

The Preview

A New Year's Covenant

The clock will strike midnight on New Year's Eve, and when it does, the implementation of numerous well-intentioned resolutions will be triggered. Some people are able to follow through on those promises, but most fail within weeks. Experts now suggest people adopt a theme instead of a goal for the year if they genuinely want to change. The idea is to focus on the intention instead of a rigid, self-imposed rule. In a sense, that is what Richland Lutheran Church has done for the coming year.

The 2012 Ministry Plan is guided by a simply-stated vision.

Our Vision – Richland Lutheran Church is a congregation of Christ followers who are making Jesus Christ known to all people and advancing His Kingdom.

The vision is implemented by a clear mission statement,

Our Mission – Richland Lutheran Church fulfills its vision and calling by entering and engaging the world as God himself did through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

What if every member of Richland Lutheran Church made decisions about spending time, talent, and treasure on the *impact* of that investment?

Imagine the impact Richland Lutheran Church could have in the world if every member asked one simple question before making any decisions: **“How will involvement (or noninvolvement) in this activity make Jesus Christ known and advance His Kingdom?”**

In a world contaminated by clutter and competition for our attention, it is easy to lose focus. That reality makes intentionality in all we do even more important. This congregation will be asking the question above as it works through the 2012 Ministry Plan. But just asking the question is not enough without the resolve to do things differently.

Let us begin by thinking differently. We have already begun to rethink Christmas. Now, let's rethink resolutions. Make a New Year's *covenant* this year. A covenant, in the biblical sense, implies much more than a contract or simple agreement. It is a permanent arrangement involving a person's total being and the most poignant example is in Jesus Christ:

“This cup is the *new covenant* in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

God's vision was that His people would be reconciled with Him. The mission of Jesus was to fulfill that vision. With unwavering resolve, He embodied a new covenant. How can we do anything less?

Congregation Council

Council Members

Ben Barr, Member at Large

Rob Barr, Member at Large

Dave Brandes, Vice-President

Scott Hardman, Member at Large

Mot Hedges, President

Kathy Killand, Member at Large

Dave Larkin, Secretary

Sandy Steele, 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

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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

Linda Buckner

1374 Laura St.

Casselberry, FL 32707-2723

Risher, Anna

Remove – passed away

Hogan, Lori

405 Douglass

Richland, WA 99352

946-8760

Lesser, John and Kiane

9202 W. Gage Blvd. N-101

Kennewick, WA 99336

Sims, Jim

7820 W. 6th Ave. #326

Kennewick, WA 99336

Zimmerman, Robert

2880 Maverick St.

Las Vegas, NV 89108

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Grace Davis December 30

Weddings

Memorial/Funeral

Emma Stull December 22

Evelyn Gore December 28

The Preview

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From Pastor Steve



RLC in Mission for Christ: It is Better to Give Than Receive

Can you believe we're already into a new year? Where did 2011 go? With a new year RLC begins a new adventure guided by our ministry plan, as outlined in the cover article. Truth be told, it's already starting to happen. We've just come out of the Advent season where together we committed to "Rethink Christmas," giving more to our Lord by worshipping fully, giving more to those we love by spending less and giving more, giving more to all people by loving all. For many of us the old adage, "It is better to give than receive," has deeper and more profound meaning than ever before.

What a great mindset to catapult us into the new year as we seek to fulfill our vision to "Make Jesus Christ known and advance His kingdom." A necessary mindset if we are to fulfill our mission to "Enter and engage the world." For without a "better to give than receive" mindset and an "others first" heart we won't enter and engage the world. Rather, we'd play it safe, remain comfortable within our own walls, and focus on receiving rather than giving.

