



THE PREVIEW

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE, AND STEWARD

Sanity Night "Live!"

Adults with kids at home:

Join us for

Sanity Night "Live!"

on

alternating Thursdays

at 8:00 PM

April 30 ○ **May 14** ○ **May 28**

An informal chat, check-in, and connection time with other adults from RLC who are doing this #StayHomeStaySafe thing with KIDS!



RLC Family Ministry Facebook Page



Families, are you on our new **RLC Families Facebook Page?**

If not, search "**Richland Lutheran Church Family Ministry**" on Facebook and request to join.

We need connection and community right now, maybe more than ever! Come join the conversations.

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Congregation Council

Council Members

Sandy Steele, President

Jenifer Haler, Vice President

Bill Peterson, Financial Officer

Janet Budzeck, Secretary

Diane Bonin, Member-At-Large

Jim Honeyman, Member-At-Large

Fred Kremmer, Member-At-Large

Kiane Lesser, Member-at-Large

Valerie Silva, Member-At-Large

Ex Officio Member

Pastor Steve Ernst, Lead Pastor

Minutes of Council meetings are available on the website.

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Directory Changes

Deaths:

Bea Skinner - 3/28/20

Leah Johnson - 3/28/20

Pastoral Acts for

Baptisms

None

Weddings

John Lesser & Taylor Berzett - April 1, 2020

Memorials/Funerals

None

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The Preview

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The Gospel of America or the Gospel of Jesus Preview Series From Pastor Steve, Lead Pastor



The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

*‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.*

*⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’*

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

⁹ And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ ¹¹ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)— ¹² then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. ¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.” – Mark 7:1-13

In January 2016, four years ago, I led a Sunday morning Bible Study entitled, *The Gospel of America or the Gospel of Jesus: What Informs and Influences You?* We all know what the Gospel of Jesus is, the Good News we are saved by grace through faith. This Gospel is the one and only true Gospel. By the Gospel of America, I mean the erroneous obscuring or synchronizing of the Gospel of Jesus with American culture. What we’re talking about here is contextualization; translating the never-changing Gospel of Jesus into an ever-changing, dynamic culture which is necessary and important work. However, there are two dangerous pitfalls to contextualization; obscurantism and syncretism.

Obscurantism is obscuring the Gospel of Jesus by emphasizing things that are actually external to the Gospel as being central to it. An example of obscurantism is proclaiming something like, “One cannot be a Christian unless they are zealously conservative and a Republican.” Believe me, I’ve heard it. Christian author Ed Stetzer writes,

As Christians, we must be careful not to obscure the gospel for the sake of an idea or truth that is less important. Your view on the Affordable Care Act or the next election may seem important to you; but maybe it shouldn’t reach the level where you need to post on it three times a day and question the motives of people on other side, particularly in the name of your faith. You can go ahead and complain on Facebook about who shut down the government if you’d like, but you might just unknowingly shut down a much more important conversation.

Syncretism is synchronizing the Gospel of Jesus with something else such that they become a different gospel. An example of Syncretism is proclaiming something like, “The American Founding Fathers, as representatives of God, entitle me to the pursuit of happiness.” Again, I’ve heard this. The problem here is that the Gospel of Jesus promises no such thing. In fact, the converse is true. The Gospel of Jesus promises persecution, grief, sorrow, suffering, and cross bearing. The mixing of the two Gospels constitutes the error of syncretism, which is one of the pitfalls of contextualization.

Let’s take a Biblical example from the Gospel of Mark, the seventh chapter. Jesus was dealing with the same contextualization pitfalls as we do. The Pharisees had fallen into both pitfalls which show themselves in Mark 7. In verses 1-7, the religious leaders are pressing Jesus on ritual washing chiefly saying, “If you don’t wash, you don’t follow God!” They were obscuring the Gospel by em-

Continued on Page 4

What informs and influences YOU, the Gospel of America or the Gospel of Jesus?

