

Richfield Lutheran Newsletter

JANUARY 2025



By Pastor Charlie Ruud
cruud@richfield-lutheran.org



Continued glad Christmas tidings and peaceful and hope-filled new year to you on behalf of Richfield Lutheran Church!

As the calendar turns, I'm looking forward to those few crisp, clear, brilliant days we often get in January with the sun on the snow. Admittedly, they're often face-numbingly cold, but one could argue they're the brightest days of the year. I've tried to see them as a gift this time of year, pointing to days of warmth ahead. With them, I appreciate the parallel season in the church as Epiphany is the season of light. It's marked by revelation, insight, and clearer manifestation of our understanding of God, ourselves, and each other.

In that theme, RLC worship this month is going to be "lit", too ... so-to-speak.

It begins January 5th, as we conclude the twelve days of Christmas by joining the magi, or wisemen, following the star to Bethlehem! We experience the light of God facing the dark evils of our world and drawing all people in love and praise.

Jan 12th's worship will shine with a Baptismal celebration as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism by John in the wilderness. We'll be joined by Bishop Jen Nagel of the Minneapolis Area Synod as she leads my official "installation" as pastor to RLC (comparisons to kitchen appliances welcomed). Word on the street is there will be water splashed around in worship that day. You won't need an umbrella but come ready to remember the great gift of God's cleansing word in your life!

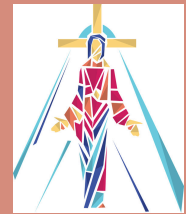
Jan 19th will be a service of gratitude as congregants are encouraged to contemplate annual gifts toward the collective ministry and mission. RLC members, be on the lookout for a special mailing with encouragement to prayerfully discern for the new year. Fittingly, the gospel story will be one of abundance as Jesus provides wine at a wedding party gone dry.

And Jan 26th we'll hear the first story of Jesus' ministry in the Gospel of Luke as he proclaims release to captives, sight to the blind, good news to the poor, and freedom to the oppressed. What could it stir up in you? In us?!

If you're unable to make it to worship, good news, too! We're planning to offer an online option again in the form of recording the Sunday worship and make it available for anyone to access. Click "RLC Online" on the homepage for more details in the new year!

Blessed bright light of Christ's love to you in this new year, dear church.

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](#)

PHONE-IN WORSHIP:
(612) 474-4974

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

RLC FACEBOOK:
[Richfield Lutheran Church](#)

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





Upcoming Services and Events:

- **Wednesday, January 1st**
Happy New Year!
- **Sunday, January 5: 9:30**
worship w/communion
- **Sunday, January 12: 9:30**
Worship and Installation
Service of Pastor Charlie with
Bishop Jen Nagel
- **Sunday, January 19: 9:30**
Service of Gratitude Worship
w/communion
- **Sunday, January 26: 9:30**
Worship
- **Tuesday, January 28: 2:00**
Worship at the Pines

LOOKING AHEAD

Ash Wednesday - (1:00pm) - March 5

Wednesday, Midweek Lenten Services begin every Wednesday at 1:00 pm from March 12-April 9

Palm Sunday	April 13
Maundy Thursday	April 17
Good Friday	April 18
Easter Sunday	April 20



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!” 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! Join us on Sunday, January 19th for our Service of Gratitude worship at 9:30 am.



By Susan Anderson
Council President

Would love to have words of wisdom in this time of transition to a new year but will leave that to those more articulate than I. Instead, I am sending prayers for all to experience joy, meaning and compassion for others in 2025.

Mark your calendars for January 12th when Pastor Charlie will be formally installed by Bishop Jen Nagel followed by a special coffee time. It will be a joy-filled day.

Also mark your calendars for February 23rd for our annual meeting. Those of us with staff and volunteer roles at RLC will need to have annual reports turned into Bonnie Nichols by January 28th.

Meanwhile, I would like to ask each of you to consider how you might contribute to the ministry of RLC in the new year. It has been heartening lately to see more folks stepping up to help decorate for Christmas, volunteer to serve at coffee hour, assist with communion and so on. We have dreams of being more involved with our neighbors both within and outside of RLC but need brainstorming, helping hands and readiness for interactions. Just a quick note that several who served on the Call Committee started out acknowledging that it was outside their comfort zone, but everyone was a valued contributor. Not being comfortable is not necessarily a bad thing. Maybe you have ideas of how you can use your special gifts that we haven’t mentioned. I’d love to hear them. At any rate, thank you for even considering any of this.

In Peace
Susan Anderson

Save the Date!



Sunday, February 23rd following worship.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January Birthdays

- 1/01 Kurt Falkman
- 1/02 Betty Solensten
- 1/14 LaVerne Meixner
- 1/23 Sharon Loney
- 1/27 Diane Flom
- 1/28 Karen Krouch



Our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Kenneth Ask and Arlene Stoneburg.

Kenneth Ask passed away on November 29, 2024 and funeral services were held on RLC on December 9th.

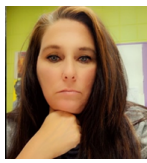
Arlene Stoneburg passed away on December 24, 2024th and funeral services are being held at RLC on January 3, 2025

Blessed by their memories.

Christ's Love for Us



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



Happy New Year! 🎉

As we step into 2025 at CELC, we're filled with excitement and optimism for the opportunities this year will bring to our children, families, and community. We hope your holiday season was filled with joy and relaxation.