Unfortunately this is where the Christian Church in America has come and in many ways remains today, especially mainline churches (typically considered to be the American Baptist Churches in the USA; the Episcopal Church; the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; the Presbyterian Church (USA); the United Church of Christ; and the United Methodist Church). Whether deliberately or not the "Better to receive than give" mentality has permeated the church and, among other factors, leads us to decline. The Barna Research Group in a 2009 article reports, "In the past fifty years, mainline church membership dropped by more than one-quarter." That is a staggering and sobering statistic. Author Scot McKnight writes, "Because the Western Church has become hesitant to declare the Good News about Jesus, it needs to be called back to the task of reaching out to others. The Anglican leader and evangelist Michael Green cuts through church cant: 'God's church exists not for itself but for the benefit of those who are not yet members... [and] the church which lives for itself will be sure to die by itself.' The church is not a religious club and it does not have a secular mission. Instead, it is a worshipping and sending community."

If we, as a mainline church, want to survive we must do something different than we've done in the last fifty years. Entering and engaging the world is a good place to start. By entering and engaging the world to make Jesus Christ known and advance His kingdom we break the cycle of hesitancy to declare the Good News about Jesus and begin to reach out to others. This won't be easy but making this change is necessary if we are to be in mission for Christ.

*Make Jesus Christ known
and advance His kingdom.*

Financial Update

	<u>Jan - Nov 11</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Nov 11</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income					
4000 · INCOME	674,316.55	773,994.86	674,316.55	773,994.86	844,358.00
Total Income	674,316.55	773,994.86	674,316.55	773,994.86	844,358.00
Expense					
5100 · BENEVOLENCE	67,646.32	67,646.32	67,646.32	67,646.32	73,796.00
5200 · OUTREACH	941.45	687.50	941.45	687.50	750.00
5300 · WORSHIP	8,444.60	11,389.58	8,444.60	11,389.58	12,425.00
5400 · NURTURE	499.18	4,317.52	499.18	4,317.52	4,710.00
5500 · EDUCATION	15,983.82	17,714.57	15,983.82	17,714.57	19,325.00
5600 · RESOURCES	100,295.08	115,403.76	100,295.08	115,403.76	125,895.00
5700 · COUNCIL	508,425.44	524,202.28	508,425.44	524,202.28	571,857.00
5750 · PROPERTY ACQUISITION	29,883.33	29,883.33	29,883.33	29,883.33	32,600.00
5751 · LRP IMPLEMENTATION	2,750.00	2,750.00	2,750.00	2,750.00	3,000.00
Total Expense	734,869.22	773,994.86	734,869.22	773,994.86	844,358.00
Net Income	-60,552.67	0.00	-60,552.67	0.00	0.00

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.

From the Sewing Bee

The RLC Sewing Bee shares quilts and lap robes with the community! Lois Harrold and Norene & Jon Erlandson delivered a total of 87 quilts and lap robes on November 14 to local agencies as follows:
Lap Robes: Eagle (5); Richland Life Care (6); Cancer Center (7 + 2 children's); Hermiston Life Care (6+3 large quilts)

Large Quilts: World Relief (7+ 4 baby quilts); Habitat for Humanity (4 +1 youth quilt); American Red Cross (8 + 8 baby quilts); Homeless Veterans (6); Tri-City Union Gospel Mission (7)

Baby Quilts: Crisis Nursery (7) plus those noted above for different agencies.

We also donated 57 quilts to Lutheran World Relief this fall.

Thank you to all who have sewn tops, participated during our Wednesday quilting time, and donated fabric and fillers to make this all possible. (We **can** use more blankets for fillers.)

The RLC Sewing Bee wants to thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their generous check of \$350 to help with our expenses during 2011. We are blessed to have their support to further our mission of providing quilts and lap robes for those in need.

If you are looking for a place to serve God, we would love to have you join us in January on Wednesday mornings at 9 AM till noon. (or anything in between)

Parish Health Ministry

Maintaining Your Optimal Health

One Step At A Time

I grew up in Wisconsin on a "truck" farm a short distance from the city of Milwaukee. While we didn't grow trucks, we grew healthy vegetables such as cabbage, cucumbers, cauliflower, peppers and onions. My Father was of German descent and although he was anything but sophisticated, he was a wise man. He always told us kids that if you had your health you had everything. Although not everyone has inherited good health, everyone has the opportunity to influence their health in a number of ways. As a church member, I attend weekly services to feed my spiritual soul, as a human being, I need to feed my body properly to maintain my physical health.