What to do, What to do...

From Pastor Corey, Associate Pastor



Pastor Corey shares part of his personal reading list for his "Stay Home Stay Safe" time. What are you reading?

As I write this, we are still in "stay home, stay safe" mode, which is a mode we have not been in before. I have found myself strangely busy during these times in my makeshift office (aka the spare bedroom). I keep regular hours as though I was working from my office at the church building, but during breaks and before I head into the spare room...I mean my new office...I have been reading quite a bit more than usual. In my doctoral class, I am reading a book by a man named Bayer about a man from the 18th century, named Johann Hamann. I wouldn't necessarily recommend it unless you want to spend exorbitant amounts of time rereading and attempting to fully grasp its content. Not to say it's not good stuff—it is extremely thought provoking—but it is not for casual reading.

So, what else have I been reading? At night in bed, I've been reading through the Harry Potter books. I know, why have I waited so

long. They're not really my typical genre, but I thought I'd give it a go. They're fun and the story of good triumphing over evil never gets boring. In the morning in bed, I've begun reading *The Office: The Untold Story of the Greatest Sitcom of the 2000s: An Oral History*. It's nice to begin the day with a few laughs. From there I get up, make some coffee, and meet with Jesus in His Word (which is by far the best book I read all day) before I begin working. There are a few others I've been reading in between waking, working and bedtime that I'd like to recommend...

First, *The Gift of Forgiveness* by Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt (yes, that's Arnold's daughter and Starlord's wife). She interviewed over twenty people who have faced hardships in life, but discovered forgiveness to be the key to their survival. She is a believer, but not so with everyone she interviewed, which

makes many of the stories truly fascinating. The stories will make you laugh and cry and remind you of the great need for forgiveness in our own lives.

Second, *New Life in Christ* by Steven Lawson. This book delves into the realm of what it means to be born again in Christ. It's an event in a believer's life that is of utmost significance, yet many struggle to describe what it is, why it happened, and what the result is. Dr. Lawson explores this with his conversational style and deep insight.

So, this is what I've been reading during the pandemic. I hope you are finding this time to be fruitful and not just frustrating. God has given us this time for a reason. Maybe this is a perfect opportunity to broaden your mind with a good book (probably not Hamann though!).

From Pastor Steve, Continued

phasizing ceremonial washing and Jesus says, "You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions." This serves as a good example of obscurantism.

In verses 9-13 Jesus shifts gears and accuses the religious leaders of syncretism, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" The leaders were encouraging people to neglect their parents and give instead to God, "If you devote money to God (Corban) you don't need to

care for father and mother." Jesus concludes, "Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

I suggest we are not all that different. After all, we too are human and are also susceptible to contextualization errors. Hence, the Gospel of America is born. In the next few months, likely longer, I will be writing a series of articles for the Preview regarding the Gospel of America and the Gospel of Jesus. Some of the topics

we'll dive into include, submitting to authorities, how to care for widows, orphans and the needy, how do we treat our enemies, what are our "rights" and "liberties," and other important topics. I hope you will dedicate some time to consider such things and how we might have substituted the Gospel of America for the Gospel of Jesus.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

President's Message: "But Take Heart" From Sandy Steele, Congregation President

"I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world." Matthew 16:33 (MSG)

We've certainly been on a strange journey over these last couple of months; one that will not be forgotten. As I write this, my hope is that we're soon on the down side of this COVID pandemic and returning, albeit slowly, to some kind of normalcy, however that may look. I don't know about you, but it has certainly caused me to take a breath and contemplate life and God. This I know. He is bigger than this pandemic that has consumed our lives and He is bigger than the trail it will leave behind. And, for that, I am grateful. So, let our faith also be bigger than the fear that surrounds us tempting us to turn from our true Protector and towards some false security. You and I know we're not in this alone. God has never left; He is still with us! He's getting us through this and He'll get us through the aftermath, making us better and stronger.

