

## Richland Lutheran Church Staff

### Rev. William S. Martens, Lead Pastor

Nurture & Interim Outreach Ministry Leader [pastor.martens@richlandlutheran.org](mailto:pastor.martens@richlandlutheran.org)

### Vacant, Associate Pastor

Outreach Ministry Leader

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### Joanne Woehle, Church Secretary

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Richland Lutheran Church  
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Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday

## Visitor's Information Spring 2010



# Visitor's Preview

## Welcome!

### Welcome to Richland Lutheran Church

We are delighted to have you with us. Finding a church to call "home" is an important decision. We hope the contents of this publication will be helpful to you during this time of discernment.

### MISSION STATEMENT

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



Richland Lutheran Church encourages members to participate in the nurturing of their own Christian lives by engaging in three distinctly different areas of involvement: worship, spiritual growth, and lay ministry. Opportunities abound for members of all ages in each of these priorities. The following pages summarize just some of the activities available at Richland Lutheran Church to help you build a strong, effective Christian life.

## Worship

Sunday morning worship includes a **traditional service** at 8:30 AM and a **blended service with traditional and contemporary elements** at 11:00 AM. There is also a service on **Saturday night** at 5:00 PM. Holy Communion is served at all services. There is a very informal and brief worship service in the Chapel on Sunday nights. It is especially geared for families with very young children and is interactive in nature.

For those unable to attend regular worship services, an edited version of worship the previous Sunday airs as **Good News Today**.

**Children's Church** is offered for children ages four through third grade during Sunday morning services. Children are invited to a separate worship area for a portion of the service where they are offered a developmentally-appropriate alternative before returning to the sanctuary.

**Nursery care** is available for children ages birth through three years of age on Sunday mornings.

### WORSHIP SERVICES

*Traditional Worship*  
Sundays at 8:30 AM

*Blended Worship*  
Sundays at 11:00 AM

*Modern Liturgical Worship*  
Saturdays at 5:00 PM

*Young Family Worship*  
Sundays at 5:00 PM

### WORSHIP BROADCAST

*Good News Today*  
Aired Sunday mornings on  
KVEW 42, 12, & 4 and KAPP 35  
at 9:00 AM

Pastor Martens' sermons are available on the website as PDF and MP3 files at [www.richlandlutheran.org](http://www.richlandlutheran.org). Click on the "Sermons" tab.

## History and Affiliation

The first service as a national Lutheran Council Mission was held at the Lewis and Clark Grade School on February 6, 1944, with 12 people present. The congregation incorporated as Richland Lutheran Church on February 4, 1946, and applied for affiliation with the former Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Today Richland Lutheran Church has approximately 1,100 members and is a member congregation of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, sharing in the rich theological tradition of a Lutheran expression of the Christian faith.

## Organization

A Congregation Council of eight members is elected by the members to fulfill the goals of the congregation in five key areas of ministry: **Outreach, Worship, Nurture, Education, and Resources**. A ministry leader, usually a staff person, is assigned oversight of these ministries and works with other members to achieve the tasks involved. The annual *Ministry Plan* is available for those wishing more detailed information. Additionally, the *Ministry Primer* provides a summary of the various committees. It is updated annually and is available in the narthex.

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL 2010

Rob Barr, Member at Large  
Valerie Bettinson, Member at Large  
Dave Brandes, Vice-President  
Mot Hedges, President  
Kathy Killand, Member at Large  
Rich Olsen, Member at Large  
Dawn Salyer, Secretary  
Mark Underwood, Member at Large

## Still Want to Know More?

Of course, it is impossible to capture in this brief publication all the activities at Richland Lutheran Church. Additional resources for you would include back copies of our newsletter, *The Preview*, weekly bulletins, various brochures available in the narthex, and a visit to our website. If you need help locating the information you seek, please contact the church office.

## Our Presence in Our Community

Richland Lutheran Church has initiated or participated in the development of several community efforts over the years.



**Luther Senior Center** was started in 1968 by this congregation in order to provide housing for seniors on low incomes. The facility is still in operation and is located on 625 Berkshire Place in Richland.

**Good News Media Ministry** is a separate, non-profit corporation with a mission to bring a worship setting into homes via television. The ministry started in 1978. The weekly broadcast is an edited, 30 minute version of the previous Sunday's worship. Three major fundraising events during the year partially fund the program. Donations are never requested from viewers.

