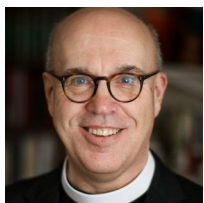


Richfield Lutheran Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome to Richfield Lutheran Church.

"Together we will BE the church
by living out God's gifts in the community
and the world!"



By Pastor Brian Mundt
bmundt@richfield-lutheran.org



Ruminations from the Pastoral Pasture

The council started a book club. We're reading *When Church Stops Working*, by Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand. A catchy title for a real problem. A problem every church seems to be dealing with, in one form or another, for a couple decades now. The pandemic seems to have accelerated this challenge.

Andy Root, a professor at Luther Seminary, St Paul MN, wrote a series of six books for theologians and pastors on this challenge. This book is a synopsis of those books and is written for church members. I encourage you to get a copy and follow along!

I'll share what we heard in each chapter as we read it, so we're all "on the same page." The chapter titles give a preview of where they're taking us:

1. Why Your Church Has a Problem, but It Isn't What You Think
2. Busy People, Busy Church—A Killer Cocktail
3. Stop All the Having and Just Be
4. It's Time to Wait, but for What?
5. Waiting Brings Life, Not a Slow Death
6. Forget the Mission Statement—Get a Watchword
7. Out of the Family Basement
8. Nothing Can Separate You

Here's a synopsis of Chapter 1:

Our present situation is measured against a golden past or a perfect future. There is a feeling of "not enough" people. Everyone assumes the answer to the problem of "not enough" is "more." At no point does anyone ever suggest that church has enough; we all think the solution can only be more.

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Minneapolis, MN 55419

CHURCH OFFICE:
(612) 861-2265

WEBSITE:
www.richfield-lutheran.org

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

AUDIO 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:

- **Sunday, Sept 3: 9:30**
Worship w/communion
- **Monday, Sept 4: Labor Day - RLC/CELC Closed**
- **Sept 4 - 17: Pr Brian on Sabbatical**
- **Sunday, September 10: 9:30**
Worship
- **Sunday, September 17: 9:30**
Worship w/communion
- **Tuesday, September 19: WELCA Mtg @ 1:00pm**
- **Sunday, September 24: 9:30**
Worship
- **October 8-15: Pr Brian on vacation**



BIBLE STUDY ONLINE WITH PASTOR BRIAN
WEDNESDAYS @ 1:00 P.M.
USING ZOOM VIDEO MEETING.
LINK:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/S/89753063690](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89753063690)

LINK:
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/S/89753063690](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89753063690)

NOTE: NO BIBLE STUDY ON SEPT 6 & 13



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So, there is a constant search for more resources and more relevance. We assume the solution is obtaining the right balance of resource management and effective innovation. And so, we search for the right process to fix our problems. All those processes—whether developed in the 1970s, '80s, '90s, '00s, '10s, or in a post-COVID world—gave the same advice: effective innovation. Yet, effective innovation has always failed, not because of a shortcoming with the solution, but because those processes are trying to solve the wrong problem.

The problem of “not enough” is a symptom, not the problem. The problem is our context, the world in which we live. The church and Christianity have less influence in society than we once did. has become private, not public. Because we have split the sacred and the secular, the public and the private, we hold a wide assortment of beliefs.

The authors do not believe that the cure for the secular age is some kind of new sacred age. Rather, they want us to reimagine the church within the secular age. The first part of their diagnosis is that the problem the church faces today is that the symptoms don't follow common sense, but are part of a larger problem we call the secular age. And the second part is that the secular age has captured our imaginations.

When efficiency is perceived as the solution, we think we can do more than we actually can. The busyness we experience comes from the feeling that we need to accelerate every part of our lives.

The opposite of more is resonance. Resonance is an experience of fullness, of being in sync, of being so present that we feel we have discovered ourselves again. Resonance is all about connecting and finding a meaning that is greater than what we can see and explain. Resonance is about the sacred, the public, and the transcendent.

Life must have resonance; otherwise, it is just busyness. If the church needs more of anything in the crisis it faces, it is more resonance. More resonance will bring about deeper relationships and a clearer purpose. Instead of searching for more influence, we will experience deeper connection to God and each other.

After all, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do? Go and effectively innovate? Nope. He told them to wait.