We are, by now, very familiar with what has rapidly become a household word – "essential". Let's talk a bit about this single, 9-letter word. I re-

cently saw this posting on Facebook, "*When the dust settles, we will realize how little we need, how very much we actually have and the true value of human connection.*" I would add to that, "*and the true value of God connection*". God is at work in all things and He is at work in this. So, I wonder what God may be doing? Is He using this "pandemic" to move us into shedding those things that are keeping us from Him; into taking a close look at what in our lives is truly "essential" and what is not? We should be pretty good at that by now. I ask you this: What in your life is truly "essential"? Once we come out on the other side of this journey (and we will), what have you learned from it? What can you let go of that you don't really need and is distracting you from God? And, if you find you're unable to let some of those things go, perhaps you can ask Him to help you slow down your inner person enough to focus on Him even in the midst of your busyness. Take time to relax, breathe, and spend time with Jesus!

I'll let you ponder that while I take a slight detour to share with you some of the happenings at RLC. We've found ourselves in a very different role taking us into very interesting (to say the least) decision-making

times. We have been and continue to be in "uncharted territory" and the route changes by the day (sometimes by the hour) resulting in not-so-easy, fast-paced decisions. We were right on the verge of some long-awaited, already scheduled events and projects when our lives were abruptly interrupted with this Coronavirus "thing" bringing them to an abrupt (temporary) halt - the Retreat Center Funds vote, sanctuary lighting, and demolition of the adjacent property houses. This was done to comply with the Governor's "Stay at Home" orders and to help slow down the spread of the virus. Thank you to all, especially to those directly involved, for your support and understanding during these trying times. And, do not despair! These things will happen – just not in our preferred time but certainly in God's perfect time.

Many of you are painfully aware that this virus threat brings along financial struggles and Richland Lutheran Church is no exception. Our giving has dropped significantly and will possibly continue to do so for some time. We (Thank you, Lisa!) have been working with the bank and other agencies seeking government assistance through the new CARES Act which, if

"Jesus is bigger than this pandemic that has consumed our lives and he is bigger than the trail it will leave behind."

Reaching Out to Others

From Bill Peterson, Finance Officer

Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

As I write this, we were to be celebrating our retirements, an early anniversary, and a late birthday for Sue on the cruise ship VIKING STAR. We were all set to look up my father’s side of the family outside of Stockholm Sweden and then cruise the Baltic and North Sea area. We were going to visit Helsinki, St Petersburg, Tallinn, Gdansk, Berlin, Copenhagen, Alborg, Stavanger and Bergen! What a trip of a life time...only to be overcome by a virus that had us scrambling to cancel and work through the processes of airline and cruise vouchers and refunds! Not what we had planned as we sit at home abiding by the stay at home order to stop the Coronavirus from spreading.

It was hard at first to grasp the mass change in life rhythms that has descended on everyone. The reality of the situation hits home as we see all the devastation that the virus has wreaked. We pray for our family and friends as the sheer numbers of those infected and succumbing to the deadly virus mount. This pandemic is for real! The epidemiologists are correct social distancing and working from home can slow its advance keeping most of us safe. We can’t stay in perpetual isolation as life and liveli-

hoods must continue.

I used to think when I departed on a three-month Alaskan Patrol (ALPATS) that I would miss my family and friends, but I had a job to do. Back then we had no way to communicate with loved ones unless we pulled into port and could get a landline to phone home...not many phones or mail buoys in the middle of the Bering Sea! We lived on 378 feet of Cutter that housed approximately 150 personnel and our helicopter. Tight quarters and no way for social distancing unless I was airborne! If we pulled into port, we would send mail but would only receive mail if we had a planned port call at Adak or Dutch Harbor which generally happened once during a patrol. It made for long days and nights especially as the weather fronts and sea states would continuously pummel the ship. I learned to stay busy with reading 8-10 books, reading the Bible, studying my flight manual, flying when we could, and then helping out with the fishing vessel boardings and paper work. It made life easier as I purposely did not isolate and turn inward. Looking out for only oneself was a mistake that a lot of aviation detachments made. I see similarities in my situation on the ALPATS and our situation now.

