Joy to the World

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

CARR

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

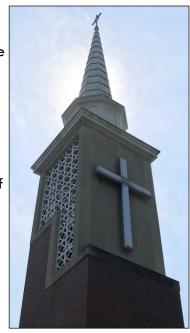
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

We are delighted to have you with us this morning as we gather to worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here! Whether you are visiting from out of town, seeking a new church home, or for any other reason, thank you for choosing to worship with us. We would love to get in touch with you. Please fill out your contact information in the red folder at the end of your pew, or fill out the information on the back cover of this bulletin, and place it in the offering plate as it passes before you.

About Us:

- ◆ Since her opening service on Christmas Eve in 1948 and her charter the following year, Ruthfred Lutheran Church has been a congregation rooted in the conviction that the Bible is inspired by God, living and active, capable to produce faith in its hearers, and true and faithful in all its parts. As such, our preaching and teaching aim to be faithful to its correct interpretation and is central to our worship of God.
- ◆Our Divine Service, called the "Common Service," possesses a rich history that stems from the early days of the Lutheran Reformation. It is centered upon God's Word, and proclaims the realities of God's abundant grace in Jesus Christ from its start to its close. If this is a new form of worship for you, this bulletin will serve as a welcome companion. The order of service begins on page 3.
- ◆The Divine Service begins as our organist begins the Prelude. When the music starts, please quiet your hearts as you prayerfully prepare for worship.



Our cover is a paper cut or scherenschnitte created specially for our church by our very own Kathryn Carr. The artwork will reflect liturgical and Ruthfred-specific themes that occur throughout the year.

The Divine Service of the Word

Christmas Day, December 25, 2021

Prelude: "Still, Still, Still" (arr. James Mansfield)

"To Follow the Star" (Franklin Ritter)

"In the Bleak Midwinter" (John M. Rasley)

The Opening Hymn:

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (SBH42)

(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)



Latin Hymn, XVIII cent. Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, and others

The Call to Worship

Pastor (P): We open this service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen

The Order for Public Confession (SBH, p. 247)

Unison: (U): Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, Amen.

P: Let us humbly kneel, and make confession unto God, imploring his forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

U: O God, our heavenly Father, I confess unto Thee that I have grievously sinned against Thee in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known unto Thee. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my offenses, and I beseech Thee of Thy great goodness to have mercy upon me, and for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to forgive my sins, and graciously to help my infirmities. Amen.

We confess our sins at the beginning of each service, because we are coming into the presence of a holy God. Though we are sinners who daily struggle with sin, we are invited to come to Him to receive the forgiveness of sin earned for us by Jesus. Through this forgiveness, we are given a right standing before a holy God. Because sin is both corporate and personal, we confess our sins together, and privately in the silence of our hearts.

The Absolution is based upon God's instruction in Luke 24:47 that repentance and the forgiveness of sins should be widely proclaimed in the name of Jesus. (See also 1 John. 1:9).

"Introit" means "to enter into," and is a responsive reading meant to lead God's forgiven children into the worship of Him. The words are from Scripture, and relate to the theme of the day in the liturgical calendar.

The Absolution, Admonition & Blessing:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgiveth us all our sins. As a Minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you who do truly repent and believe in Him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

P: On the other hand, by the same authority, I declare unto the impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as they continue in their impenitence, God hath not forgiven their sins, and will assuredly visit their iniquities upon them, if they turn not from their evil ways, and come to true repentance and faith in Christ, ere the day of grace be ended.

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

C: Amen

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

C: And the government shall be upon His shoulder and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God.

P: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. O sing unto the Lord a new song.

C: For He hath done marvelous things.

(Isaiah 9:6, 7; Psalm 98:1)

The Gloria Patri (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 17)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Collect:

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray: Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that the new birth of your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

C: Amen

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 52: 7-10 (NASB)

⁷ How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, they shout joyfully together; for they will see with their own eyes when the Lord restores Zion. ⁹ Break forth, shout joyfully together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The Lord has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God.

The Magnificat: (Read Responsively)

P: And Mary said: My soul exalts the Lord.

C: And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

P: For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

C: For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name.

P: AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

C: He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

P: He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, and has exalted those who were humble.

C: HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; and sent away the rich empty handed.

P: He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy.

C: As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.

The Gradual

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth. The Lord has made known his salvation. His righteousness he has openly shown in the sight of the heathen. Alleluia, alleluia. O come, let us sing unto the Lord. Let us worship and bow down. Alleluia. (Psalm 98: 2-3; 95: 6)

The "Gradual" (Latin for step) is a liturgical reading bridging the readings of the epistle and the Gospel. It is comprised of Scripture, mostly the Psalms.

"Alleluia" is Hebrew for "Praise the Lord." The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14 (NASB)

The Congregation shall rise and sing, "Glory be to Thee, O Lord."

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ⁶ There came a man sent from God. whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. ⁹ There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Congregation shall sing, "Praise be to Thee, O Christ."