**The Chaplaincy** (formerly known as Tri-Cities Chaplaincy) began at Richland Lutheran Church in 1971. Today the organization is a major resource in our community, providing grief counseling and hospice care to those in need of such services.



**Shalom Ecumenical Center (SEC)** was incorporated in 1996 by All Saints Episcopal Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Richland Lutheran Church, and the Spokane Episcopal Diocese for the purpose of providing affordable housing to residents of the Tri-Cities. The organization has completed four housing projects known as Tri-Cities Terrace West, Tri-Cities Terrace East, Tri-Cities Terrace South, and Edison Terrace West. Work on the fifth project, Edison Terrace South, began recently with the organizational meeting of the board appointed by SEC to oversee the project.

## Spiritual Growth

Spiritual nurturing at Richland Lutheran Church begins at birth. A continuum of opportunities is available for people regardless of life stage.

**Sunday school** is held during the education hour from 9:45-10:45 AM. Classes are scheduled for children as young as two years old and continue for adults. The classes offered for adults change frequently. Updated information is available in the Sunday bulletin.



**God Gives Growth (G3)** is a midweek program for children ages four through fifth grade, and **WILD Wednesday** is a fellowship time for middle school students.

A **Bible study** is offered for adults every Thursday morning. There is another group that meets Wednesday afternoons. Participants in this group are reading the Bible in a year, follow a schedule, and then meeting to discuss what they have read.

High school youth meet every Sunday night for **Coffeehouse**.

**Growth groups** are small groups of four to twelve people that meet weekly. The purposes of the groups are to encourage members to grow in their relationship with God and with each other, provide a confidential environment for openness, and serve others outside the group.

The **confirmation** program is based on a series of retreats. Middle school students attend three weekend retreats each year which focus on basic doctrine and morality. The Sunday school program supports and enriches instruction. Ninth grade students attend three half-day mini-retreats and one weekend retreat focusing on practical issues, preparing them for mature participation in the life of the congregation. The Rite of Confirmation is celebrated at the end of the ninth grade and usually on Pentecost Sunday.

## Lay Ministry

Richland Lutheran Church believes all members are called to serve and are encouraged to use their unique gifts to help people build strong, effective Christian lives. Whether those gifts are used to create banners for worship, teach children about Jesus, or vacuum the hallways in preparation for Christian fellowship, all are relevant and needed tasks in the church. Here is sampling, in no particular order, of the many ways one can serve at Richland Lutheran Church.

- Collate and staple bulletins
- Make banners
- Change burned-out light bulbs
- Sing in choirs
- Open church on Sunday morning
- Dust blinds
- Pick up litter on the grounds
- Teach a class
- Sharpen pencils in the pews
- Take out trash
- Operate a camera for TV taping
- Edge the lawn
- Make coffee
- Be a receptionist during the week
- Set up for events
- Lead a committee
- Help in the library
- Cook meals for Vacation Bible School
- Participate in prayer ministry
- Donate food to the pantry
- Organize the food in the pantry
- Operate the sound board
- Change batteries in smoke detectors
- Make crafts for the Arts & Crafts Fair
- Cook dinner on Wednesday night
- Make meals for new moms
- Make soup for Lenten suppers
- Host HeBrews Café
- Drive seniors to church
- Help in the nursery
- Usher
- Direct a children's choir
- Play handbells
- Design ads for newspaper
- Be a Stephen Minister
- Mend communion robes
- Help make quilts
- Cook hamburgers at the picnic
- Do some office tasks
- Prepare bulk mailings
- Weed flower beds
- Maintain the website
- Serve on a community board
- And so forth. . . .It is ALL ministry!

## Our Dreams

### LONG-RANGE PLANNING

As Christians, we believe the most important thing we do is help people build strong, effective Christian lives with the resources of God's grace. Our long-range plans grew out of a deliberate process of prayer, reflection, and discussion as to how we might fulfill this mission most effectively. In October 2007, the congregation voted in principle to tackle several major projects. Over the next 5-10 years we hope to:

- Develop ministry for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing
- Purchase adjacent properties (three already purchased)
- Expand/remodel facilities and parking
- Develop a preschool
- Develop retreat center facilities and a substantial retreat ministry



We are developing a comprehensive prayer ministry that will one day include prayer ministry in the chapel before and after services. In addition, our long-range plan calls for expansion of our music, youth, college, Growth Group, and grief support ministries. We also intend to establish mission partnerships with congregations on five continents (currently we have two partners, in Estonia and Tanzania).