

# RUTHFRED HERALD

August 2020

Volume 30, No. 8

By Pastor Bryce McMinn:

“It is an absolute sin that there are only eleven of us in this room receiving this teaching!” Those were the words that came to mind, and I also spoke them frequently, as I sat in classes at our seminary in Minneapolis in 2016 through 2019 and received that teaching.

My teachers, who were training up new pastors like me, were brilliant men of God with amazing insights into God’s Word, which they shared with a contagious passion. It is precisely that type of teaching, which I strive to share with the family of Faith here at Ruthfred through my own preaching and teaching of His Word.

This month I’m blessed to guide the adult Sunday School class here at Ruthfred through the Book of Philippians. God used His messenger, Paul, to record this message to the congregation at Philippi with the express intent of encouraging them, and admonishing them to remain unified in Christ. There are precious insights into the Word of God that we receive through the excellent training at our seminary. One of those precious insights we obtain is how to recognize when the Biblical author (in the case of Philippians, that’s Paul) intended to emphasize a particular point.

My 80+ year old friend, Mrs. Kennedy, often writes to me. I can hardly read her letters. When she writes to me she emphasizes many of her words. You can tell when she’s emphasizing a word because she highlights it, underlines it, scribbles around it, prints it in bold, sometimes uses all capital letters, etc.. By the time she’s done with a letter she might as well have highlighted and scribbled around the entire letter. Erin, the kids, and I love Mrs. Kennedy. But honestly, we often can’t read her letters and respond with just a general thanks for her notes.

The men God used to record His Word for us also had tools they would use to add emphasis to words as they wrote. Sometimes they used repetition. At other times they used little tools of grammar that the average 21st century layperson may not recognize as he or she is reading the Bible. That’s where our amazing seminary teachers come in!

“Men,” announced my Greek professor, Pastor Phil Haugen, as he walked my classmates and me through a passage of Scripture in the Koine Greek with which it was originally recorded, “That word right there is in the perfect tense. Whenever you see a word in the New Testament that’s in the perfect tense, the author is emphasizing that word. You’re supposed to notice that. That perfect tense is there for a reason. You need to pay attention to that.”

Paul used lots of perfect tense verbs in the Book of Philippians. OK, so Paul wasn’t like Mrs. Kennedy. He didn’t use a highlighter, write in extra bold letters, use all caps, scribble around his words, and underline them. Paul did, however, use the rules of Greek grammar to call our attention to certain words in the Book of Philippians. He intended us to notice his emphasis when he did that.

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is **Saturday, August 22, 2020.**

The email publication date is **Tuesday, September 1, 2020.**

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**Ruthfred Church Picnic**

Sunday, August 9, 2020 from 4-7 PM

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I'll teach you a bit about this in Sunday School. If you miss the Sunday School classes I'm teaching on the Book of Philippians from July 19th through August 9th, that's OK. Let's go to lunch, have coffee, or you can stop by my office for a visit. It'll take me only a few seconds to share some of these valuable insight with you, and it'll be my honor to do so.

Finally, if Mrs. Kennedy were writing this, the following words would be intensely highlighted, bolded, underlined, and circled: I'm grateful to God to be here at Ruthfred with you all! It would be my pleasure to visit with you. Many of you I've known for several years, but we haven't spoken at any great length to get caught up in quite some time. It really is a joy to see and spend time with you, even socially-distanced time. I'm always looking for an excuse to visit members of the Ruthfred Family. I can come and visit you, you can stop by the church, we could meet somewhere, or Erin, the kids, and I could have you over to this beautiful parsonage for a visit.

E-mail me at [PastorMcMinn@Ruthfred.org](mailto:PastorMcMinn@Ruthfred.org), text me at (412) 835-2812, send me a Facebook message, or call my office line at (412) 835-7140 extension 226. I'd be grateful to hear from you!

Affectionately Yours,

Pastor Bryce McMinn

## Official Acts

(\*indicates member)

### Funerals

\*Harry Fjaere (Memorial Service) – June 26, 2020

### Weddings

Congratulations to Andrew Valentine and Athena Cardiges, who were married on July 25, 2020!



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## Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

# On Our Way Rejoicing

Lyrics: John S. B. Monsell  
Music: Frances R. Havergal

Wow, isn't this one of our "funner" hymns to sing? After an hour of worship together, it is such an upbeat, uplifting way to close a service and be sent back into the world. The melody by Frances Havergal bounces along exuberantly and features a lot of dotted quarter note rhythms. And the well-matched lyrics by John Monsell are filled with encouraging, happy thoughts grounded in our "God of love" and the victory of Christ. Words like the following are sprinkled throughout the hymn: Rejoicing ... Gladly ... Joy ... Hope ... Praises ... Love ... Thankful.

**Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
Who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?**



Singing is truly a wonderful gift from God, even if we are not particularly talented in that area. Consider the following quotes from Martin Luther: "As long as we live there is never enough singing ... Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and greatest honor." Even silly secular songs are fun to sing. One of my favorites that I used to sing to my kids, and now to my grandkids, is "I've Been Working on the Railroad." Especially the part that goes "Fee, fi, fiddly-i-o, fee fi fiddly-i-o-o-o-o. Fee, fi, fiddly-i-oooooooooooooooooooo..." Ok, you know how that ends. One of the glories of our Christian faith, on the other hand, is that we have so many songs to sing that, no matter how solemn or light-hearted, always contain a positive Gospel message. "The gift of language combined with the gift of song was only given to man to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music." – again, Martin Luther. For those without faith in God, however, I can't help but think that singing fun secular songs can provide only fleeting, hollow interludes of pleasure. At the risk of putting too dramatic a point on it, I am reminded of the old adage about whistling past the graveyard.

G.K. Chesterton, the acclaimed journalist, debater, and Christian apologist from the early 20th century, freely admitted that he had no ear for music. But he certainly had a talent for explaining stuff and defending the theistic worldview. In his early years as an atheist, one of the many objections he had about Christianity was that it was all doom and gloom and a big wet blanket on all human happiness. After his conversion he realized that this objection, among most others, was simply untrue. I would like to close this article with some selected sentences from the end of Chesterton's book "Orthodoxy":

"The unpopular parts of Christianity turn out when examined to be the very props of the people. The outer ring of Christianity is a rigid guard of ethical abnegations and professional priests; but inside ... you will find the old human life dancing like children and drinking wine like men ... But in the modern philosophy the case is opposite; it is its outer ring that is obviously artistic and emancipated; its despair is within ... The mass of men have been forced to be gay about the little things, but sad about the big ones. Nevertheless it is not native to man to be so. Man is more himself, man is more manlike, when joy is the fundamental thing in him, and grief the superficial. Melancholy should be an innocent interlude, a tender and fugitive frame of mind; praise should be the permanent pulsation of the soul ... Christianity satisfies suddenly and perfectly man's ancestral instinct for being the right way up; satisfies it supremely in this; that by its creed joy becomes something gigantic and sadness something special and small ... Joy, which was the small publicity of the pagan, is the gigantic secret of the Christian."

**On our way rejoicing as we forward move;  
Hearken to our praises, O thou God of love!**

## Upcoming Events

### Church Picnic—Sunday, August 9, 2020

The 2020 Ruthfred Lutheran Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 9 from 4 to 7 PM on the ballfield behind the church. Dinner at 5 will be followed by a time of music and devotion. This year's picnic will NOT be a potluck. All food and drinks will be provided. Brandon is setting up a giant slip 'n slide. Anyone wishing to partake is encouraged to bring a bathing suit/change of clothes. For questions or concerns contact April Glasser Blackston by the number listed in the church directory. We hope to see you there, Ruthfred Family!

### Praise in the Park!

A contemporary worship concert is going to be held on Saturday, August 22 at the Peterswood Park Amphitheater in Venetia, PA. Our Ruthfred Praise & Worship team will be presenting this concert. There is no cost for the concert.

#### Schedule of events:

4:30 PM: Food vendors open

5:00 PM: Bible lesson will be shared

5:30 PM: Concert begins

This is a great opportunity to praise God and enjoy some wonderful fellowship together! Invite your friends and come! (There is plenty of space for social distancing.) Please see our [ruthfred.org](http://ruthfred.org) site for more details.

## Vacation Bible School

What an amazing week we had this past week with VBS! It was also so wonderful to share this ministry with a number of other churches who were unable to have VBS this year. Special thanks to our VBS Leadership Team of Rebecca Cox, David & Lauren Compel, Sue Hughes, Amanda (Harper) Murdy, and Denise Stutzman! They all did an amazing job in putting together an outstanding “Virtual VBS” this year! If you missed it, you can still go online to [ruthfred.org](http://ruthfred.org) and watch (or re-watch) it at any time! Please be in prayer for the follow-up of God’s good work in the lives of these children!



## Rebecca's "Yes"

Vacation Bible School was six months away, but we did not have a director for this year. I was concerned as we wanted to start getting materials ready, decorations made, teachers lined up, etc. Many people wanted to help, but no one wanted to take on the directorship role. Earnest prayers were sent forth to God!!

"Really? I'm not sure that will be possible." That was my first response when I heard that Rebecca Libell had offered to be the director. Rebecca was away at Bible College and would not be back to Pennsylvania until late May. Furthermore, she was getting married in June! Humanly speaking there were some obvious challenges to this idea! But, we had prayed about it, and she had offered, and we had no other offers. Perhaps God was saying, "Here is your answer, don't doubt what God has given!" So, we talked with Rebecca, and she became the VBS director.