During the Service of Holy Communion, we confess our faith using the Words of the Nicene Creed. Though officially adopted a few hundred years after Christ's earthly ministry, the Creed emphasizes the truths that had been taught since the time of the Apostles, namely, that Christ is both fully God and fully man. As such, we are assured that in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself became like us in every way, yet perfect and without sin; and shed His own Blood and gave His own Body in death so that we could find in Him forgiveness of sin and life eternal.

This creed has been used in worship across denominational lines.

The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

The Lighting Of The Christ Candle

The Reading of the Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14
The Reading of the Fulfillment: Matthew 1:18

The Special Music

Christy Hinkelman—Mary, Did You Know? (Lowry, Green/Inman)

The Announcements

The Sermon Hymn:

"What Child is This?" (SBH48)



- Why lies he in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding?Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king, to own him; The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him. William Chatterton Dix, 1837-98

The Sermon is the central component of our Worship. In it, we hear God's Word taught and explained. We hear His Law, convicting of sin and guiding the believer. We also hear the promises of His Gospel, the Good News of Christ's work for us—His redemption, forgiveness and provision of life eternal.

The Sermon:

"He Came to Live With You" | John 1:14

Sermon Notes:

The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand)

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and uphold me with thy free Spirit. (Psalm 51:10-12)

On the first Sunday of each month, as well as on other special occasions, we have the privilege of receiving Holy Communion together. We do not require membership to participate in this. However, we do ask that those coming to receive Communion would be baptized believers in the saving work of Jesus Christ, who are of confirmation age (completed 8th grade), and who are in agreement with the biblical teaching of Christ concerning it.

We believe and teach that Holy Communion is a Sacrament in which we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine, that it was instituted by Christ himself, and that it is given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

We believe and teach that the benefit for Christians receiving Communion is expressed in the words "given" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" (See Matthew 26:26-29). As described by Martin Luther in his *Small Catechism*, these words show us that "forgiveness of sin, life and salvation" are given to us in Communion.

Luther formulated a list of 20 questions with appropriate responses to guide the believer to prepare their hearts for Communion. We include a selection of those questions on the following page for the purpose of aiding you in the same way.

The Service for Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy Spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God....Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; ever more praising Thee, and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you; This do in remembrance of Me.

After the same manner also, He took the cup, when He had supped, and, when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison)

P: Our Father, 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; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe that I am a sinner

Are you sorry for your sins?

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

Do you desire to be saved? Yes, such is my desire.

In Whom do you trust?
In my dear Lord, Jesus
Christ

What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Do you believe that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

Yes. I believe it.

What induces you to believe this?

The Word of Christ, "Take, eat, this is My body; This is My blood, drink of it all of you."

Why ought we to remember and proclaim His death?

That we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins but Christ, true God and man; and that we may learn to look with terror at our sins, and to regard them as great indeed, and to find joy and comfort in Him alone, and thus be saved through such faith.

Finally, why do you wish to go to receive Holy Communion?

That I may learn to believe that Christ died for my sin out of great love, as before said; and that I may also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And with Thy Spirit.

The Agnus Dei:

C: O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

The Distribution

The Nunc Dimittis:

U: Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Prayer

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: And His mercy endureth forever

The Closing Prayer (after which the congregation shall sing "Amen.")

P: The Lord be with you.

C. And with thy spirit

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you

May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Numbers 6:24-26)

C: Amen

The Closing Hymn: "Good Christian Men, Rejoice!" (SBH39)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

<u>Postlude:</u>
"Raise Your Song on High" (arr. Todd Kendall)



- 2 Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath ope'd the heavenly door, And man is blessèd evermore. Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian men, rejoice,
 With heart, and soul, and voice;
 Now ye need not fear the grave:
 Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all
 To gain his everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save!

Medieval Latin Carol Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66

The Christmas Trees in the sanctuary were given by Brian Lyskava in loving memory of his parents, Thomas and Elsie Lyskava.

THE POINSETTIAS ARE PRESENTED BY.....

