

RUTHFRED HERALD

August 2021



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From the Pastor's Desk

What he (Luther & Paul) said...

"If we want to have excellent and able people for both civil and Church leadership, we must spare no diligence, time, or cost in teaching and educating our children so that they may serve God in the world ...let everyone know that it is his duty...to bring up his children in the fear and knowledge of God above all things."

That's what Martin Luther said in his explanation of the fourth Commandment in the *Large Catechism*. If you grabbed a free copy of the *Book of Concord*, which I distributed in the adult Sunday School class several weeks ago, you'll find that quote on page 378. For those who didn't grab a free copy of that amazing book of the Lutheran confessions, but want one, let me know. I have one for you!

As I type this article for the August edition of *The Herald*, Ruthfred's VBS staff and many volunteers are getting the church ready to receive, so far, over 160 children who've pre-registered to attend our Vacation Bible School. It's a beautiful sight to behold. In fact, as youth and adults worked to assemble the stage in the sanctuary, many little ones were already having a blast, running around the church, playing tag, and enjoying each other's company.

One parent, who recently started attending Ruthfred after many years at another congregation, said, "This is wonderful! To see all these children playing in the church is a great blessing. We didn't have this at our former church."



Indeed, many families with young children have started coming to Ruthfred in the past year or more. You've probably seen many of those children come forward for our children's object lessons before sermons. At Ruthfred these families have encountered God's Word, faithfully preached and taught. They've encountered Sunday School teachers who genuinely love and care for them, and a youth ministry filled with welcoming, loving, young leaders, led by a dear director, who has fostered an atmosphere of godly affection, friendship, discipleship, scriptural counsel and instruction, and close, meaningful relationships.

We thank God for the many blessings He's provided to our congregation, including the precious, priceless treasures of the children and youth whom He has entrusted to our care. We thank God for the many generous brothers and sisters in Christ who've come together to make Ruthfred's amazing VBS, children's ministry, and youth ministry what they are today.

In part, as we do these works of ministry, we remember, like Luther, that one day our children will be in our place. They'll want and need godly people in their communities and congregation. One day, Ruthfred will need more youth directors,

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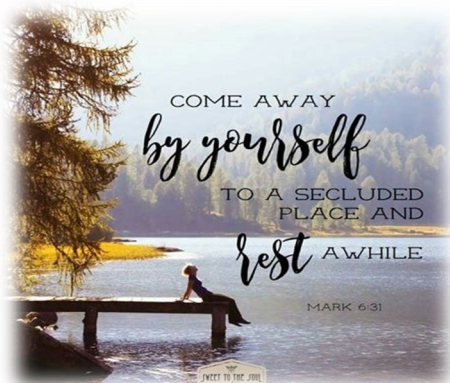
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pastors, council members, elders, Sunday School teachers, and people to help with many other ministries. If we want our children to have brothers and sisters in Christ to work in ministry with them, serve as their shepherds, and continue Ruthfred's legacy of exceptional ministry to children, youth, and families, then we must spare no effort, time, or expense TODAY in teaching and educating our children...*"in the fear and knowledge of God above all things!"*

Look how the Lord has blessed us! Look at the kids going up for the object lessons, in our Sunday School classes, at VBS, children's choir, our growing pre-school, and our Wednesday night activities! Look at our youth ministry! When I'm in the church Tuesday nights and see TNT in session, sometimes I don't recognize even half the youth in attendance, because so many youth from outside our Ruthfred family desire to be here. What a blessing!

I see the way our children look up to and admire Ruthfred's youth! At the beginning of each class for the 1st through 5th graders in my summer Sunday School series, the youth lead the kids in a game and in prayer. When I need to be elsewhere and can't lead the 1st to 5th grade class, Ruthfred's youth step up and lead it. I'm grateful to God for these brothers and sisters in Christ and partners in ministry. I stand in awe of their energy and genuine desire to serve others and glorify God.

