



**December 25, 2022 at 9:30 am
Christmas Day**

ENTRANCE

Prelude "Savior of the Nations Come" arr. Cathy Moglebust
Chancel Bell Choir

Welcome Rev. Nate Melcher

*Your gift in-person, by mail or phone, or online at richfieldumc.org/give
supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church.
Thank you for your extravagant generosity.*

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

*You are invited to safely light a candle or lamp to celebrate
the moments this week where your life's journey met God's heart.*

The LORD's Prayer

Our God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem "Best to Enter My House" by Victor Zupanc

Time with Children

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet your neighbor with a mutual sign of peace.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to

Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Ode to the Innkeepers”

Rev. Nate Melcher

THANKSGIVING

Breakthrough Prayer

**Loving God of all, renew our hearts and minds.
Reveal your wildest dreams, break through to each of us.
Unite us in your vision, equip us for your work.
Transform us by your song, create our harmony.
May we embrace your future, and be your loving church. Amen.**

Please join your church in praying the Breakthrough Prayer daily at 8:35.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Carol

“And the Glory of the Lord”
[from: “Messiah”]
Chancel Choir

by G. F. Handel

Benediction

...And until we meet again, let us live...
in faith, justice, and joy! Amen.

Postlude

“Christmas Time Is Here”

by Vince Guaraldi



**Thank you for worshiping as Richfield United Methodist Church.
We hope you had a good experience. Worship is over. Service begins.**

Hello, guests! Welcome to worship as Richfield UMC. It's a big step to come to a new church and we're glad you're here. If you have questions, please ask any church member, and we hope you have a good experience.

An Everyday Prayer Life Is for Everyone

May we devote time and energy to God and neighbor and pray every day for:

- Open minds and hearts for “conflux moments.”
- People in need of a loving church home.
- Our church’s journey toward vitality.

Our prayers are a beautiful expression of care and solidarity for each other.

We pray in celebration.

We pray with gratitude.

We pray for those who are ill: Paula Milani, Marylee Fithian, Joyce Walls, Laurel Lien, Caroline Riley, Jane Parry, Agnes Danzl, Connie Gillespie, Derek, nephew of Susan and SK Johnson, Bill Mosher, brother of Lori Claussen, Ann E. Butler, niece of David and Mary Martha Butler, Joanne Green, Betsy Petersen, daughter of Mary Kay Petersen, Dorothy DeFreese, and Rhonda Olson.

We pray for those who seek comfort: Bill Hillger.

We pray for those who grieve:

The family and friends of RUMC member Pat Steffer. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 10:00 am.

We pray for our neighbors.

We pray for all in the RUMC community.

Please call the church office to be included in any of the prayers of our church.

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Musicians: Chancel Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Nancy Dierauer, Greg Locke, Rev. Nate Melcher, Lyra Olson, Tanner VanderKrabben, Victor Zupanc

Tech: Rev. Bill Johnson, Rev. Nate Melcher, TY Moore, Dale Olson, Michele Wegscheid, Steve Warner



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online-Only Worship New Year's Day
with a sermon from our new Bishop, Lanette Plambeck

youtube.com/richfieldumc or 888.650.5835—There will be online-only worship with no in-person option on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

Youth Group resumes Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Youth Group continues on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm in the Grace Room.

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Pick up your free copy of Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say, the book inspiring the January sermon series and used in the book and video study starting in January. See below for details.

New Worship Series #5: "HALF TRUTHS" January 8-February 5

There are simple phrases that *sound* Christian and like they're in the Bible. Cliché phrases like "Everything happens for a reason" or "God won't give you more than you can handle" can hurt instead of help. In worship this January, we will compare common Christian clichés with scriptural wisdom to find God's truth.

New Adult Class Begins in January (coincides with sermon series)

Book & Video Study: Half Truths (Two Options Thursdays or Sundays)

Pick up your free copy of Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say. In class, we will discuss a chapter and watch a video by Rev. Adam Hamilton. The online Thursday class discusses the chapter for the upcoming Sunday sermon, while the in-person Sunday class discusses the chapter from that day's sermon. If you cannot make the class, you're encouraged to read the book and/or watch the videos on [Amplify Media](#) on your own.

Thursdays at 7:30pm-8:30pm by Zoom (online-only)

1/5 through 2/2—Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 Passcode: 5835

Sundays at 10:40am-11:30am, Grace Room (in-person only) 1/8 through 2/5

Children's Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 8, 2023

Children go to Sunday School from worship after the Time for Children.

Pub Theology—First Sundays at 7:00pm-8:00pm (in-person only)

New Location for 1st Quarter 2023: Protagonist Kitchen and Bar, 6601 Lyndale Avenue S., Richfield, MN 55423 (ramp parking)

Next Gatherings: January 8 (2nd Sunday), February 5, March 5

This monthly drop-in group to discusses faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage. Conversation led by Pastor Nate. More information: richfieldumc.org/pubtheology

Soup Drive: Souper Bowl of Caring—January 15-February 12

Starting on Sun., Jan. 15, and going through Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 12, Richfield UMC will be collecting canned soup in the Commons area, and collecting online donations for VEAP so that our local food shelf can continue to feed people throughout the coldest months in Minnesota.

Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship for Everyone

Program: Lake Superior: The Grandeur Rounds

Thursday, January 12th, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Online-only program: [Zoom Link](#): Online: Meeting ID: 813-2660-

1056 Passcode: 5835 OR Call-In: 312-626-6799, then enter Meeting ID and Passcode
What most Minnesotans know about Lake Superior is the "Northshore," but there is much more to the Big Lake. We welcome to Time for LIFE, Rev. Wayne and Fern Albertson, who made the tour around Superior last summer, and Rev. Kent Johnson, who has been sailing on the lake for years. Join us for this enjoyable program as we see some of the hidden beauty, uncover some of the mysteries, and discover new places to visit on the Big Lake!

Questions: Call/email the Parish Nurse, Kay Bergeland, at 612-861-6086

or kbergeland@richfieldumc.org

Church Conference on February 5

There will be a church conference after worship to receive reports and approve the 2023 operations budget. **Sunday, February 5 at 10:35 am in the Sanctuary** and by [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 886-0975-2661, Passcode: 5835 or call in: 312-626-6799 (standard rates)

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read

January 9th: discussion of potential books for the 2023 schedule

Contact Fern Albertson, wfalbertson@gmail.com, to get connected.

Tuesdays, 9:30 am | Women's Bible Study

Contact Molly Reko, mollyreko@comcast.net, to get connected.

Wednesdays, 9:00 am | Men's Bible Study

Contact Kent Johnson, kentjmn@gmail.com, to get connected.

Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group

Contact Kent Johnson, kentjmn@gmail.com, to get connected.

This Week's Calendar

The church office/Campus is open Tues.-Thurs., 8am-4pm.
The Church Library is open when the campus is open.

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day—Building Closed

9:30 am Online-Only Worship Service

Monday, December 26, 2022

Building Closed

Tuesday, December 27, 2022

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

10:00 am Pat Steffer Memorial Service

Wednesday, December 28, 2022

8:30 am CFC Soccer

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Thursday, December 29, 2022

Friday, December 30, 2022

Saturday, December 31, 2022

Building Closed

10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, January 01, 2023

New Year's Day—Building Closed

9:30 am Online-Only Worship Service

Please let the church office know if you or someone from the church is hospitalized or immediately pre or post hospitalization. The pastoral care team is available to extend care and provide support in times of need. The Parish Minister for the week of December 25 is David Couillard.

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Stay informed, be involved, and get invitational.

Richfield UMC gathers on Dakota land. More at richfieldumc.org/land.