RICHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**April 5, 2026 at 9:30 am**
**Easter Day**

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

## ENTRANCE

Prelude — Dance Prelude on Thine Is the Glory, Kenneth J. Grinnell — RUMC Easter Ensemble

Welcome — Rev. Nate Melcher

Call to Worship*

He is risen!
**He is risen, indeed!**
He is risen!
**He is risen, indeed!**
He is risen!
**He is risen, indeed!**

Gathering Hymn* "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

1. **Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!**
   **Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!**
   **Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!**
   **Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

2. **Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!**
   **Unto Christ our heav'nly king, Alleluia!**
   **Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!**
   **Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

3. [*Choir:*] *But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!*
   *Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!*
   **[All:] Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!**
   **Where the angels ever sing Alleluia!**

4. **Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!**
   **Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!**
   **Praise him all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!**
   **Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Easter Joy

**God of Mystery, God of Delight, we gather to worship you on this Easter morning. When we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we fear no evil – for you are with this world. Your Son is alive, and resurrection is everywhere! Your Spirit is here, and hope is everywhere! Be with all who celebrate Love's divine triumph over hate's disdainful shadow. 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 in prayer.*

Celebration Music "Easter Gloria" Chancel Choir
Mark Hayes

Celebrating Our Conflux Moments / 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.**

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Scripture in Context

Gospel Reading John 20:1-23 Rev. Wayne Albertson

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to God. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, out of fear, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

Sermon "Jesus Lives" Rev. Nate Melcher
"Windows of Opportunity" Worship Series 7 of 8

Hymn "Now the Green Blade Riseth" UM Hymnal 311, vs. 1-3

1. **Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,**
   **wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;**
   **Love lives again, that with the dead has been:**

Refrain: **Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.**

2. **In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,**
   **thinking that he never would awake again,**
   **laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:** (Refrain)

3. **Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,**
   **Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;**
   **quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:** (Refrain)

## THANKSGIVING

Faith, Justice, and Joy as the Church

Sharing Our Gifts

*Your gift today in-person, by mail or phone, or online at [richfieldumc.org/give](richfieldumc.org/give) supports the ministries, outreach, and operations of your church and benefits Minnesota FoodShare.*

Offertory "Christ Is Alive" UM Hymnal 318, vs. 1, 5

1. **Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.**
   **His cross stands empty to the sky.**
   **Let streets and homes with praises ring.**
   **His love in death shall never die.**

5. **Christ is alive, and comes to bring**
   **good news to this and every age,**
   **till earth and all creation ring**
   **with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

# SENDING FORTH

Doxology*

**Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:**
**"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels loud and clear!**
**Repeat their song of glory here: "Christ has triumphed!**
**Christ has triumphed!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Gratitude and Easter Proclamation*

**Gracious and Loving God, you create us in your image of kindness and care. You sent your Son to teach us generosity and responsibility. May we carry the miracle of Easter resurrection far beyond this morning and integrate it into all of the ways we engage our neighbors, beginning with these financial gifts. Holy Spirit, activate the love in our hearts which you know we are capable of sharing in this world. Amen.**

Instructions for the Hallelujah Chorus

Sending Music "Hallelujah Chorus" from Messiah Choir & Congregation
George Frideric Handel, setting, Hal H. Hopson

**Hallelujah!** (repeat…) **For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.**
**Hallelujah!** (repeat…) **For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**
**Hallelujah!** (repeat…)
**The kingdom of this world Is become the kingdom of our Lord,**
**And of His Christ, and of His Christ; And He shall reign for ever and ever,**
**King of kings, and Lord of lords,** (repeat) **And He shall reign forever and ever,**
**King of kings, forever and ever, And Lord of lords, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**
**And He shall reign forever and ever, King of kings! and Lord of lords!** (repeat)
**Hallelujah!** (repeat...!)

Benediction*

He is risen!
**He is risen, indeed!**
He is risen!
**He is risen, indeed!**
He is risen!
**He is risen, indeed!**

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

Postlude "Toccata in F" (from Symphony V) Sonja Gustafson
by C. M. Widor

**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, Sunday, April 5 | Easter Sunday

A portion of today's offering goes to Minnesota FoodShare, helping to bridge the food insecurity gap near and far. Learn more at: gmcc.org/minnesota-foodshare

**Sunday School** (Grades K-6) Special Easter Sunday School. During worship time, after the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship.

**Pub Theology | Cancelled for this evening, April 5**
Next gathering on Sunday, May 3 at Pizza Lucé, 800 W 66th St, Richfield. Led by Pastor Nate, Pub Theology is a drop-in discussion about faith, God, and life over a tasty beverage.

