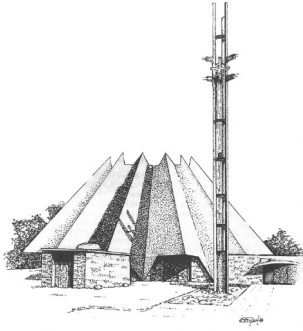


December 2011



The Preview

Her name is Nadiyah



The Annor Hospital is part of a secured compound in Mafraq, Jordan. The hospital and its surroundings are truly an oasis in the desert. It is at this hospital that people of little means are treated with love and respect for diseases such as tuberculosis, cardio pulmonary disease, and asthma. There are two babies who were admitted recently with a failure-to-thrive diagnosis – both of whom are doing really well and will someday return to their Bedouin families. But not all children will go home -- children like a little two-year old brought to this hospital 10 years ago when it became apparent she had suffered brain damage because of a domestic incident.

God brought me and Nadiyah together less than 24 hours after Mike and I arrived in Jordan. We connected instantly. She spends her days sitting on a chair and scooting herself around her room, looking for anything to throw. When I met her her, she looked at me and said "Up," so I stood in front of her, offering my hands to see what she could do. She pulled herself up and began to shuffle toward the door. We walked outside, up and down the walkway. When we got back to the door to her room, she put the brakes on, and so we walked for a while longer. The brakes came back on again when we got back to her room the second time, but this time I couldn't give her a choice. I think she would have stayed outside all day if I'd had the time.

I will never forget the look on her face when she stepped out of her stuffy room and into the sunlight and fresh air. It made me wonder how long it had been since she'd been outside. Then I wondered if taking her outside made going back to her room harder for her to stay there now that she'd seen the light quite literally. Finally deciding not to over-think the situation, I realized that what we had just experienced was what I like to call a holy moment. The Holy Spirit was there. I felt His presence. God has been equipping me for this moment all my life. I grew up with people with disabilities, worked with people with disabilities professionally, and raised a son, now 27, with a developmental disability. In this setting, I was empowered to simply minister to this very young woman – something that is more difficult to do due to privacy issues in my own country. And, I was encouraged after the fact when my friend, Julie, had a bit of a "duh" moment. "It never occurred to me that you would relate so well to her before you came, and now it is so obvious!"

We adopted Nadiyah in our hearts while in Jordan. We pray for her every day. And now as a result of rethinking Christmas, we've decided to include her in our lives more tangibly, even though we will probably never see her again. We will still give our adult children and their spouses Christmas presents, though more personal and less expensive than in years past. But the money we would have typically spent on them will now be sent to Samaritan's Purse for Nadiyah's support – specifically things that will enhance the quality of her life.

So from now on, if anyone asks how many kids we have, the answer will be six. Kristy, Tracy, Jeff, David, John, and Nadiyah.

Be blessed this Christmas and always,

Debbie and Mike Stankovich



Congregation Council

Council Members

Ben Barr, Member at Large

Rob Barr, Member at Large

Dave Brandes, Vice-President

Mot Hedges, President

Kathy Killand, Member at Large

Dave Larkin, Secretary

Sandy Steele, Member at Large

Mark Underwood, Member at Large



Ex Officio Member

Pastor Steve Ernst, Ex-officio Member

Advisory Member

Rich Olsen, Treasurer

Minutes of Council meetings are available on the website and in the church library.

Staff

Rev. Steve Ernst, Interim Lead Pastor

Outreach Ministry Leader

pastor.ernst@richlandlutheran.org

Pastor Dave Hogan, Interim Associate Pastor

pastor.hogan@richlandlutheran.org

Maria Frame, AIM, Minister of Worship Arts

Worship Ministry Leader

maria.frame@richlandlutheran.org

Corey Smith, Minister of Christian Education

Education Ministry Leader

corey.smith@richlandlutheran.org

Jenny Page, Children's Education Assistant

jenny.page@richlandlutheran.org

Debbie Stankovich, CCA, Director of Administration

Resources Ministry Leader

debbie.stankovich@richlandlutheran.org

Kelly Westlund, Pastor's Assistant

kelly.westlund@richlandlutheran.org

Marc Willy, Property Manager

marc.willy@richlandlutheran.org

Joanne Woehle, Church Secretary

joanne.woehle@richlandlutheran.org

Member Directory Changes

Andor, Bert & Lila
452 Satus St.
Richland 99352

Harvey, Roland
2550 Duportail St. #P192
Richland 99352

Bonnette, Peter &
Kristen
4 Bow St.
Wellesley Hills, MA
02481

Hobbs, Natalie
770 Gage Blvd. #201
Richland 99352

Cole, Bret & Debra
790 Emory Valley Rd.
#916
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Hogan, Pastor and
Elaine
1900 Stevens Dr. #510
Richland 99354
946-9004

Erickson, Doloros
2021 Mahan #J8
Richland 99354
946-7858

Knipp, Taylor & Jackie
721 Redwood Ln.
Richland 99354

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

June LaLime November 25.