It all reminds me of my son, Joshua (6), who came downstairs on a Monday morning; the day after his first Sunday School class last year at Ruthfred with Miss Bunny and Miss Susan. Erin noticed that Joshua was wearing his church clothes again. She asked him, "Joshua, why are you dressed for church?"

He smiled and said, "I want to have Sunday School again!"

Pray for our wonderful ministries at Ruthfred Lutheran Church. Pray, as Paul says in Ephesians 3, that through our ministries here at Ruthfred, people would be strengthened with power through His Spirit, that Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith, that they'd be rooted and grounded in love, would know the love of Christ, and be filled up to all the fullness of God; to His glory! Amen!

Pastor McMinn

Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life

"Your Heavenly Father loves you in spite of your many failings. The Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is now interceding on your behalf at the throne of God every time you stumble and fall. The Holy Spirit of the blessed Trinity is at your side convicting you of your sin but then also assuring you that every last one of your sins has been totally forgiven. He, the Spirit, then also plants deep into your heart God's gift of faith and hope."

Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Member Profile:

by Mettelise Ziegler

**Abby & Nathan Donolo**

If you attend the 11:00 worship service on Sundays, you have seen Nathan and Abby Donolo. Nathan is the young, tall deacon with the friendly face and pleasant demeanor who has faithfully served throughout the COVID pandemic. Abby is the young brunette mother juggling two very young children at the back of the church.

Nathan has been at Ruthfred his entire life. When his father, Blaise, was being installed as a new member at the front of the church, Linda, Nathan's mom was at his side, actually in labor with Nathan at the time. Nathan is the second of three brothers raised at the church. As a young child, he was one of Peggy Glasser's preschool students at Zion Lutheran in Bridgeville. Nathan's aunt, Carol Mueller, is also a church member with ties to Nathan. Sadly, Blaise passed away just three and a half years ago.

The younger Donolos met at Westminster College at a mixer between a fraternity and a sorority. Nathan was one of the few daring men to honor the theme by wearing an ugly Christmas sweater. Abby admired his festive audacity, and complimented him on it. They were married on July 4th in 2014.

The Donolos have two children. Wyatt will be three in September. Leona is just six months. They reside in Peters Township in the house where Nathan spent much of his childhood. Abby joined Ruthfred after their first child was born.

Nathan is a project manager employed by Black & Veatch, an engineering company with involvement in cell towers. When he can fit it in, he enjoys hunting and fishing. He takes along the family's two bird dogs. Abby is the youngest of four. She spent much of her childhood and teenage years participating in the life of her United Methodist congregation in Cranberry Township. She was a Biology major at college, and currently works part time as a dental hygienist in Wexford. Her parents sold her childhood home, trading it for a highly rated bed and breakfast called Chapel Valley Estate in Ellwood City where they lovingly serve independent travelers as well as social groups. Abby likes to relax when she can. She and her sister drove to Ohio once and ended up in a Brooklyn Bamboo baby product advertisement on Amazon.

Abby and Nathan observe that life has many changes. The college fraternity house is gone. Their wedding reception venue is also demolished. They are very thankful that Ruthfred is still going strong, serving as a foundation for their family.



COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Church Picnic & Praise-in-the-Park Concert

August 21st 2-4; 5-8 PM

90+ Birthday Club

Fritz Motzer August 2nd 90

Happy Birthday !!

Official Acts -- July 2021

Celebration of Christian Marriage

* Athena Cardiges Valentine and Andrew Valentine — 7/24/21

Funerals:

* Barbara D. Herrle — 7/19/21

* indicates member

I am
the Way,
the Truth
and the
Life
John 14:6

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

Run to the Father

Lyrics & Music: Cody Carnes, in collaboration with
Matt Maher and Ran Jackson

"Run to the Father" is a contemporary song that was released in 2019. Our RLC worship team learned it and has led worshipers in singing it several times now, most recently this past June to help celebrate Father's Day. It may also be included in the repertoire for the upcoming Praise-in-the-Park concert. The theme of the song is pretty well summed up in the title.