We need to resist the temptation to become self-absorbed and callous. We and we alone do have con-

trol over our anxiety levels...I am not saying there isn’t risk, there is, however we don’t need to totally isolate ourselves. We can stay positive and make this time at home productive and worthwhile.

We have many avenues to communicate with others as an outlet to our anxiety.

We should reach out and find ways to help others. It is a time to add extra kindness to all our interactions. Reach out and communicate to those in your network, and then step out of your comfort zone and reach out to others. Reach out to that neighbor that you really don’t know; to the teacher who really connected with you; to that mentor who you lost touch with; to the coach who willed you to be the best you could; to the pastor or lay leader that really helped you connect with God; to the music teacher who really taught you what music really is...the list is infinite. Quell your fears and anxiety with outreach and communication, don’t isolate and let anxiety overtake you. Reach out and touch someone’s life in this time of chaos.

Take care and stay healthy.

Shalom,
Bill

Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Face Masks

Thank you for all
you do to keep
others safe!

Many of our RLC members, as well as members of the RLC Sewing Bee, have been making masks to aid in keeping people safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you or any of your loved ones need a mask, please contact Bonnie Harris at Bonnie@harris.net and she will get them to you.



Thank you so much to all those who have given their time and supplies to make face masks and more for our congregation members and health care providers in our community!! We appreciate you!

RLC Financial Snapshot

March Financials

Income	Budget	Expenses	Deficit	% of Budget
\$202,608	\$225,259	\$243,301	\$40,693	108%

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Peterson, Finance Officer, or Lisa Wiegand, Ministry Assistant for Biblical Stewardship.

Christian Education Scholarships

It is with regret that we inform you that RLC’s Council made the decision at April’s meeting to delay scholarship applications and awards until such time as both match a new, developing policy that aligns with Richland Lutheran Church’s mission statement - “*We are Christ followers making disciples who worship, grow, serve, and steward.*”

This was a difficult decision and was not made lightly. We know this comes at an unfortunate time for our graduating seniors who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We love and appreciate our graduates and want to assure you that Council and Staff are considering ways of recognizing and honoring them.

We thank you for your continued support.

RLC Congregation Council

May 2020		
Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Children's Church/Sunday School via YouTube 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 10:00 AM Worship via Live Stream 3:00 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 6:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom 6:30 PM Umbarger/Underwood Small group via Zoom</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00 PM Mary Martha Bible Study via Zoom 2:00 PM Facebook Live Update 5:00 PM Executive Committee via Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 AM Staff Meeting via Zoom 10:30 AM Nominating Committee via Zoom 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Children's Church/Sunday School via YouTube 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 10:00 AM Worship via Live Stream 3:00 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 6:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom 6:30 PM Umbarger/Underwood Small group via Zoom</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00 PM Mary Martha Bible Study 2:00 PM Facebook Live Update</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 AM Staff Meeting via Zoom 10:30 AM Nominating Committee via Zoom 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 7:00 PM Congregation Council via Zoom</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Children's Church/Sunday School via YouTube 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 10:00 AM Worship via Live Stream 3:00 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 6:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom 6:30 PM Umbarger/Underwood Small group via Zoom</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00 PM Mary Martha Bible Study 2:00 PM Facebook Live Update</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 AM Staff Meeting via Zoom 10:30 AM Nominating Committee via Zoom 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM Children's Church/Sunday School via YouTube 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 10:00 AM Worship via Live Stream 3:00 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 6:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom 6:30 PM Umbarger/Underwood Small group via Zoom</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day— Offices Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 AM Staff Meeting via Zoom 10:30 AM Nominating Committee via Zoom 1:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 5:00 PM Christian Service MALT via Zoom</p>
<p>31 Pentecost</p> <p>9:00 AM Children's Church/Sunday School via YouTube 9:00 AM Good News Today—KVEW TV 10:00 AM Worship via Live Stream 3:00 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 6:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom 6:30 PM Umbarger/Underwood Small group via Zoom</p>		<p>Remember to join Pastor Steve and Amanda Daniels, and sometimes special guests, on Facebook Live on Mondays and Thursdays for a topical discussion and announcements.</p>

