

Richfield Lutheran Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024



By Pastor Charlie Ruud
cruud@richfield-lutheran.org



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.”
– Isaiah 9:2 (NRSV)

Greetings to all in the Richfield Lutheran Church community this December!

First, I want to again express my deep gratitude as I enter my second month alongside you as your pastor. The warm welcome, affirmation, and partnership I've experienced from so many of you have been a true gift. Special thanks to the staff and lead volunteers who have helped me settle in so smoothly!

As we step into this season of Advent, my pastoral invitation to you is to lean into the great themes of **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. Advent, meaning "coming" or "arrival," calls us to reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love that the birth of Christ brings into the world.

It seems that all of us could use reminders of these gifts in our daily lives, which is one reason why Advent is one of my favorite seasons in the church year. I am so grateful that it is an annual tradition! Each worship service this month will focus on these themes, as we collectively reflect on how God inspires these gifts in us and in the world, and how we might receive them even amid challenging times and circumstances.

The month will culminate with our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship on December 24 at 4:00 p.m., followed by a worship service of lessons and carols on Sunday, December 29, where we'll sing the Christmas story and hear the good news of the Word made flesh—God born into our lives and hearts.

I invite you to join in worship and song throughout the month, as we gather in the warmth of each other's presence and our beautiful space, receiving the blessed light that shines brightly in this season.

Blessed Advent and Joyous Christmas!
Pastor Charlie



8W 60th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55419

CHURCH OFFICE:
(612) 861-2265



WEBSITE:
www.richfield-lutheran.org

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

PHONE-IN WORSHIP:
(612) 474-4974

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

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

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





Upcoming Services and Events:

- **Sunday, December 1: 1st Sun of Advent**, 9:30 Worship w/communion.
- **Sunday, Dec 8: 2nd Sun of Advent**, 9:30 Worship
- **Sunday, Dec 15: 3rd Sun of Advent**, 9:30 Worship w/communion
- **Tuesday, December 17: 2:00 Worship at the Pines**
- **Sunday, Dec 22: 4th Sun of Advent**, 9:30 Worship
- **Tuesday, Dec 24: 4:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 25: No worship service on Christmas Day - RLC/CELC Offices Closed**
- **Sunday, Dec 29: 9:30am Lessons & Carols Worship**
- **Wednesday, Jan 1: Happy New Year - RLC & CELC Offices Closed**



*Bible Study Online with
Pastor Charlie*

**WEDNESDAYS @ 1:00 p.m. using
Zoom Video Meeting.**

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89753063690>

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89753063690>



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Stewardship Ministry 2025.

Our “usual” fall stewardship drive was displaced by the call process. And that’s just as well. Stewardship really is about how we respond to God’s call. While money is certainly not the main thing in our lives, it is an important way we live our lives with God. And, as God promised Abraham in Genesis, “we are blessed to be a blessing!” So, stay tuned for Stewardship Ministry 2025! Until then, may I recommend you contemplate increasing your weekly offering by 2.5%, or more. That is Social Security’s cost-of-living adjustment for 2025. What a great way to start Richfield’s next step in our journey as a congregation!



**By Susan Anderson
Council President**

This article is due just before Thanksgiving and in the spirit of that holiday, I would like to share what I am especially grateful for this year.

I am thankful that Pastor Charlie accepted the call to RLC and believe he is the right person to partner with our congregation. I was going to write in “the right person to lead our congregation” but that would let the rest of us off the hook. We are all in this together. To be sure, Pastor Charlie will guide, inspire, teach and then nudge us out of our comfort zones so that we all will be God’s hands and heart in the world.

Speaking of being outside of one’s comfort zone, many of us on the Call Committee were way outside our comfort zones. But this fine group of people brought their ideas, wisdom, prayers and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit to the process of calling a new pastor. I am so grateful to Scott Cumberland, Lee Bachman, Shirley Evenstad, Sherie Swanson, Bob Olson, Patty Jodell, and Lisa Borneman for saying yes to serving the committee.

I am grateful for the service of Pastor Brian over the last six years. His calm leadership style was especially effective with the pandemic and all its fall out. I’m grateful for all those who helped with the sending service, followed by a yummy meal, a bit of program and serenade by the choir. Both he and Mary were very appreciative.

The Holy spirit brought us to this point in RLC’s history for a purpose and it is for us, the RLC community, to pay attention and to see what we are called to next. It is an exciting time.

