



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### *Happy Easter, from the Somber Side!*

Sitting here at the start of Holy Week, it's challenging to write for the April edition of the Herald, addressing you as you celebrate the joyous Easter Season. Nevertheless, Happy Easter! He is risen, indeed!

How wonderful is the Easter Season? I'll remind you about that from here, on the somber side of Holy Week, in case you've forgotten. The weather is colder here. Today's low was 37. Choosing hymns for services in the Lenten season, we're careful not to use hymns containing the word "Hallelujah." We intentionally worship with a more somber tone during Lent, in remembrance of the sufferings and death of our Messiah on our behalf.

Many other things around us now set a somber tone to the Lenten season, preparing our hearts for the joys of Easter. Pastor Carlson and I wear black robes for Lenten services. We're preparing this week for Good Friday services, which remind us of the intense suffering and excruciating death Jesus endured for us. The trees have no leaves, the grass isn't as green, and most flowers aren't yet blooming. Cinders, dust, and dirt lie on streets, the shoulders of roads, and on sidewalks; lingering evidence of the ice, snow, and slush against which we recently battled. The days are still a little shorter than they eventually will be, and tax bills are coming due.



On my way into church one day this week, however, I snapped this photo. It may still be the somber Lenten Season here on this side of Holy Week, but the daffodils in our Patterson Road flower beds at Ruthfred seem eager to remind us that a wonderful, happy, and beautiful season is approaching. Beneath the shadow of the cross atop Ruthfred's spire, up from the ground, they arose!

Of course, as I typed that sentence, I thought of the tune and words to the old Robert Lowry hymn, *Christ Arose!* Go to Youtube and type "Robert Lowry *Christ Arose*," and you'll find it there, if it isn't familiar to you. It's an incredibly popular hymn in the little, rural AFLC churches out in the Midwest, with a not-so-faint gospel tone.

*Continued on page 3 ...*

## Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road  
Bethel Park , PA 15102  
Wwww.Ruthfred.org

**Pastor** Steven P. Carlson

**Pastor** Bryce McMinn

**Office Manager** Paula Mikulan

**Administrative Assistant** Pat Lutz

**Youth Director** Brandon Fouks

**Council President** Joe Roman

## Herald Staff

**Editor** Tom Glasser

**Staff Writers** Mettelise Ziegler

Tom Glasser

**Proofreading** Ruth and Alan Hinkelman

**Mailing Labels** Lauren Daugherty

**Printing** Paula Mikulan

**Assembly Leader** Joyce Bock

The submission deadline for the next Herald is  
**Sunday, April 18th, 2021**

The email publication date is  
**Monday, May 3rd, 2021**

## In This Issue

- 3 From the Pastor's Desk**  
Continued from cover page
- 4 Member Profile**  
Rachel and Josh Anderson
- 5 Song of the Month**  
Now Let the Vault of Heaven Resound
- 6 News and Announcements**
- 8 Shepherd Ministry / Official Acts**
- 9 Catching Up With Council**
- 10 Church Calendar**
- 11 Youth Ministry Calendar**
- 12 Reading Through the Bible 2021  
(Chronological Version)**
- 13 A Joyful Heart Is Good Medicine**



Blessed be the  
*God and Father*  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who according to His great  
**mercy** has caused us to  
**be born again**  
*to a living hope*  
through the resurrection of  
**Jesus Christ**  
from the dead **1 Peter 1:3**



## Continued from Front Page . . .

The refrain says, *“Up from the grave He arose! With a mighty triumph o’er His foes! He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with the saints to reign! He arose! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ arose!”* Even just listening to that hymn on Youtube from here, on the somber side of Holy Week, brings tears to my eyes. And that third stanza; wow! *“Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!”*

These little signs of the seasons, and these small, intentional things we do in our corporate worship, which combine to create a more somber atmosphere and mindset during Lent, are reminders to us of the far greater accomplishments, and far more amazing events that took place at the cross and in that tomb some 2,000 years ago, outside the city of Jerusalem.

Every rotten thing you’ve ever done, said, or thought; every life-threatening danger you’ve ever faced (whether resulting from illness, disease, crime, combat, or disaster of any kind), has had the potential of destroying not only your temporal body, but also your eternal soul.

