



WELCOME TO
**RICHLAND
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



Hi THERE!

We're so excited that you're considering membership here at Richland Lutheran Church (RLC)! This guide will give you an idea of what membership at RLC looks like, along with some more information about life and ministry in the RLC family. It's not all there is to know, but it's a good starting point.

The mission and guide for ministry that we live by is, "We are a congregation of Christ followers making disciples who **worship, grow, serve** and **steward.**" You'll also hear us talk about "*doing life together,*" and what it looks like to live as disciples of Jesus in community. Membership at RLC is less about "membership in the church" and more about partnership in the Gospel. Our hope is that this guide and process will help you get to know us better as a church, and that as you learn more about us you'll be able to discern if RLC is a fit for you.

BELIEFS

RLC is affiliated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), a moderate, “middle of the road” international Lutheran association. The LCMC’s mission statement reads, “We are an association of congregations who are free in Christ, accountable to one another and rooted in the scriptures and the Lutheran confessions. We’re all working together to fulfill Christ’s great commission to go and make disciples of all nations.” For more information about the LCMC, please visit www.lcmc.net.

We confess and believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the Gospel as the power of God for salvation for all who believe. We accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God. And we profess the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this church.

We embrace and practice the teaching of the Apostle Paul regarding the “Body of Christ,” ([1 Corinthians 12](#)) and that of the Apostle Peter regarding the “Priesthood of all Believers,” ([1 Peter 2](#)). Our motto expresses the core of these doctrines and our goal to “*do life together.*” Namely from these foundational doctrines we see membership more along the lines of “partnership,” as Paul addresses the church at Philippi, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership in the Gospel** from the first day until now,” (emphasis added). As you continue then, we encourage you to think “partnership in the Gospel,” rather than, “membership in the church.”

What We Believe

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

1 *Videos*

We have a [short video](#) to watch when it's convenient for you. The first video is a simple recap of the Christian faith and gives an overview of the very basics of our beliefs, covering topics like the Trinity, what the Bible teaches about salvation through Jesus Christ, and what is distinct about the Lutheran understanding of Christianity.

2 *Reading*

We have a book for you to read, "I Am A Church Member," by Tom Rainer (don't worry – it's small and an easy read!). The book covers six pledges, or commitments, every member at RLC makes, which help us to be the healthy church family God desires us to be.

3 *New Member Information Form*

We'll use the New Member Information Form to set up your profile on our church database, Church Community Builder. Your information is used only for RLC and we do not sell or provide it to any other individual, group or organization.

4

Meet with a Pastor

After you've watched the videos, read the book and submitted the information form, you'll be scheduled to meet with one of our pastors. This will be a chance for you to get any questions answered and schedule a Sunday for you to officially join our congregation during a regular worship service.

5

Covenant Rite of Membership

You'll officially join RLC through the *Covenant Rite of Membership*, which is an element of worship added to any regular worship service. This formalizes your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ here at RLC. During the service you'll have the opportunity to express your trust in Christ for salvation, and your intent to use God's grace, live a Christian life, and partner with RLC in life, ministry, and mission. RLC will also covenant with you to partner in the Gospel, encourage and support you, exhort you to love and good deeds, pray for and with you, and receive you as a fellow servant of Jesus Christ. This is one of our favorite elements of worship and we hope it will be for you as well!



Meet the Office Staff



Pastor Steve joined the RLC staff in December 2010 after serving at City on a Hill Lutheran Church in Southern California as the founding pastor. He is the Ministry Lead for the areas of Worship, Spiritual Growth, Christian Service and Biblical Stewardship.



Amanda joined the RLC staff in August 2017, and is currently pursuing ordination as a seminary student. She works with ministries involving middle and high school students, and family life and fellowship within the congregation.



Merri joined the RLC staff in October 2023, and has a background in grief care. She works with ministries within the area of Christian Service, and is Pastor Steve's assistant.



Jenny joined the RLC staff in November 2010, and has a background in non-profits, youth and children's ministries. She works with ministries within the areas of Worship and Spiritual Growth.



Lisa joined the RLC staff in September 2012, and has an extensive background in bookkeeping, office management, and interior design. She works with ministries within the area of Biblical Stewardship.



RLC Core Values

SPIRITUALITY COLOSSIANS 3:1-5

LOVE LUKE 10:27

TRUTH EPHESIANS 4:25

ACCOUNTABILITY GALATIANS 6:1-2

INTEGRITY TITUS 2:6-8



RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

PHONE

(509) 943-3164

MAIL

officeatRLC@gmail.com

SITE

RichlandLutheran.org

ADDRESS

[901 Van Giesen Street](#)
[Richland, WA 99354](#)

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 AM Traditional Worship

11:00 AM Contemporary Worship

5:00 PM Informal Worship (chapel)