In Peace

Susan Anderson



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Birthdays

12/05 Roy Eldred
12/08 Jean Bunday
12/16 Bonnie Swenby
12/19 Marilyn Long
12/21 Becky Markkannen
12/23 Shirley Evenstad
12/29 Wayne Holmberg



Let's make the Sanctuary Festive!

It's time to reserve your Poinsettia Plant for Christmas. Envelopes are available in the RLC Office. Cost for a double flower plant is \$17.50. Payment must accompany the envelopes.



RLC Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up soon. Watch for them in the Narthex. If you do not have envelopes and want them - contact Bonnie.



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By Denise, Hagen, CELC Director
DHagen@celcmn.org



As the year winds down, we're reflecting on all the wonderful memories we've created together in 2024!

This year marked several exciting milestones:

- We ventured outside the center for field trips, bringing new adventures to our programming.
- At the end of summer, families gathered for a memorable potluck at Veterans Park.
- We celebrated Sheryl Schendel's incredible 50 years of dedication to our center—what an inspiring milestone!
- In October, we joined the fun at the Trunk 'n Treat event hosted by Nielsen Morris Funeral Home.
- We officially opened the new "Sprouts" room, creating more space for learning and exploration.
- Families have enjoyed seeing the our new electronic sign out front, keeping everyone informed and connected.

We're eagerly anticipating the start of the new year and all it will bring. Thank you for being part of our community and making this year so special!

Happy Holidays from all of us at Creative Early Learning Center!



By Robbi Moore, Parish Nurse Nursing Notes



It is hereMerry health event holidays!

This season has the highest number of emergency medical visits of the year. Currently 26% or greater than any other part of the year. Visits aren't just overeating cardiac or gastric (heartburn or worse) visits. It includes kitchen accidents including cuts and burns. Even stab wounds cutting hams and turkeys.

Don't forget falls off ladders putting up outdoor lights, moving decoration tubs and artificial trees. What about rushing on icy walks or snow mounds. WHEW and so much more!

There is the added stress of shopping, getting to kids programs and the challenges of finances and gift giving.

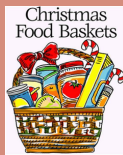
It can feel like it no longer feels like the best time of the year. Everyone just wishes it was already over for another year?

Take a breath, sit down and grab a cozy cup of tea or cider and make a plan.

- 1) Make lists and stick to them (groceries, presents, 1 or 2 must see events.)
- 2) Eat regular meals, drink plenty of fluids, get enough rest and get your vaccines (flu, COVID,RSV, pneumonia, AND Tetnus!) Treat colds and flu early.
- 3) Keep calendar reasonable-you don't need to rush to squeeze in every event. Look forward to adding a couple different ones next year. It won't ruin the Holidays to cut back your calendar.
- 4) Gather cooking and baking tools before the days event. Sharpen knives. Have enough of what you need and special areas to assemble.
- 5) Set limits and stick to them - don't let others push you to overcommit - this includes parties that end when you say.



Holiday Baskets

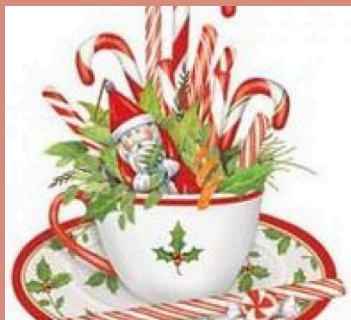


How you can help...monetary donations are being accepted to purchase gift cards for food for the holidays. Gift cards will be given out to CELC families to purchase food. Donations can be mailed to RLC or dropped off at the RLC Office.



RLC Mitten Tree

Its that time of year again! Colder weather is here. Any donations of caps, mittens and scarves for the 'little ones' at RLC/CELC would be appreciated - especially mittens! Please drop off in the RLC Office.



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6) BREATHE, exercise, rest, eat and take time to have fun.

There is so much more that could be recommended but truth is you are the only one who can decide what is enough and what is too much! Enjoy the SIMPLE JOYS of the Holidays without the physical, mental, and financial strains

And just 1 requeststay out of the ER!

In the most wonderful time of the year remember the simple gift of a baby who asks nothing more than you follow him.

In His Name

Your Parish Nurse

Robbi

THANK YOU LEFSE BAKERS!



