



## Christmas Worship Services

**Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 PM:  
Sunday School Children's Christmas Program**



A poetic rendition of the Christmas story presented by the RLC Sunday School children.

*Children should report to their classrooms at 3:30 for costuming.*

*Please bring about a dozen of your favorite cookies to share at the reception following the program.*

*Rehearsal for elementary aged children will be Saturday, December 6, from 10:00—11:30 AM.*

**Christmas Eve  
Wednesday, December 24, 2014**

**4:00 PM  
A service specially for families  
with young children**

**5:30, 9:00, 11:00 PM  
Candlelight Worship**



Nursery is available at 4, 5:30 and 9 PM services.

**Christmas Day  
10:00 AM  
Worship with Holy Communion**

## Congregation Council

### **Council Members**

**Ben Barr**, Member at Large  
**Norm Gillette**, Member at Large  
**Sarah Hagensen**, Member at Large  
**Dave Larkin**, President  
**Rich Olsen**, Financial Officer  
**Don Schmid**, Member at Large  
**Joel Sorensen**, Secretary  
**Sandy Steele**, Vice President  
**Mike Strasburg**, Member at Large

### **Ex Officio Member**

**Pastor Steve Ernst**, Lead Pastor

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

## Staff

**Rev. Steve Ernst, Lead Pastor**  
Christian Service Ministry Lead  
pastor.steve@richlandlutheran.org

**Rev. Corey Smith, Associate Pastor**  
Spiritual Transformation Ministry Lead  
pastor.corey@richlandlutheran.org

**Rev. Dave Hogan, Associate Pastor**  
Visitation Ministry  
pastor.dave@richlandlutheran.org

**Joseph Farrar, Director of Music and Worship**  
Worship Ministry Lead  
joseph.farrar@richlandlutheran.org

**Debbie Stankovich, CCA, Director of Administration**  
Biblical Stewardship Ministry Lead  
debbie.stankovich@richlandlutheran.org

### **Open, Property and Grounds Coordinator**

**Kelly Westlund, Ministry Assistant for Christian Service**  
kelly.westlund@richlandlutheran.org

**Joanne Woehle, Ministry Assistant for Worship**  
joanne.woehle@richlandlutheran.org

**Lisa Wiegand, Ministry Assistant for Biblical Stewardship**  
lisa.wiegand@richlandlutheran.org

**Jenny Page, Ministry Assistant for Spiritual Transformation**  
jenny.page@richlandlutheran.org

## Member Directory Changes

MacLeod, Charles  
404 Wendy Lane  
Waverly, OH 45690

Miller, April  
1325 McPherson  
Richland 99354

Olsen, Nancy  
1459 Badger Mt.  
LoopRichland 99352  
628-9881

Sponholtz, Kyle & Kristi  
5769 W. 37<sup>th</sup> Pl.  
Kennewick 99338

Thompson, Floyd  
1745 Pike Ave.  
Richland 99354

*We welcome the new members who joined us in covenant membership on November 15:*

Barbara King  
651 McMurray St. #102  
Richland 99354  
578-1097

Danny Taasevigen  
1512 Crab Apple Circle  
W. Richland 99353  
375-6551 (w)

Whitney Rau  
1512 Crab Apple Circle  
W. Richland 99353

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## Pastoral Acts

**Baptisms**  
November 8 Marianna Myla Elise Quintero

**Weddings**  
None

**Memorial/Funeral**  
October 18 Shirley Riley  
November 23 Kay Mesford  
November 29 Cloyd Hardman

**Congratulations to those who confirmed their faith on November 2:** Kora Carter, Zeke Ernst, Madelaine Haynie, Lanae Hexum, Carlyle Keyes, Anna Lesser, Coley Levin, Mikayla Mars, Rhet McCullough, Adam Pilger, Willow Whitney, AJ Wiegand, and Kenny You

### The Preview

is published monthly by Richland Lutheran Church for members and friends of the congregation. *The Preview* is distributed free of charge. Please report address changes to 901 Van Giesen, Richland, WA 99354, call 509-943-3164, fax 509-943-5383, or e-mail office@richlandlutheran.org. Richland Lutheran Church grants permission for any original content (not a reprint) to be photocopied for noncommercial, local church, or personal use, provided the copies indicate the source is *The Preview*. For any other usage, advance permission must be obtained. Electronic versions of *The Preview* may be forwarded in their entirety for noncommercial, local church, or personal use as well.

## From Pastor Steve

DID YOU  
KNOW



DID YOU KNOW...Richland Lutheran Church packed and sent four hundred; yes that's **four hundred**, Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. That's one hundred more than we've ever done before. With your generous donations, the kids and youth of our congregation gathered to sort and pack these boxes which will now travel worldwide to bless other children with the gift of Christmas. We pray the recipients of these boxes receive the compassion and love of our Lord Jesus Christ along with their gifts!