Last month we talked about influenza and the importance of being immunized and staying healthy during this season. As 2012 begins, we are reminded to watch what we eat to optimize our health. Although my Father probably didn't realize it, his life's calling and vocation of supplying vegetables to the Milwaukee area helped in this.

Over the years, the USDA has changed their dietary recommendations. Today, they recommend the following, as indicated by their website. You will notice that fruits and vegetables are recommended to make up 1/2 of your daily consumption, the use of whole grains for 1/2 of your grain intake, consumption of low fat protein, and use of low fat dairy products round out our healthy daily meal plate. Visit their website for more detailed information, and keep eating those vegetables! <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

Dietary Guidelines:

Balancing Calories:

- Enjoy your food, but eat less
- Avoid oversized portions





Foods to Increase:

- Make at least half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Make at least half your grains whole grains.
- Switch to fat free or low fat (1%) milk.

Foods to reduce:

- Compare sodium in foods like soups, breads, and frozen meals.
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks.



				
Grains Group	Vegetable Group	Fruit Group	Dairy Group	Protein Foods Group
Make at least half your grains whole.	Vary your veggies.	Focus on fruits.	Get your calcium-rich foods.	Go lean with protein

Called to the Union Gospel Mission

About two years ago I started going to the Union Gospel Mission on the 4th Sunday of the month with other RLC members to help provide worship service for the people who gathered there for food and shelter.

As I reflect back to when I first joined this group, I felt God calling me but it took me several months before I actually responded to His call. I felt anxiety. This would be something new for me; completely outside of my comfort zone. The Mission? These are jobless and homeless people. The kind of people I'm not use to being around. What do I do? What do I say? How do I act? There was definitely a misguided perception that I needed to let go of. After all, as the old saying goes – "But for the grace of God there go I." So I finally ventured out (with a few of my Growth Group buddies), and took the leap. Was I nervous? Oh...Yes! I didn't know what to expect. And I certainly didn't want to have to get up in front of everyone to speak. That was really my biggest fear. I went along thinking I would just sit and observe. But, as it turned out, I jumped in with all fours and actively participated. The men (and, at that time, women) were great, as was the rest of the group from RLC.

Fast forward a couple of years, and here I am. Still going to the Mission and helping to share God's word – not only with the men who gather to hear us, but with each other as well. God is amazing and sends us to amazing places and people in our lives. The format is a bit different now – we share what's on our hearts and not just what's on a piece of paper that has been handed to us to read. Many of the men sit and listen; others simply take this time to nap. But that's okay too. Our readings are often interspersed with an "Amen" from the audience or even an occasional applause. If even one has heard and feels the presence of Jesus making a change in his life, then we have done what God asks of us.

I feel rewarded to be able to share God's word with these men and show them that, not only does God care, but we do as well. We reach out to them one Sunday evening every month with God's word but, unbeknownst to them, they are reaching out to each of us as well. I can't even begin to explain the feeling that comes over me as we file out at the end of the worship service and are greeted with a handshake, a "Thank You" or even a "God Bless You". And, as we return as a group to RLC's parking lot we often talk amongst ourselves sharing our observations with each other and what we experienced during that evening's worship service. It's amazing how God works and who He works through. I truly feel that, even though we are there to serve these men at the Mission, they are serving us in return. Thank you, God! You have truly blessed me.

Sandy Steele

Union Gospel Mission

Donations: Are you looking to support the Mission with donations? The Tri-City Union Gospel Mission is in need of clothing (new or clean gently used), blankets, and disposable diapers all year long. We now have a Union Gospel collection box at the far west end of the ground-level of the Education wing near the stairs. We will deliver the items on the fourth Sunday of every month.

Volunteer: Are you looking to support the Mission with your time? Richland Lutheran Church volunteers to provide the Mission's worship service on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you are interested in participating, please join us in the church parking lot at 7:00 p.m. to ride over together in the church van. If you are looking for other ways to support the Mission, go to their web site at www.ICUGM.org.