Through His miraculous resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday, God reveals to you not only that your Savior has the power to conquer physical death itself, but that His sufferings and death on that cross were accepted by God as full payment for every one of your sins, and have won eternal salvation for your soul! As I said in my sermon on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, read Isaiah 53! Read the chapter of Isaiah that synagogues across the world IGNORE, and SKIP when they read from the Book of Isaiah! In that chapter; which is only twelve short verses, you’ll read about what Jesus accomplished for you on that cross, where, *“...He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors (that’s you).”*

A Blessed and Happy Easter to you, Ruthfred Lutheran Church!  
Your Savior, Jesus, has risen indeed! ...and is coming again...

*Pastor McMinn*

### **Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life**



*“Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter clinched it for Paul. If God’s Son, divine and holy from all eternity, would take on human flesh for me, obey the commandments for me, suffer and die for me, and rise again to guarantee my forgiveness and resurrection, there can be no doubt. He loves me.”*

*Rev. Mark Jeske, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*  
[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

## Member Profile:

by Mettelise Ziegler

### Rachel and Josh Anderson

You might think that with a name like Anderson, Rachel and Josh hail from a Scandinavian/Lutheran background in the Midwest, but you would be wrong: at least partly. The Monongahela couple met at Indiana University of Pennsylvania while Rachel was a student working for a restaurant part-time. Josh was a “townie” whose parents both worked for the university until recently retiring.

Rachel feels like she hit the in-law jackpot with Josh’s parents. She truly loves them. Her own parents split when she was a child growing up in Quarryville, PA (Lancaster County). There was no effort on her mother and stepfather’s parts to encourage Christianity in the home, but her father’s parents in South Dakota “saved her life.” Rachel says her grandmother lived and breathed the Christian life through her Lutheran congregation, graciously modeling the faith. Josh’s parents were Methodists. Rachel was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fairfax, South Dakota near her grandparents’ dairy farm. She feels like she always had a connection to God through the love she felt in the Lutheran Church.

Josh served in the Marines with Steve and Peggy Cox’s nephew and their son-in-law Rob Roth. When the time came to relocate, they moved to Monongahela. Josh works as a safety scientist in the oil and gas industry. Rachel took a job working for Cox Market for two years. One day, she asked Kerry (Cox) Macugoski where she might find a good Lutheran Church. You may guess her answer.

The Andersons have been members for just a couple of years. They felt a strong connection to Pastor and Jennifer Carlson because they are also parenting a child with autism. Ben is a ten-year-old with autism. Their younger daughter Elizabeth is seven. They attend Sunday School while Rachel teaches the preschool class. Rachel is a professional educator, working as a substitute teacher at their children’s school. During the COVID period without in-person Sunday School, Rachel worked with Dave Compel so that online Bible lessons could be shared with children at home through Zoom.

The Andersons find opportunities to enjoy time as a family, even though Josh travels a good bit for work. One of their favorite activities together is fishing. Another is tending the free-range chickens they raise for eggs on their property. They also enjoy seeing grandparents in Indiana and visiting Rachel’s sister in Lancaster. Rachel will be running a half marathon there soon.





## Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

# Now Let the Vault of Heaven Resound

Lyrics: Paul Zeller Strodach

Melody: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Since coming to RLC almost eleven years ago, I have often been drawn into conversations about how we must not say or sing "Alleluia" during Lent. There always seems to be some ambiguity about where or how this practice originated. Was it just a nice tradition that Pastor Dennis had started? So I did a little research. Seems omitting alleluia's during the six weeks of Lent goes back as far the fifth century in the western church, and became even more established during the Middle Ages. "Alleluia" comes from the Hebrew words 'Hallelu Yah' which means "Praise the Lord". Since Lent was designed to be a season of penitence and contemplation of Jesus' passion, it was thought that such an exclamation of joyful praise was not appropriate.

Now that another season of Lent is behind us and the glorious Easter season is here, one hymn that excels in re-introducing Alleluia's into our worship is "Now Let the Vault of Heaven Resound". Maybe that title doesn't really ring a bell with you, but I think if you take a look at hymn #103 in our SBH you'll recognize it. Maybe if I mention that this popular melody is also used for "All Creatures of Our God and King" and "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" it will help to bring it to mind. All three hymns make use of "Alleluia" in the refrain. The melody is known as "Lasst Uns Erfreuen", German for "Let us rejoice!". It first appeared in a Catholic hymnal in Cologne Germany in 1623, edited by a Jesuit priest, Friedrich Spee. He is sometimes credited with the composition of "Lasst Uns Erfreuen", but this is apparently not known for certain.