Weddings

None

Memorial/Funeral

November 19 Gayle Forester

November 26 Margaret E. Johnson

The Preview

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From Pastor Steve



RLC in Mission for Christ: People not Programs

Think for a moment which you remember most, the people who have impacted your Christian life or the programs that have impacted you. As I reflect on this question I always remember the people and rarely remember programs. Pastor Jim Loken came to my home church, Resurrection Lutheran in Redondo Beach (my first RLC), when I was my son Zeke's age, 12. PJ was young, energetic, loved Jesus and having grown up down the coast from us in San Diego he too loved to surf. I learned about relational ministry from him.

Pastor Jim, I called him PJ, innately understood the difference between people and programs in doing ministry. PJ practiced "relational ministry" way before it was popularized. Relational ministry focuses on relationships with others for the sake of making Christ's name known and advancing the kingdom of God. Relational ministry, though it may at times include programs, does not have its focus on them. Neither does the church that is in Mission for Christ. Relational ministry always focuses on people and so does the missional church.

A program-oriented church focuses on providing programs for the church consumer. An array of options and electives are offered for those in the congregation to pick and choose as they put together their Christian curriculum. The "church" becomes the institution of Christian learning and the "staff" becomes the dispensers of Christian knowledge. A good example of this is the traditional Confirmation *program*. When I went through Confirmation I was dropped off by my parents once a week on Wednesday nights at the church where the Pastor taught me Luther's Small Catechism as he lectured for an hour and a half. That was it. And very painful it was indeed!

A people-oriented church, a missional church, focuses on providing Godly relationships for all people, both within and without. Relationships, not the institutional impartation of knowledge or programs purposed to do this, come to the fore and all people are equipped, empowered, and encouraged to enter into relationships with others for the sake of making Christ's name known and advancing the kingdom of God. RLC's (my second RLC) current Confirmation *ministry*, (note the difference from program to ministry here), is a good example of how a people-oriented church works. Through a retreat and relational format, families are encouraged to work through Luther's Small Catechism together through pre and post retreat activities which foster dialogue between student and parents. The church then augments this by providing further teaching and modeling of Christian discipleship through retreats, mid-week and Sunday programs, and small groups. You'll notice programs are used here as a tool not the goal.

Making this shift from being program-oriented to being people-oriented, missional, will take some time as we learn to think and do things differently. However, making this change is necessary if we are to be in mission for Christ.

Financial Update

	<u>Jan - Oct 11</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Oct 11</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income					
4000 · INCOME	<u>602,475.12</u>	<u>703,631.72</u>	<u>602,475.12</u>	<u>703,631.72</u>	<u>844,358.00</u>
Total Income	<u>602,475.12</u>	<u>703,631.72</u>	<u>602,475.12</u>	<u>703,631.72</u>	<u>844,358.00</u>
Expense					
5100 · BENEVOLENCE	61,496.64	61,496.64	61,496.64	61,496.64	73,796.00
5200 · OUTREACH	1,143.95	625.00	1,143.95	625.00	750.00
5300 · WORSHIP	7,984.25	10,354.16	7,984.25	10,354.16	12,425.00
5400 · NURTURE	239.43	3,925.04	239.43	3,925.04	4,710.00
5500 · EDUCATION	15,473.45	16,104.14	15,473.45	16,104.14	19,325.00
5600 · RESOURCES	92,188.17	104,912.52	92,188.17	104,912.52	125,895.00
5700 · COUNCIL	474,135.43	476,547.56	474,135.43	476,547.56	571,857.00
5750 · PROPERTY ACQUISITION	27,166.66	27,166.66	27,166.66	27,166.66	32,600.00
5751 · LRP IMPLEMENTATION	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>682,327.98</u>	<u>703,631.72</u>	<u>682,327.98</u>	<u>703,631.72</u>	<u>844,358.00</u>
Net Income	<u>-79,852.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-79,852.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

The information is only a snapshot of the church's financial status on the day the report was generated and is not audited information. Please direct all inquiries for additional information to Debbie Stankovich, Church Administrator at 943-3164 or debbie.stankovich@richlandlutheran.org.

