

Richfield Lutheran Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

By Pastor Charlie Ruud

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*"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD
your God" – Exodus 20:7*

Taking the Lord's Name in Vain

I confess that I've developed a habit of calling out to God more lately. My household will attest to this. It often occurs in response to the little trials and conundrums of daily life or in amazement and surprise of something unexpected. I tend to voice, "Good Lord!" or "Lord Jesus, help us in our time of trial!" The other day, one of these exclamations arose out of me while sitting in the dugout with teammates in the middle of our baseball game. I was feeling the arthritis flaring up in my shoulder, and I said, "O, my good Lord!" A new teammate who has recently learned my profession, questioned it. "So, do you ever think that's taking the Lord's name in vain?" Uh oh! I had been convicted!

I've been pondering that 2nd commandment more lately and I appreciate Martin Luther's explanation to it in his Small Catechism. In response to "What does this mean?" he describes, "We should fear and love God, and so we should not use God's name to curse, swear, practice magic, lie or deceive, but in every time of need call upon him, pray to him, praise him and give him thanks."

I think most people were brought up and made to think about the "swearing" or "cursing" part of it – like if you say, "Jesus Christ!" in response to stubbing your toe. And I suppose, depending on the way it is being used, that example could be an infraction of the commandment.

I think the commandment is weightier than that. Currently I've witnessed people in power using God's name as justification for atrocities, asserting principles which clearly have nothing to do with Jesus, and/or asserting God's will for them remaining in power. One world leader talked about their nation's military as the "most moral army in the world," despite overwhelming evidence that innocent non-combatants have been shown little regard and even children have been targeted. I'd argue that this the egregiousness misuse God seeks to address and call-out in the command. The effects are so dire to faith. It deserves to be called out.

Beyond that, the commandment is ultimately to be grounded in relationship. God is a God who desires and loves to be in relationship with us! A huge part of relationship is in communication, and in our communication, God wants to be near, close, and honored.

In this way, I've found most of my personal exclamations of "O, my Good Lord" to



**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](#)

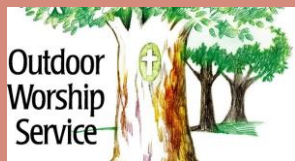
CELC FACEBOOK:
**[Creative Early Learning Center](#)
[@ RLC](#)**





Upcoming Services and Events:

- ♦ *Sunday, August 3: 9:30
Worship w/communion*
- ♦ *Sunday, August 10: 10:00am
Worship in the Park*
- ♦ *Friday, August 15: 7:30 "Into
the Woods"*
- ♦ *Saturday, August 16: 7:30 'Into
the Woods'*
- ♦ *Sunday, August 17: 9:30
Worship w/communion*
- ♦ *Sunday, August 17: 4:00 'Into
the Woods'*
- ♦ *Saturday, August 23: Carolyn
Diamond Organ Recital:
7:00pm at St. Olaf Church*
- ♦ *Sunday, August 24: 9:30
Worship*
- ♦ *Tuesday, August 26: Worship
at the Pines*
- ♦ *Sunday, August 31: 9:30
Worship*



**Please join us on Sunday, August 10th
- 10:00am at Veterans Park for
Worship together with House of
Prayer, Woodlake, and Oak Grove. We
will meet at the main picnic shelter.
Music, refreshments and fellowship
will follow the service. Bring a chair
and invite a friend or neighbor as we
worship together!**



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be faithful! It actually helps me remember that God is near! God is a part of the daily frustrations and joys. God is aware and might even empathize with my shoulder pain! I admit also that my "O, my Lord" is often spoken in a bit of humor with God. Can we allow God a sense of humor? I take joy in it, thinking that God is concerned with such a dweeb as myself and my little daily moments.

Now, at the same time, I do need to be aware of my relationship with others. Others such as my teammate may not be so free or approving of my use. I might be aware of this for their sake, so that I do not inadvertently offend or, worse yet, make them to believe faith is false.

As with most things, it will all come down to a matter of the heart. I'm grateful God sees our hearts and thus is seeking to create a clean heart of faith in us every day. In the meantime, we might all continue to pray, "Almighty God, thank you, and continue to help us in our times of trial. Amen."

Pastor Charlie



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".



Summer 2025 Worship and Preaching Series! Fruitful Fields: God's Greatest Hits, Volume 1

A summer preaching series of Richfield Lutheran Church in conjunction with All Saints and Ostmark Lutheran Churches of Darwin and Watkins, MN. From the "Rich"fields of Minneapolis to the rich fields of the fertile plains, Pastors Charlie Ruud of Richfield and Joe Midthun of All Saints and Ostmark alongside varied congregations collaborate to examine and proclaim fruit found in the old old stories. Richfield's worship will also feature guest preachers such as seminarian Sam Maier, Augsburg University campus pastor Rev. Babette Chatman, and public theologian of Nakomis Heights Lutheran Church, Marc Olson.