*Now let the vault of heaven resound  
In praise of Love that doth abound;  
Christ hath triumphed, alleluia;  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear,  
Repeat their song of glory here,  
Christ hath triumphed, Christ hath triumphed!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

The lyrics for this hymn were written by Paul Zeller Strobach. Not much biographical information is available for Paul. We do at least know that he was educated at Muhlenburg College in Allentown, PA, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. A phrase that re-occurs multiple times throughout the verses is "Christ hath triumphed!" The word "triumph" even occurs a couple more times in variations of that theme. Triumph implies overcoming in a struggle. Since Jesus was (is) God incarnate, was his triumph over sin, death, and the devil a pre-determined, foregone conclusion? Or was it a true struggle? That is probably another divine mystery that we may never know the answer to, but it brings to mind a passage from my favorite Christian apologist, G.K. Chesterton: "That a good man may have his back to the wall is no more than we knew already; but that God could have his back to the wall is a boast for all insurgents forever. Christianity is the only religion on earth that has felt that omnipotence made God incomplete. Christianity alone has felt that God, to be wholly God, must have been a rebel as well as a king. Alone of all creeds, Christianity has added courage to the virtues of the Creator."

**Christ hath triumphed! Alleluia!**

*Alleluia*



**A New Members Class will be held in April.**

Please let Pastor Carlson or Pastor McMinn know if you are interested in attending.

**Confirmation Sunday** will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the 11:00am service.



**Pastor Carlson's Easter "Life is Resurrected" message** is also printed in "The Vine and Branches" Spring Issue. Copies of this magazine from "Abiding Word Ministries" are available in the adult Sunday School class room. Check it out!

In case you missed this news last month, **Paula Mikulan** has resigned as Office Manager for our church, effective July 1, 2021. After much thought and prayer, Paula submitted her official resignation, which was received by the Church Council last month.

She has contemplated retirement for several years, but we always convinced her to stay on! But finally, the pull of grandchildren in different states and the opportunity to travel and enjoy this new season of life has won out. Paula has done outstanding work in this position for almost 20 years and we will greatly miss her!!! We are so thankful for her excellence in all she does, and for her heart of love for our congregation!



**Learn how our RLC gifts support the Light of Life mission.**

**See their new facility.**

**Hear about their plans for the future.**

## Opening New Doors Campaign Event

April 20, 2021 | 6:00P | [Virtual Event](#)

Our Opening New Doors Campaign Event is a virtual event for our Capital Campaign to kick-off our community fundraising. It will feature testimonies of lives that have been transformed and will provide viewers with an opportunity to contribute to our future.

[Register Here!](#)

Virtual Ticket: FREE

Virtual Ticket + Goody Box: \$100

---

**Save  
the  
Date!**



Women's Spring Dinner - Friday, May 7, 6:30 p.m.  
Sign up April 18 & 25. More details to follow.

Catered by Ma & Pop's Country Kitchen.  
Be entertained by Shepherd's Voice.

## Ruthfred Shepherd Ministry



### WE NEED YOU!

Do you feel the need to be more involved as a member at Ruthfred but don't know how? We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and one great way to do this is through RLC's Shepherding Ministry! We currently only have about 15 active "Shepherds", for a "Flock" of over 900 current members at RLC! This is not a big commitment but is very important to stay in touch with and encourage our members in a variety of ways. Please contact Pat Lutz or Joe Roman (412-477-2251) to talk about how you can make a big difference in our church community and furthering God's Kingdom.

**And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**

**I Peter 5:4**

## Official Acts -- March 2021

### Baptisms: (\*indicates member)

\* Leona Nadine Donolo -- 3/14/21

\* Charlotte Rose Battaglia -- 3/21/21

### Weddings: (\*indicates member)

\* Rachel Grant & Nick Kopp -- 3/27/21



## Catching up with Council . . .

Ruthfred Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Highlights  
March 8, 2021



Council voted to grant \$500 to each Kate Wholey and Jenna Schwartz to help with the costs of a two month mission trip this summer to Paraguay. The girls attended the benevolence committee meeting and did an impressive presentation about their trip.

Pastor Carlson shared how grateful he is that the church has persevered over the challenges that the Covid 19 pandemic has presented. He hopes to start a new members class and a training class for small group leaders after the Easter season.