*I run to the Father, I fall into grace;
I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait ...
You saw my condition, had a plan from the start;
Your Son for redemption, the price for my heart.
I don't have a context for that kind of love;
I don't understand, I can't comprehend;
All I know is I need You.*



This actually would have been a good article for the month of June that includes Father's Day, but it was only recently that I was made aware of a very insightful article that brought the song to mind. The article is titled "The Fury of the Fatherless", written in December 2020 by Mary Eberstadt for 'firstthings.com'. Reflecting on the troubled state of affairs in our country, with all the protesting, rioting, looting, rampant crime and cancel culture, Ms. Eberstadt seeks to put her finger on the deeper, underlying causes for all of it. She writes: "So, here's a new theory: The explosive events of 2020 are but the latest eruption along a fault line running through our already unstable lives. That eruption exposes the threefold crisis of filial attachment that has beset the Western world for more than half a century. Deprived of father, Father, and *patria*, a critical mass of humanity has become socially dysfunctional on a scale not seen before."

Eberstadt notes that almost one in four children today grows up without a father in the home, and for African-Americans it is approximately 65%. Paralleling these disturbing statistics is the well known decline in faith and religious observance. She cites a 2019 survey that showed 44% of Americans aged eighteen to twenty-nine list their religious affiliation as 'None'. Thus there is also an increasing "Fatherlessness" in our culture. Then, completing the trifecta that Eberstadt alludes to above, there are the current movements within our country that deprecate America and its heritage, leading to "fatherlandlessness". Towards the end of her article, Eberstadt summarizes her arguments in the following powerful paragraph:

"What is happening to America is an excruciatingly painful truth that life without father, Father, and filial piety toward country are not the socially neutral options that contemporary liberalism holds them to be. The sinkhole into which all three have collapsed is now a public hazard. The threefold crisis of paternity is depriving many young people – especially young men – of reasons to live as rational and productive citizens. As the Catholic theologian Deborah Savage put it recently, reflecting on America's youth: 'They have been left alone in a cosmos with nothing to guide them, not even a firm grasp of what constitutes their basic humanity, and no means of finding the way home.'"

Continued on next page...

The comments by both Eberstadt and Savage bring to mind Jesus' parable about the prodigal son. Home is where the Father is, eagerly waiting and searching for the return of his beloved son. For America to heal, we need to turn back to the Father, turn back to fatherhood and intact families wherever possible, and return to loving our country, warts and all. Let us all pray for God's grace to help effect these things in our country, beginning with each one of us individually.

*My heart needs a surgeon, my soul needs a friend;
So I'll run to the Father again and again,
And again and again!*



Passing of the Youth Directorship Baton (or is that a water bottle?)

God's Blessings to Brandon Fouks!

Welcome Regen Johnson!



As this edition of the Herald goes to press, another successful, blessed, RLC Vacation Bible School has just finished up. Approximately 160 children attended, and over 70 volunteers gave of their time, talents, and energy to make it a fantastic week of learning, growing, fun, and fellowship!



THANKS especially to Lauren Compel for her dedicated directorship in planning, organizing, and supervising to bring it all together! As Pastor Carlson said in his August 1st sermon, however, there is no way we could possibly thank everyone who served -- from the teachers to the snack providers to the behind-the-scenes prayer warriors, and everyone in between!



Everyone had a great time.
(Well, almost everyone.)

Why go to church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, and the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

* * * * *

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

* * * * *

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!


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Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!