A few weeks later, the Coronavirus came hit our state and within a month, everything changed! What a year to start off as a new director! We even considered skipping VBS this year as many other churches had decided to do given all the new restrictions, uncertainties, and conflicting information that was coming out daily. Due to Covid-19, Rebecca had to move back home. All of our regular plans went to pieces, but God was at work putting together the pieces to create an entirely different (but beautiful) mosaic that would end up reaching out far beyond the children of our congregation. God put together an incredible VBS Team! We prayed and decided that even if we could reach just 25 children, it would be worth trying to do a "virtual VBS" as a livestream. Lauren Compel stepped forward to work with Rebecca in the directing process. Sue Hughes volunteered to teach the Bible lessons. Amanda (Harper) Murdy offered to lead the singing and do skits with David Compel. David also developed a vision to produce VBS as a livestream. Denise Stutzman offered to organize craft kit bags for every child who registered. Arlene Ball made nearly 100 "wordless books" for the craft kits. Shane and Kate Cox brought some real sheep (and donkey) to the farm for filming on location. Many others were involved as well, and there was an army of prayer warriors who prayed this into existence and surrounded it with God's protection and power each day. Every day, the VBS livestream was produced online and viewed by many who would normally have been far beyond our reach. On Friday evening we held a VBS finale in the ballfield with over 100 who came and sat in family units and had a wonderful time of fellowship together with skits, singing, crafts, and Kona ice!

Rebecca's "yes" was faith-filled. It was "impossible" by human reasoning. But in the hands of Jesus it was more than sufficient to be used as a means of bringing together a team of people who served the Lord and through whom God blessed a multitude. It reminds me of the young boy who gave his small lunch of five loaves and two fish to Jesus. In the hands of Jesus, the small lunch does the impossible work of feeding a multitude of 5,000! A small lunch was given by one, the disciples were the team that distributed the food, and all were well fed and satisfied. This year, through VBS, we were all well fed and more than satisfied. Praise the Lord!

Pastor Carlson



# AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<b>2</b>  Holy Communion 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00	<b>3</b> Elders' Meeting 7:00	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Mary Bible Study 9:30
<b>9</b> Worship Service 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Church Picnic 4:00-7:00	<b>10</b> Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council 7:30	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 12:00 Esther	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Worship Service 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Women's Ministry Meeting 7:00 Men's Night 7:00	<b>19</b> HERALD ARTICLE DEADLINE	<b>20</b> 2:00 Ruth	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> "Praise In the Park" 5:00 (Peterswood Park)
<b>23</b> Worship Service 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship Service 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	<b>31</b>					

# August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	3	4 TNT @ Maerkle's 7-9pm	5	6	7	8 TNT Canoe Trip 10am-6pm
9 Church Picnic  NO SWAP	10	11 TNT @ Hunter's 7-9pm	12	13	14 <u>Summer TNT</u>	15 <u>Camping Trip</u>
16 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	17	18 TNT @ Miss Bunny's 7-9pm	19	20	21	22
23 SWAP 6-7:30pm	24	25 TNT @ Nirella's 7-9pm	26	27	28	29
30 SWAP 6-7:30pm	31					

## Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar

**Bible in a Year Reading Plan**  
**August 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Isaiah 23-27
<b>2</b> Isaiah 28-30	<b>3</b> Isaiah 31-35	<b>4</b> Isaiah 36-39	<b>5</b> Isaiah 40-44	<b>6</b> Isaiah 45-48	<b>7</b> Isaiah 49-53	<b>8</b> Isaiah 54-58
<b>9</b> Isaiah 59-63	<b>10</b> Isaiah 64-66	<b>11</b> Jeremiah 1-3	<b>12</b> Jeremiah 4-6	<b>13</b> Jeremiah 7-9	<b>14</b> Jeremiah 10-13	<b>15</b> Jeremiah 14-17
<b>16</b> Jeremiah 18-22	<b>17</b> Jeremiah 23-25	<b>18</b> Jeremiah 26-29	<b>19</b> Jeremiah 30-31	<b>20</b> Jeremiah 32-34	<b>21</b> Jeremiah 35-37	<b>22</b> Jeremiah 38-41
<b>23</b> Jeremiah 42-45	<b>24</b> Jeremiah 46-48	<b>25</b> Jeremiah 49-50	<b>26</b> Jeremiah 51-52	<b>27</b> Lamentations 1-2	<b>28</b> Lamentations 3-5	<b>29</b> Ezekiel 1-4
<b>30</b> Ezekiel 5-8	<b>31</b> Ezekiel 9-12					