DID YOU KNOW...As part of the monthly Congregation Council meeting from 8:00 to about 8:30 PM, the Council invites someone from the congregation to come speak about an area of ministry with which they are involved here at Richland Lutheran. This helps connect the Council to the heart and soul of our ministries and with the congregation who are involved in ministry and mission. This time given to emphasize ministry has become, to many, the highlight of our Council meetings. If you are involved in a ministry here at Richland Lutheran about which you are passionate please let the Council know for they'd love to hear from you. I know I can speak on their behalf to say we are appreciative of and are grateful for all of you who minister at Richland Lutheran in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



DID YOU KNOW...For many years now our very own Susan Miller has been coordinating an annual "Lutheran Advent and Christmas Concert?" That's right! And this year this concert will be held in our sanctuary. Most of the other Lutheran churches in the Tri-Cities will be joining us on Friday, December 12, at 7:00 PM to worship and praise Jesus Christ as we remember his incarnation, coming among us in the flesh. Choirs, musicians, vocalists, even you, will participate in gathering and worshipping Jesus the Savior who has come into the world. Please make plans to join us, you will be blessed you did. Thank you, Susan, for your dedication to this annual event and your ministry to our Lord!

DID YOU KNOW...Richland Lutheran Church hosts several Boy and Girl Scout programs at our facilities throughout the week? It's true! This year we've also added a Cub Scout group which meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. This last fall the Boy Scouts of America, Rattlesnake Ridge District Executive of the Blue Mountain Council (now that's a title!) visited our congregation asking us to partner with them to offer a Cub Scout troop for our community. This group would feed our already existing Boy Scout troop. We gladly accepted and now have an active Cub Scout troop meeting in our facilities on Tuesday evenings. If you're around on a Tuesday evening drop by and welcome these community kids to our church.



## Financial Report - October 2014

As reflected in the financial summary below, our financial results through October are reflecting a similar trend compared to our financial results in 2013. Our offerings are up \$22,560 or 3.8% higher than last year for the same period. Our expenses are up \$21,709 or 3.4% higher than the same time last year. For the year, our offerings are below expenses by \$(42,722) compared to (\$43,572) in 2013, a change from last year of \$851. These results are reflected in the columns titled "Prior Year Comparison".

	YTD - October			Prior Year Comparison		
	Actuals	Budget	Var O/(U)	2014	2013	Var O/(U)
Offerings / Income	\$ 609,404	\$649,320	\$(39,916)	\$ 609,404	\$ 586,844	\$ 22,560
Expenses	\$ 652,126	\$702,521	\$( 50,395)	\$ 652,126	\$ 630,417	\$ 21,709
Net Cash Flow	<u>\$(42,722)</u>	<u>\$(53,201)</u>	<u>\$ 10,479</u>	<u>\$(42,722)</u>	<u>\$(43,572)</u>	<u>\$ 851</u>

For the year, actual offerings are below budget by \$(39,916) and actual expenses are under budget by \$(50,395).

As a reminder, this year's approved budget is 9.8% higher than last year's actual offerings. For your reference, our average planned offerings/income per week is approximately \$16,150. Through the month of October, our actual weekly average of offerings/income is \$14,172, or (\$1,978) under plan per week.

If you have any questions regarding this financial summary, please contact Debbie Stankovich, Lisa Wiegand or me.

In His Service,  
Rich Olsen

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](mailto:debbie.stankovich@richlandlutheran.org).

## EEMN in Estonia

Have you ever thought about going on a mission trip?

East European Mission Network (EEMN) has a short-term mission trip to Estonia August 5 – 24, 2015. There will be two weeks of English Bible Camps. One week at Tartu and the second on the island of Saaremaa, where our sister church, Holy Jakob, is located. This will be the first time at Holy Jakob. At the Bible camps, the children are taught English using Bible stories. The camps are a full day, so the English lessons are broken up with time for crafts, music and recess time. Volunteers for this mission trip are needed to teach classes, lead craft time, music or activities/recess time. It would be good to have a group going from RLC. That would allow us to prepare as a group.

For additional information visit the website at <http://www.eemn.org/> or talk with Mot and Pam Hedges. Signup dead-line is January 31, 2015; however, Estonia has always been a popular mission trip so slots fill up quickly.

## *From the Council*

The season of advent is a very exciting time for children. As a mother of three young kids, I look forward to Christmas coming but, at the same time, cringe at the thought of the mess my house will go through following Christmas day. The mess in my house is not one that is isolated to the days following Christmas, however; it's a year round battle that we struggle with.

My kids are blessed with more toys than I enjoyed as a child. Unfortunately, having more isn't always better. Sometimes my kids struggle with finding a toy because it blends in with the rest of the mess. Other times they don't take care of their toys because they don't cherish what they have.

The Advent season, similar to my house, can be cluttered at times. In my family, we will have three different Christmas programs to go to and several gatherings with friends and extended family. Then there will be the dreaded Christmas gift shopping trips and extra trips to the store for special meals. Add that to our already busy schedule and life can be just crazy!

Compare this typical holiday hustle and bustle to the scene that took place over 2000 years ago. Jesus humbled himself to be born as a baby. The only fanfare that happened that night were angels announcing the birth of Jesus to lowly shepherds and a star that shone high in the sky that fulfilled prophecy and eventually led the Magi to Jesus at some time following his birth.

Keeping the Advent season from becoming a stressful time can be difficult. It is a choice we should make, despite the difficulty.