* * * * *

Basic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth

August 2021 Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00 Food Sunday	2 Happy 90th Birthday Fritz Motzer  Elders' Meeting 7:00	3 Worship Team 7:00	4 Bible Study 10:00 Memorial Service 11:00 for Joanne Haberland 	5	6	7
8 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	9 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30	10 Craft & Sew 9:30 Worship Team 7:00 Women's Ministry 7:00	11 Esther 12:00	12	13	14 Mary Bible Study 9:30
15 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	16	17 Worship Team 7:00	18	19 Ruth 2:00	20	21 Church Picnic & Praise in the Park 2-4; 5-8 p.m. 
22 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	23	24 Worship Team 7:00	25	26	27 Wedding Rehearsal (Vogel & Rummel) 5:00	28 Wedding (Vogel & Rummel) 2:30 
29 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Pat Lutz Retirement Reception (after 11:00 service) Herald Deadline	30	31 Worship Team 7:00				

August 2021 Youth Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP 6-7:30 @ Church	2	3 TNT @ Counihan's 7-9	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP 6-7:30 @ Church	9	10 TNT @ Griffith's 7-9	11	12	13	14 TNT Canoe Trip 10-6 
15 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP 6-7:30 @ Church	16	17 TNT @ Bostaph's 7-9	18	19	20	21 Church Picnic & Praise in the Park 2-4; 5-8 p.m. 
22 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP 6-7:30 @ Church	23	24 TNT @ Dowd's 7-9	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP 6-7:30 @ Church	30	31 TNT @ Brown's 7-9 (Regan's 1st TNT)				