The great RLC Lefse Machine did it again! Ten people rolled, cajoled, and baked over 130 rounds under the Linda and Kurt Falkman--Shirley Evenstad supervising team. Most of our team turned out to be Falkman cousins who had a great reunion baking lefse together. Mark Flom organized electricity hookups so not once did we throw a circuit! Marilyn Haas stepped in to package the lefse for sale. All in all, a big success and all finished by noon. Jane, Kimberly, Stacey, Georgy, and Jennifer supplied expertise and enthusiasm. Hope all who ordered--enjoyed!

Shirley Evenstad



Trust Inc.

A Trust Inc. Workshop was held at Richfield Lutheran Church on November 19th with approximately 50 in attendance. This workshop featured health & wellness support, techniques and training to be your best at any age, much discussion and lunch. The featured speaker was J. J. Kline who spoke on the complexities of aging. Look for more of these workshops at RLC in the coming months.





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The Trust Workshop was followed by the November WELCA Meeting. Pastor Charlie stopped by for a greeting to our group. Donations for Holiday Baskets, Operation Christmas Child, Meals on Wheels, and Luther Seminary from WELCA were decided on and will be sent out soon. The next WELCA meeting will be a Holiday Lunch at the Lindquists on Tuesday, December 10th (see below).



Merry Christmas!

Please join us for a holiday lunch celebration at Kathy & Cherill Lindquists on Tuesday, December 17th at 12:30. Please bring a dish to share and a Secret Santa Gift (\$15) to exchange. After lunch we will play a few games of Bingo. Hope to see you there!

Kathy - 952-846-9640
6615 Lakeshore Drive
Party Room - 11th Floor



We have much to be thankful this year!

- welcome to Pastor Charlie
- the Chancel Choir and Paul Cornick and others who have provided us with our beautiful music throughout the year
- Matthew Tiede for his photographs and our websites
- Pastor Brian who provided us with 6 years of leadership at RLC
- Meals on Wheels Drivers
- AV Team
- Ushers, Readers & Communion Servers
- Call Committee
- CELC Staff & Teachers
- ... and all others who have contributed in so many ways.

Reach out and give them a Thank you!

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.



Volunteers are still needed for a variety of ministries at RLC
Let us know if you can help!

Readers Ushers
AV Operators Funerals
Hosts for Coffee Hour
Meals on Wheels Drivers
Communion Assistants



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Daily Bible Readings for December:

Sunday, December 1

[Luke 21:25-36](#)

Monday, December 2

[Psalm 90](#)

Tuesday, December 3

[Revelation 22:12-16](#)

Wednesday, December 4

[Luke 11:29-32](#)

Thursday, December 5

[Luke 1:68-79](#)

Friday, December 6

[Malachi 3:13-18](#)

Saturday, December 7

[Luke 9:1-6](#)

Sunday, December 8

[Luke 3:1-6](#)

Monday, December 9

[Psalm 126](#)

Tuesday, December 10

[Isaiah 19:18-25](#)

Wednesday, December 11

[Isaiah 35:3-7](#)

Thursday, December 12

[Isaiah 12:2-6](#)

Friday, December 13

[Amos 8:4-12](#)

Saturday, December 14

[Amos 9:8-15](#)

Sunday, December 15

[Luke 3:7-18](#)

Monday, December 16

[Isaiah 11:1-9](#)

Tuesday, December 17

[Numbers 16:20-35](#)

Wednesday, December 18

[Luke 7:31-35](#)

Thursday, December 19

[Psalm 80:1-7](#)

Friday, December 20

[Hebrews 10:32-39](#)

Saturday, December 21

[Isaiah 66:7-11](#)

Sunday, December 22

[Luke 1:39-45\(46-55\)](#)

Monday, December 23

[Psalm 113](#)

Tuesday, December 24

[Luke 2:1-14\(15-20\)](#)

Wednesday, December 25

[John 1:1-14](#)

Thursday, December 26

[Matthew 23:34-39](#)

Friday, December 27

[John 21:20-25](#)

Saturday, December 28

[Matthew 2:13-18](#)

Sunday, December 29

[Luke 2:41-52](#)

Monday, December 30

[Psalm 147:12-20](#)

Tuesday, December 31

[John 8:12-19](#)

*May GOD's blessings come to you a
Thousand fold; May the Love in your
Heart never get old;
and may you find
treasures more
precious than
gold.*

*Have a
and a*

*Blessed Christmas
Happy New Year
to You and Your Family.*