When Alan and I were first married, we would travel to my parents' and in-laws' houses to celebrate Christmas. Prior to having children, traveling wasn't as difficult and we were able to find a schedule that would allow equal time for both sides of the family, while juggling all our siblings' and parents' schedules and wishes. As the years went on and our family grew, the difficulty and stress continued to increase. Two years ago we made the choice that we would be home on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. We wanted to be with our church family on Christmas Eve. We wanted our kids to be able to wake up in their own beds and not have to worry about driving back and forth between different houses. Although there was some disappointment initially, making the choice to be at home for Christmas has been such a blessing for our family.

As we enter into Advent and prepare for Christmas, I encourage each of us to slow down. We are called to be salt and light to the world. In order to be salt and light we must be different than those who do not personally know Christ and the true reason we celebrate Christmas. Let us prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Lord's birth so that others can see Christ through us and we can bring glory to God in Heaven.

Sarah Hagensen, Member At Large

## **Lutheran Advent/Christmas Concert**

**On Friday, December 12, at 7:00 PM**

**RLC will host the annual Lutheran Advent/Christmas Concert.**

Each year the Lutheran churches in the area gather to celebrate the Advent and Christmas with anthems, carols and Scripture readings. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!



## Presidents' Perspectives

Seventy-six voters, about 17% of those eligible to vote, showed up for the Annual Meeting on October 26, 2014. If you missed the meeting, here is what was decided:

**Constitution Ratification** - Ratified previously approved Constitution amendments in the chapters on Membership and The Pastor.

**Bylaw Approval** - Approved two bylaw additions, C.11.04.02 and C11.04.03. The first requires the Council to develop a gift acceptance policy and requires a legal review whenever it is revised. The second bylaw authorizes Council to use Operating Reserve funds up to 10% of the approved budget to pay for unanticipated but necessary expenses. This is intended primarily to pay for emergency repairs that need immediate action. Council assures the congregation that this authority would be used very rarely.

**Nominating Committee** - Elected Karen Clark, Fred Kremmer, and Alyce Thompson to the Nominating Committee.

**Congregation Council** - Elected to two-year terms on the Congregation Council: Norm Gillette, Member at Large; Todd Maier, Member at Large; Sarah Hagensen, Member at Large; and Joel Sorensen, Secretary. Ben Barr will be ending his service on the Council after two terms and his participation will be missed. Thank you, Ben.

**Operating Budget** - Approved an Operating Budget for 2015 totaling \$837,000, compared to the budget of 2014 of \$840,000.

The 2015 budget assumes that our lay visitation ministers have received sufficient training and that our visitation program has been improved enough through Pastor Dave Hogan's efforts that it will not be necessary for him to continue in a paid staff position. Pastor Hogan has added immensely to our ministry and he has assured us that this is still his church and that he will continue to serve as a member. Council and staff are planning to provide an opportunity in January for all of us to thank him and Elaine for their ministry.

I also heard the congregation express their desire that our share of the budget going to benevolences increase to at least 10% of the total. I will be reminding Council of this desire when we begin planning the budget request for 2016.

**Professional Audit** - Approved funding a professional financial audit in 2015 for up to \$30,000 to be funded from Operating Reserves (currently totaling over \$285,000). Performing a professional audit at least every ten years is a recommendation of our Auditing committee.

This action passed by the smallest margin of all our actions so Council is reviewing the rationale and the cost for an audit. At our November meeting we invited a member of the 2014 Audit Committee to explain why the committee has recommended, for two years now, that a professional audit be performed at least every ten years. What we heard was that our committee members, while they have accounting knowledge, have never themselves worked professionally as auditors. Their concern is not that money has been inappropriately used or accounted for, but that a professional look at our financial controls is necessary periodically because of the size and complexity of our finances. Council will next look to see if an adequate audit can be performed for less cost before proceeding.

Dave Larkin – Congregation President

## Benevolence Thanks

Dear Friends at Richland Lutheran,  
Thank you so much for your generous check. We are very grateful!  
Most sincerely, Nita and Neil Todd and the **Luther Senior Center** Town Hall

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Dear Friends at Richland Lutheran,  
We at **The Master's Institute** are grateful for you! Your financial gifts and prayers keep this ministry moving forward. We are in a year of reorganization and we are hopeful that, with your continued support, we can meet our bold new expansion goals.  
Be Blessed in Christ, Pastor Per Nilsen

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Dear Richland Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your gift to the **Tri-City Union Gospel Mission!** Your support of the Mission is truly an answer to prayer. With it we can provide a hot meal for a lonely homeless man in our Men's Shelter. We can offer a safe night's sleep to a mother and her children in our Women and Family Shelter. And we can also give those in our recovery programs the chance to overcome drug and alcohol addictions.

For more than 60 years, the Tri-City Union Gospel Mission has been committed to changing lives by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Since our doors first opened in 1954, God has been working wonders in the lives of the down and out.

Last year because of faithful supporters like you, we were able to serve more than 79,200 meals and provide 40,100 safe shelter bed nights for men, women and children. We saw men and women break the cycle of homelessness and graduate from our New Life Program.

In Psalm 113:7 it is written, "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap." Our Lord is vitally concerned about those suffering in poverty. Thanks again for your thoughtful gift and for partnering with us to save lives. God bless you for caring!

