

Richfield Lutheran Newsletter

JULY 2025

“When will Jesus come back? When will the end be?”

These questions get thrown around a lot and seem to constantly come up in the hearts of many who seek to follow in faith. For instance, even the first disciples asked Jesus when he would return, and later the Apostle Paul seemed to have a belief that the end would be soon. While this question is common, sadly it has also led to much awful and abusive theology and terrible care for neighbors and the world. Regardless of how concerned or interested one might be about this, it may be worthwhile to have a little understanding of how it gets answered.



First, let's simply note that so far, every single person who has ever predicted the end of the world has been wrong. Perhaps that goes without saying, but there have been countless people over the centuries who have attempted. Even some of the most faithful have been led astray on this topic, perhaps most notably the Apostle Paul who expected Christ's return and the end of things in his own life in the 1st century c.e.

Second, Jesus blatantly tells people not to concern themselves with the timing. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark contain the same word-for-word answer of Jesus to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Mt 24:36; Mk 13:32) And in the book of Acts, written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says it even more forcefully, “It is not for you to know the times or periods!” (Acts 1:7) In other words, every time Jesus was asked, he said (I'm paraphrasing here), “It ain't your business!”

Third, and sadly, attempts at making it our business often have the effect of instilling fear and committing terrible spiritual abuse to people's faith. Additionally, predictions often seem to contain a purpose and mission of the predictors gaining worldly power and wealth. We see this at play currently in the theological and social tenets of so-called “Christian” Nationalism, which has the effect of turning faith in a suffering and crucified prince of peace who gives life for all, into a triumphalist, exclusive, power-laden, and often violence-driven objective of fealty to a particular ideology and worldly dominance and conquering. Nothing could be much further from the story of grace and new life and the “down-to-earth” message of love and redemption held in the story of Christ.

So what do we do with this?

Well, Jesus said to “be prepared” and “stay awake”. What does this mean? I happen to think that it means, remain faithful. Remember and continue to tell the story of God's love. Continue to strive to love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself, and receive forgiveness and new life each day you fail. And in the face of those who say, “Be afraid!” Continue to hear the voice of so many angels proclaiming, “Do not fear.”

Martin Luther was famously asked what he would do if he knew the world would end tomorrow, and his answer was, “I'd plant a tree.”

(cont. on page 2)



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CHURCH OFFICE:
(612) 861-2265

WEBSITE:
www.richfield-lutheran.org

VIDEO WORSHIP on YOUTUBE:
[Richfield Lutheran Church](https://www.youtube.com/RichfieldLutheranChurch)

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

RLC FACEBOOK:
[Richfield Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/RichfieldLutheranChurch)

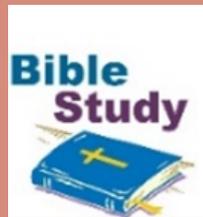
CELC FACEBOOK:
[Creative Early Learning Center @RLC](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeEarlyLearningCenter@RLC)





Upcoming Services and Events:

- Friday, July 4th Holiday
RLC/CELC Offices Closed
- Sunday, July 6: 9:30
Worship w/communion
- Sunday, July 13: 9:30
Worship
- Tuesday, July 15: Worship
at the Pines
- Sunday, July 20: 9:30
Worship w/communion
- Sunday, July 27: 9:30
Worship



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".



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In other words, continue to live in hope. That's bold and perhaps even radical these days. We might see it as even more powerful than all of the other voices clamoring for dominance and wealth.

One more thing, although we still await the end and cannot nor should not make it our business, Jesus still gave us promise of his presence in the meantime. He said things like, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them," (Matthew 18:20) and, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) He even gave a reminder and remembrance and promise in his word which we take right here and now as he shows up among us in the sacrament of Holy Communion. "This is my body, given for you. This is my blood, shed for you."

So when is Jesus coming back? Well, every time we gather, each time we proclaim God's promises, and in the bread and wine given and shed to taste and see and even become God's presence with one another in faith.

Until the end, whenever it may be, we live and act in hope!

Pastor Charlie Ruud

P.S. Speaking of living and acting in hope...

Keep August 10th in your hopeful prayers as we gather with other South Minneapolis and Richfield area ELCA churches for a joint outdoor worship 10am at Veteran's Park in Richfield.

Also, keep the future of the church and Creative Early Learning Center playground in prayer and mind for seeds of generosity which may be planted in yourself and others in anticipation of funding new replacement structures of those which were destroyed in the bus accident which may make the playground even more fruitful for the children and center. Look for more info and opportunity to give toward this in the coming months.



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**



July Birthdays

- 07/02 Marcia Lumbar
- 07/18 Paul Curtiss
- 07/29 Ruth Copeland



A Summer Blessing
 May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do and wherever you go. May you talk to God this summer and every day and in every situation. May you talk with God every day.

HEART TOUCHING



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By Robbi Moore Parish Nurse

Nursing Notes
 Got a Case of the Summer Bl



May is a time many Nurses get caught up on Continuing Ed Credits for every other year licensure. I attended many but one was about inflammation of the body and it's role in Summer Blues. Mouthful huh?. Most of us no matter our age look forward to outdoor activities, sports participating or watching, and family time and if lucky at a family cabin or resort visit. What in any of that could make us angry or depressed or physically inflame the body. More than you think. Planning, packing extra, cooking, wardrobe buying, family dynamics when people are in your space and making demands on you. Maybe it is the opposite. No family around, financially challenged, sleep deprived with longer days and THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY. WHEW. For some folks it draws them into isolation, they don't feel joy. It's hard to be out and about.

There are things to help.