The Trustees discussed plans to move forward with new cabinets for the kitchen. Council voted to accept a bid from Aquaguard to install a basement window in the parsonage. This would bring the house up to code with two ways to exit the basement.

Bill Ward was unable to attend but sent an email further explaining that the January shortfall was due to a lump sum attributed to health care for the year and due to snow removal.

Dave Compel made council aware that the music cannot be heard when the contemporary service is live streamed. Viewers only hear the vocals. A motion was passed to upgrade the sound system to add inputs in the altar area which would reduce the obstacles for the pastors during the service, such as wires and amplifiers. Kurt Zeigler pointed out that the current system is eight years old already. The contemporary service will be live streamed each month.

Pete Huwe reported that the Youth Ministry Director committee is in the process of conducting first interviews with five people. The committee will move forward with second interviews soon. The committee hopes to narrow down the search to the top candidates by the beginning of April to allow the new director to work with Brandon before he leaves.

A motion was passed to form an office manager search committee consisting of Pastor Carlson, Pastor McMinn, Joe Roman, Brian Schmidt, Becky Evans and Kris Wente.

We are looking for someone to organize the church picnic on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Mario and April Blackston are expecting a new baby later this summer and will not be organizing the picnic this year.

Praise in the Park was rescheduled from August 14<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Pastor Carlson closed in prayer and Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:47.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Wente



# April 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				 1 Maundy Thursday <i>Communion Svc 2:00</i> <i>Communion Svc 7:30</i>	2 Good Friday <i>Various meditations 12:30 - 3:00</i> <i>Tenebrae Service 7:30</i>	3
4 Easter Sunday <i>(Holy Communion after 8:30 &amp; 11:00 services)</i> <i>Worship 7:00</i> <i>Worship 8:30</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> <i>Worship 11:00</i>	5 <i>Elders' Meeting 7:00</i>	6 <i>Sr. Confirmation 4:00</i> <i>Worship Team 7:00</i>	7 <i>Children's Choir 5:45</i> <i>Bell Choir 6:30</i> <i>Jr. &amp; Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:30</i> <i>Senior Choir 7:30</i>	8	9	10 <i>Mary Bible Study 9:30</i>
11 <i>Worship 8:30</i> <i>Sunday School 9:45</i> <i>Worship 11:00</i>	12 <i>Craft &amp; Sew 9:30</i> <i>Elders' Prayer Time 7:00</i> <i>Council Meeting 7:30</i>	13 <i>Sr. Confirmation 4:00</i> <i>Worship Team 7:00</i>	14 <i>Children's Choir 5:45</i> <i>Bell Choir 6:30</i> <i>Jr. &amp; Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:30</i> <i>Senior Choir 7:30</i>	15	16	17 <i>Contemporary Liturgical Service 5:00</i>
18 <i>Worship 8:30</i> <i>Sunday School 9:45</i> <i>Worship 11:00</i>	19	20 <i>Craft &amp; Sew 9:30</i> <i>Sr. Confirmation 4:00</i> <i>Worship Team 7:00</i>	21 <i>Children's Choir 5:45</i> <i>Bell Choir 6:30</i> <i>Jr. &amp; Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:30</i> <i>Senior Choir 7:30</i>	22	23	24
25 Church Anniv. <i>Confirmation Students Honored @ both services</i> <i>Worship 8:30</i> <i>Sunday School 9:45</i> <i>Worship 11:00</i>	26	27 <i>Sr. Confirmation 4:00</i> <i>Worship Team 7:00</i> <i>Benevolence Meeting 7:00</i>	28 <i>Children's Choir 5:45</i> <i>Bell Choir 6:30</i> <i>Jr. &amp; Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:30</i> <i>Senior Choir 7:30</i>	29	30 <i>XYZ noon</i>	

# April 2021

## Youth Ministry

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Sunday  <b>NO SWAP</b>	5	6  TNT 7-9 pm @ Church	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Sunday School 9:45</i>  SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	12	13  TNT 7-9 pm @ Church	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Sunday School 9:45</i>  SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	19	20  TNT 7-9 pm @ Church	21	22	23  <u>SWAP</u> <u>Late Night</u> <u>6-10 pm</u>	24
25 Brunch <i>Sunday School 9:45</i>  SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	26	27  TNT 7-9 pm @ Church	28 	29	30	

