

Richfield Lutheran Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025

From the Pastor

And [Jesus] said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a dead calm." – Matthew 8:26

Just Enough Faith

For three summers during my college years and after my first year at the seminary, just before my time playing for the St. Paul Saints,

I had the joy of playing for the Richfield Ramblers of the expansive Minnesota amateur baseball association. We were a fun-loving, laid-back, and skilled team made up of a handful of teammates and ex-teammates from St. Olaf College and other acquainted pals and players from the area. I have fond memories of those seasons playing home games at Richfield High School and Donaldson Park.

During those seasons, we won more than we lost, which added to the fun. Yet the games always seemed to be close. We had good pitching and defense, so we were generally able to hold the other team to a low score. As for our hitting, it seemed we would often be able to somehow scrounge together just enough runs to eke out a win.

Our Richfield born and bred player/manager decided to make t-shirts for the team. They were simple black with white lettering. Across the front read "Ramblers" in classic baseball script, and on the back, there was an outline of a one-story rambler house, like so many originally built in the area. Above the house in capital letters it read, "JUST ENOUGH."

In the gospels Jesus uses the phrase, "you of little faith," a few times as a gentle rebuke of his disciples when they seem to not fully understand what God is up to. It dawned on me recently that he doesn't say, "you of no faith," and his comment is usually followed by him acting to bring peace and calm.

A member of Richfield Lutheran recently gave me a tiny glass jar containing one solitary mustard seed referencing Jesus' parable when he says, "even faith of a grain of mustard seed" can move mountains. It's a reminder to me that in the times when we are scared, or doubt, or have trouble understanding how God is active and among us, even the tiniest bit of faith and hope or wonder might be "just enough."

New Worship and Preaching Series!

As we head into the fall, beginning this month we will follow what is called the "Narrative Lectionary" for our worship focus and scripture readings. It was developed a number of years ago with the idea of getting a more complete sense of the entire arc of the Biblical narrative. It follows well on the heels of our "God's Greatest Hits: Volume 1" series as from September to mid-December we continue



8W 60th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55419

CHURCH OFFICE:
(612) 861-2265

WEBSITE:
www.richfield-lutheran.org

VIDEO WORSHIP on YOUTUBE:
[Richfield Lutheran Church](#)

ONLINE SERMONS:
Go to [Resources](#) on our website

RLC FACEBOOK:
[Richfield Lutheran Church](#)

CELC FACEBOOK:
[Creative Early Learning Center @RLC](#)





Upcoming Services and Events:

- **Monday, September 1:**
Labor Day
- **Sunday, September 7: 9:30**
Worship w/communion
- **Sunday, September 14:**
9:30am Worship
- **Tuesday, September 16:**
1:00 WELCA Meeting
- **Sunday, September 21:**
9:30 Worship w/communion
- **Monday, September 22:**
First Day of Fall
- **Sunday, September 28:**
9:30 Worship



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to focus on stories of the Hebrew Scripture, beginning in Genesis and tracing the arc of the story up until the birth of Jesus. Christmas to Easter then is focused on one of the gospels, this year John. And Easter to Pentecost digs into stories of the early church and Paul's letters. Join in all year to see how our story continues to be interwoven into God's great work and action in the world.

Pastor Charlie Ruud



Bible Study Online with Pastor Charlie

Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m.

using Zoom Video Meeting.

Zoom link to Bible Study can be accessed on the RLC website under "Get Involved".



Playground Update

Greetings CELC Households and members of Richfield Lutheran Church,

We're writing today with further information we received about the bus accident on May 19 and another exciting update on the status of the playground.

Regarding the accident...

We have received the full police report and it indicates that the reasons for the accident are inconclusive.

- Upon an officer reviewing nearby business' video footage it shows the bus was headed west on 60th St, came to a stop at the red light, but then proceeded to roll through the red light at Nicolet and 60th, hitting a small SUV in the intersection, and proceeding into the Richfield Lutheran / CELC parking lot, turning right, and crashing into the playground before coming to rest.
- There was no mention or evidence of driver intoxication.
- In initial questioning, one officer reported the driver shared they "attempted to come to a complete stop" at the red light "and alleged that the brakes on the school bus failed".
- The bus company reported upon their own investigation, they could "confirm that driver fatigue and driver error were the cause of this accident." And, "Although this driver was an experienced bus driver for over a decade - someone who was a good employee and a member of the [company] family - we are deeply disturbed and saddened by the action that led to this regrettable situation. The driver has been terminated effective immediately."
- After investigation of the accident site, the traffic investigation unit reported, "The front drivers side brake line was severed, looked like it was caused by the fence that was around it."
- Upon reviewing onboard video from the bus, a police officer later reported, "it looks like [the driver's] eyes may close and head drops slightly down as they were sitting at the light. This happened just before the bus starts to move forward. [The driver] snaps back before hitting the car. then steers around the cars in the parking lot into the playground. It's unclear if the brakes malfunctioned.
- The officer further asserted, "There is no conclusive evidence that [the driver] fell asleep. There is no conclusive evidence that the school bus brakes malfunctioned."