Scandinavian Smorgasbord

The Women's Ministry Christmas Brunch this year will be a Scandinavian Smorgasbord. We will sing carols and hear about Christmas traditions in the Scandinavian countries.

**Saturday, December 10
10:00 AM**

If you have a Scandinavian dish you'd like to share (especially sweets), please call Kay Aase at 588-3688 or sign up on the yellow worship slip.

We will be giving our free-will offering to Cork's Place (Hospice's Child Bereavement Center.)

Tickets for \$5 will be on sale before and after services through December 4.

You won't want to miss this!



Congregation Council News and Views

To those 121 of you who were able to attend the Annual Congregation Meeting, **Thank You!** There was a lot of business to conduct and an exciting Ministry Plan to preview. Here are some highlights:

- We accepted the minutes of three previous meetings: October 31, 2010 annual meeting; November 2, 2010 special meeting to call Pastor Steve Ernst; June 26, 2011 special meeting to preliminarily approve the new constitution.
- We ratified the amended constitution, as preliminarily approved, and made it effective as of November 1, 2011.
- We heard an Overview of 2011 by Pastor Ernst; the Treasurer's Report by our Treasurer, Rich Olsen; and the 2011 Council Report by Dave Brandes, Congregational Vice President.

The high-light of the meeting was the briefing on the **Ministry Plan for 2012** by Pastor Ernst, Corey Smith, Debbie Stankovich, and Maria Frame – with the overall emphasis on focusing on the *Great Commission* and on thinking about our membership in RLC as being part of the body of the *Priesthood of All Believers*. You will be learning more about how you can engage in this plan in the months ahead.

To support the **Ministry Plan of 2012**, the Congregation:

- Approved an amended budget that includes a Ministry Budget of \$170,095, a Council Budget of \$540,776, and a Benevolence Budget of \$71,087. The budget is the same as published in the Ministry plan *except* for an increase in the budget to support the Christian Yoga program. This item was in the original version of the budget the Council accepted but had been omitted from the published version. The Christian Yoga program reaches 60 to 70 persons each week, half of whom are not RLC members. So, it is considered an outreach effort while it also encourages and supports healthy lifestyles. Accordingly, the benevolence budget was also increased as we budget 10% of the operating budget for benevolence.
- Elected by acclamation for the Nominating Committee: Jon Erlandson, Traci Moran, and Mark Underwood; for the Call Committee: Karen Clark, Sandi Edgemon, Mike Schwartz, Adele Sorensen, Bob Thompson, and Russ Warren; and for the Congregation Council: Mot Hedges, President; Dave Brandes, Vice President; Rob Barr, member at large; and Scott Hardman, member at large.

As I write this article -- a day after Reformation Day and it is not even Thanksgiving yet -- I am looking ahead to the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace** -- Isaiah 9:6 (NIV). Jesus is the reason for the season. Have a blessed Christmas!

Dave Brandes, Congregation Council Vice-President

Parish Health Ministry

Maintaining Your Optimal Health

One Step At A Time

We are experiencing difficult economic times and we often feel helpless in influencing our total economic future. We definitely feel the stress of the uncertainty of these times. One area where we can influence our lives, however, and help reduce stress is with maintaining our optimal health. In the coming months of 2012, you will find a little bit of information from professionals to assist you in maintaining your optimal physical, mental, and spiritual health, one step at a time.

Since influenza season is upon us, our first step is to remain as healthy as possible during this season. The following information I am sharing with you is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Visit their site for more information.

Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs

The **single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated** each year, but good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. There also are flu antiviral drugs that can be used to treat and prevent the flu.

1. Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Stay home when you are sick.

If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

3. Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

4. Clean your hands.

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

6. Practice other good health habits.

Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.



People at High Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications

Most people who get the flu will have mild illness, will not need medical care or antiviral drugs, and will recover in less than two weeks. Some people, however, are more likely to get flu complications that result in being

Parish Health Ministry, cont'd

hospitalized and occasionally result in death. Pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections and ear infections are examples of flu-related complications. The flu also can make chronic health problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have the flu, and people with chronic congestive heart failure may have worsening of this condition that is triggered by the flu. The list below includes the groups of people more likely to get flu-related complications if they get sick from influenza.

- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Pregnant women
- Also, American Indians and Alaskan Natives seem to be at higher risk of flu complications
- People who have medical conditions including:
 - Asthma
 - Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability (mental retardation), moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury].
 - Chronic lung disease (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and cystic fibrosis)
 - Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
 - Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)
 - Endocrine disorders (such as diabetes mellitus)
 - Kidney disorders
 - Liver disorders
 - Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
 - Weakened immune system due to disease or medication (such as people with HIV or AIDS, or cancer, or those on chronic steroids)
 - People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
 - People who are morbidly obese (Body Mass Index, or BMI, of 40 or greater)

Notes of Thanks

THANK YOU to all the crafters who worked and shared their talents for the GNMM Arts & Craft Fair. This is such a blessing to our church to have so many active people to turn out for this event. We also want to say a big thank you to Theresa Rathbone for taking charge of the luncheon - this was her third year of organizing all the food and helpers.

Thank you again,
Nancy Ballard, Norene Erlandson, Carol Romsos

Dear friends at RLC,
I want you to know how much my family and I have appreciated your prayers, messages, and phone calls while my father was ill and after he passed away. Your love and support have meant so much during this difficult time. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
Bill Martens

December 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

The Richland Lutheran Church calendar changes daily!

Please call the church office, 943-3164, or check the website, www.richlandlutheran.org, for the most current information. Please note that not all activities, especially Growth Group meetings and Circles, are actually held at the church.

<p>4</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Good News Today 9:45 AM Education Hour/HeBrews Cafe 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Leadership Bible Study 6:30 PM Coffeehouse 7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 PM Mary-Martha Growth Group 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 AM Gentle Yoga class 9:00 AM Classic Yoga class 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr. Troop 5:00 PM Women's Ministry Team Meeting 5:30 PM Recorder Consort 6:45 PM Bell choir 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 7:00 PM RLC Foundation Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248 7:00 PM Outreach Team Meeting</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Good News Today 9:45 AM Education Hour/HeBrews Cafe 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Children's Christmas Program 5:30 PM Leadership Bible Study 6:30 PM Coffeehouse 7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 PM Mary-Martha Growth Group 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's 8:00 AM Gentle Yoga class 9:00 AM Classic Yoga class 9:30 AM Hannah Circle 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr. Troop 5:30 PM Recorder Consort 6:45 PM Bell choir 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248 7:00 PM Congregation Council Meeting</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Good News Today 9:45 AM Education Hour/HeBrews Cafe 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Leadership Bible Study 6:30 PM Coffeehouse 7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 PM Mary-Martha Growth Group 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr. Troop 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Good News Today 10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship Service 7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed 1:30 PM Dorcas Circle 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 AM Miriam Circle 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr. Troop 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 7:00 PM Lydia Circle</p>

December 2011

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:00 AM Gentle Yoga class 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Classic Yoga class 9:30 AM Library Work Time 6:00 PM Growth Group/Steele 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	2 7:00 PM Al-Anon	3 5:00 PM Worship
7 9:00 AM Sewing Bee 12:00 PM Sewing Bee Christmas Luncheon 1:00 PM Read-through-the-Bible 3:30 PM Knitting Group 5:15 PM Praise Choir 6:00 PM Family Dinner 6:30 PM SuperKids, WILD! 6:45 PM Chancel Choir 8:10 PM Instrumental Musicians Rehearsal	8 8:00 AM Gentle Yoga class 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Classic Yoga class 9:30 AM Library Work Time 6:00 PM Growth Group/Steele 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	9 7:00 PM Al-Anon 7:00 PM Ultreya	10 10:00 AM Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:00 AM Women's Ministry Christmas Brunch 5:00 PM Worship
14 9:00 AM Sewing Bee 1:00 PM Read-through-the-Bible 3:30 PM Knitting Group 5:15 PM Praise Choir 6:00 PM Family Dinner 6:30 PM SuperKids 6:30 PM WILD! 6:45 PM Chancel Choir 8:10 PM Instrumental Musicians Rehearsal	15 8:00 AM Gentle Yoga class 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Classic Yoga class 9:30 AM Library Work Time 1:00 PM Piecemakers 4:00 PM Preview Deadline 6:00 PM Growth Group/Steele 6:00 PM Luther Sr. Center Christmas Dinner 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	16 7:00 PM Al-Anon	17 7:00 AM Men's Ministry Saturday Breakfast 9:00 AM Cantata Rehearsal 5:00 PM Worship
21 9:00 AM Sewing Bee 1:00 PM Read-through-the-Bible 3:30 PM Knitting Group 5:15 PM Praise Choir 6:45 PM Chancel Choir 7:30 PM GNMM Board Meeting 8:10 PM Instrumental Musicians Rehearsal	22 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM Library Work Time 6:00 PM Growth Group/Steele 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	23 Office Closed 7:00 PM Al-Anon	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
28 1:00 PM Read-through-the-Bible 3:30 PM Knitting Group 8:10 PM Instrumental Musicians Rehearsal	29 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM Library Work Time 6:00 PM Growth Group/Steele 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	30 7:00 PM Al-Anon	31 5:00 PM Worship

