

BUILD FOR HIM



Our Challenge

Our Fellowship Building has aged significantly since it was built in 1956. Systems are routinely failing or reaching “end-of-life” now. Replacements are costly. Repairs often don’t fix the problem long-term. Rooms aren’t meeting 21st century ministry needs. The following list reflects just some of the many facility challenges we face:

- Our plumbing and electrical systems are old. Some lines don’t meet current codes. Rooms aren’t wired for today’s technology. We don’t have a fire suppression system.
- Our HVAC system is disjointed and inefficient. The temperature is hard to control. Some rooms are too cold, and others are too hot. Our boiler reached “end of life” a few years ago and had to be replaced. It cost over \$50,000. Portions of our south wing HVAC system reached “end of life” in June 2015. Replacement cost us \$8,000. That is above and beyond our annual maintenance fee of \$4,500. Repair/replacement frequency and cost will continue to escalate, if we maintain the status quo.
- The entrance to our church is unclear. Our Narthex is small, dark, and unwelcoming to visitors. Visitors have a hard time locating staff offices behind the altar.

“We build not for ourselves, but for those who are yet unreached by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

*Pastor John Reitan
Richland Lutheran Church, 1962*



Pastor Reitan

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Richland Lutheran Church - Fellowship Building Constructed in 1956



Pastor Steve Fixes Plumbing



Gary Weible Paints Walls

Our Facilities Strategic Plan

On October 27, 2013, our congregation approved a Long Range Plan that included \$25K for an architectural firm to develop a Facilities Strategic Plan.

The Architect Selection Committee (ASC) unanimously chose Meier Architecture and Engineering to develop the Facilities Strategic Plan. On May 20, 2014, the Council approved Meier for the work.

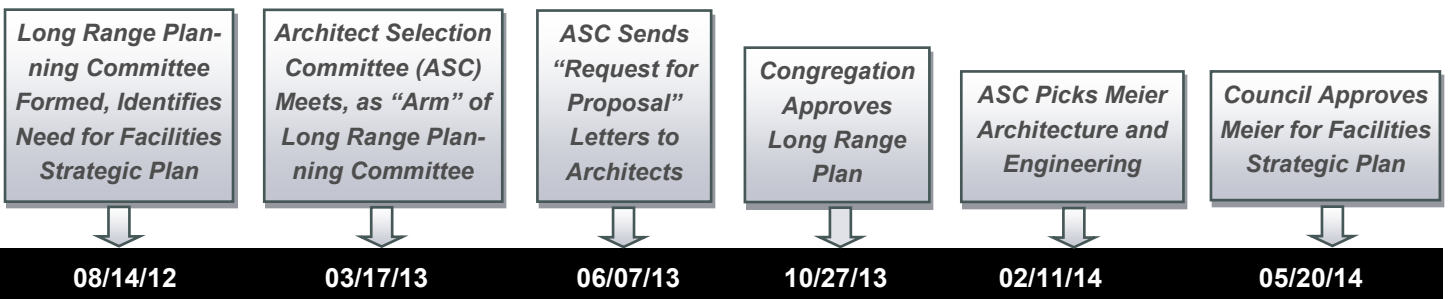
- Our kitchen is too small for current ministries. Noise carries from the kitchen to the Prince of Peace during functions. Water from kitchen faucets is often brown. Hot is not always hot, and cold is not always cold. The antiquated dishwasher is difficult to operate. There is no place to store non-refrigerated food supplies, so we store them near the Gloria Dei.
- Acoustics are poor in the Prince of Peace, and it isn't large enough to seat our "active membership" of about 350 people. The large, adjacent courtyard is rarely used.
- We don't have a way for members with physical impairments to get upstairs or down.
- We don't have enough bathrooms for church functions.
- The distance from our nursery to our Sanctuary concerns parents.
- We don't have a computer/server room. We don't have a stage. We don't have enough storage.
- Our parking lot is sloped and short on paved stalls. The speed bumps and curbs are not conducive to the physically impaired.