Message from the Council

But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.
Micah 7:7

I want to provide an update on the Call process for a Lead Pastor and answer some of the questions that have been asked.

Q. Why have a Call Committee? - The simple answer is our constitution requires it. The Call process allows the selected Call Committee members to come together in prayerful consideration to discern God's will about who should be called lead RLC .

Q. What is the current status of the Call process? - The Council is working on a position description for the Lead Pastor. This should be approved at our regular January meeting. After that The Call Committee will be convened and develop their process for making the decision on who to recommend to the congregation. A special Congregational meeting will then be called to vote on the candidate.

Q. How long will the process take? - There is no set time frame. The last Call process took several months.

Q. Who is on the Call Committee? The Call Committee members elected at the Annual Meeting are Karen Clark, Sandi Edgemon, Mike Schwartz, Adele Sorensen, Bob Thompson, and Russ Warren. As Council President, I am an ex-officio member.

Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers while they work to discern the will of God.

Yours in Christ,
Mot Hedges
Council President

Men's Ministry Calendar for 2012

The Men's Ministry Leadership Team is framing up a great year of events to help the men of RLC develop in their roles as disciples, husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons. In addition to the routine monthly breakfasts on the third Saturday and second Tuesday, be looking for forthcoming details regarding the following nearer term events:

February – Chili Cook-Off – Perfect for the time of year!

March 2-4 – Family Ski Weekend to White Pass – We'll be staying in cabins at YMCA's Camp Dudley. Should be a great time!

March 10 (tentative) – One-Day Men's Retreat — This will be held at RLC and promises to be as enriching as last year's was.

May – Badger Mountain Hike – Easy and fun!

If you have any questions regarding the Men's Ministry or these events, please contact Jim Moran (412-519-5897).

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 AM Good News Today 10:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr Troop 1067 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 7:00 PM RLC Foundation Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248</p>
<p>8</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 High School Leadership Team 6:30 PM Coffeehouse 7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Work Time 12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr Troop 1067 5:30 PM Recorder Consort 6:45 PM Exultate Bell Choir 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248 7:00 PM Congregation Council</p>
<p>15</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 High School Leadership Team 6:30 PM Coffeehouse 7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Work Time 12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr Troop 1067 5:30 PM Recorder Consort 6:45 PM Exultate Bell Choir 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248</p>
<p>22</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 High School Leadership Team 6:30 PM Coffeehouse 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission Service 7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Work Time 12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group 1:30 PM Dorcas Circle 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 AM Hannah Circle 9:30 AM Miriam Circle 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr Troop 1067 5:30 PM Recorder Consort 6:45 PM Exultate Bell Choir 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248 7:30 PM Lydia Circle</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Good News Today 9:45 AM Education Hour/HeBrews Cafe 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Basic Belief Class 5:30 PM High School Leadership Team 6:30 PM Coffeehouse 7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 AM Library Work Time 12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Girl Scout Jr Troop 1067 5:30 PM Recorder Consort 5:30 PM Women's Ministry Team Meeting 6:45 PM Exultate Bell Choir 7:00 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 248</p>