Activities for Youth



**EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT!
GROWING IN GOD!**

Come learn how **SUPER KIDS** are empowered to live a life in Christ based on Philippians 4:13!

Join Marty & Katy, Captain Clueless & Mr. Peabody and others as we adventure through Galatians 5:22-23 and explore the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!**

DECEMBER 7 - Self Control !

DECEMBER 14 - Fruit Salad !

DECEMBER 21 & 28 - No Super Kids or dinner. Enjoy your Christmas break!

JANUARY 4 - Rollerskating Night! Richland Rollarena, 6:30-8:30, \$5 entry with regular skates (\$2 extra for inline skates). *No dinner at RLC this night.* Bring lots of friends & family! Everyone is welcome!!

Wednesdays ☆ Grades 1st - 5th Richland Lutheran Church ☆
901 Van Giesen

Family dinner at 6:00 PM ☆ Super Kids from 6:30 - 7:45 PM
943-3164 ☆ jenny.page@richlandlutheran.org

Middle School!

Grades 6-8

WILD is our program for all middle schoolers. Every Wednesday night we meet from 6:30 PM to 8 PM in the Gloria Dei Multipurpose Room (up the stairs). We spend time worshiping, playing, learning and hanging out together. Friends are always welcome!

7: Leader Hunt at the mall!
(meet at rlc at 6:30)

14: Christmas Party-bring a wrapped White Elephant gift!

21:NO WILD

28:NO WILD

High School!

Grades 9-12

Sunday Night Coffeehouse

(6:30 PM in the High School Room) This is our weekly meeting for high school students. We spend time worshiping, playing, laughing, discussing, learning, praying...among other things! Friends are always welcome!

4: Advent Conspiracy

11: Star of Bethlehem

18: Christmas Party at the Boynton's-bring a white elephant gift!

25: No Coffeehouse

Jan 1: No Coffeehouse

High School Leadership Team. We meet at 5:30 pm on Sunday nights. If you are interested in learning more about being a Christian leader, and want opportunities to lead various activities, please join us!



It's All About Jesus!



Christmas is just around the corner! And so is the annual Sunday School Christmas Program! This year's program is entitled, "It's All About Jesus!" and is a reflection on keeping the focus on the Messiah through the beauty of an advent wreath. The program will be presented on **Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 PM** (kids are asked to arrive by 3:30; cookie reception immediately following). There will be one rehearsal, Saturday, December 10, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Children in both the preschool and elementary aged classes will be participating.

Please join us for this very special event!



Thank you for helping us pack 113 boxes for Operation Christmas Child! As these boxes are being shipped around the world, please pray for the recipients, that the love of Jesus will be felt through this simple expression of care and concern.



RIC SKATE NIGHT

Wednesday January 4, 2012

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Richland Rollarena

\$5 entry with regular skates (\$2 extra for inline skates)

Everyone is welcome to join us! Bring lots of friends & family!

Physician Heal Thyself ...from Pastor Dave

WARNING: this column could be hazardous to one's health! Late afternoon on November 12, I sat down by my MacBook Pro to write this. This is NOT what I sat down to write. That column was about the unexpectedness of visitation. Within minutes of sitting down, I had an unexpected visitation in the form of the outbreak of a cold sweat, nausea and excruciating pain in my lower back in the area of the kidneys.

In the worst pain I've ever encountered, the Hogan dark Celtic humor prevailed. In the examining room awaiting admission to the hospital, I had Elaine notify our four children that though this was my first (Lord, is it too much to ask that there never be a recurrence?) bout with stones, they should get ready because this was genetic via their grandfather who was a factory of stones through much of his later middle-aged years and (ahem) *mature* years. I began to imagine headlines: "Pastor is Stoned" (taken either way.) Theme music from the movie "Rocky" took on new relevance.