.... Hmm! Where do you hear the authors inviting us?

Jesus loves you, and so do I,
-- Pastor Brian



Stewards of Local and Global Communities. God has called us to serve our neighbors, both near and far. How is God calling us, as individuals and as a congregation, to use the resources that God has entrusted to our care to love God and our neighbors both locally and globally? Read Matthew 25:31-46 and Proverbs 3:27-28.



RLC Chancel Choir

Welcome back! The Chancel Choir will return to sing at worship service on September 24th. Anyone who is interested in singing with the choir is invited to come early (9:00am) on September 24th to sing a familiar song that's easy!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September Birthdays

9/3 LaVile Nelson
9/4 Julie Curtiss
9/6 Lois Fjelde
9/17 Marilyn Haas
9/17 Evelyn Goplin
9/18 Robbi Moore
9/22 Tom Thompson
9/29 Randy O'Brien



**Remember - Hunger
Knows
No Season!**

Backpacks, scientific calculators, and wireless headphones/earbuds are high-demand items. If you are able, please consider making these a focus of your donations. Traditional supplies like spiral notebooks, crayons, and washable markers are needed as well. Please make sure all items are new. And, of course, we are still collecting for the food shelf. Your donations can make the difference! Drop you donations off to the RLC Office or the Food Can in the RLC hallway.

Hunger knows no seasons!



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By Meggy Wagner
Renovation Project Consultant

Our big renovation is in full swing - but it's swinging quite a bit slower than we planned and feels a lot dustier than expected! And now the City of Minneapolis is digging up Nicollet & 60th at the same time, which adds to the feeling of 'pardon our appearance while we update our space'!

Despite the rather unfinished look right now, we have made great progress. A lot of the big challenges have been solved: our mandated sprinkler system has been connected to the water-main across the street, the foundations for the required elevator have been excavated and cast in the patio, and the biggest changes on the inside - the conversion of the South coatroom to an ADA compliant bathroom and laundry room, and the new CELC office space and reception area in the East Hallway - are framed out. We are getting there!

I know that this has taken longer than we planned. I would like to thank the entire RLC and CELC team as well as you, our congregation, for your patience and great attitude throughout this process. The finish line is getting closer, and it will be great to see it all come together. Thank you for your continued support through the last mile of the project!

Peace, Meggy Wagner



Five Years at RLC!



On September 24th Pastor Brian celebrates his fifth year at RLC! It's been an unusual five years due to the pandemic. He helped guide our church safely through those unknown times, methodically opened up the church and activities and has adjusted church practices to the new post-pandemic normal.

As you may already know he grew up in St. Louis Park, graduated from high school in Forest Lake, was in the Air Force, has a BA degree in Psychology and felt called to go to seminary. He was a pastor in Rice Lake, WI and was married, adopted a son and then divorced. He currently leads an online Wednesday Bible study and faithfully records a service every Thursday afternoon for those who can't attend church in-person. He even helps set up coffee hour every Sunday even though that isn't in his job description!

But there's more....he and Mary Sage met on line, believe it or not and have been married eighteen years. They live in south Minneapolis and have two rescued Border Collies, Chance and Maggie. He has a passion for attending Rammstein (German industrial/ Gothic) concerts. On his day off you will often find him down at the Mississippi river dog park frolicking with his dogs.

If you feel like you haven't had a chance to get to know him, stop on by church and sit with him. He is very interesting to get to know!



Happy Work Anniversary to Randy O'Brien, daytime custodian and Robbi Moore, parish nurse! Both are celebrating their 22nd year working at RLC. Randy's anniversary was August 22nd and Robbi's is September 1st! If you see them, thank them for their dedicated service to church!



Advance Notice! Fairview will be at RLC on Sunday, October 15th from 10:00 – 1:00 to provide free flu shots.



Trust Inc has many opportunities for volunteers. Call the Trust Office at 612-827-6159 to find out more information.



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LEAVING A LEGACY Update



Long-time member Lois Pearson left a significant bequest to RLC. She designated RLC as the beneficiary of some investments and life insurance so that RLC can continue to share the Good News. The council spent four months discerning how to best use those monies for the good of our congregation and our community. We plan to use some of it to add necessary RLC staff, to complete the audio-visual update in the sanctuary, update our sign on Nicollet Ave., and deal with some building issues not covered by the CELC renovation. As Jesus said of the wise steward in the parable of the talents, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Blessed be her memory.