January 2012

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM Sewing Bee 12:00 PM Read thru the Bible 3:30 PM Knitting Group 6:30 PM SuperKids/WILD at the Rollarena</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Library Work Time 6:00 PM Steele Growth Group 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:15 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM AI-Anon</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Sewing Bee 12:00 PM Read thru the Bible 3:30 PM Knitting Group 5:15 PM Praise Choir 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner 6:30 PM SuperKids 6:30 PM WILD 6:45 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Library Work Time 6:00 PM Steele Growth Group 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:15 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM AI-Anon 7:00 PM Ultreya</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM Sewing Bee 12:00 PM Read thru the Bible 3:30 PM Knitting Group 5:15 PM Praise Choir 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner 6:30 PM SuperKids 6:30 PM WILD 6:45 PM Chancel Choir 7:30 PM GNMM Board Meeting 8:10 PM Instrumental Musicians Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Library Work Time 1:00 PM Piecemakers 6:00 PM Steele Growth Group 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:15 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM AI-Anon</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 AM Men's Breakfast 5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Sewing Bee 12:00 PM Read thru the Bible 3:30 PM Knitting Group 5:15 PM Praise Choir 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner 6:30 PM SuperKids 6:30 PM WILD 6:45 PM Chancel Choir 8:10 PM Instrumental Musicians Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Bible Study 9:00 AM Library Work Time 6:00 PM Steele Growth Group 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:15 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM AI-Anon</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p>Wednesday January 4, 2012 6:30 - 8:30 PM Richland Rollarena</p> <p>RIC SKATE NIGHT</p> <p>\$5 entry with regular skates (\$2 extra for inline skates) Everyone is welcome to join us! Bring lots of friends & family!</p>		<p>The Richland Lutheran Church calendar changes daily!</p> <p>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>	



Activities for Youth

Middle School!

Grades 6-8

WILD WEDNESDAY!

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!

4: ROLLERSKATING AT THE RICHLAND ROLLARENA!!! Bring \$\$ for skates and food.
Meet at the Rollarena at 6:30pm!

11: WWJRFY?

18: Middle schoolers...

25: ...In charge?

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!

1: NO COFFEEHOUSE

8: Gifts

15: More Gifts

22: How to read and study your Bible

29: Louie, Louie

The Mission Trip Sign up sheet is up!

If you are interested in going to **Lodge Grass, Montana** from **June 16-23** to do some hard work and hard play in the name of Jesus, then please sign up. *Mission trippers from last year have first priority.*

FEBRUARY 3-4 IS OUR CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN!!! *This takes the place of the March retreat, so it is vitally important that you are there. We'll begin at 5pm with normal confirmation registration in the narthex. We'll have dinner and then begin. We'll finish after dinner on the 4th. Cost is \$20 (we'll provide all meals), and friends are more than welcome!*

High School Leadership Team meets 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!

Activities for Kids

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!

What adventures await for Captain Clueless as we begin our study of Ephesians 6? Will Marty, Katy, and Mr. Peabody help Captain Clueless learn how to put on the **Whole Armor of God**? Join us and find out!!

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!!

JANUARY 11 - The Whole Armor of God!

JANUARY 18 - The Belt of Truth!

JANUARY 25 - The Breast Plate of Righteousness!

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

Mafraq - The playground is finished! (well, almost!)

The playground is finished and we think it is absolutely beautiful! Every day there is a lot of activity and the kids love playing there. The only thing left to do is to get some new playground equipment. What we have is made of heavy steel that gets sizzling hot in the summer and is not very safe.

Many heartfelt thanks to the congregation for your overwhelming financial and prayer support of this project! We especially want to thank Susan Schmieman for designing the playground and for putting her plan into action. Projects like this are not easy to accomplish in a place like this, but she did it and we couldn't be more delighted with the results!

Thank you also for your continued prayers for us and for this place. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful friends, and we look forward to sharing our experiences with you in person.



God bless you all!

Mike and Julie Penley

RLC Scholarship Program

Richland Lutheran Church has a proud tradition of supporting its members in pursuit of higher education.

Each year, graduating seniors and currently-enrolled college students of Richland Lutheran Church are encouraged to apply for financial support from the various sources offered.

The origin and intent of each fund is described here. Please take a few moments to consider how the funds might help you achieve your educational or career goals. Then, contact Corey Smith and he will supply you with the Application Cover Sheet and the required documents to apply for the support you desire. We sincerely hope we can be of help to you in achieving your goals.

Application deadline is February 19, 2012.

Mark Black Award - This honorary award was established in memory of Mark Black who was killed in the Vietnam War. Given at the same time as the scholarships and grants, it recognizes a graduating senior who has shown exceptional character through faithfulness in worship, leadership and Christian responsibility in the life of the congregation. Because the Pastoral Staff and Executive Council select the recipient of this award there is no application process. The amount of this award is \$1000.