1. Don't change your sleep routine. If 11 months of the year you go to bed after the 10pm news. Don't change it into late night friend or family events.
2. Set boundaries. On yourself and friends and family. Know your limits and stick with them. There will always that enabler who pushes you to do more, try more, etc.
3. Stay hydrated and nourished. Carry water bottles with cold water. Physically sit to drink it. Be intentional...concentrate on enjoying the cool water.
4. Wear comfort. Vacation is not the time to break in new shoes, Bring favorite clothes that have that favorite linens smell. This is especially good when family challenges increase stress levels.
5. Vitamin D is healing and 15 minutes is a good amount of time but wear sunscreen...also wear sun screen lip balm as the Ozone layer continues to peel away. Protect tender skin from future skin cancer effects.

There are other more person specific things to think about to cut Summer blues. But as you make your own plan remember to ask yourself is this going to make me feel good about me .

In His example
 Your Parish Nurse
Robbi



**Mark
 Your
 Calendars!!**
 Coming Summer 2025
Into the Woods!



**August 15 at 7:30 pm, August 16 at 7:30 pm,
 and August 17 at 4 pm.**

Email Lisa at hoipolloiplayers@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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, Hovahness, 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.

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



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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Pastor and I are coming to you to share some increased activity by scammers and specifically elder scammers that has come to light.



Pastor shared the following with me:

"A few members have noted recently that they have received communications - either text messages or emails from accounts which indicate they are from me as Pastor or the church but have turned out to be from scammers looking to exploit people for money. Sadly, this is not unique to our community. Each of the churches I have recently served encountered this deceitful activity routinely. Unfortunately scammers have multiple ways to gather information and connections and they often target elder adults."

I would share that I too got an email from what appeared to be from Pastor Charlie. The note said that he needed to discuss something immediately and I needed to reach out immediately. IT WAS A SCAM! Fortunately I had some clues. The email was from Pastor Charlie but my emails from him always says his last name too. I have become familiar with the way Pastor addresses me and how he words things so I know he wouldn't leave me to just "reach out immediately" ...He gives me details and often when best for me to reach out.

I reached out to several resources. The best by far are the FBI website and AARP website. There are videos, checklists AND helpful other contacts. In 2023 alone 3.4 Billion dollars were lost to scammers in US by seniors.

Here is a list of some of the most common scams

- 1) Family member in financial jam. Usually in foreign country on holiday who is in jail or had all their luggage stolen etc.
- 2) Romance Scam very online senior dating issue. They have every excuse why they need money wired immediately...They promise to pay it back!
- 3) Tech support - reporting computer or phone issue and they will fix it on the phone or computer if you send payment ...charge it on you credit card or even PayPal first.
- 4) Threats of legal action on very official looking law practice letter..bills. taxes, even the EZ pass lane fee.
- 5) Home repair service ...usually email or text who want full payment up front
- 6) TV and social media ads..reverse mortgage firms, debt reconciliation companies AND MANY MANY MORE!

My Dad used to tell young Robbi. If it looks or sounds like it is too good to be true RUN!

A final word from Pastor, "You should know that neither I or any member of the church staff would ever look to solicit money or services from you in this way. We have other avenues and resources to meet immediate needs."

All this being said if you should ever receive a suspicious or atypical message from any of us at the church, reach out and make us aware. We are there for you!

FBI LOOK UP Elder Abuse. fbi.gov, AARP. aarp.org., NAT'L FRAUD ELDER CRISIS LINE 833FRAUD11

Pastor Charlie and Parish Nurse Robbi

**Stay safe and utilize your trusted community.
We're here to help and be good neighbors!**

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 Reading

Daily Bible Readings for July 2025

Tuesday, July 1

Psalm 140

Wednesday, July 2

Matthew 10:16-25

Thursday, July 3

John 14:1-7

Friday, July 4

Psalm 66: 1-9

Saturday, July 5

Zechariah 14:10-21

Sunday, July 6

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Monday, July 7

Psalm 119:73-80

Tuesday, July 8

Jeremiah 8:4-13

Wednesday, July 9

Joshua 23:1-16

Thursday, July 10

Psalm 25:1-10

Friday, July 11

Genesis 41:37-49

Saturday, July 12

Leviticus 19:1-4, 32-37

Sunday, July 13

Luke 10:25-37

Monday, July 14

Psalm 25:11-20

Tuesday, July 15

Proverbs 19:1-17

Wednesday, July 16

Ecclesiastes 9:13-18

Thursday, July 17

Psalm 15

Friday, July 18

Ephesians 3:14-21

Saturday, July 19

Genesis, 14:1-16

Sunday, July 20

Luke 10:38-42

Monday, July 21

Psalm 119:97-104

Tuesday, July 22

John 20:1-2, 11-18

Wednesday, July 23

John 6:41-51

Thursday, July 24

Psalm 138

Friday, July 25

Mark 10:35-45

Saturday, July 26

Esther 4:1-17

Sunday, July 27

Luke 11:1-13

Monday, July 28

Psalm 55:16-23

Tuesday, July 29

Romans 9:30--10:4

Wednesday, July 30

Matthew 5:43-48

Thursday, July 31

Psalm 49:1-12



**Thank you for your
service--- to our many
veterans!**



By Denise Hagen, CELC Director
DHagen@celcmn.org

Summer is off to a great start in our Childcare!

With school-age children back full-time, there's renewed energy in the center. The children have been enjoying sunny walks to the park, splashing around at the local pool or on the grassy areas on our property, and grabbing ice cream to cool off. It's been wonderful to see everyone out and about, making the most of the warm days and reconnecting with the neighborhood. We have a lot more summer fun ahead!

Creative Early Learning Center Summer 2025



Popsicle Treats



Water Days

Windom Park



Dairy Queen Afternoon



Nicollet Park