## Reading Through the Bible 2021

### Schedule for April



1st	Judges 3:31	Judges 4	Judges 5	Judges 6
2nd	Judges 7	Judges 8	Judges 9:1-21	
3rd	Judges 9:22-57	Judges 10	Judges 11:1-28	
4th	Judges 11:29-40	Judges 12	Judges 13	Judges 14
5th	Judges 16	Judges 17	Judges 18	
6th	Judges 19	Judges 20	Judges 21	
7th	Ruth 1	Ruth 2	Ruth 3	Ruth 4:1-12
8th	Ruth 4:13-22	1 Chronicles 2:9-55	1 Chronicles 4:1-23	1 Samuel 1:1-8
9th	1 Samuel 1:9-28	1 Samuel 2	1 Samuel 3	1 Samuel 4:1-11
10th	1 Samuel 4:12-22	1 Samuel 5	1 Samuel 6	1 Samuel 7
11th	1 Samuel 9	1 Samuel 10	1 Samuel 11	1 Samuel 12
12th	1 Chronicles 9:35-39	1 Samuel 13:1-5	1 Samuel 13:19-23	1 Samuel 13:6-18
	1 Samuel 14			
13th	1 Samuel 15	1 Samuel 16	1 Samuel 17:1-31	
14th	1 Samuel 17:32-58	1 Samuel 18	1 Samuel 19:1-17	Psalms 59
15th	1 Samuel 20	1 Samuel 21	Psalms 34	1 Samuel 19:18-24
16th	1 Samuel 22:1-2	Psalms 57	Psalms 142	1 Chronicles 12:8-18
	1 Samuel 22:3-23	Psalms 53	1 Samuel 23:1-12	
17th	1 Samuel 23:13-29	Psalms 54	1 Samuel 24	1 Samuel 25
18th	1 Samuel 26	1 Samuel 27:1-7	1 Chronicles 12:1-7	1 Samuel 27:8-12
	1 Samuel 28	1 Samuel 29	1 Chronicles 12:19	Psalms 56
19th	1 Samuel 30	1 Chronicles 12:20-22	1 Samuel 31	1 Chronicles 10
	1 Chronicles 9:40-44	2 Samuel 4:4	2 Samuel 1	
20th	2 Samuel 2	2 Samuel 3:1-5	1 Chronicles 3:1-4	2 Samuel 23:8-17
	1 Chronicles 11:10-19	2 Samuel 23:18-39	1 Chronicles 11:20-47	
21st	2 Samuel 3:6-39	2 Samuel 4		
22nd	2 Samuel 5:1-3	1 Chronicles 11:1-32	1 Chronicles 12:23-40	
23rd	2 Samuel 6:12	1 Chronicles 15:1-28	2 Samuel 6:13-16	
24th	2 Samuel 7:1-17	1 Chronicles 17:1-15	2 Samuel 7:18-29	
25th	2 Samuel 8:15-18	1 Chronicles 18:14-17	1 Chronicles 6:16-30	1 Chron. 6:50-53
	1 Chronicles 6:31-48	2 Samuel 9	1 Chronicles 19	
26th	1 Chronicles 20:1	2 Samuel 11	2 Samuel 12:1-14	Psalms 51
	2 Samuel 5:14-16	1 Chronicles 14:3-7	1 Chronicles 3:5-9	2 Samuel 12:15-25
27th	2 Samuel 12:26-31	1 Chronicles 20:2-3	2 Samuel 13	2 Samuel 14
28th	2 Samuel 15	2 Samuel 16	2 Samuel 17:1-14	
29th	2 Samuel 17:15-29	Psalms 3	Psalms 63	2 Samuel 18
				2 Samuel 19:1-30
30th	2 Samuel 19:31-43	2 Samuel 20	Psalms 7	2 Samuel 21
				1 Chronicles 20:4-8

**A joyful heart is good medicine.**

**Proverbs 17:22a**

## **Some mysteries to ponder:**

**I found  
this  
humerus**



Why is the word 'abbreviation' so long?

If a fly had no wings,  
would we call it a walk?



Do cows wear bells because  
their horns don't work?

Why is it that we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?

If a man talks to himself alone in a forest, with his wife  
nowhere around, is he still wrong?



Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns  
because they taste funny?

How much deeper would the ocean  
be without sponges?



Why do they call it a TV set when you only get one?

What do we do when we discover an endangered  
animal that eats only endangered plants?