Staff In-Service Training Day: Our team will continue professional development on January 20, 2025. These training sessions are invaluable as they help us stay informed about the latest practices in early childhood education, enhance our teaching strategies, and provide your children with the best possible care and learning experiences. We appreciate your support as we dedicate this time to growth and improvement.

Preschool Screenings by Minneapolis Public Schools (MLPS): We're thrilled to share that MLPS will be visiting soon to conduct preschool screenings for eligible children. These screenings are essential for assessing developmental milestones and ensuring children are prepared for kindergarten.

Thank you for being such an integral part of our community. Together, we can make 2025 a year of learning, growth, and unforgettable memories! 😊



The December WELCA meeting was held at the home of Kathy & Cherill Lindquist on December 17th. Eleven ladies enjoyed a holiday potluck lunch followed by a Secret Santa Gift exchange, and a few games of Bingo. Thank you to Cherill & Kathy for hosting this event.

Food, Fun and Fellowship were enjoyed by all!!!



The next meeting of WELCA is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18th at 1:00 in the Mary Martha Room. All are welcome.





News from VEAP.

Food and supplies are always appreciated at VEAP. If you are looking for other ways to support VEAP listed below are several ideas.

Street Kits: VEAP's Social Services team supports people in our community experiencing homelessness with to-go packs. These kits generally include a backpack filled with warm weather gear and personal hygiene items.

Birthday Bags: For families with little ones celebrating their special day, VEAP offers birthday bag kits. These kits generally include cake/cupcake mix, frosting, candles, plates/napkins, and assorted party favors. Assembling birthday bags is a great activity for young people!

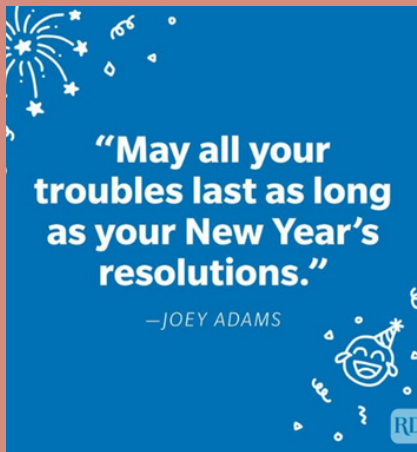
Hygiene Kits: We all use it! Support VEAP's visitors by collecting and repackaging toilet paper. Alternatively, you can assist our youngest visitors by donating and repackaging diapers (all sizes needed, but particularly sizes 3 and up) and formula. We also encourage menstruation product kits (tampons, pads).

Express Packs: We distribute 35-40 express packs of shelf-stable items at our pantry every day! Support our team in donating, organizing, and assembling non-perishable food items for these important kits.

Children's Books: VEAP distributes around 200 books a week to babies, kids, and teens visiting our pantry. Support young people by donating gently used or new books to us! We're specifically seeking materials in Spanish. Please, no religious content.



Thank you to all who have generously donated mittens, hats and scarves to the Mitten Tree. The tree will be kept up through the winter months and donations will be appreciated.



NOW ACCEPTING NEW SENIOR CLIENTS



Let TRUST Inc help you this winter with your snow shoveling needs!

Contact TRUST Inc

612-827-6159

Email Whitney at trust@trustinc.org

SERVICES FOR:

- 65+ older adults
- South Minneapolis service area only

PROVIDING:

- Reliable Shovelers
- Affordable Rates
- CADI & Elder Waiver options



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A Chore Home Services Program of TRUST Inc
9 West Rustic Lodge Minneapolis MN 55419



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 January:

Wednesday, January 1

[Luke 2:15-21](#)

Thursday, January 2

[Proverbs 1:1-7](#)

Friday, January 3

[Psalm 72](#)

Saturday, January 4

[Isiah 6:1-5](#)

Sunday, January 5

[John 1:\[1-9\] 10-18](#)

Monday, January 6

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Tuesday, January 7

[Ephesians 4:17-5:1](#)

Wednesday, January 8

[Ephesians 5:15-20](#)

Thursday, January 9

[Luke 1:67-79](#)

Friday, January 10

[Psalm 29](#)

Saturday, January 11

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-15](#)

Sunday, January 12

[Luke 2:15-17, 21-22](#)

Monday, January 13

[Psalm 106:1-12](#)

Tuesday, January 14

[1 John 5:13-21](#)

Wednesday, January 15

[Numbers 27:1-11](#)

Thursday, January 16

[Psalm 36:5-10](#)

Friday, January 17

[1 Corinthians 7:1-7](#)

Saturday, January 18

[Matthew 16:13-19](#)

Sunday, January 19

[John 2:1-11](#)

Monday, January 20

[Psalm 145](#)

Tuesday, January 21

[1 Corinthians 1:3-17](#)

Wednesday, January 22

[Luke 5:33-39](#)

Thursday, January 23

[Psalm 19](#)

Friday, January 24

[Romans 12:1-8](#)

Saturday, January 25

[Galatians 1:11-24](#)

Sunday, January 26

[Luke 4:14-21](#)

Monday, January 27

[Psalm 119:89-96](#)

Tuesday, January 28

[2 Corinthians 7:2-12](#)

Wednesday, January 29

[Jeremiah 36:27-32](#)

Thursday, January 30

[Psalm 71:1-6](#)

Friday, January 31

[2 Corinthians 35:20-27](#)

Richfield Lutheran Church Christmas 2024