## Time for LIFE: Learning, Inspiration, and Fellowship Together

**Program:** Fascinating Loons, with well-known naturalist, Stan Tekiela
**Date:** Tuesday, April 7; **Time:** Program from 1:00-2:00 pm, with a dessert to follow!
**Cost:** $10.00, payable the day of the event
**RSVP: Sign up in the Commons or call the church office by today, Sunday, April 5**
Welcome back a favorite Time for LIFE speaker, Stan Tekiela. Stan is an award-winning author, naturalist, and wildlife photographer, and we will have the opportunity to hear his program, *Fascinating Loons!* Join us as we learn all about this iconic waterbird!

## Fun-O-Rama Fridays in April | richfieldumc.org/fun-o-rama

**Game-O-Rama! | Friday, April 10, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm**
Find community through gaming! Want to learn a new game? Have a game to teach? Bring it with you. Parents/guardians must be present with children 15 and under; minors ages 16-17 without a parent/guardian present must fill out a participant waiver. Let us know you're coming: sign-up in the Commons or contact the church.

**Spin-O-Rama! | Friday, April 17, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm**
Grab a table, enjoy some snacks, and make your requests. If we've got it on vinyl or video, we'll play it! The night's focus is 1960s-1980s classic rock. Sing along with old friends and connect with new people over the power of music. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign-up in the Commons or contact the church.

**Craft-O-Rama! | Friday, April 24, 9:30am-9:30pm**
Come for this drop-in day of crafts in community open to church members and neighbors. Bring your own craft project or select a service project craft. All crafts are welcome. Sign-up in the Commons or contact the church.

## Next Sunday, April 12

**Sunday School** (Grades K-6) 2nd & 4th Sundays during worship time. After the Time with Children, children may go to Sunday School or stay in the sanctuary to worship.

**Confirmation Class** at 10:45 am in the Grace Room

## Youth Group | Wednesday, April 15, 6:30-7:30 pm

Through youth group ministries, teens spend time and energy together learning about God, themselves, and each other. We play games, do crafts, try Bible study, watch movies and videos, and more! New faces are always welcome!

## Your Next Faithful Steps: Lunch For New People

**Sunday, April 19, 10:45 am-11:45 am, Grace Room**
Please RSVP to Pastor Nate, nmelcher@richfieldumc.org or 612-861-6086

## Ongoing and Open

**1st Mondays, 1:30 pm | Women Who Read**
To join by Zoom, email Fern wfalbertson@gmail.com. Next meeting April 6, 2026. The book to read and discuss is The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel. 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—resumes April 15**
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

**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, John Darling, Shar Salisbury, Bob Mills, Donis (Burt) Andrews (sister of Shari Burt), Marilyn Dodge, Pat Noonan, Christopher, brother of Michele Wegscheid, Eric, nephew of Lori Claussen, Lynne Clarke, Ron Doncavage, Rev. Carol Zaagsma's mother, Nancy, Barb Rogers, and Cooper Pacyga, grandson of Jen Pacyga.
We pray for those who seek comfort: Paula Milani, Dorothy DeFreese, and Rev. Lynn Borgeson's brother, Dale.
We pray for those who grieve.
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, April 05, 2025** *Easter Day*
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)

**Monday, April 06, 2025**
1:30 pm Women Who Read

**Tuesday, April 07, 2025**
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
1:00 pm Time for LIFE

**Wednesday, April 08, 2025**
9:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Thursday, April 09, 2025**

**Friday, April 10, 2025**
6:30 pm Game-O-Rama

**Saturday, April 11, 2025**
8:30 am Men's Group
10:30 am Saturday Covenant Group

**Sunday, April 12, 2025**
9:30 am Worship Service
(+Live streamed & archived)
9:40 am Children's Sunday School
10:45 am Confirmation Class
12:00 pm Groth Scholarship Auditions

**We thank those who help make this worship a ministry of grace:**
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Staff: Rev. Nate Melcher, Kay Bergeland, Kathy Gertsema, Sonja Gustafson, Pat Noonan, Linda Schmidt, Becca Whitaker, Victor Zupanc

Musicians Today: Chancel Choir, Brad Gardner, Sonja Gustafson, Rev. Bill Johnson (timpani), Pat Norton (cello) Andrew Lilienkamp (trumpet), Charya Ratwatte, Blake LaBarge (trombone).

Liturgist today: Rev. Wayne Albertson

Tech Crew today: Linda Blomsness, Rev. Bill Johnson, Steve Warner, Michele Wegscheid

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 April 5 is Merry Rendahl.

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**Richfield United Methodist Church**
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