RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 23, 2025 at 9:30 am
Christ the King Sunday

Bold = in unison *** Rise in body and/or spirit**

ENTRANCE

Prelude — "People Get Ready" by Curtis Mayfield — Victor Zupanc

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship* — Rev. Wayne Albertson

Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.
In God's freedom, we are a new creation.
Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.
In God's mercy, we are a new creation.
Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.
In God's embrace, we are a new creation.

Gathering Hymn* "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" UM Hymnal 103
vs. 1-3

1. **Immortal, invisible, God only wise,**
   in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
   most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
   almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. **Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,**
   nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
   thy justice like mountains high soaring above
   thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. **To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;**
   in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
   we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
   and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Centering Prayer

Merciful God, you seek the lost sheep of your pasture; you call out to all who have strayed. As a parent welcomes a prodigal, receive us back into your loving arms. Your steadfast love knows no bounds. Your loving embrace is always there. May we feel your presence in our time of worship and know that you are our true home. Hear us now in our Breakthrough Prayer…

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.

Time with Children Becca Whitaker

Sharing the Peace

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

Please greet your neighbor here - & online - with mutual signs of peace.

Lighting Our Conflux Candles

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

Celebration Music "Both Sides Now" by Joni Mitchell

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context — Rev. Chris Kliesen Wehrman

Gospel Readings — Matthew 18:1-6, 21-22; Luke 15:31-32

Matthew 18:1-6, 21-22 Tree of Life Version

The disciples came to *Yeshua*, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
[2] And *Yeshua* called a child to Himself, set [the child] in the midst of them, [3] and said, "Amen, I tell you, unless you turn and become like children, you shall never enter the kingdom of heaven. [4] Whoever then shall humble [themselves] like this child, this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. [5] And whoever welcomes one such child in My name, welcomes Me.
[6] "But whoever causes one of these little ones who trust in Me to stumble, it would be better for [that one] to have a heavy millstone hung around [their] neck and to be sunk in the depth of the sea!
[21] [*Later*] Peter came to *Yeshua* and said, "Master, how often shall I forgive my brother [or sister] when [they sin] against me? Up to seven times?"
[22] *Yeshua* said to Peter, "No, not up to seven times, I tell you, but seventy times seven!

Luke 15:31-32 First Nations New Testament

[In the final verses of the story, the father speaks to his eldest, angry son:]
[31]"'My son,' he said to him, 'you are always close to my heart, and everything I have is yours. [32]But it is a good thing for us to celebrate with glad hearts for your brother was dead but now is alive. He was lost, but now we have found him!"

The Living Word of God. Living in the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflective Hymn — "The Mother of the Prodigal Son"
Anonymous poem altered and transposed to the tune: Star of County Down

Where was the mother of the wandering son on the day he turned to go?
What were her thoughts; what were her fears, as she watched so long ago?
How many times, year after year, did a tear slide down her face?
Did she lie in bed heart open wide, just to pray that her child was safe?

How many evenings did she wonder where her son now slept?
Was he alive? And warm? And well? What company he kept?
Was his stomach full? Was there anyone he could trust to be his friend?
Would the course he'd set cost more of him than he could comprehend?

Oh, but when her son came down the road,
she had watched since he had gone,
Did love insistent flood her soul? Did she shout? Was she undone?
When the father had welcomed and feasted their son,
and brother had met his brother,
The servants cleared a path, no doubt, to the arms of the waiting mother.

Sermon "The Parable of the Missing Mother"
Rev. Chris Kliesen Wehrman
"I Once Was Lost" Worship Series 4 of 4

Responsive Hymn "Amazing Grace" UM Hymnal 378

1. **Amazing grace! How sweet the sound**
that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost,
but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

6. **When we've been there ten thousand years**
bright shining as the sun, we've no less days
to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Prayers of the People

LORD in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sharing Our Gifts

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.

Offertory "Take Me Home Country Roads"
by John Denver

THANKSGIVING

Doxology* UM Hymnal 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Gratitude*

God of overflowing abundance, you bless the earth and it brings forth food. We, who have been given so much, rejoice in our ability to aid those who are in need. As we present our offerings this day, bless these gifts, the bounty of this good land, that they reach those who need it through the ministries of this church. May we give as abundantly as Jesus taught us to give. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Sending Hymn* "Blessed Be the God of Israel" UM Hymnal 209

1. **Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,**
   who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
   The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
   God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.
2. **Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;**
   a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
   Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
   the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.
3. **On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,**
   the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
   to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
   O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Benediction*

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

Postlude Imagine First Reversion
by John Lennon

Worship is over. Service begins.
Go forth as Richfield United Methodist Church.

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.

RICHFIELD UMC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, November 23

Sunday School (Grades K-6) After the Time with Children

Confirmation Class at 10:45 am in the Grace Room

Guest Speaker: Oak Hill Cemetery curator David Peterson | 10:45 am | Sanctuary
As part of the **Ponder, Prepare, and Pray: Our Last Earthly Steps** Series you're invited to come to today's in-person event.
Oak Hill Cemetery curator David Peterson will offer information on both Oak Hill and cemeteries in general. Learn about internment options, how vaults and markers work, and how you can prepare now so your loved ones know your intentions.