Gary Lucke Memorial Scholarship - This fund was established by Nancy and Daryl Lucke in memory of their son, Gary, who was killed in an automobile accident while a student at WSU. Interested students must submit a letter to the Higher Education Committee indicating their interest in this scholarship. A five-hundred word essay containing information about the student's background, financial need, education, and career plan is required. The funds from this scholarship are available to confirmed Lutheran high school seniors of high moral standards with financial need to help offset the costs of higher education, as determined by the student. The scholarship is renewable annually. The amount available is \$500.

Grimsrud Lutheran Educational Scholarship - This scholarship honors the memory of Reverend Milton and Solvig Grimsrud. Milt was RLC's first pastor, returning as visitation pastor in his retirement years. The scholarship is given to a college student attending a Lutheran college or seminary. A supplemental application is available in the church office. The amount available is \$350 per semester with a maximum of \$700 per year.

Richland Lutheran Church Grant - This grant is not restricted to a Lutheran institution, and there are no minimum GPA requirements. Submit a letter indicating interest along with a three hundred word essay setting forth financial need, educational goals and career plans. The amount available is \$500.

Ruth Smith/Mary Jane O'Black Loan Fund - No interest loans of \$600, available to RLC members pursuing higher education. The application form is available in the church office. Include proposed timeframe for repaying the loan and two personal references, including current addresses and phone numbers.

Bruce Higley Scholarship - A scholarship fund was established by Kathy Higley in memory of her husband, Bruce, who had a lifelong passion for and career in science and engineering. The scholarship is \$1,000 a year for as long as the funds are available. Applicants must have achieved upper classman status, be enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited university, have and declared a science-related major. It is also available to graduate students pursuing science-related degrees. To apply for this grant, a letter indicating interest along with a three-hundred word essay setting forth educational goals and career plans must be submitted to the Minister of Christian Education. Recipients of this scholarship must be members of Richland Lutheran Church.

God: All Absent And Accounted For

Recently, someone reported to me a dear friend, going through the wringer of adversity, had been advised by that someone to pray about the situation. The response? "God doesn't seem to be listening!"

I grimaced with disappointment (judgment?) at hearing this, before reflecting upon recent sufferings qualifying me to join *The Rolling Stones*. It was bad enough at the onset; but the real pain set in *after* the operation and the insertion of temporary stents in each kidney. For a couple of weeks it meant several times a day - and night - that sound coming from behind the closed door of the throne room at our residence, was me in a loud falsetto crying out the most basic of prayers: "Oh No! Lord help me! Take the pain away!"

Confession: the above prayer on my part - or a reasonable facsimile - has always worked well for me in the dentist's chair (albeit, the silent version of that prayer. What good would it be to audible a prayer with a dentist's hand in your mouth - unless someone in the room had the gift of the interpretation of tongues?) It has worked so well, that I've often said that it wasn't the pain of what the dentist was doing that was so bad: it was the pain of paying for it!

Anyway, God didn't seem to be listening in the midst of my crying prayers either. But in the delirium of my pain and its anticipation: I discovered that God was indeed speaking to me, if only I was listening (think the complete texts of at least sixteen terrific articles and four boffo sermons came to me - too bad I can't remember them in their entirety, so you'll have to take my word for it.)

The principle learned is: God speaks most clearly at the point where we are aware of His absence. Those are the moments when we discover His strength is made manifest in our weakness, and His grace is sufficient for us. Paul discovered this when his thorn in the flesh got to him. Jesus experienced this at Gethsemane and on the cross. This latter expressed in those holy words "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?...My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" *There is the ultimate experience of the silence of the Lamb and sense of the absence of God.*

If we are to be heard by the world, we need to demonstrate faith also includes the experience of God apparently absent and silent, as though not listening. Perhaps then the world will listen to us since it knows what life is like without the manifest reality of God. Advent season should have reminded us we'll miss any visitation of God's presence unless we're prepared for His seeming absence and silence. Listen for Him in those moments.