In His service, Andrew J. Porter, Executive Director

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Dear Richland Lutheran,  
Within a few short weeks, we will begin construction on three homes in Pasco. This is exciting news for the nine families currently on the waiting list. Many of them have already completed their 500 hours of sweat equity, helping build the homes of other partner families. Most are so eager that they still plan to put in more hours so they can help build their own home.

Your contribution on 9/10/2014 helps make their home ownership dream a reality. Thank you for your generosity and partnership.

With gratitude, Rick Jansons, Executive Director - **Habitat for Humanity**

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Dear Richland Lutheran Church,  
Last month, I met with pastors and other leaders in India at training retreats that **VOM** provides to strengthen and encourage church leaders. In May these believers say a new government elected in their country - a government with the radical agenda of establishing a 100 percent Hindu nation.

We met pastors who face constant pressure and persecution. They are fined, arrested and repeatedly called into court or into the police station, pulled away from their ministry or the work they do to support their families.

I was encouraged by the boldness of these brothers and sisters. They know more persecution is coming, and they understand that the recent change in government is not in their favor. Yet they are not intimidated or turned away. "We'll probably get persecuted more," one pastor told me. "But we're standing strong."

Please pray for our family in India as they face increased persecution in the months to come. God is faithful to these precious gospel workers, and He has been faithful also to The Voice of the Martyrs. Thank you for your gifts, which allow us to stand with and strengthen these bold witnesses.

For those in bonds, Jim at **Voice of the Martyr**

## Free Agency

Baseball fans are aware that shortly after the World Series is ended, certain players - whose contracts have been completed - are declared to be free agents. These players find themselves no longer under contractual obligation. By the end of 2014, I have known for close to four months now, that I will be a pastoral free agent going into the 2015 ministry season. With the approval of the new church budget at the recent Annual Meeting: it's official that the position I've been privileged to fill at Richland Lutheran would no longer be funded. The nuances of timing for submitting written articles co-opted my ability to write this column until the December *Preview* (there is no amount of bribery I could have given under the table - or over the table, for that matter - which would have persuaded Ms. Kelly to wait *that* long after the submission deadline to get this published in November's issue.) I have a boffo column I would want to write for this Christmas month issue; but it will have to wait for another time: because I promised to write *this* column for the purpose of allaying any rumors and misunderstandings regarding the closure of my position.

There's an old cartoon that has a stammering, stuttering Porky Pig blurting out concerning himself: "I've been f-f-f-fi-fi-fi-fi-fire-fire-fire-fire...I've been canned!" We can laugh at that because it's Porky Pig, after all. In *real* life it's not funny for those suffering from speech impediments; and it's certainly not laughable to those who've lost their livelihood. So let me state clearly: I have *not* been fired/canned. The church has determined that it's reached the level where the laity can take control of the visitation program. When informed of this, I told Pastor Steve that I readily *agree* and *acquiesce*, because: 1) rightly or wrongly, the determinations of Christ's Church are an expression of the Lord's will (either His *declared* or His *permissive* will), and 2) I'm a strong believer in biblically constituted authority in the Church. So let's put any firing rumor to rest!

A second rumor I've already encountered is that I'm retiring. Now if you're talking about my personality, you might be right!! But if you're talking about retiring in terms of no longer working, you're very wrong. I was only employed for a half-time position (and we're *not* talking about only being employed during the half-time of some sporting event!) This made me semi-retired (even though I've never driven an 18-wheeler.) It's true, that going forward I will not receive monetary compensation from the congregation - nor be responsible for her visitation program; but it's *not* true that I've reached the end of my ministry for Christ in His kingdom or in this church. There are persons upon whom I'll call. I'll continue writing this column and a monthly Eucharistic devotional. I'll be available for pulpit supply, interim pastorates, intercultural ministries, funerals, pastoral counseling and consultation work, etc. I'll still do Thursday morning Bible study and teach adult Sunday school (I'm *not* retiring from all those l-o-n-g inspirational showers; and have three classes likely on the docket for 2015.) Suffice it to say, I *continue* as a licensed and ordained minister of the gospel. I'll no longer be a pastor *of* this congregation, but I *will* still be a pastor *in* this congregation.

The final rumor concerns the Hogans' ability to sustain themselves financially. I ask: who *else* should find themselves without compensation, but us? The Lord has *well* prepared us, by long (and many) experiences with Him in life and ministry, for days when Social Security is finally it. It's been a delightful *grace* from God to serve you these past several years as a pastor of this congregation. It came unsought, and now the Lord that gave, hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord! I pray there's been much fruit in lives through this privilege. Thank *you* for the high privilege of serving Him among and with you!! See ya in church!!!