A gravesite service will be held for Lois at 11:00am on Thursday, September 14th at Lakewood Cemetery.

Friends of Lois are invited to attend.



Operation Christmas Child

It's time to start thinking about Operation Christmas Child again. Last year, RLC packed 68 boxes and hope to do more this year. Save the date: **Tuesday, October 17th** at noon in the Mary Martha Room at RLC. Kathy & Cherill Lindquist will once again be hosting this event to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Make a child happy this Christmas! You can help by donating items or money (to purchase items or shipping costs) to fill shoe boxes and participating in the packing event. Contact Kathy Lindquist at 952-846-9641 if you have any questions. It would be appreciated if donations could be dropped off at the RLC office between now and October 12th.

However, donations will be accepted anytime.

A fun outreach activity for all! We hope you can join us! Family & friends welcome!

Suggested donations:

Flashlights (extra batteries)	Small Tools	Dolls
Solar Calculators	Pencil Sharpeners	Scissors
Sunglasses	Wash cloths	Puzzles
Child size socks	Child tee shirts	Jump Ropes
Toys (Yo-Yo's, Toy Cars, etc)	Small Sewing Kits	Colored Pencils
Sidewalk Chalk	Pencils/ top erasers	Markers
Glue Sticks	Balls	pens

Larger 'Wow' gifts that would fit in a shoebox



A potluck lunch and meeting were enjoyed on Tuesday, August 22nd at our August WELCA meeting in the 'air conditioned' Mary Martha Room. Outside was one of the **hottest** days!

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, September 19th at 1:00 - Meeting

Tuesday, October 17th at 12:00(noon) - Operation Christmas Child Pack

We encourage you to be sure to attend the Operation Christmas Child Pack in October. It starts at noon and end 'whenever'. Come for as little or as long as you want! Bring family/friends to help.



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 April:

Friday, September 1
[2 Thessalonians 2:7-12](#)

Saturday, September 2
[Jeremiah 15:10-14](#)

Sunday, September 3
[Matthew 16:21-28](#)

Monday, September 4
[Psalm 17](#)

Tuesday, September 5
[Revelation 3:7-13](#)

Wednesday, September 6
[Jeremiah 17:5-18](#)

Thursday, September 7
[Psalm 119:33-40](#)

Friday, September 8
[Romans 10:15-21](#)

Saturday, September 9
[Ezekiel 33:1-6](#)

Sunday, September 10
[Matthew 18:15-20](#)

Monday, September 11
[Psalm 119:65-72](#)

Tuesday, September 12
[Romans 13:1-7](#)

Wednesday, September 13
[Matthew 21:18-22](#)

Thursday, September 14
[John 3:13-17](#)

Friday, September 15
[Genesis 41:53-42:17](#)

Saturday, September 16
[Matthew 6:7-15](#)

Sunday, September 17
[Matthew 18:21-25](#)

Monday, September 18
[Psalm 133](#)

Tuesday, September 19
[Romans 14:13-15:2](#)

Wednesday, September 20
[Genesis 50:22-26](#)

Thursday, September 21
[Matthew 9:9-13](#)

Friday, September 22
[2 Corinthians 13:5-10](#)

Saturday, September 23
[Zephaniah 2:13-15](#)

Sunday, September 24
[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

Monday, September 25
[Psalm 106:1-12](#)

Tuesday, September 26
[Romans 16:17-20](#)

Wednesday, September 27
[Matthew 18:1-5](#)

Thursday, September 28
[Psalm 25:1-19](#)

Friday, September 29
[Revelation 12:7-12](#)

Saturday, September 30
[Ezekiel 18:19-24](#)



Special Features

Submit any pictures, fun news, etc. to the RLC Office to include in our next newsletter!

Wishing you all a safe and happy Labor Day Weekend!



Special Ministry
Prayer Shawls



A happy recipient of one of RLC's prayer shawls!



A special shout out to Lyle Gerhardt who celebrated his 100th Birthday on August 27th



A special celebration with Ruth Copeland on her 99th Birthday! on July 29th