May 2020			
Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>6</p> <p>1:00 PM Pastor Corey's Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 PM Praise Team via Zoom 5:30 PM Super Kids! via Zoom 6:30 PM GriefShare via Zoom 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 8:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:30 AM Prayer for the Church via Zoom 12:00 PM Outreach Team via Zoom 2:00 PM Facebook Live Updates 5:00 PM Steel Small Group via Zoom</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 PM Missions Prayer via Zoom</p>
		<p>8</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 PM Missions Prayer via Zoom</p>
<p>13</p> <p>1:00 PM Pastor Corey's Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 PM Praise Team via Zoom 5:30 PM Super Kids! via Zoom 6:30 PM GriefShare via Zoom 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 8:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30 AM Prayer for the Church via Zoom 2:00 PM Facebook Live Updates 5:00 PM Steel Small Group via Zoom 8:00 PM Sanity Night "Live" via Zoom</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:00 PM June Preview Article Deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 PM Missions Prayer via Zoom</p>
<p>20</p> <p>1:00 PM Pastor Corey's Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 PM Praise Team via Zoom 5:30 PM Super Kids! via Zoom 6:30 PM GriefShare via Zoom 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 8:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:30 AM Prayer for the Church via Zoom 2:00 PM Facebook Live Updates 5:00 PM Steel Small Group via Zoom</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 PM Missions Prayer via Zoom</p>
<p>27</p> <p>1:00 PM Pastor Corey's Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 PM Praise Team via Zoom 5:30 PM Super Kids! via Zoom 6:30 PM GriefShare via Zoom 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group via Zoom 8:00 PM High School Youth Group via Zoom</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:30 AM Prayer for the Church via Zoom 11:30 AM Worship MALT via Zoom 2:00 PM Facebook Live Updates 5:00 PM Steel Small Group via Zoom 8:00 PM Sanity Night "Live" via Zoom</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 AM Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 PM Missions Prayer via Zoom</p>

Men's Ministry Update: Spring Retreat Rescheduled

From Norm Gillette

Men of Richland Lutheran, how are you doing staying at home?

The live streams of worship and devotionals from church are great to deal with this “new situation” we are in. Still, it’s sad we cannot commune together in fellowship, and renew our spiritual hopes with friends and associates.

April 18 was to have been a men’s breakfast, but that was not possible and for some of us we haven’t been together since January or February when we last “broke bread” together in the Prince of Peace fellowship hall for break-

fast.

The Men’s Spring Retreat has been rescheduled for September 19, at the church, due to the need for continued social distancing.

Full details for the schedule will be coming at a later time, but here’s the basics: We’ll have a continental breakfast on Saturday at 8:30 AM, and then two retreat sessions, with a break, until a light lunch at 12 noon. We will continue with sessions in the afternoon, adjourning by 3 PM. Hopefully, we can have a closing session in the sanctuary with communion together, which

would be a treat since we’ve been “apart” for a while.

The retreat leader will be Dan Wodrich, Executive Director of **Flourish Mid-Columbia**, who was our speaker last year at Stonewater Ranch.

We pray we come out of this pandemic shut down soon and we can get back to uplifting spiritual words and prayers soon, and for the remainder of the year. We are blessed that our Pastors, staff and church ministry leaders are committed to help keep us close to our Triune God’s presence in our lives and church.

Mark your calendar for the Men’s Retreat on September 19!