Pastor Dave




# Operation Christmas Child - Thank You!!

# 400 Boxes!



## December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Play Date            12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group            4:30 PM Executive Committee            6:30 PM Bible Study with Bob Schmitt            7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            6:00 PM Praise Band            6:30 PM Cub Scouts            6:30 PM Facilities Building Committee            7:00 PM Boy Scouts            7:00 PM Outreach Team</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Worship            9:00 AM Good News Today            9:45 AM Education Hour/Hebrews Café            11:00 AM Worship            4:00 PM Children's Christmas Program            5:30 PM HS Discipleship Team            6:30 PM Coffeehouse            7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Play Date            12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group            1:30 PM Dorcas Circle            4:30 PM Executive Committee            6:30 PM Bible Study with Bob Schmitt            7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            6:00 PM Praise Band            6:30 PM Cub Scouts            6:30 PM Facilities Building Committee            7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Worship            9:00 AM Good News Today            9:45 AM Education Hour/Hebrews Café            9:45 AM Blood Pressure Checks            11:00 AM Worship            5:30 PM HS Discipleship Team            6:30 PM Coffeehouse            7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Play Date            12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group            4:30 PM Executive Committee            6:30 PM Bible Study with Bob Schmitt            7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            6:00 PM Praise Band            6:30 PM Cub Scouts            6:30 PM Facilities Building Committee            7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Worship            9:00 AM Good News Today            9:45 AM Education Hour/Hebrews Café            11:00 AM Worship            5:30 PM HS Discipleship Team            6:30 PM Coffeehouse            7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Play Date            12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group            4:30 PM Executive Committee            6:30 PM Bible Study with Bob Schmitt            7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            6:00 PM Praise Band            6:30 PM Cub Scouts            6:30 PM Facilities Building Committee            7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Worship            9:00 AM Good News Today            9:45 AM Education Hour/Hebrews Café            11:00 AM Worship            5:30 PM HS Discipleship Team            6:30 PM Coffeehouse            7:00 PM Haler/Worgull Growth Group            7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission Service</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Play Date            12:00 PM Mary Martha Growth Group            4:30 PM Executive Committee            6:30 PM Bible Study with Bob Schmitt            7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Staff Meeting            6:00 PM Praise Band            6:30 PM Cub Scouts            6:30 PM Facilities Building Committee            7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>

## December 2014

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Sewing Bee 1:00 PM Pastor Corey's Bible Study 2:00 PM Knitting Group 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner 6:30 PM Super Kids! 6:30 PM The Family Project 6:30 PM WILD! 6:45 PM Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Library Work 9:00 AM Pastor Dave's Bible Study 9:30 AM Ministry Leads 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Bulletin Assembly 6:00 PM AA Meeting 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Children's Program Rehearsal 4:30 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 5:00 PM Worship
<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Sewing Bee 1:00 PM Pastor Corey's Bible Study 2:00 PM Knitting Group 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner 6:30 PM Super Kids! 6:30 PM The Family Project 6:30 PM WILD! 6:45 PM Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Library Work 9:00 AM Pastor Dave's Bible Study 9:30 AM Ministry Leads 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Bulletin Assembly 6:00 PM AA Meeting 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> 4:30 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 5:00 PM Worship
<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Sewing Bee 1:00 PM Pastor Corey's Bible Study 2:00 PM Knitting Group 6:00 PM Family Night Dinner 6:30 PM Super Kids! 6:30 PM The Family Project 6:30 PM WILD! 6:45 PM Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Library Work 9:00 AM Pastor Dave's Bible Study 9:30 AM Ministry Leads 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Bulletin Assembly 6:00 PM AA Meeting 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	<b>20</b> 4:30 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 5:00 PM Worship
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  4:00 PM Worship 5:30 PM Worship 9:00 PM Worship 11:00 PM Worship	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  10:00 AM Worship	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Bulletin Assembly 6:00 PM AA Meeting 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	<b>27</b> 4:30 PM Mafraq Prayer Team 5:00 PM Worship
<b>31</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><b>The Richland Lutheran Church calendar changes daily!</b></p> <p>Please call the church office, 943-3164, or check the website, <a href="http://www.richlandlutheran.org">www.richlandlutheran.org</a>, for the most current information. Please note that not all activities, especially Growth Group meetings and Circles, are actually held at the church.</p> </div>		

## Welcome New Members

We welcomed new members, Barbara King, Danny Taasevigen and Whitney Rau, into covenant membership with us on Saturday, November 15, 2014.



Barbara King, and her Shepherd,  
LaVonne Scully

Danny Taasevigen and Whitney Rau,  
and their Shepherd, Judy Eller



Please be sure to give them a warm welcome and introduce yourself when you see them in worship!

All 2014 new members, please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 17. The New Members Team will host a special event to honor all our newest members and their Shepherds. Be watching for more information to come!



## Will You RSVP to the Invitation?

What would you say or think if your third-grade son, daughter or grandchild came home from Sunday school and proudly announced, “Mom, Dad, Grandma, I have an invitation to heaven?” Before you could say anything, they proclaim, “And I need to R.S.V.P.!”

“Wow” might be your response. Then, “gee honey what will you say?” Most eight year olds don’t speak French to know R.S.V.P means “*repondez vous sil vous plait*” (“Or would you respond please”). But they know this R.S.V.P. isn’t just for a kid’s birthday celebration, it’s to be with Jesus for eternity.

After you gather yourself from the floor and wipe away a proud tear for your child, you might remember Jesus said, “Unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Then the sobering memory hits you, Jesus wants us to become like little children too. Can we humble ourselves as children to R.S.V.P. and answer His call?