Reading Through the Bible 2021

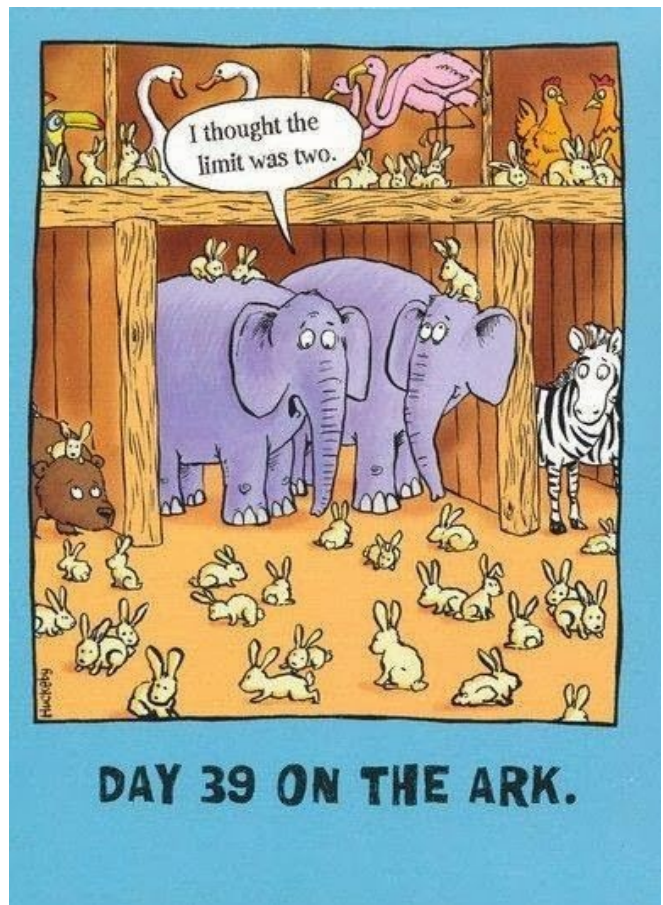
Schedule for August

1st	2 Kings 23:1-20 2 Chronicles 34:29-33 2 Kings 23:21-28 2 Chron. 35:1-19 Nahum 1 Nahum 2 Nahum 3
2nd	Habakkuk 1 Habakkuk 2 Habakkuk 3 Zephaniah 1 Zephaniah 2:1-7
3rd	Zephaniah 2:8-15 Zephaniah 2 2 Chronicles 35:20-27 2 Kings 23:29-30 Jeremiah 47 Jeremiah 48
4th	2 Chronicles 36:1-4 2 Kings 23:31-37 2 Chron. 36:5 Jeremiah 22:1-23 Jeremiah 26 2 Kings 24:1-4 Jeremiah 25:1-14
5th	Jeremiah 25:15-38 Jeremiah 36 Jeremiah 45 Jeremiah 46
6th	Jeremiah 19 Jeremiah 20 Daniel 1
7th	Daniel 2 Daniel 3 Jeremiah 7 Jeremiah 8:1-3
8th	Jeremiah 8:4-22 Jeremiah 9 Jeremiah 10 Jeremiah 11
9th	Jeremiah 12 Jeremiah 13 Jeremiah 14 Jeremiah 15
10th	Jeremiah 16 Jeremiah 17 Jeremiah 18 Jeremiah 35
11th	Jeremiah 49:1-33 2 Kings 24:5-7 2 Chronicles 36:6-8 2 Kings 24:8-90 2 Chronicles 36:9 Jeremiah 22:24-30 Jeremiah 23:1-32
12th	Jeremiah 23:33-40 Jeremiah 24 Jeremiah 29 Jeremiah 30 Jeremiah 31:1-14
13th	Jeremiah 31:5-40 Jeremiah 49:34-39 Jeremiah 50
14th	Jeremiah 51:15-58 2 Chronicles 36:10 2 Kings 24:10-17 1 Chron. 3:10-16 2 Chron. 36:11-14 Jeremiah 52:1-3 2 Kings 24:18-20 Jeremiah 37:1-10
15th	Jeremiah 37:11-21 Jeremiah 38 Ezekial 1 Ezekial 2 Ezekial 3:1-15
16th	Ezekial 3:16-27 Ezekial 4 Jeremiah 27 Jeremiah 28 Jeremiah 51:59-64
17th	Ezekial 5 Ezekial 6 Ezekial 7 Ezekial 8 Ezekial 9
18th	Ezekial 10 Ezekial 11 Ezekial 12 Ezekial 13
19th	Ezekial 14 Ezekial 15 Ezekial 16
20th	Ezekial 17 Ezekial 18 Ezekial 19
21st	Ezekial 20 Ezekial 21 Ezekial 22:1-16
22nd	Ezekial 22:17-31 Ezekial 23 2 Kings 24:20 2 Kings 25:1-2
23rd	Ezekial 24:15-27 Ezekial 25 Jeremiah 34 Jeremiah 21 Ezekial 29:1-16 Ezekial 30:20-26 Ezekial 31
24th	Jeremiah 32 Jeremiah 33 Ezekial 26:1-14
25th	Ezekial 26:15-21 Ezekial 27 Ezekial 28 2 Kings 25:3-7 Jeremiah 52:6-11 Jeremiah 39:2-10
26th	Jeremiah 39:11-18 Jeremiah 40:1-6 2 Kings 25:8-21 Jeremiah 52:12-27 2 Chronicles 36:15-21 Lamentations 1
27th	Lamentations 2 Lamentations 3 Lamentations 4
28th	Lamentations 5 Obadiah 1 2 Kings 25:22-26 Jeremiah 40:7-16 Jeremiah 41
29th	Jeremiah 42 Jeremiah 43 Jeremiah 44 Ezekial 33:21-33
30th	Ezekial 34 Ezekial 35 Ezekial 36
31st	Ezekial 37 Ezekial 38 Ezekial 39 Ezekial 32:1-16

A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a

Dear Lord,
So far today I'm
doing OK. I have
not gossiped, lost
my temper, been
greedy, grumpy,
nasty, selfish,
or self-indulgent.
I have not whined, complained,
cursed, or eaten any chocolate.
I have charged nothing on my
credit card. But I will be getting
out of bed in a few minutes and
I think that I will really need your
help then. Amen



Riddle Me This, Batman

**What do you call four bullfighters
in quicksand?**

Quattro Sinko

**What do you call cheese that
isn't yours?**

Nacho Cheese

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?

A Stick