

Richfield Lutheran Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

From the Pastor

From the Pastor



Happy 2026!

“...one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

– Philippians 3:13-14

“Good riddance 2017!”

I actually can't remember what year it was, but at the drop of midnight each New Year's Eve I can still hear my friend Noah's resolute exclamation. “Good riddance, year-gone-by!” He's such a joyful human it somewhat came as a surprise, and it still makes me laugh! Yet, it continues to impact how I see the turning of the calendar.

Sometimes there are things we might look forward to leaving behind...and that's ok! I hear an echo of what Jesus said to the disciples when their presence wasn't welcomed in certain villages, “Shake the dust from your feet.” Press on.

As a congregation, we have many things for which to be grateful in the past year. Additionally, many of you long-time members continue to share dear memories of years gone by and “the way it was.” We rightly give thanks for those past blessings.

At the same time, a modern proverb another friend shared has been ringing in my ear: “There's a reason the windshield is a lot bigger than the rearview mirror.”

(Reflect on that for a minute -- pun intended 😊)

I note all of this in anticipating 2026 will be a significant year in our congregation's life. We face some wonderful challenges and decisions about how we'll seek to press on – financially, organizationally, relationally. We'll certainly keep experiencing change, and that can be hard. Some of the challenges might necessitate leaving some things behind. We might remember that the rearview mirror is a mere reflection, sometimes distorted (Objects may appear closer than they are).

Within that, though, I'm buoyed by the promise that God's Holy Spirit is with us and will be leading us. It reminds me that the most important thing on this path is to keep our eyes open to what is in front of us presently, mindful of the obstacles and signs and turns and terrain, and attentive to where our great and wonderful navigator will tell us to go.

Amen to that! And thanks for your presence together on the path!

God bless you, 2026!
Pastor Charlie Ruud



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Minneapolis, MN 55419



CHURCH OFFICE:
(612) 861-2265

WEBSITE:
www.richfield-lutheran.org

VIDEO WORSHIP on YOUTUBE:
[Richfield Lutheran Church](https://www.youtube.com/c/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:
[Creative Early Learning Center @RLC](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeEarlyLearningCenter@RLC)





Upcoming Services and Events:

- **Thursday, January 1st**
Happy New Year!
(RLC/CELC Offices closed)
- **Sunday, January 4 Epiphany Celebration Service: 9:30 worship w/communion**
- **Sunday, January 11: 9:30 Worship**
- **Sunday, January 18: 9:30 Worship w/communion**
- **Sunday, January 25: 9:30 Worship**

LOOKING AHEAD

Ash Wednesday - (1:00pm) - Feb 18

Wednesday, Midweek Lenten Services begin every Wednesday at 1:00 pm from Feb 25-March 25

Palm Sunday	March 29
Maundy Thursday	April 2
Good Friday	April 3
Easter Sunday	April 5



Our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Carol Danielson who passed away on December 8th.

Carol was the Office Manager at RLC for many years. A private family service will be held at a later date.



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Stewardship Update: A huge word of thanks to all who participated in the 'in-Gathering of Gratitude' in worship on Dec 7, and especially to all who have generously provided a pledge of financial support to the congregation's

ministry for 2026! As of Dec 16th the church office has received pledges from 27 households (compared to 34 in total received last year). It's likely we have received more as of this printing and some may still be discerning gift amounts. If that's you, thank you in advance! If you'd like to still pledge, there's still time! Pledges are gratefully received at any time.

It is wonderful to note that total pledged amounts so far represent a 4.5% increase from 2025 to 2026. While there is still an anticipated deficit in our budget for year-end 2025 and in anticipated numbers for 2026, these commitments provide great hope and promise for the ministry we seek to do together.

We also know that many give generously without designating a pledge. These gifts are also celebrated and received with huge thanksgiving and meaning for what the congregation does.

For all of this and more, thanks be to God, and may God continue to bless us all in the spirit of generosity



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'.



**By Susan Anderson
Council President**

In reflecting back on 2025, I think of it as, "A Neighboring Year for RLC". Thanks to Pastor Charlie's outreach, we are closer than ever to CELC children, staff and families as well as Mundo de Paz, The Toy Library and the Crosstown Band. We have patronized our business neighbors. We joined the Richfield area Lutheran Churches in worship. We reached out with sympathy to our Annunciation neighbors in the aftermath of their school shooting. We hosted the Fabric Church children's Christmas play including weeks of rehearsals. We are doing what we can do to protect our immigrant neighbors when they are in our building. Consequently, there are increased interactions between our neighbors and us but, just as important, between neighbors themselves. Thank you, Pastor Charlie, for being the catalyst/facilitator for these activities that have enriched all those who participated. May we keep it going in 2026!

**In Peace
Susan Anderson**

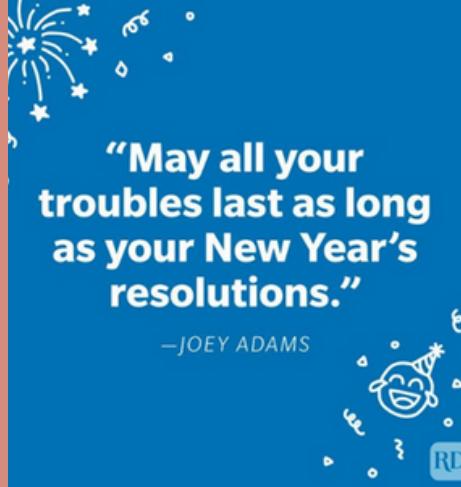


January Birthdays

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



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.