What a teachable moment for a third grader and for moms, dads, grandparents and friends that the invitation prompts such excitement. **“Yes, Lord, thank you for your invitation and for being my Savior. And can I be your follower and serve in your kingdom?”** The “invite” is there daily for our response. Will we excitedly respond like our eight-year-old or will we rely on His gift of grace to “punch” our kingdom ticket? Better yet, have we sent Jesus a R.S.V.P. promising to answer the Great Commission “to go and make disciples” or better also to be **“like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, (and) serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”** 1 Pet 4:10-11.

Last month our annual stewardship campaign, “Extravagant Generosity” kicked off with the sermon series (2 Corinthians 9:8-13) and continues into 2015. While our congregation’s financial needs are very important, stewardship includes **“whatever gift(s) each of you has received.”**

Let’s not forget, in addition to our treasure, **we also have valuable talents and precious time, both gifts** we may share with Extravagant Generosity. RLC’s volunteers in ministry are a giving and talented group who labor tirelessly in the “abundant harvest where the workers are few.” If you can volunteer your special gift or talent and/or give the church some time, you may be assured **“God....will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for His sake in serving the saints.”** Heb 6:10.

The invitation is there, all you need to do is R.S.V.P.

*(Post script, to give credit where due. Our long-serving (40 years), persevering and maybe, tired third-grade teacher (volunteer) in our Sunday school deserves credit for the R.S.V.P. story. He turned an eight-year-old’s excitement into a Godly moment for his class and the kingdom. Thank you Jim Perham.)*

Norm Gillette



## Activities for Kids



### **SUPER KIDS DECEMBER 2014**

- Dec. 3 - Solomon tells of Jesus' coming! (Psalm 72:1-19)
- Dec. 10 - An angel appears to Joseph! (Isa. 7:13-14; Matt. 1-18)
- Dec. 17 - Jesus is born! (Luke 1:1-20; Heb. 1:1-4) & Christmas Party!
- Dec. 24 - No Super Kids! But please join us for Christmas Eve worship at 4:00, 5:30, 9:00 or 11:00!
- Dec. 31 - No Super Kids! Happy New Year!

Admiral Awesome and Professor Peabody are excited to learn more about the birth of the Messiah — Jesus Christ!

Super Kids! is a Wednesday night ministry for children in 1st through 5th grades. Friends are always welcome to join us, and newcomers can jump in at any time! We meet from 6:30 to 7:45, immediately following the family dinner at 6:00 PM, in the Prince of Peace fellowship area. Worship and prayer, Bible lessons, scripture memorization, games, crafts, and lots of fun happen each week!

For more information, contact Jenny Page at 943-3164  
jenny.page@richlandlutheran.org



### **Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child!**

With your help, we were able to pack and ship **400 boxes!** We are also very grateful to Thrivent for their generous \$1000 donation towards this ministry!

As we hear back from Samaritan's Purse about the distribution locations of these boxes, we will update the map in the fellowship hall, and make announcements. In the meantime, please continue to pray for the recipients of the boxes that they will experience the love of Christ as expressed through these gifts.



### **RLC SKATE NIGHT**

Wednesday, January 21, 2015  
Richland Rollarena  
6:30-8:30 PM

*No dinner at church that night*  
Everyone of all ages is welcome!!



## Youth Activities

### Middle School!

Grades 6-8



- Dec. 3 - 2nd Annual WILD Winter Olympics!
- Dec. 10 - Leader Hunt! Meet @ RLC at 6:30 SHARP!
- Dec. 17 - White Elephant Christmas Party! Bring a gift (\$5 or less) to exchange and a snack to share
- Dec. 24 - No WILD! Please join us for Christmas Eve worship
- Dec. 31 - No WILD! Happy New Year!

All middle school students are encouraged to attend this mid-week ministry. Each week, we spend time together having fun and learning God's Word. WILD! plays a vital role in RLC's youth ministry by partnering with the middle school Sunday School class and confirmation retreats to help kids grow their relationships with each other and, more importantly, with Jesus Christ.

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM  
(immediately following the family dinner  
at 6:00)  
Meet in the Gloria Dei room  
*Friends are always welcome to attend!*

For more information, contact Ben Barr (509)  
948-0461

### 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 worshipping, playing, laughing, discussing, learning, praying...among other things! Friends are always welcome!

**Dec. 7:** Walmart Shopping Trip  
(Bring \$\$ to help buy items for UGM)

**Dec. 14:** Reindeer Games

**Dec. 21:** Christmas Party - bring a white elephant gift (\$5 or less) to exchange & a snack to share - (Location yet to be determined!)