But enough about the worrisome state of my mind. I had other concerns. First on my list: the loss of dignity. I've advocated hospitals should have a motto over their doors, "Abandon all dignity, ye who enter here!" Fellow sufferers know I'm glossing over the grosser physical aspects. They can't be hidden if one is in that condition, but there is also the loss of the dignity of one's image that is dealt a death blow. "Lord, I'm a pastor! Lord, I'm a Midwesterner! Lord, I'm British! Lord, I'm Scandinavian! Lord, I'm Lutheran! Lord, I'm reserved! Lord, I have a role to play! Lord, I'm a mess!"

Then there is the loss of convenience. "Lord, my wife and I are in the middle of a move to a new place of residence. Lord, I have staff meetings to attend. Lord, I have classes to teach. Lord, the holidays are upon us." It all amounts to "Lord, this is not a convenient time for this to occur." I hear God reply: "David, when is a convenient time for this to occur in your life?" No testings of faith would ever occur, awaiting our convenience.

Amid the humbling admission of incompetence and the undoing of the mask of dignity (hypocrisy?), has come the ministrations of the local body. As I sat, a helpless lump in a chair, surrounded by you serving Christ in a flurry of prayers, visits, cards, meals and heavy lifting: I thanked God for every one of you. I'm privy to the fact that this was an inconvenience to many of you as well, and that a huge number of those who ministered to us were indeed sufferers in their own right. You're forever enshrined as the magnificent army of the wounded!

Giving Tree - Union Gospel Mission

The response to the Giving Tree for the Union Gospel Mission has been wonderful! We have taken three loads of donated items thus far. Don't be surprised by the fact there are still tags on the tree. The tags have just been recycled if they are put on the package. Please remember that the final trip to the Mission for this season will be Sunday, December 18.

Please bring new and used items to be donated to the Union Gospel Mission. Ideas for gifts include socks, long underwear and thermal shirts, clothing (new and/or clean, gently used), blankets, snack food items. Items do not need to be wrapped and can be left by the Christmas tree in the narthex.



Anniversaries & Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

December 2
Alesia & Bruce Chaney

December 4
Lynne & Bob McAdoo

December 5
Margaret & Dick Arnst

December 6
Sharon & James Fulton

December 8
Lila & Bert Andor

December 14
Jennifer & Jon Page

December 16
Leah & Corey Smith

December 20
Shirley & Jim Fast
Traci & Jim Moran

December 22
Karen & Dave Leber
Darlene & Dennis
Mahlum

December 23
Ann & David Brandes
Ida Mae & Ed
Darrington

December 26
Kerry & Jay Petty
Shane & Janelle Thorson

December 31
Diane & Jim Fleener
Katherine & Kenneth
McGehee

BIRTHDAYS

December 1
Zeke Ernst
Karen Filipy

December 2
Janet Budzeck
Patti Miller

December 3
Evan Bratvold
Norm Lippert
Paul Vopalensky

December 4
Jamie Carroll
Kjerstyn Jordheim
Janice Vesper

December 5
Kyle Welch

December 6
Brandon Isenberg
Tyler Salyer
Joy Stuenkel
Thomas Wick

December 7
Nathan Mitchell
Debbie Stankovich

December 8
Bret Cole
Ethyl Somerville

December 9
Warren Nicley

December 10
Erik Ben-Zekry
Janice Fulton

December 11
Melissa Bratvold
Alexis Fischer
Jamie Gier
Laurel Palmblad
Hal Stivers

December 12
Candace Monasmith

December 13
Nathan Ernst
Carlyle Keyes

December 14
Bill Frame
John Hooks
Kathy Hooks
Carole Siefken
Richard Siefken
Drew Snyder

December 15
Sharon Koehling
Joel Sorensen

December 16
Hailee Challenger

December 17
Dayne Chaney
Aiden Lesser
Kelsey Loudenburg
Cody McCargar
Jerry Weldon
DeEtte Wick
Barron Willson

December 18
Barbara Edwards
Andrew Meek

December 19
Jeremy Bender
Dawn Finger
Chuck Long
Sarah Richman
Kelly Westlund

December 20
Bill Bishop
Alexa Bond
Naomi Fry
A.J. Holden
Dave Leber
Trevor Nunez
Katherine Woodall