Join in each week throughout the summer to hear a classic hit of Scripture enlivened anew.

Summer Playlist:

- Sun, June 15 | Genesis 1:1-1:19 | **God's Poetic Creation: Six Days and the Sabbath**
- Sun, June 22 | Genesis 3:1-3:24 | **The Second Creation Story: Adam, Eve & Sin**
- Sun, June 29 | Genesis 4:1-4:16 | **Cain & Abel: "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"**
- Sun, July 6 | Genesis 11:1-11:9 | **Tower of Babel: Diversified and Scattered**
- Sun, July 13 | Genesis 19:12-19:38 | **Sodom & Gomorrah: Communities of Savage Unwelcome**
- Sun, July 20 | Exodus 3:1-3:15 | **Moses: The Reluctant Liberator**
- Sun, July 27 | Exodus 7:14-7:25 | **The First Plague**
- Sun, Aug 3 | Judges 14:1-14:20 | **Samson & Delilah**
- Sun, Aug 10 | **Collaborative Outdoor Worship at Veteran's Park Pavilion**
- Sun, Aug 17 | Job 1:13-1:22, 2:1-2:10 | **Job: Out of the Whirlwind**
- Sun, Aug 24 | Ezekiel 37:1-37:14 | **Dry Bones Raised**



August Birthdays

8/3 Barb Thuras
8/8 Robert Olson
8/21 Agnars Svalbe
8/27 Lyle Gerhardt
8/28 Lee Bachman



Seven Prayers For August

MAY YOUR HEALTH IMPROVE
MAY YOUR FAMILY BE BLESSED
MAY YOUR FRIENDS BE LOVED
MAY YOUR FINANCES MULTIPLY
MAY YOUR PAINS BE LESS
MAY YOUR WORRIES DISAPPEAR
MAY GOD ALWAYS BLESS YOU
Amen!

KELLY'S TREEHOUSE



**RICHFIELD
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ELCA
SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS

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From the Council President by Susan Anderson

Playground Update

Thanks to lots of work by Denise Hagen from CELC, Pastor Charlie, and Randy O'Brien, we have an exciting plan for the CELC playground area destroyed in the May 19th bus accident. Midwest Playscapes will be replacing the play structures, fencing and ground cover. We expect it to be completed in six weeks. Soon we will have pictures on display for all to see. We like Midwest Playscapes because of their adherence to various standards of safety, as well as a requirement that all installers are Certified Playground Safety Inspectors. (CPSI).

The children who were on the playground at the time of the bus accident are doing well. CELC offered an evening program for children, families and staff to process the events of May 19th. That gathering was led by several counselors experienced in working with children.

Meanwhile, I have been working on the insurance end of things. The bus company insurance has not been forthcoming with support, so we have moved ahead with our own insurance company. We are hopeful that our insurance company will be able to recover all replacement expenses including our insurance deductible.

Mostly we are looking forward to the day when the playground will no longer be broken (in the words of the children) and we can all get back to our regular responsibilities.

Susan Anderson



By Robbi Moore Parish Nurse



Nursing Notes

Our State Fair is a great State Fair!

August always is the hit of summer calendars! The crowds, the sites, the giveaways, the shows and most of all.. **THE FOOD.**

I once heard it described as the one time that over inbibing (food and d rink) is forgiven. But should it be? I read a statistic saying that the emergency crews at the MN State Fair see the most heart events in the shortest time (12 days) of the whole year. Add gastric events (heartburn, GI bathroom events, food poisoning including eating food (unrefridgerated for several hours including sugared beverages (beer and lemonade to name a few) and also heat events including heat exhaustion, heat stroke and dehydration. Lastly, injuries from falls, twisted ankles, and crushed fingers from various sources.

So, DO go to the Fair, check for weather and plan days to visit accordingly. Get rest a few days before and plan rest after your visit. DO walk as much as possible beforehand to build endurance for your fair experience. Drink water cool if possible and take a refillable water bottle along. Sit frequently to pace yourself. Eat sensibly! It isn't a marathon or contest how much you can eat in a day. Bring a paper fan or small battery operated one . Bring a bandana you can wet to cool your neck or forehead and have FUN!

IN HIS SERVICE
Your Parish Nurse
Robbi Moore

THE SOUNDS OF JOY!!!

Carolyn Diamond to perform an ORGAN RECITAL in Minneapolis!