**Dec. 28:** No Coffeehouse

# Worship Support

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Sunday December 7</i>	<i>Sunday December 14</i>	<i>Sunday December 21</i>	<i>Sunday December 28</i>
<i>Lectors</i>	8:30 AM	Dolores Jaech	Kathy Killand	Norm Gillette	Jim Salaba
	11:00 AM	Karen Clark	Elaine Keyes	Susan Schmieman	Sue Meek
<i>Acolytes</i>	8:30 AM	Adam Pilger Madeline Pilger	Garrett Streufert Robert Warren	Josh Mars Mikayla Mars	Kayla Peterson Colby Riensche
	11:00 AM	Blake Vopalensky Jennifer Williams	Carlyle Keyes Kenny You	Kjerstyn Jordheim Nathan Mitchell	Coley Levin Spenser Hoffner
<i>Ushers</i>	8:30 AM	H-Mike Schwartz Karen Schwartz A-Eunice Weible Gary Weible	H-Jon Erlandson Larry Corning A-Kiane Lesser John Lesser	H-Jim Peterson Fred Kremmer A-Larry Haler Mac Dixson	H-Karen Schwartz Mike Schwartz A-Chuck McCargar Sue McCargar
	11:00 AM	H-Carol Hexum Alan Hagensen A-Jean Loss Jim Loss	H-Jean Loss Jim Loss A-Janet Budzeck Rick Budzeck	H-Janet Budzeck Rick Budzeck A-Mike Strasburg Charles Rogers	H-Mike Bettinson Valerie Bettinson A-Kathy Snyder Rick Snyder
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	8:30 AM	Norm Gillette Sara Gillette Marge Hogue	Clarine Watkins Pam Hedges Kathy Killand	Jan Leitz Erlan Leitz Charles Davis *****	Clarine Watkins Charles Davis Elaine Davis *****
	11:00 AM	Karen Clark Heidi Dagle Jenny Page	Valerie Bettinson Mike Bettinson Jon Page	Jeff Sperline Amy Sperline Valerie Silva *****	Kelly Westlund Valerie Silva ***** *****
<i>Setup/Cleanup Communion</i>	Saturday 5:00 PM	Dave and Ann Brandes	Joanne Woehle	Nancy Ballard	Jim and Sue Worgull
<i>Cleanup/ Setup Communion</i>	Sunday After 8:30 AM	Lois Harrold Rick Nunamaker	Pamela Warren Rick Nunamaker	Mike and Mary Jo Schroeder	Carol Schmid
<i>Clean Up Communion</i>	After 11:00 AM	Jean Loss	Kelly Westlund	Doloros Erickson	Jean Loss
<i>Church Friends</i>	8:30 AM	Lois Harrold	Jim Worgull Sue Worgull	Carol Schmid	Norm Gillette Sara Gillette
	11:00 AM	Kathy Snyder Rick Snyder	Kelly Westlund	LaVonne Scully	Ann Brandes Dave Brandes
<i>Children's Church Leaders</i>	8:30 AM	Lori Lachut Jim Lachut	Michelle Clary Andy Clary	John Huebner Desiree Hall	Melissa Schmid Katie/Sarah Schmid
	11:00 AM	Pam Hedges Kira Westlund	Julie Bishop	Trina Miles Andrew Miles	
<i>Producer/ Audio Mix</i>	8:30 AM	Bob Thompson	Jim Moran	Larry Haler	Bob Thompson
<i>Tech Direc- tor/Live Stream Coordinator</i>	8:30 AM	Brian Killand	Mike Schwartz	Mike Stankovich	Jim Moran

# Worship Support

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Sunday December 7</i>	<i>Sunday December 14</i>	<i>Sunday December 21</i>	<i>Sunday December 28</i>
<i>Cameras</i>	8:30 AM	#1-Robert Warren #2-Ryan Warren	#1-Paul Hedges #2-Fred Kremmer	#1-Andrew Clark #2-Don Schmid	#1-Ken Meek #2-Larry Haler
<i>Editor/ Post Production</i>	8:30 AM	Karen Rogers	Bob Thompson	Mike Stankovich	Karen Rogers
<i>Sound System Operators</i>	8:30 AM	Chuck Richardson	Chuck Richardson	Chuck Richardson	Chuck Richardson
	11:00 AM	Jeff Dagle	Jeff Dagle	Jeff Dagle	Jeff Dagle
<i>Coffee Preparation and Cleanup</i>	8:30 AM	Sandy Steele	Patti Miller	****	****
	11:00 AM	*****	Kelly Westlund	****	****
<i>Offering Custodians</i>	Sat. 5:00	****	Rob Barr	****	****
	8:30 AM	Schwartz Weible	Larry Harrold Harold Hogue	Fred Kremmer Jim Peterson	Jon Erlandson Lois Harrold
	11:00 AM	Alicia Phaneuf Alan Hagensen	Rick Budzeck Bettinson	Jana Strasburg Mike Stankovich	Rick Snyder Rich Barchet
<i>Sat. Evening Worship Support</i>		Ann Brandes Dave Brandes	Diane Bonin, Chris Bonin, Joe Soldat, Kathy Barr	Debbie Hardman Scott Hardman	Kathy Barr Rob Barr
<i>Cashiers</i>		Judy Riggers Marge Hogue	Kathy Snyder Lori Hogan	Judy Riggers Janet Budzeck	Nancy Ballard Debbie Honeyman *****
<i>Recycle</i>		Karen Schwartz	Susan Schmieman	Karen Clark	John Lesser
<i>Flowers</i>		Nancy Ballard	Barb Westlund	Glasfords	

Please check over the schedule carefully. If you cannot serve when you are scheduled, please trade with someone or find a substitute for yourself and let the church office know.

\*\*\*\* indicates an available service opportunity. If you can fill in, please let the church office know.