What Has Attending Worship and Fellowship Via Live-Stream, YouTube and FB Live Meant to You?

From Kelly Westlund, Ministry Assistant for Christian Service

We’ve heard from many of our members and members of the community how much they have appreciated our live-stream worship services and other ways the RLC staff has tried to keep everyone connected and in communication—from emails, and notices on the RLC mobile app, to YouTube videos, devotions, and Facebook Live sessions. We wanted to share some of these messages with you as a way of saying thank you for the encouragement and kind words. We are grateful to you for the way you have participated in our various online activities and hope that you have found inspiration for growth in your spiritual life, and maybe even shared it with others!

We received this message from an anonymous phone call from Yakima, WA:

“I’m calling this morning in regard to your beautiful service you are having every Sunday morning. I enjoy watching it very much. Keep up with your music, and your beautiful service that you have. I just enjoy watching you every Sunday morning.”

In a conversation I had with Marilyn Schumacher on the phone, she commented that they really enjoy the service every Sunday and appreciate Pastor Corey’s music so much. Jim Salaba has also commented that being able to watch “Good News Today” on KVEW TV has been a blessing for him each week, and he so appreciates that option.

Continued on page 14

President's Message, Continued

approved, will allow RLC to continue operating without too much disruption through this challenging time. The applications have been completed and submitted and, as of this writing, we await word of approval. In the meantime, please continue your practice of giving. As we were recently reminded, "giving" is one of the spiritual disciplines that is part of being a believer in Christ. Although you are unable to give in person, RLC offers alternate methods through "Pushpay" or you can write a check and mail it to the church office. If you need direction for setting up an online "Pushpay" account, I invite you to call the church office and assistance will be provided. Some of you have mailed in your donations only to have them returned to you. We believe we now have that little problem corrected so if you're one of those, we thank you and ask that you put it back in the mail and try again. It should work this time.

Even difficult times can bring new, exciting adventures. Many of us have now been introduced to creative methods (otherwise known as "technology") that allow us to continue a semblance of life at RLC. We enjoy live-streaming worship along with the ability to fellowship, worship together, and share holy communion using Zoom. We now have Facebook live sessions with Pastor Steve, Amanda, and others keeping us in touch and informed; Council meetings, staff meetings,

and small groups continue - all via Zoom. Though we are apart we are together. We are showing the world that the Church is not about buildings after all, but about people. Praise God!

My heart is full of thanks, appreciation, and praises. First, kudos to Pastor Steve and staff! This has been a very busy and trying time for these faithful servants of God. As I sat in the room when the initial decision was made to suspend all in-person activities, including worship services, I witnessed the struggle in each person - spoken and unspoken. God's Holy Spirit was at work and He was very pleased as they came together as one quickly developing a very caring and loving plan. And, as the days progressed and we found ourselves taking even more restrictive measures, I observed the unselfish, loving, caring, relentless leadership with which God has blessed us here at RLC. Thank you, Pastor Steve, for fearlessly leading the charge and thank you to staff for taking up the baton and running with it during this unprecedented time - your technological creativity; helping those of us who are not gifted in that area; keeping us connected and informed, and much more. We love you! We appreciate you! And, we thank God for you!

Thank You, Executive Committee and Council,

for your support during this difficult and unprecedented time. These fast-paced changes that we've all been experiencing over the last few weeks have given us little or no time to follow normal protocol. I appreciate you and thank you for your support. You are truly a blessing as God's Holy Spirit continues working through each of you. And, I thank God for you!

And, thank you, Congregation. We know this has been a trying time for you as well. I thank each of you for your continued and prayerful support in the decisions and actions that have taken place in an effort to protect our staff and each of you. I love the way you've stepped up and out for each other and for Jesus - staying in touch with your church family, making and donating masks, donating food and other articles; and the list goes on. RLC is, indeed, a church of love for Christ and others. We love you; we pray for you; and we, in turn, covet your prayers. Thank you, All! Thank You, God!!