While this most likely does not answer all questions, it is the extent of what the report entails and what we are able to officially communicate. We remain enormously grateful for the actions of our staff and teachers who acted to keep kids safe, tend to the injured children and bus driver, and communicate swiftly with first responders and households. Above all, we are grateful that the



September Birthdays

9/3 LaVile Nelson
 9/4 Julie Curtiss
 9/6 Lois Fjelde
 9/17 Marilyn Haas
 9/18 Robbi Moore
 9/25 Mark Flom
 9/29 Randy O'Brien
 9/29 Lorrie Skogsad



Church Council members - Sometimes we forget to say "thanks". We appreciate all the time and effort you put into Council and RLC. Thanks for all you do!



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children, driver, and teacher who were somewhat injured were able to walk away from the accident and healing has occurred. Thanks also to Jessica Schiller and Heather Heide for the professional emotional and mental health support they provided for any households and staff later in a offered session.

Regarding the playground...

Richfield Lutheran Church has worked diligently with our insurance company to file claim and get funding. Some of the final logistics of claim and funding are not quite solidified, but it has so far allowed us to hire Midwest Playscapes to do initial demo and cleanup of the site, and the CELC to facilitate and regain licensing approval to allow the children and staff to return to the playground. Meanwhile we're also happy to announce that replacement structures have been ordered and we anticipate them installed sometime in the coming month! Draft images of the incoming structures can be viewed near the front desk of the CELC. We are grateful to all who have come together to make this happen, including the kindness and great work of Midwest Playscapes.

Regarding our ministry partnership...

While this event has brought some turmoil and difficulty, it serves to uplift again the wonderful history and relationship between the CELC and Richfield Lutheran Church. The CELC exists because of the vision of Richfield Lutheran Church 50 years ago, recognizing the need and opportunity of space in the neighborhood, to establish a non-religious childcare center serving households and children regardless of belief, tradition, or faith affiliation. It is a unique relationship in which the CELC continues to be a fully owned and operated entity of Richfield Lutheran Church to this day. We're grateful for this relationship, and we remain committed to the same vision which started it 50 years ago.

If you have questions or wish to follow-up regarding any or all this info, feel free to contact us in the offices of Richfield Lutheran Church or the CELC.

Beyond that, thank you to all of you who attended last month's community ice cream social! It was a wonderful celebration of community. Stay tuned for news of another upcoming community event to occur on Wed, Oct 8, as we gather in community again in celebration and blessing for the new equipment. As always...

Peace be with you,

Rev. Charlie Ruud
 Richfield Lutheran Church

Denise Hagen, Director
 Creative Early Learning Center



Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir sings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We rehearse, in the Sanctuary, on the Sundays we sing. Rehearsal begins at 8:50 am. Our first rehearsal and singing Sunday is September 14th! We sing familiar hymns that are easy to practice and prepare. Led by the members themselves, the Chancel Choir invites all ages of members who love to sing. Invite others to come with you and become a part of our Chancel Choir -- no age limit and no requirements except for an infinity for meaningful music to share with others.

Praise Jam

Praise Jam plays and sings at various times during the year. We are always happy to include new folks who want to play and sing with us. If you are interested in Praise Jam please contact Lisa Borneman at bornabunny@gmail.com. Share the song in your heart with others.

Looking for a place to share your musical gift? Consider joining one or both of our musical groups!





September's WELCA Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16th at 2:00. Please join us for business meeting and a health presentation by Robbi Moore.

Into the Woods!



The Hoi Polloi Players performance of "Into the Woods," August 15-17, was a success! Thanks to everyone who participated in bringing the show together and to the audience members who attended. We had a great time and look forward to future performances. Thank you to RLC for having such an amazing space for us to create theater!

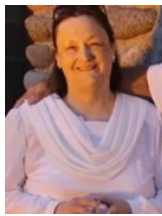


A General Back-to-School Prayer

"Heavenly Father, we ask for wisdom and understanding for students and teachers as they begin this new academic year. Fill their minds with eagerness to learn, their hearts with love for one another, and their path with safety and joy. Protect them from harm and bless their efforts with focus, discipline, and success in all they do. Amen".



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By Robbi Moore
Parish Nurse

Nursing Notes



Fatigue

ARE YOU TIRED OF BEING TIRED ALL THE TIME?

Fatigue is not something you need to accept and it is not just, just "old age". If you feel drained most days you need to see your doctor and get a workup to see what is causing it.

Research has shown that there are 3 basic types of fatigue: Physical, Emotional and Mental. A patient can experience one kind or a combination. Fatigue is present at times in everyone's life but can be concerning if it does not resolve or worsens more than 2 weeks.

We all know the term Fatigue, but what is it that we are feeling or seeing.

Signs of concern include: low energy level, exhaustion that does not resolve with rest or change of routine, work or social responsibilities that require extreme effort and are no longer fulfilling, normal daily activities are put off or dropped all together, irritability and a sense of disappointment. Unfortunately, signs can occur slowly and can be written off or missed altogether by the patient.