ASC Visits Trinity in Walla Walla

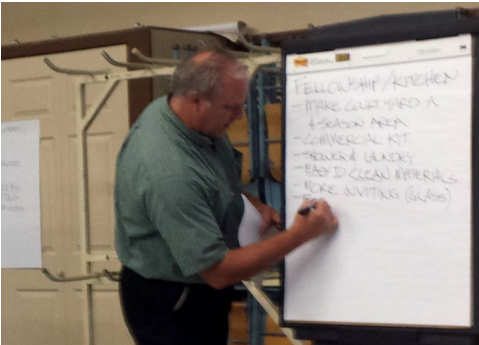


ASC Visits Bethel in Richland





August 18, 2014 Workshop



September 19, 2014 Workshop

Our Facilities Needs Assessment

The Facilities Building Committee collected facility improvement suggestions in the fall of 2014 via workshops, letters, emails, idea sheets, conversations, and RLC's web site.

Both Meier's "Remodel" and "Rebuild" design concepts are based on this recent RLC Facilities Needs Assessment.

Our Decisions

In 2013, we began a journey to determine how best to upgrade our facilities so they better support our 21st century ministries. We selected Meier Architecture and Engineering because of their Christian values, because of the quality work they've done for other churches, and because of the joint trust Meier and other churches have known.

Our congregation's upcoming decisions should be based on knowledge, not fear. We are called, "the upside-down cupcake church," but that is not who we are. We are a mission church. We are builders of benevolent ministries and the facilities that support them. We are fishers of men making the Gospel of Jesus Christ known.

Decision 1, August 30: You vote for either Meier's "Remodel" or "Rebuild" design concept for our Facilities Strategic Plan. *There is no additional cost involved in this decision.* "Remodel" would see reconfigured Fellowship Building space, added space, and a new façade. "Rebuild" would see our Narthex and Fellowship Building replaced with a new building. Our rental houses would be removed and replaced by new parking in both a "Remodel" and a "Rebuild."

Decision 2, October 25: You vote to approve or reject the Facilities Strategic Plan and the cost of architectural drawings.

Our Beginnings

As we approach our 70th Anniversary, we affectionately look back on



Richland Lutheran Church - Vale Grange Hall

Council Approves Facilities Building Committee (FBC)

06/10/14

FBC Begins Gathering Suggestions for Facility Upgrades

08/10/14

FBC Holds 1st "Needs" Workshop

08/18/14

FBC Holds 2nd "Needs" Workshop

09/19/14

Meier Provides "Summary of Needs" to RLC

11/12/14

Meier Provides "Programming Report" to RLC

11/12/14

our beginnings. We started our church in humble surroundings. RLC shared the Vale Grange Hall with the Richland All Saints Episcopal Church. The grange hall had been a gathering place for local farmers and orchard growers and the headquarters of Smith, Hoffman, and Wright (the company that built Richland's alphabet houses).

In 1953, we began working with an architect to draw up plans for a new Fellowship Building. In 1956, we broke ground on the Prince of Peace, kitchen, office wing, and lower education wing. In 1965, volunteers added a second story to the education wing. In 1966, we broke ground on the Sanctuary. The money for all these remodels and new builds came largely from parents raising children; but they made ministries and facility upgrades top priorities.



Richland Lutheran Church - Current Fellowship Building and Parking

The area beyond the Sanctuary is now more than 50 years old. We have made some cosmetic improvements, but the structure is basically the same as it was in 1957.

As we contemplate our upcoming decisions, let us remember our past — who we have been in this community for the last 70 years. Let us also consider the future and the cost of not taking action.

Please prayerfully consider the impact of the decisions before us.

“Never have we had such an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others.”

*Pastor Steve Ernst
Richland Lutheran Church, 2015*

Our Benevolent Ministries

(Just some of the ministries begun or supported by RLC)

- Tri-City Chaplaincy, Hospice
- Luther Senior Center
- Shalom Ecumenical Center
- Good News Media (GNMM)
- Chancel/Praise Choir
- Jefferson School Tutoring
- Food Pantry
- Soup Suppers
- Vacation Bible School
- Neighborhood Block Party
- Helping Hands
- Lodge Grass Mission
- Jordan Mission
- Quilts for Red Cross, Cancer Center, Richland Life Care, Veterans, Gospel Mission, Safe Harbor, World Relief
- Union Gospel Mission
- Operation Christmas Child
- Second Harvest
- Walk with Christ



Pastor Ernst