Pastor Dave Hogan

*God speaks most clearly at
the point where we are
aware of His absence.*

Worship Assistants

January 2012	Time	<i>January 1 10:00 AM Only</i>	<i>January 8</i>	<i>January 15</i>	<i>January 22</i>	<i>January 29</i>
<i>Pianist (Saturday)</i>	5:00 PM	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame
<i>Organists</i>	8:30 AM	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame
	11:00 AM	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame	Maria Frame
<i>Lectors</i>	8:30 AM	Karen Clark	Peggy Pilger	Peggy Pilger	Jim Salaba	Norm Gillette
	11:00 AM		Susan Schmieman	****	Jeff Dagle	Sue Meek
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	8:30 AM	Carl Schroeder Charles Davis Elaine Davis	Clarine Watkins Sara Gillette Norm Gillette	Emil Leitz Sue Meek Ken Meek	Clarine Watkins Kathy Killand Charles Davis	Charles Davis Elaine Davis ****
	11:00 AM		Kelly Westlund **** ****	Jenny Page Jon Page Kelly Westlund	Jon Page Jenny Page ****	Kelly Westlund **** ****
<i>Setup/Cleanup Communion (Saturday) Sunday setup</i>	5:00 PM	Joanne Woehle	Carl and Judy Schroeder	Dave and Ann Brandes	Joanne Woehle	Nancy Ballard
<i>Cleanup 8:30 Setup 11:00</i>	After 8:30 AM	After 10 AM Carl/Judy Schroeder	Donna Richardson	Kay Aase Lois Harrold	Kay Aase Doloros Erickson	Mike and MaryJo Schroeder
<i>Cleanup after service</i>	After 11:00 AM		Doloros Erickson	Jim and Jean Loss	Kelly Westlund	Gwen Dodge
<i>Acolytes</i>	8:30 AM	Zeke Ernst Nathan Salyer	Grace Corning Alexis Riensche	Patrick Schroeder Aaron Cole	Rhet McCullough Ryan Warren	Anna Lesser John Lesser
	11:00 AM		Andrew Clark Trygve Tilton	Isabel Bartholomew Kira Westlund	Coley Levin Rhett Levin	Madeline Haynie Savannah Haynie
<i>Head Ushers & Assisting Ushers</i>	8:30 AM	H – Mike Schwartz Karen Schwartz	H – Chuck McCargar **** A – Jim Moran Traci Moran	H – Bill Frame **** A - **** Carleen Lust	H – Dave Larkin Jim Peterson A – Mac Dixson Jon Erlandson	H - **** **** A - **** ****
	11:00 AM	A – Piper Mercer ****	H – Jim Wells Diana Wells A – Rick Budzeck Janet Budzeck	H – Rick Budzeck Janet Budzeck A – **** ****	H – Jim Loss Jean Loss A - **** ****	H - **** **** A - **** ****
<i>Church Friends</i>	8:30 AM	Lois Harrold Karen Clark	Harold Hogue	Carleen and Len Lust	Mille and Ray Nierman	Carol Schmid
	11:00 AM		Marilyn Mitchell	Rick & Kathy Snyder	Debbie Honeyman	Marilyn Mitchell
<i>Children's Church</i>	8:30 AM		Melissa and Katie Schmid	John Huebner ****	Sue Long ****	**** ****
	11:00 AM		Julie Bishop Ellie Page	Trina and Daniel Miles	Lauri and Emma Whitney	Mary and Anna Lipton
<i>Video System at 8:30 am service</i>	Console Camera 1 2	Ed Simonen Ken Meek Jon Erlandson	Mike Schwartz Andrew Meek Bill Frame	Jim Moran Traci Moran Paul Hedges	Mike Stankovich Don Schmid Luke Thompson	Brian Killand Mike Schwartz Fred Kremmer
<i>Sound System Operators</i>	8:30 AM	Jeff Dagle	Karen Schwartz	Larry Corning	Chuck Richardson	Chuck Richardson
	11:00 AM		Paul Hedges	Tammy Carswell	Jeff Dagle	Jeff Dagle
<i>Cashiers</i>		Kay Aase Marge Hogue	Kathy Snyder Jon Erlandson	Kathy Snyder Tom Frislie	Kay Aase Doris Barchet	Nancy Ballard Dick Anrst
<i>Flowers</i>		****	****	****	****	****
<i>Recycle</i>		Carol Schmid	Jeff and Heidi Dagle	LaVonne Scully	Rich Barchet	Laura Stevens