Doctors look for medication side effects, allergic reactions, lack of 7 hours continuous sleep, carb/sugar intake changes, physical complaints of headaches (more than a few each year), dizziness, achy muscles, irritability or other personality change, depression, reports of increased unresolving stress.

Lab results consistent with symptoms of fatigue include: low hemoglobin (anemia), low thyroid result, vitamin levels out of range, gluten/ celiac symptoms. Lab results identify something that is easy to resolve with dietary changes, medication adjustments, food avoidance or inclusion. Once treatment turns around these results symptoms resolve. Mental and emotion symptoms may take longer to resolve and usual respond best to working with a counselor and trial and error behavior planning for long term resolution of symptoms. Physically, a minimum of 150 minutes of exercise a week stimulates a feeling of renewal and rest.

The 4 Ps of fatigue include: problem solving, planning, prioritizing and pacing. The developing of a new way of going forward will help the patient to avoid future fatigue taking ahold of their joy and comfort.

In His Service

Your Parish Nurse

Robbi

Volunteer/Donation Opportunities

With Fall/Winter coming, VEAP and Meals on Wheels are in need of donations - being it volunteering your time to drive for Meals on Wheels or donations to VEAP. For opportunities for either program, call or stop by the RLC Office and we can share information with you or put you in contact with MOW or VEAP.



Meals and Wheels are still looking for drivers. Contact the RLC Office for more information



Donations are being accepted for Express Packs, Hygiene Kits, Birthday Bags, Street Kits, Children's Books(new or gently used; also in Spanish) and much more. List is available in the Narthex.

On-Line Worship



Sermons on the go!

Want to listen to sermons from Richfield Lutheran Church on the go? WE ARE ON SOUNDCLOUD! Download the SoundCloud app to your mobile device and subscribe to "Richfield Lutheran Church" or follow the weblink on your computer:
soundcloud.com/richfield-lutheran
Listen in the car, on a walk, out in the garden, etc. Check it out! Full video recordings of our entire worship services are still available on our website and YouTube channel.



About our Newsletter

We try to make the RLC Newsletter available and easily accessible to all our members and friends. Here is a reminder of the way we distribute the newsletter:

- Physical copies are mailed to members with no e-mail addresses. (or if they simply wish to receive a hard copy in the mail).
- Members with e-mails are sent a pdf of the newsletter
- Printed copies are available in the office.
- Available on our website.

Contact the RLC Office if you have any questions.



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Daily Bible Readings for September 2025

Monday, September 1 Psalm 119:65-72	Tuesday, September 16 Psalm 73
Tuesday, September 2 Titus 1:1-9	Wednesday, September 17 Job 40:6-14, 42:1-6
Wednesday, September 3 Isaiah 57:14-21	Thursday, September 18 Psalm 113
Thursday, September 4 Psalm 1	Friday, September 19 Romans 8:31-39
Friday, September 5 Colossians 4:7-17	Saturday, September 20 Mark 12:41-44
Saturday, September 6 Deuteronomy 29:2-20	Sunday, September 21 Luke 16:1-13
Sunday, September 7 Luke 14:25-33	Monday, September 22 Matthew 9:9-13
Monday, September 8 Psalm 101	Tuesday, September 23 Psalm 12
Tuesday, September 9 1 Timothy 4:6-16	Wednesday, September 24 Proverbs 21:10-16
Wednesday, September 10 Luke 18:18-30	Thursday, September 25 Psalm 146
Thursday, September 11 Psalm 51:1-10	Friday, September 26 Proverbs 28:2-10
Friday, September 12 Genesis 7:6-10, 8:1-5	Saturday, September 27 Proverbs 28:11-28
Saturday, September 13 Genesis 8:20-9:7	Sunday, September 28 Luke 16:19-31
Sunday, September 14 Luke 15:1-10	Monday, September 29 Revelation 12:7-12
Monday, September 15 John 3:13-17	Tuesday, September 30 Psalm 62



"Live in each season as it passes: breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit."

– Henry David Thoreau

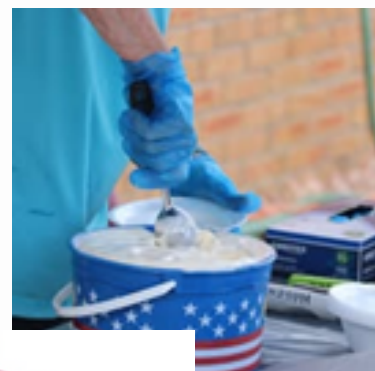
Recent Events at RLC/CELC - - - -



Worship in the Park, Ice Cream Social, Hoi Polloi performance of 'Into the Woods'



Into the Woods!



**Save the Date: RLC/CELC Corn Roast
Wednesday, October 8th from 5:00 to 6:30
pm in the RLC East Parking Lot. Come
celebrate with us! More information to
follow. All are welcome**