December 21
Stacey Gunderson
Sue Long
Jennifer Staley

December 22
Amanda Bott
Anita Schmidt

December 23
Jay Petty
Karen Williams

December 24
Donna Richardson

December 25
Cheri Thomas

December 26
Charlotte Epperson
Lynne McAdoo
Julianna Monroe
Rick Shimskey
Jacob Van Sant
Maya Wunschel

December 27
Patty Simonen Mitchell
Gus Myers
Carolyn Phaneuf
Brett Whelan

December 28
Matt Christman
Rhett Levin
Brian Schienbein
Marilyn Schumacher
Gerald Whitney

December 29
Gordon Berglund
Calvin Dudney
Vicki Glasford
Brian Killand
Bert Oberlander
Logan Riensche

December 30
Steven Einan
LeAnn Purtzer
Kyle Sponholtz
Kristin Isakson VanSant
Jeff Ziemer

December 31
Parker Welch
Ryley Welch

Worship Assistants

December 2011	Time	Communion 8:30 & 11 am December 4	Communion 8:30 & 11 am December 11	Communion 8:30 & 11 am December 18	Communion 10:00 am December 25
<i>Pianist (Sat.)</i>	5:00 p.m.	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	
<i>Organist</i>	8:30 a.m.	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame
	11:00 a.m.	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	
<i>Lectors</i>	8:30 a.m.	Peggy Pilger	Kathy Killand	Peggy Pilger	Susan Schmieman
	11:00 a.m.	Karen Clark	Susan Schmieman	****	
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	8:30 a.m.	Cloyde Hardman **** Elaine Davis	Kathy Killand Pam Hedges Clarine Watkins	Jeff Pilger Sue Meek Charles Davis	Charles Davis Elaine Davis
	11:00 a.m.	Carl Imhoff Kristen Imhoff ****	Kelly Westlund Jenny Page ****	**** **** ****	****
<i>Setup/Cleanup Communion for Saturday and setup for Sunday 8:30 am</i>	5:00 p.m.	Gwen Dodge	Nancy Ballard	Jean & Jim Loss	Judy & Carl Schroeder
<i>Cleanup 8:30, set up for 11 am Communion</i>	After 8:30 am service	MaryJo and Mike Schroeder	Kay Aase Lois Harrold	Carol Schmid	Judy and Carl Schroeder
<i>Cleanup after 11 am service</i>	After 11:00 a.m.	Judy & Carl Schroeder	Kelly Westlund	Kay Aase	
<i>Acolytes</i>	8:30 a.m.	Aaron Cole Ryan Warren	John Lesser Anna Lesser	Patrick Schroeder Sarah Schmid	April Mercer Trygve Tilton
	11:00 a.m.	Isabel Bartholomew Ashely Reisinger	Carlyle Keyes Kira Westlund	Nathan Salyer McKenzie Willy	
<i>Ushers</i>	8:30 a.m.	H - Karen Schwartz Mike Schwartz A- Gary Weible Eunice Weible	H - Chuck McCargar Sue McCargar A - Jim Moran Traci Moran	H - Bill Frame Laura Stevens A- **** Carleen Lust	H - Linda Buckner Russ Warren A - Jon Erlandson ****
	11:00 a.m.	H- Carol Hexum Alan Hagensen A - Piper Mercer Linda Buckner	H - Jim Wells Diana Wells A- Rick Budzeck Janet Budzeck	H - Rick Budzeck Janet Budzeck A - Mike Bettinson Valerie Bettinson	
<i>Church Friends</i>	8:30 a.m.	Lois Harrold	Sara & Norm Gillette	Harold Hogue	****
	11:00 a.m.	Karen Clark	Marilyn Mitchell	Debbie Honeyman Judy Simonen	
<i>Children's Church Leaders</i>	8:30 am	Michelle & Andy Clary	Russ & Pamela Warren	Melissa & Katie Schmid	
	11:00 am	Pam Hedges Alisha Bettinson	Aleana Saldana Drew Snyder	Trina & Daniel Miles	
<i>Video System at 8:30 am service</i>	Console Camera #1 #2	Jim Moran Luke Thompson Bill Frame	Mike Schwartz Don Schmid Fred Kremmer	Brian Killand Jon Erlandson Ken Meek	Mike Stankovich Andrew Meek Paul Hedges
<i>Sound System Operators</i>	8:30 a.m.	Chuck Richardson	Chuck Richardson	Chuck Richardson	****
	11:00 a.m.	Tammy Carswell	Jeff Dagle	Jeff Dagle	
<i>Cashiers</i>		Warner Blyckert Tom Frislie	Kathy Snyder Jon Erlandson	Nancy Ballard Doris Barchet	Kay Aase Marge Hogue
<i>Flowers</i>		Dick & Margaret	Barbara Westlund	Dennis/Darlene Mahlum	Glasford Family
<i>Recycling</i>		Laura Stevens	Karen Schwartz	Tom Frislie	Valerie Bettinson