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By Robbi Moore

Parish Nurse

Nursing Notes

As we begin a new year, let's visit the rising health concerns of vaping. So.....

Just exactly what is VAPING.? This is a method of ingesting various chemicals via a tool that is handheld with a mouthpiece that dispenses a stream of this chemical. The chemicals have several formulas and a huge array of flavors. These chemicals are all legally purchased. These chemicals have not been sanctioned by the FDA (food and drug administration).

We know that early research suggests even Nicotine capsules are more potent than cigarettes ..even filtered. There are many chemicals in these capsules that are being identified to cause permanent damage to lung tissue and the lung chambers are specifically identified as the chemicals cause the chambers (like little balloons) explode and are not repairable. While all ages are at risk but there is a yet not completely understood a significant vulnerability in teens. Thoughts are the chemistry in body is still maturing that specific tissue.

This is all concerning and there is a large group of world researchers who are sounding alarms as these statistics and components and their roles in the body increase in daily use. Because of its ease of use and habit forming nature as well as its side effect of anti-anxiety, calming effect.

If you or anyone you care for vapes.. STOP. Encourage all you care for to stop or don't start. When cigarettes are better than vaping that speaks volumes. We are looking at a huge lung damaged population who will be ill and die younger - all because of a poor choice. And I didn't even discuss vaping and brain cell damage.

Breathe clear and safe!

In His Love and Guidance
Your Parish Nurse
Robbi





Save the Date!

RLC Annual Meeting

Sunday March 1st

Please join us for our annual congregational meeting after worship when we discuss what is happening behind the scenes as well as share plans for our future. You are needed! Committee reports are due by February 8th.



News from VEAP



Food and supplies are always appreciated at VEAP. Listed below are some practical and thoughtful food shelf items to donate.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

(This list has been proved by Sara Barnaby who spoke with VEAP about what people would like. Thank you Sara for providing this to us.)

A Message from Trust



As we move into the winter season, TRUST Inc. continues its commitment to offering services that support older adults for independent living and promote initiatives designed to strengthen our community. As Winter begins, our mission remains focused on creating connections that help alleviate isolation and loneliness among individuals. We invite you to join the TRUST Inc. family in the coming year!

Join us in December and January for this variety of initiatives that build a strong community together!

(A variety of flyers advertising the Trust Activities are located in the RLC Narthex or you can go on-line to Trust Inc. for further information.)



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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.

MAKE A DONATION!

Richfield Lutheran Church
Creative Early Learning Center

Text "give" to
612-688-2798

or scan the QR code below:



<https://tinyurl.com/tyvexcn>

Please use the above QR code to donate to RLC or Creative Early Learning Center to help us grow.



**RICHFIELD
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ELCA
SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS

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Daily Bible Readings for January:

Thursday, January 1	Saturday, January 17
Philippians 2:5-11	1 Kings 19:19-21
Friday, January 2	Sunday, January 18
Hebrews 11:1-12	John 1:29-42
Saturday, January 3	Monday, January 19
Psalm 72	Matthew 16:13-19
Sunday, January 4	Tuesday, January 20
John 1: [1-9] 10-18	Psalm 40:6-17
Monday, January 5	Wednesday, January 21
Hebrews 11:32--12:2	Isaiah 48:12-21
Tuesday, January 6	Thursday, January 22
Matthew 2:1-12	Psalm 27:1-6
Wednesday, January 7	Friday, January 23
1 Kings 10:1-13	1 Samuel 9:27--10:8
Thursday, January 8	Saturday, January 24
Ephesians 4:7, 11-16	Matthew 4:12-23
Friday, January 9	Monday, January 26
Micah 5:2-9	Galatians 1:11-24
Saturday, January 10	Tuesday, January 27
Psalm 29	Psalm 27:7-14
Sunday, January 11	Wednesday, January 28
Matthew 3:13-17	Luke 1:67-79
Monday, January 12	Thursday, January 29
Psalm 89:5-37	Psalm 15
Tuesday, January 13	Friday, January 30
Acts 8:4-13	Deuteronomy 24:17--25:4
Wednesday, January 14	Saturday, January 31
Isaiah 51:1-16	John 13:31-35
Thursday, January 15	
Psalm 40:1-11	
Friday, January 16	
Acts 1:1-5	



Year of 2025



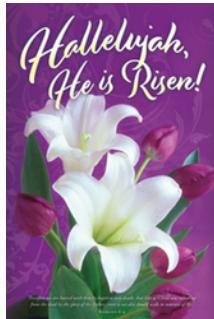
Baptisms



Joint Worship
with Mundo de Paz



Lent Worship & Soup Suppers



Easter
Worship



RC Church
Council



A New Playground!



WELCA/Operation Christmas Child Event



We are Blessed!



Weekly Bible Study
with Pastor Charlie



Joyful Music



Musicians



RC & CELC Ice
Cream Social



Corn Feed & Blessing of
the New Playground



Staff Appreciation
Lunch



Don't forget the lefse!