Saturday, August 23, 7pm at St. Olaf Catholic Church (215 8th Street-- at 3rd Ave.)

From classical to jazz (including Bach, Utterback, Pachelbel, Alain, Copland, Hovahnness, Karg-Elert, and Mulet....even a piece with tympani and gong!) you will leave with the joy of music as Carolyn displays the wide range of the pipe organ!

The concert is free and parking is available in the church parking lot as well as a ramp across the street attached to the Minneapolis Club.... entrance to ramp on 8th Street. Parking will be validated at the church's entrance desk. Bring your ticket.

All are welcome!!! Please come for a festive evening of music in a genre-blending program on a magnificent organ!

Women of the ELCA



The next meeting of WELCA will be on Tuesday, September 16th at 2:00. In the meantime, remember that Operation Christmas Child is a year-around project for collections to put in those Christmas Boxes. RLC's pack will be on Tuesday, October 21st at noon. Remember, back to school supplies will be on sale soon and are a great addition to the boxes. There is a new bulletin board in the hallway for OCC - check it out for types of donations that can be used!



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Into the Woods!



Join us for a production of Into the Woods

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Book by James Lapine
Directed on Broadway by James Lapine. **Into the Woods, the Musical** is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishow.com This production is licensed by Music Theatre International.

Show dates:

August 15 and 16 at 7:30 pm

August 17 at 4:00 pm

Tickets are: \$15.00 for Adults (18-60) \$12.00 for Students (11-17) and Seniors (61+) and \$7.50 for Children under 10

Use ticket link to reserve tickets or email

hoipolloiplayers@gmail.com



South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels Serving Up Smiles!

Our partner in mission, South Minneapolis Meals On Wheels, is seeking new board and committee members. Board and committee positions offer a new way to serve your community and help your neighbors stay in their homes for as long as possible. Perhaps you've wanted to help, but can't take time out over the noon hour? Or you're looking for a meaningful way to contribute to your neighborhood, while building your professional resume?

Our current Coordinator, Paul Hendrickson, has informed us that he will continue to schedule our drivers through the end of 2025, but due to health reasons will not be able to continue past the end of the year. If anyone is interested in taking over for Paul or even consider being a driver please contact Paul at 612-240-6058 or email: paul2hendrickson@comcast.net for more information (or contact the RLC Office at 612-861-2265).

On-Line Worship

WE ARE ON SOUNDCLOUD! You wanna listen to Pastor Charlie Ruud give his sermons on the go? **NOW YOU CAN!** You can download the SoundCloud App on your phone and listen to the sermon! You can listen while driving, walking, doing chores, etc! You can also just go on the SoundCloud website via the link below and on the RLC Website!

Check it out!

Link:

<https://on.soundcloud.com/dbrFySQTfQFbhj7R9>



Recorded services are still available on our website and YouTube Channel.

Newsletter

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 August 2025

Friday, August 1

Proverbs 24:1-12

Saturday, August 2

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Sunday, August 3

Luke 12:13-21

Monday, August 4

Psalm 127

Tuesday, August 5

Colossians 4:2-6

Wednesday, August 6

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14

Thursday, August 7

Psalm 33:12-22

Friday, August 8

Ecclesiastes 6:1-6

Saturday, August 9

Matthew 6:19-24

Sunday, August 10

Luke 12:32-40

Monday, August 11

Psalm 89:1-18

Tuesday, August 12

Hebrews 11:17-28

Wednesday, August 13

Luke 12:41-48

Thursday, August 14

Psalm 82

Friday, August 15

Luke 1:46-55

Saturday, August 16

1 Samuel 6:1-16

Sunday, August 17

Luke 12:49-56

Monday, August 18

Psalm 32

Tuesday, August 19

Acts 7:44-53

Wednesday, August 20

Jeremiah 25:30-38

Thursday, August 21

Psalm 103:1-8

Friday, August 22

3 Chronicles 8:12-15

Saturday, August 23

Nehemiah 13:15-22

Sunday, August 24

Luke 13:10-17

Monday, August 25

John 1:43-51

Tuesday, August 26

Psalm 109:21-31

Wednesday, August 27

Luke 6:6-11

Thursday, August 28

Psalm 112

Friday, August 29

1 Peter 4:7-11

Saturday, August 30

Proverbs 21:1-4, 24-26

Sunday, August 31

Luke 14:1, 7-14





By Denise Hagen, CELC Director
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Creative Early Learning Center Summer 2025



Summer continues with teaching health habits!



**Midwest Food Connection
was here to teach us
healthy habits.**



**Healthy
food
habits.**