## Worship Support for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24</i>	<i>Christmas Day Thursday, December 25 10:00 AM</i>
<i>Lectors</i>	4:00 PM 5:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM.	Sue Meek Dolores Jaech Norm Gillette Len Ross	Dolores Jaech
<i>Communion Assistants</i>		No communion	Charles Davis Elaine Davis
<i>Acolytes</i>	<u>4:00 PM</u> Crucifer Torch Bearers Acolytes  <u>5:30 PM</u> Crucifer Torch Bearers Acolytes  <u>9:00 PM</u> Crucifer Torch Bearers Acolytes  <u>11:00 PM</u> Crucifer Torch Bearers Acolytes	Daniel Miles Jennifer Williams/Sophia Fetrow Andrew Miles/Garrett Streufert  Conner Budzeck Kjerstyn Jordheim/Adam Pilger Madeline Pilger/Mason Ciolli  Zeke Ernst Katie Schmid/Sarah Schmid Nathan Ernst/*****  Jack Page Woody Page/Nathan Salyer Andy Clark/Nathan Lipton	Carlyle Keyes and Rhet McCullough  Christmas Communion Setup/Cleanup *****
<i>Ushers</i>	4:00 PM  5:30 PM  9:00 PM  11:00 PM	H-Chuck McCargar Sue McCargar A-Jenifer Haler Larry Haler  H-Jon Erlandson Fred Kremmer A-***** *****  H-Kathy Snyder Rick Snyder A-Eunice Weible Gary Weible  H-***** ***** A-***** *****	Fred Kremmer Gary Weible
<i>Church Friends</i>	4:00 PM 5:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM	***** ***** Norm and Sara Gillette Kelly Westlund	Norm and Sara Gillette
<i>Sound System Operators</i>			*****
<i>Offering Custodians</i>	4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.	Fred Kremmer/Alan Hagensen Jon Erlandson/Harrod ***** Kelly Westlund	Weible/Snyder



# Anniversaries & Birthdays

## ANNIVERSARIES

**December 2**  
Alesia & Bruce Chaney

**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**  
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

## BIRTHDAYS

**December 1**  
Zeke Ernst  
Karen Filipy  
Howard, Chloe  
Mike Striefel

**December 2**  
Janet Budzeck  
Patti Miller

**December 3**  
Evan Bratvold  
Norm Lippert  
Paul Vopalensky

**December 4**  
Jamie Carroll  
Kjerstyn Jordheim  
Janice Vesper

**December 5**  
Andrew Miles  
Kendra Prothero

**December 6**  
Tyler Salyer  
Joy Stuenkel

**December 7**  
Nathan Mitchell  
Debbie Stankovich

**December 8**  
Bret Cole  
Ethyl Somerville

**December 10**  
Janice Fulton

**December 11**  
Melissa Bratvold  
Laurel Palmblad  
Hal Stivers

**December 12**  
Rick Nunamaker

**December 13**  
Nathan Ernst  
Carlyle Keyes

**December 14**  
Bill Frame  
John Hooks  
Kathy Hooks  
Carole Siefken  
Richard Siefken  
Drew Snyder  
Spinato, Summer

**December 15**  
Sharon Koehling  
Joel Sorensen

**December 17**  
Aiden Lesser  
Cody McCargar  
Jerry Weldon

**December 18**  
Barbara Edwards  
Andrew Meek

**December 19**  
Jeremy Bender  
Dawn Finger  
Chuck Long  
Sande Tackett  
Kelly Westlund

**December 20**  
Bill Bishop  
Alexa Bond  
Madelyn Palmblad  
Stacey Gunderson  
Sue Long

**December 22**  
Eleanora Bishop  
Anita Schmidt

**December 23**  
Jay Petty  
Karen Williams

**December 25**  
Cheri Thomas

**December 26**  
Ann Ledezma  
Julianna Monroe  
Jacob Van Sant  
Maya Wunschel

**December 27**  
Carolyn Phaneuf  
Frances Sleater

**December 28**  
Rhett Levin  
Marilyn Schumacher  
Gerald Whitney

**December 29**  
Calvin Dudley  
Lisa Frislie  
Vicki Glasford  
Brian Killand  
Logan Riensche

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



**Richland Lutheran Church, LCMC**  
901 Van Giesen  
Richland, WA 99354

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



### **Worship Schedule**

**See Christmas Worship Schedule on front page**

**Traditional Worship with Holy Communion**  
Sundays at 8:30 AM

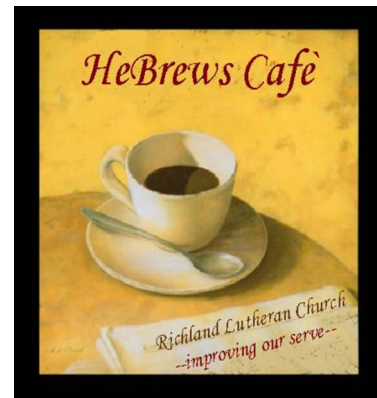
**Worship with Holy Communion**  
Sundays at 11:00 AM

**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

**Audio files of sermons are available on the website:  
[www.richland-lutheran.org](http://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.***

***Equipping. Empowering. Encouraging.***

***We are a congregation of Christ followers who are making Jesus Christ known to all people and advancing His Kingdom.***