

As a Reconciling Lutheran, I call on the Lutheran church to extend God's extravagant welcome and a genuine invitation for acceptance and full inclusion to

- People of every age, class, color, and ethnic origin....
- People of all sexual orientations and gender identities....
- People who are single, married, divorced, separated, blessed or partnered....
- People who are temporarily-able, disabled, or of differing abilities....

And I ask God, the giver of life and all creation, to guide my ways in living out the ministry of reconciliation always seeking to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ.

**You can also sign the covenant online at:**  
[www.ReconcilingWorks.org/RL](http://www.ReconcilingWorks.org/RL)

*(please keep this top portion for your reference)*

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**I want to be a Reconciling Lutheran!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this slip to:  
**ReconcilingWorks**  
**1669 Arcade St. Ste 2**  
**St. Paul, MN 55106**



## **RIC Sunday** **January 25, 2015**

The ecumenical community which welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities celebrates the last Sunday of January each year as “welcoming” Sunday. In the Lutheran tradition, we call this day RIC Sunday.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is a program of ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation, begun in 1983 as a way for Lutheran communities of faith to answer the inclusive call of the Gospel by welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Currently, there are over 590 Lutheran settings on the RIC roster, including congregations, campus ministries, synods of the ELCA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, camps, colleges, and other independent organizations. Additional information about the RIC program, including a complete listing of RIC settings and resources for personal and congregational use, are available on-line at the website [www.reconcilingworks.org](http://www.reconcilingworks.org).

“Building an Inclusive Church” Trainings are held several times each year to help folks from RIC or prospective RIC congregations learn how to work with church members to discern if a congregation wishes to “come out of the closet” about welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. If you are interested in attending such an event, check out the events listed on the website.

In addition to our Reconciling in Christ program for congregations and organizations, ReconcilingWorks offers the ability for individuals to become Reconciling Lutherans. *Whether you are a member of an RIC congregation or not*, it is important for your voice to be heard as a Reconciling Lutheran. Joining is easy and does not cost you a penny. All you need to do is sign the Covenant of Welcome, affirming your commitment to encourage the Lutheran church to extend a genuine invitation for full acceptance and inclusion to all people. Please sign the attached covenant and return it to the church to send to ReconcilingWorks.

## A Sampling of Recent RIC Congregations

### **Christus Rex Lutheran Center, Grand Forks, North Dakota**

A campus ministry at the University of North Dakota, Christus Rex is also the host site for the weekly UND organization TPS- Ten Percent Society. “We are called to be people of justice and peace, serving our global neighbors, living in Christ’s purpose in our world.”

### **Faith Lutheran Church, Chico, California**

A mix of urban and rural, agriculture and university, Faith Lutheran is the only RIC congregation between Sacramento and Eugene, Oregon. They were pleased to serve as the host location for Chico’s Trans\* Day of Remembrance memorial service this year.

### **Faith Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba**

Faith Lutheran is the first RIC setting in the province of Manitoba as well as the first in the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario (MNO) Synod of the ELCIC. They describe their welcoming church process as a journey in compassion, understanding and diversity.

### **Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Columbia, South Carolina**

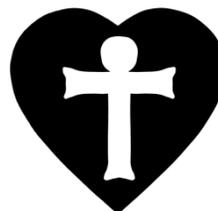
The welcoming journey at Gethsemane Lutheran is a story of hope and perseverance. Gethsemane, returning to the RIC program after an 8 year absence, describes itself as a small, multicultural church, working to be a safe place of grace.

### **Trinity Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan**

In 1994, Trinity Lutheran began their process of discernment toward a public welcome to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The years of conversations, prayer, and education led them to join the RIC program in June, “thus ratifying the life of full inclusion that we have been living for some time.”

## Reconciling Lutherans

is a program of ReconcilingWorks inviting all Lutherans to publicly call for a church and world that welcome and include people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.



*All this is from God who reconciled us through Jesus Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*

*2 Cor 5:18.*

**Data privacy:** ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation cares about your privacy. We will not sell, rent, or lease any information regarding Reconciling Lutherans to any third party. In order to have a public impact in both the church and society, the list of Reconciling Lutherans is designed to be a public list. ReconcilingWorks may publish a list of names and hometowns (City, State/Province) of Reconciling Lutherans. We will not, however, publish post-office addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, or any other information. From time to time, ReconcilingWorks may contact Reconciling Lutherans with messages related to, and in support of, the mission of Reconciling Lutherans.

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*As members of the body of Christ, we are called to be ministers of reconciliation both in the church and in the world. Through our baptism we are reconciled to God through the saving grace of Christ Jesus. As children of God, Christ calls us to lives of reconciliation, wholeness, integrity and authenticity. We are challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing and love within our church and society.*

*We affirm with the apostle Paul that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female” (Gal 3:28). Christ has made us one body with many members, equal at the foot of the cross and at Christ’s table of blessing and promise.*

*God’s extravagant welcome is sure.*