We have never seen or experienced a thing such as this in our lifetime and hope to never see again. But, as God is getting us through this, I'd like to think that He is also growing us in the process. That is the greatest gift and blessing of all!!

*"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."
Romans 8:28
(NKJV)*

Activities for Kids



Super Kids !

Super Kids! is looking a little different this spring, but that doesn't mean we're not still active! We meet every Wednesday at 5:30 PM via Zoom! And, Chadder and Miss Jenny have set up a YouTube channel to share videos with the kids during this time of virtual gatherings. Watch the RLC Families Facebook group for special announcements regarding Super Kids!

Super Kids will continue to meet weekly for the foreseeable future, and will not be taking a break as in the past during the summer months.

And, Super Kids, you're always welcome to call or FaceTime Miss Jenny or Chadder on the phone if you'd like to chat!



For more information, please contact Jenny Page.
(JennyPageRLC@gmail.com)

For more information about activities for kids, contact Jenny Page!

Sunday School and Children's Church

Sunday School & Children's Church!

Sunday School and Children's Church videos are available on the RLC Children & Family Ministry YouTube channel.

New videos are posted weekly and available by about 9:00 AM on Sundays. Videos are appropriate for pre-school and elementary aged children.

Simply go to YouTube.com and search for: RLC Children & Family Ministry. Or in your browser window, type:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckMIcoRc3e8jnHgaaPFW_oA

As we continue to chug through this unusual time of social distancing and staying at home, it is unclear what **Vacation Bible School** looks like for 2020. Several options are currently being prayerfully considered, and as guidelines for large group gatherings become more clear for the summer months, decisions will be made regarding this ministry.

Please keep the VBS team and the Spiritual Growth MALT in prayer as they work through this situation.



Activities for Middle School Youth

**Who doesn't need some fun right now?
Come "hang out" with us ONLINE at
(Virtual) Middle School Youth Group
on Zoom**

Wednesdays - 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Sundays - 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Zoom Meeting # is 801 602 3197
every time! No password, but there is a waiting room, so
make sure your name is recognizable as you!

Questions? Contact Amanda!

For more
information about
youth and family
activities, contact
Amanda Daniels!

Activities for High School Youth

Social distance doesn't have to mean social isolation!

(Virtual) High School Youth Group

on Zoom

Sunday nights from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

(with extended "hanging out" after)

AND

Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM!

Zoom Meeting # is 801 602 3197
every time! No password, but there is a waiting room, so
make sure your name is recognizable as you!

Questions? Contact Amanda!

Operation Christmas Child Request for May: Medium-sized Gifts



Playdough® (consider including small plastic cookie cutter), dolls, small stuffed animals, picture books, coloring books, soccer balls (deflated, include small hand pump & needles), Lego® sets, make-it-yourself craft kits, jump ropes, foam balls, costume items (crowns, costume jewelry), toy figures, yo-yos, kaleidoscopes, slinkys, small frisbees®, small kites, etch a sketches®, plastic dinosaurs & animals, action figures (not war related), hacky sacks, small puzzles, travel-sized games, sewing kits (needle, thread, small scissors, 1 yd. cotton fabric), playing cards, fishing kits (hooks, line, collapsible pole)

450 boxes sent in 2019!

During this time of social distancing, you are invited to continue to gather items for OCC boxes, and just set them aside at home until we are able to gather together again in person.

Please pray for the children that receive these boxes...that they will recognize the love of Christ in the simple gifts.

Thank you, RLC family, for your partnership in this ministry! We appreciate your financial support year round for this ministry. Your monetary donations allow us to buy additional items in bulk, as well as cover shipping costs.