Worship Assistants, Christmas Eve

December 2011	Time	Christmas Eve Friday, December 24, 4 services (no communion)	Acolytes	
Organist	4:00 p.m.	Sally Blyckert	4:00 p.m.	Rhet McCullough Aaron Cole Ashley Reisinger Sarah Schmid Peter Morris
	5:30 p.m.	Maria Frame	(Acolyte)	
	7:00 p.m.	Maria Frame	(Acolyte)	
	11:00 p.m.	Maria Frame	(Crucifer)	
Lectors	4:00 p.m.	Laura Stevens	(Torch Bearer)	Jennifer Williams Rhett Levin Tyler Williams Zeke Ernst Mikayla Mars
	5:30 p.m.	Len Ross	(Torch Bearer)	
	7:00 p.m.	Greg Kelly	5:30 p.m.	
	11:00 p.m.	Jeff Dagle	(Acolyte)	
Head Ushers & Assisting Ushers	4:00 p.m.	H- Carol Hexum **** A- **** ****	(Acolyte)	Woody Page Nathan Lipton Jack Page Andrew Clark Elizabeth Kelly
	5:30 p.m.	H- Carol Hexum **** A- **** ****	(Acolyte)	
	7:00 p.m.	H-Linda Buckner Russ Warren A-Gary Weible Eunice Weible	(Crucifer)	
	11:00 p.m.	H-Rick Snyder Kathy Snyder A- **** ****	(Torch Bearer)	
Church Friends	4:00 p.m.	*****	(Torch Bearer)	Kira Westlund Nathan Salyer Tyler Salyer Kyle Westlund Drew Snyder
	5:30 p.m.	Carol Schmid	(Acolyte)	
	7:00 p.m.	Sara & Norm Gillette	(Crucifer)	
	11:00 p.m.	Carleen & Len Lust	(Torch Bearer)	
Sound System Operators	4:00 p.m.	****	11:00 p.m.	
	5:30 p.m.	****	(Acolyte)	
	7:00 p.m.	****	(Crucifer)	
	11:00 p.m.	Jeff Dagle	(Torch Bearer)	

Christmas Eve Prelude

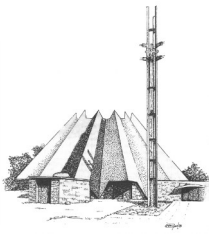
For your listening pleasure, there will be a 30 minute prelude before each of the Christmas Eve services. Plan to come early to enjoy the talents of many of our members!



Come before the Lord with song and with praise!

Come join us as the choirs present the Cantata '**Night of Wonder**' and other special music during worship services on **December 17 and 18.**

Christmas Cantata



Richland Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Richland, WA 99354

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Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sundays at 8:30 AM

Worship with Holy Communion
Sundays at 11:00 AM

Worship with Holy Communion
Saturdays at 5:00 PM

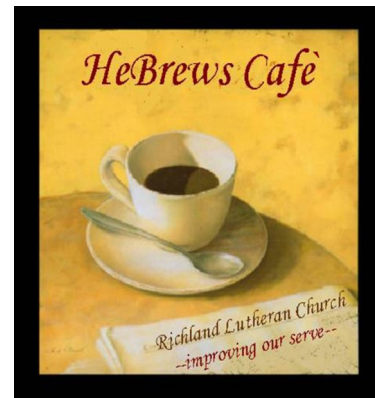
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, December 24
4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM, 11:00 PM

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion
10:00 AM

*And when circumstances beyond your control prevent
you from coming to church . . .*

Good News Today
Aired Sunday mornings on
KVEW 42 and KAPP 35 at 9:00 AM

Audio files of sermons are available on the website:
www.richland-lutheran.org



***Come to HeBrews Café Sunday mornings,
between 9:45 AM and 10:45 AM***

***It's where Richland Lutheran Church members are
refreshed, rejuvenated, and renewed for work in the
Kingdom!***

***There are still some Sundays available for serving.
Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.***

Richland Lutheran Church is here to help people build strong, effective Christian lives with the resources of God's grace.