Anniversaries & Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

January 1

Sharon & Philip Kaiser
Dragica & Milutin
Vukojevic

January 2

Kristen & Adam
Donahue

January 22

Pam & Mot Hedges

January 27

Kay & Fred Brauer

January 28

Kristan & Justin Horgan
Lisa & Warren Nicley

January 29

Lauri & Gerald Whitney

BIRTHDAYS

January 1

Sharon Holden
Earl Leitz

January 2

Sarah Hagensen
Brooke Snyder

January 3

Mary Hibbard
Emily Larsen

January 5

Carol Hexum
Ellie Page
Dave Smith

January 6

Ryan Stolte

January 7

Pastor Martens
Rich Mercer

January 8

Kylie Blakely
Andrew Cole
Leticia Fischer
Zemmie Iedema
Al Sampson
John Tompkins

January 9

Ron Filipy
Dietrich Schmieman
Jenn Skinner

January 10

Darrin Drake
Emma Knapp
Samual Woodall

January 11

Angie Coffman
Irv Solbrack

January 12

Helen Foreman
Jim Worgull

January 13

Chris Emmons
Ray Nierman
Janelle Thorson
Mark Underwood

January 14

Dianna Carroll
Jaryd Schroeder
Linda Showalter
James Ulseth

January 15

Sharon Boness
Amanda Solnicka
Jean Thompson

January 16

Stuart Iedema
Kevin Johnson
Vicky Willingham

January 17

Helen Gaskill

January 19

Isabel Bartholomew
Steven Rowse
Roxanne Short

January 20

Valerie Bettinson
Darlene Mahlum
Maria Montoya
Kaleb Prigge
Ted Stuenkel

January 21

David Aanderud
Chris Bonin
Hanna Colwell
Jenny Page

January 22

Dale Gier
Bruce Stonecker
Joe Sundal

January 23

Abigail Cole
Jan Conley

January 24

Mike Bettinson
Larry Haler
Amy Sperline
Dominik Zehner

January 25

Anthony Dalpiaz
Kris Johnson

January 26

Jordan Davis
Debbie Hardman
Cliff Sandberg

January 27

Reagan Mercer
Kayla Peterson
Abbie Siefken
John Tolrud

January 28

Nick Carlson
Leslie Richardson

January 29

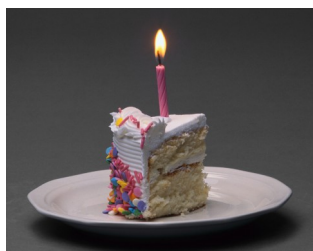
Joclyn Conrad
Dee McDorman

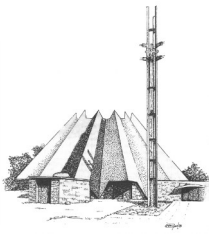
January 30

Elaine Keyes
JoeAnne Oberlander

January 31

Katie Conrad
Connie Johnson
Kim Sundal





Richland Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sundays at 8:30 AM

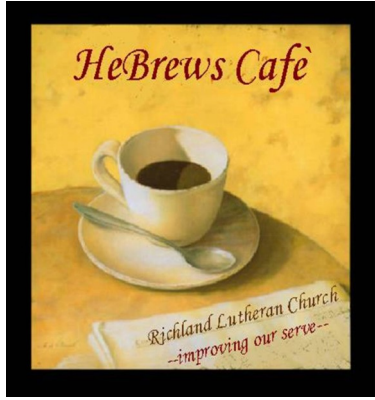
Worship with Holy Communion
Sundays at 11:00 AM

Worship with Holy Communion
Saturdays at 5:00 PM

*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

**Printed copies and 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 re-
freshed, 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.