What Has Attending Worship and Fellowship Via Live-Stream, YouTube and FB Live Meant to You?, Continued

Here is a message we received on the “yellow worship slip” online from Linda Totten (reprinted with her permission):

“The Lord’s blessings to each and every one of you. You are an inspiration to us all by your dedication and service to our congregation. Thank you for keeping us connected through daily devotions, calendar reminders, bulletins, newsletters, Zoom, and spiritually uplifting worship services. The Easter service gave me goosebumps! It was breathtaking and such glory to God. Teleworking from home isn't easy. I know first hand...I'm beginning my fifth week. I'm thankful for each of you and love you dearly.”

She also wanted to share that she likes the ease of giving online through Pushpay. “It’s completely safe and so easy to use. I wish I had started using it earlier,” she says.

Finally, here is a message that was recently sent to Pastor Steve. The writer has joined us several times during the live stream on Sunday mornings:

“Hi! I just didn’t want to pass up this opportunity to tell you what an impact your Lenten services, 40 days of devotions, and the Easter service had on my life. You are so right, this time of social distancing has given us a new and different opportunity to be still and hear our Savior speak to us in so many different ways. I was moved to tears many times, I needed that. Everyone involved is appreciated for the gifts they have and have put into these presentations.”

It is our sincerest desire to bring glory to God, to share the gospel message and reach others for Christ. And we are grateful that we have so many ways to reach out right now when we can’t be with you in person. Thank you for your love and support.

Anniversaries

May 3
George & Geri Simkins

May 4
Daniel & Andrea Britton

May 12
Norm & Mavis Lippert

May 15
Loris & Marilyn Schmidt

May 22
Jim & Lori Lachut

May 23
Tim & Megan Orr

May 24
Danny & Whitney Taasevigen

May 25
David & Donna Brown
Don & Ann Grewe

May 26
Jeff & Peggy Pilger

May 27
Tom & Ila Pitkim
Blake & Angela Scherer

May 28
Carl & Kristen Imhoff

May 29
Ralph & Miriam Curran

May 30
Tim & Amanda Daniels



Birthdays

May 1
Jann Leitz
Ken Meek

May 2
Meganne Weissenfels
Verna Wischart

May 3
Dave Johnson
Kaitlyn Prigge

May 4
Sue Worgull

May 5
Dennis Mahlum
Nathan Westlund

May 6
Shay Daniels
Adam Donahue
Rebecca Weber

May 7
Dick Stephens
John Wiegand

May 8
Conner Budzeck
Naomi Godwin
Mike Hogan
Trygve Tilton

May 9
Brianna Blakely
JP Sandberg
Chris Smith
Ryan Warren

May 10
Kristen Bennett

May 11
Carol Larkin

May 12
Gracelyn Worcester

May 13
Charlene Kangas

May 15
Jane Stephens

May 16
Briar Wright

May 17
Heather Colburn
JD Lesser

May 18
John Carter
Jim Gearheard
Caitlin Wright

May 19
Bert Andor
Alyce Budzeck
Bob Schumacher
Lillian Spinato

May 20
Mot Hedges

May 21
BJ Schroeder

May 23
Steven Tilton

May 24
Jason Corning
Jason Drewrey
Luke Pearson
Bettye Samuel

May 26
Cecilia McCartney
Marcia Vogel

May 27
Barbara Casebere

May 28
Karoline Archibald

May 29
Larry Harrold
Rich Olsen

May 30
Kyle Prigge
Harrison Spinato

May 31
Sarah Schmid

Praying for God's
blessings on each of
you as you celebrate
your special day.





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

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Label

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Live Stream Worship on Sunday

Mornings at 10:00 AM

go to richlandlutheran.org or

[YouTube.com/c/richlandlutheranchurch/live](https://www.youtube.com/c/richlandlutheranchurch/live)

For another option you can watch

Good News Today

Aired Sunday mornings on

KVEW 42 and KAPP 35 at 9:00 AM

Richland Lutheran Church:
Making Disciples who
Worship · Grow · Serve · Steward

Recorded videos of our service can be found on
our YouTube Channel

*(Go to YouTube and search Richland Lutheran
Church)*