's Ministry Breakfast 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution				
9:00 AM Sewing Bee 9:30 AM Healing Prayer Advisory Team 10:00 AM Mid-Week PM Activities 11:00 AM GriefShare Leader Training Videos 11:30 AM Packing Wknd Lunches for Kids 2:00 PM Knitting Group 6:00 PM Super Kids! 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Youth 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM Chapter a Day Bible Study 10:30 AM Prayer for the Church 5:00 PM Steele Small Group	26 5:00 PM Youth NA 6:00 PM AA	27 8:30 AM Staff/Council Workshop 9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution				
9:00 AM Sewing Bee 9:30 AM Healing Prayer Advisory Team 10:00 AM Mid-Week PM Activities 11:30 AM Packing Wknd Lunches for kids 2:00 PM Knitting Group 6:00 PM Super Kids! 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Youth 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			Our calendar changes sometimes daily! Please check the calendar on the website or in the app for the most up to date version.				

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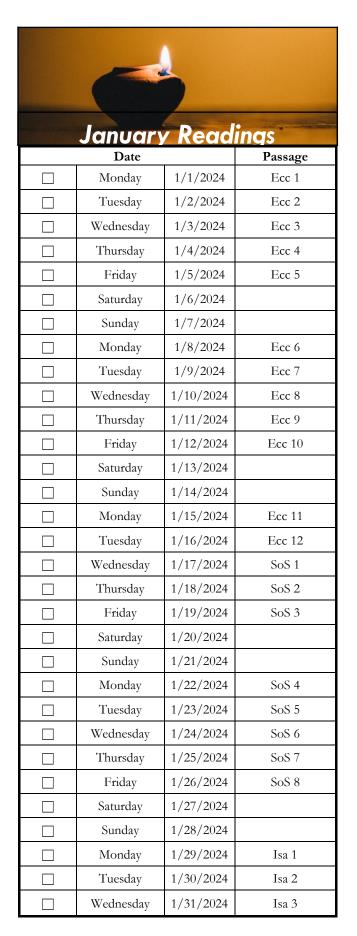
Worship Support—January 2024 Last updated before printing 12/28/23

		1	Г	1	
	Time	Sunday, January 7	Sunday, January 14	Sunday, January 21	Sunday, January 28
Acolytes -	8:30	David Nauts Theo Nauts	Carter Maier Paige Maier	Soren Miles Trell Miles	Soren Miles Theo Nauts
	11:00	Shay Daniels	Lilly Kissire	Braedy & Paige Ingram	Lillian Spinato
Children's Church Leader/Helper	11:00	Julie Bishop Karen Clark	Tim Daniels Francine Dohl	**** Patti Miller	**** Lauren Heaslet
Assisting Ministers	8:30	Amanda Daniels	Sandi Edgemon	Paul Berthelot	Sue Meek
	11:00	****	Brandon Wheeler	****	****
Communion Assistants	8:30	Pastor Steve Amanda Daniels Valerie Silva Charles Davis Lois Harrold	Pastor Steve Amanda Daniels Charles Davis Jan Leitz Erlan Leitz	Pastor Steve Amanda Daniels Lois Harrold Norm Gillette Sara Gillette	Pastor Steve Amanda Daniels Sue Meek Ken Meek Sandi Edgemon
	11:00	Pastor Steve Valerie Bettinson Karen Clark	Pastor Steve Brandon Wheeler Vicki Glasford	Pastor Steve Amanda Daniels Vicki Glasford	Pastor Steve Vicki Glasford Valerie Bettinson
	Before 8:30	Joanne Woehle	Jan Leitz	Vicki Jordheim	J & N Erlandson
	Between 8:30 & 11:00	Joanne Woehle	Jan Leitz	Vicki Jordheim	J & N Erlandson
Communion Prep / Clean Up	After 11:00 & Before 5:00	Linda Totten	Amanda Kissire	Jennifer Benoit	Nancy Ballard
	After 5:00	Linda Totten Diane Bonin	Kelly Arnzen Marcia Vogel	Jennifer Benoit	Nancy Ballard
Evening Worship Support	5:00	Linda Totten Diane Bonin	Kelly Arnzen Marcia Vogel	Jennifer Benoit	Betty Quinn Felix Quinn
T	8:30	Julie Bishop	Charles Davis	Lisa Frislie	Jim Peterson
Lectors	11:00	Karen Clark	Bentley Daniels	Patti Miller	Vicki Glasford
Projection Technician	8:30	Heather Colburn	***	Heather Colburn	Diane Bonin
	11:00	Valerie Silva	Adam Pilger	Cynthia Wheeler	Kris Mitchell
	8:30 Lead	Matthew Sterkel Kyia Miles	Fred Ball Marilyn Ball	Matthew Sterkel Kyia Miles	Kyia Miles Gary Weible
Ushers	8:30 Asst.	Jim Lachut Trell Miles	Sandi Edgemon Destry Henderson	David Curran Jem Curran	Jon Erlandson Jim Peterson
	11:00	****	Janet Budzeck Rick Budzeck	Liz Christensen	****
Recycling		Karen Clark	Fred Kremmer	Valerie Silva	Valerie Bettinson
GNMM Production Team	8:30 & 11:00	Mike Bettinson Adam Pilger	Scott Carswell Ed Cox	Drew Snyder Mark Underwood	Brian Killand Scott Carswell
Cashiers Mondays, 9AM	Tues. Jan. 2 Nancy Ballard Joanne Woehle	Kristen Imhoff Janet Budzeck	Joanne Woehle Norene Eggers- Erlandson	Judy Riggers Lori Hogan	**** Debbie Honeyman
Flowers		****	****	****	***
		•			

Please check over the schedule carefully.

If you cannot serve when you are scheduled, <u>please trade with someone</u> (either call/email them, or use the "swap" option in the online scheduling portal).

"****" indicates an available service opportunity. If you can fill in, please log into the church website portal and check the "My Serving" opportunities on your profile, or call the church office (509-943-3164)



Chapter a Day Reading Plan 2024

Remember to join Pastor Steve on Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM in the Friendship Room for discussion of the week's readings!

January brings the start of a new reading plan!

In 2024, we will be reading together through the poetic books of Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations, as well as the major and minor prophets. This reading series will follow a similar rhythm as our New Testament reading in 2023, with most readings being just a chapter per day, Monday through Friday. Weekends will be unscheduled times for rest and reflection, or catch up as needed. The Thursday morning discussion group will continue to meet with Pastor Steve, and all are welcome to come join in when you're available.

New reading schedule booklets are available in the narthex and the fellowship hall. A PDF with clickable links to each day's readings will also again be posted on the church website, and in the church app.

Our prayer for you in this ministry continues to be that God's Word will be hidden in your heart (Ps. 119:11), and that the Word will dwell in you richly (Col. 3:16). Happy Reading!





Richland Lutheran Church, LCMC

901 Van Giesen St. Richland, WA 99354

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Label



Join us Sunday mornings for

Coffee Hour after worship in the Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy a cup of coffee, treats, and conversation between services each week!

Also, if you are interested in **hosting** Coffee Hour contact Amanda Daniels.

Richland Lutheran Church:

Making Disciples who

Worship Grow Serve Steward

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00 AM Sunday evenings at 5 PM

The morning services will be livestreamed.

Go to richlandlutheran.org or https://www.youtube.com/@RichlandLutheran Church/streams

For another option you can watch

Good News Today
Aired Sunday mornings on

KVEW 42 and KAPP 35 at 9:00 AM
Recorded videos of our service can be found on
our YouTube Channel
(Go to YouTube and search

Richland Lutheran Church)