Charge Conference today, Nov. 23 for the purpose of setting clergy compensation
There is a Charge Conference at Eden Prairie UMC (15050 Scenic Heights Rd, Eden Prairie) on Sunday, November 23 at **4:00-5:30 pm** to approve clergy compensation for 2026. Beginning this year, the Minnesota Annual Conference now holds District-based cluster conferences for the business of Charge Conferences. Ad Board members (voice & vote) will attend. Church members (voice) are welcome**, and per Conference instructions and as announced, members needed to RSVP in advance, thank you.**

Advent Begins on Next Sunday, November 30

Advent Movie Matinees: "A Christmas Carol"
Sundays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and Dec. 14 at 10:45 am, Fellowship Hall
Pastor Nate's Advent sermons are inspired by scripture and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. You're invited to watch:
November 30 | *A Christmas Carol* (George C. Scott, 1984, 1 hour, 41 minutes)
December 7 | *A Christmas Carol* (Alistair Sim, 1951, 1 hour, 26 minutes)
December 14 | *The Muppet Christmas Carol* (Michael Caine, 1992, 1 hour, 25 min).
Yes, we have snacks! Please stay after worship to enjoy these classics.

Church Bus Ministry: Next Steps

Over the years, Richfield UMC has proudly provided bus rides to Sunday worship for church members, thanks to a dedicated volunteer crew and your generous giving. After pandemic, ridership declined, as did our driver roster. While we periodically ask if people want to become a rider, we've had no riders since April, 2025. We are in prayerful discernment about the future of this ministry and the next steps forward. **If you have interest in becoming a bus rider or driver, please contact Pastor Nate this month.** If we have a renewed passion to relaunch, we will make every effort to do so. If not, we will take steps to end this ministry. Please keep this amazing ministry in your prayers, and thank you.

December Time for LIFE | Holiday Luncheon

Program: Songs in the Holiday Spirit with QuintEssence
Featuring David Nyberg, RUMC Interim Choir Director, and Pastor Chris Kliesen Wehrman
Date: Tuesday, December 9 **Time:** Luncheon at 12 Noon, program from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Cost: $15.00 for lunch and program; $5.00 for program only
RSVP: Sign up in the Commons or call the church office no later than Sun., December 7
After a delicious lunch, we will experience the magic of the holiday season with warm vocal harmonies and exquisite piano and guitar stylings to a delightful blend of timeless Christmas classics and seasonal favorites. It's a performance that is sure to warm your heart and make you smile!

Ongoing and Open

1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting December 1, 2025. The book to read and discuss for Dec. 1 is The Guncle by Steven Rowley. If you are a woman who enjoys good books and thoughtful discussion, then consider joining fellow readers for Women Who Read.

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.

Night Owl Bible Study | Wednesdays at 9:00 pm
Online-Only by Zoom Meeting ID: 819 9039 0338 / Passcode: 5835 or call: (312) 626-6799. Busy days? Up late at night? This is the Bible study for you. Open to all.

Saturdays, 8:30 am | Men's Support Group
Contact Kent Johnson, kentjmn@gmail.com, to get connected.

Families with Young Children are always welcome in worship!
Here are some options to help your family have a good experience when worshiping in the Sanctuary:

The Nook - A space connected to the Sanctuary perfect for having a quiet or wiggly moment.
Art Cart - Children can fill a bag with items in The Nook to bring with them to worship with their families in the pews.
Time with Children - Children of all ages are invited to experience a message just for them. Parent/guardians are welcome to join their children too.
Sunday School - **(Grades K-6)** Second and fourth Sundays during worship time Following the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship. Children meet Sunday school teachers in the Nook.
Nursing Mothers - You may nurse wherever you like. There is also a reserved Nursing Room available near the Library area.

An Everyday Prayer Life Is for Everyone

172 Days of Prayer Movement | June 8-Nov. 26
All church members and friends are called to pray for the future of your church every day through the day before Thanksgiving, Nov. 26. Thank you for taking part in this urgent, faithful solution for your church.

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

- People in need of a loving church home.
- Our church's journey toward vitality.
- The babies and toddlers who are cared for each weekday by CFC (Caring For Children, the early learning ministry at the church) and their families.

Our prayers are a beautiful expression of care and solidarity for each other.
We pray in celebration and gratitude.
We pray for those who seek healing: Laurel Lien, Agnes Danzl, Jim Vetsch, Don Morrow, John Darling, Shar Salisbury, Bob Mills, Lynne Alexander, Donis (Burt) Andrews (sister of Shari Burt), Pat Eder, Marilyn Dodge, Pat Noonan, Betty, mother of Michele Wegscheid, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, and DeAnna Wichman.
We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani and David Couillard.
We pray for those who seek strength and wisdom: Pat Robertson.
We pray for those who grieve:
Susan (SK) Johnson and her family as they mourn the death of her sister, Nancy.
We pray for our neighbors and for all in the RUMC community.
Please call the church office to be included in any of the prayers of our church.

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, November 23, 2025
9:30 am Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Confirmation Class
10:45 am Guest Speaker: Oak Hill Cemetery curator David Peterson
4:00 pm Charge Conference at Eden Prairie UMC (15050 Scenic Heights Rd, Eden Prairie) to approve clergy compensation for 2026.

Monday, November 24, 2025

Tuesday, November 25, 2025
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 26, 2025
9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Thursday, November 27, 2025
Happy Thanksgiving
The church campus is closed.

Friday, November 28, 2025
The church campus is closed.

Saturday, November 29, 2025
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

Sunday, November 30, 2025
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service (+Live streamed & archived)
10:45 am Advent Movie Matinee: A Christmas Carol

We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Staff: Kay Bergeland, Kathy Gertsema, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker
Music Staff: Sonja Gustafson, David Nyberg, Victor Zupanc
Liturgist today: Rev. Wayne Albertson, Rev. Nate Melcher, Rev. Chris Kliesen Wehrman
Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, Rev. Bill Johnson, Steve Warner

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 November 23 is Kate Currie.

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