- * Zoe Akhtar in memory of my parents and brother (Purn, Iva, and Daniel Geidel) and to the Glory of our newborn Savior. (2)
- * PapPap and Nani Albanesi (Ann and Thomas) for Isaiah, Jonah, and Sienna. May you always keep Jesus in your hearts! Merry Christmas! (1)
- * The Alwine and Skundrich Families in memory of Bob and Louise Johns and David W. Johns. (1)
- Bunny Barger in honor of Betzi Barger, the most wonderful sister and best friend ever, and in honor of Susan Wholey, a very special friend who graciously helps me in so many ways.
 (2)
- * Bunny and Betzi Barger in thanks for our mother, Janet, and for all the wonderful memories of her that we will always cherish. (1)
- * Ray and Linda Baughman and Mary Jane Jones in loving memory of Ray and Ruth Baughman and all our loved ones. (1)
- * Catherine and Howard Born for the blessings God gives us, in honor of our loved ones, and in memory of the ones we have lost. (1)
- * Keith Boucher, Linda Friedel, and Sandy Pellegrino in loving memory of our sister and brother, Oona Richardson and Dennis Boucher. (1)
- Pastor and Jen, Ben, Sadie and Sam Carlson in celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus
 Christ and the gift of salvation, and in thanks for the Christian love of our congregation. (2)
- * Carolyn Carr in memory of so many loved ones away from the body but at home with the Lord. (1)
- * Bev and Will Charlton with thanks to God for the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in gratitude to God for all the innumerable gifts and blessings shown to our family. (2)
- * Marcia and Chris Clark in memory of our parents, Al and Anna Mae Hamilton and Glenn and Alice Clark. (2)
- * Shane and Kate Cox in loving memory of our grandmothers, Phyllis and Lois, who joined our Heavenly Father this past year, and in honor of our parents–glory to God for their love and guidance. (2)
- * Lauren and Hollynne Daugherty, Vienne Battaglia, and Paul Briggs in loving memory of Joseph Habovick and Jay Briggs. (2)
- * Sue and Bill Dawson in memory of our parents, Annie and Ed Smith & Helen and Bill Dawson, Sr. (2)
- * David and Emma Deremer with love in memory of great grandmother Barb "Gigi" Herrle and Merry Christmas to Papa and Nana Gigi. (2)
- * Virginia DiSalvo in loving memory of Chuck DiSalvo. (1)
- * Abby and Nathan Donolo in honor of our children, Wyatt and Leona. (1)

- * Linda and Tom Eld. (1)
- * Becky and Steve Evans in thanks for blessings. (1)
- * Arlene Fees in memory of my husband, Ron Fees, and our parents. (1)
- * Anne Fife in honor of the Christ Child's Birth and in memory of Jack and Sue. (1)
- * Frank Fife in honor of his wife, Lisa O'Lare Fife. (1)
- * Frank and Lisa Fife in memory of Lisa's father, William O'Lare, and brothers Bill and John O'Lare. In honor of their mothers, Priscilla O'Lare and Anne Fife. In memory of Frank's father, Jack Fife, and his sister, Sue Fife Greenberger. (3)
- * Tim Fife and Sandi Myatich in memory of lost loved ones. In Christ's Name. Amen. (1)
- * A friend in Christ in honor of Bunny and Betzi Barger and the love, care, devotion, and promise you show for Ruthfred and Our Lord and Savior. Your dedication is a beautiful example. (1)
- * A friend in Christ in memory of Lee Hughes. (1)
- * A friend in Christ in honor of Alma Vogel, a very special friend who just when I feel alone, I need only remember you and know I am truly blessed. (1)
- * A friend in Christ in honor of Paula Mikulan for your dedication to the "Ruthfred family" and for the blessing of your friendship. (1)
- * Dianne and Dan Groves to the praise and glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ. (2)
- * Mary Habovick in memory of loved ones. (1)
- * Linda and Russ Hafen in thanksgiving to God for His Son—a Gift too wonderful for words. Come let us adore Him. (1)
- * Caryl Hansen in thanksgiving to God for His love and kindness. (2)
- * Barb and Marc Harrold in honor of Carol Hall and in honor of all the dedicated Sunday School teachers. (2)
- * Bonnie Hamstead and Mary Smith with prayers for our family. (2)
- * Debbie Huffman in honor of my parents' (William and Patricia VanKirk) 65th wedding anniversary on December 29th. (1)
- * Jeremy, Logan, and Megan Huwe in honor of our grandparents, Larry & Dorothy Schrott and Frank & RoseMarie Huwe. (1)
- * Leslie Klick in memory of Stacie Klick, beloved sister. All is well, for born tonight is our Lord and Savior! You are in my heart always. (1)
- * Mike Kovac in memory of loved ones, in honor of my parents, and with all glory, thanksgiving and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ. (2)
- * Jill and Roger Kurtz. Rejoice! Christ Our Savior is born. (2)
- * Meig Kurtz in loving memory of mom and dad. (1)
- * Mimi, Mary Anne, and Philip Lindauer in honor of their mother, Pat Lindauer. (1)
- Nicolai Andrew Schurko, Joseph Andrew Lindauer, and Michael Andrew Lindauer in memory of their grandfather, Leonard Andrew Lindauer. (1)
- * Pat Lindauer in memory of Leonard Lindauer. (1)
- * Karen, Joe, Justin, and Kristin Lysaght in memory of our loved ones. (1)
- * Gene and Nancy McCloskey in memory of John McCloskey and Gerry Sippel. (2)

- * Don and Carol McDowell in memory of our parents. (1)
- * Pastor McMinn, Erin, and family in memory of his grandparents, Charles and Laura Flory. (1)
- * Pastor McMinn, Erin, and family in memory of Pastor Dennis and in honor of our Sunday School teachers. (2)
- * Patricia Moore and family in memory of Jack W. Moore, Jr. (2)
- * Joan and Cliff Morton to the glory of God and in memory of Barbara Herrle and Jack Moore. (1)
- * Sandy and Bryan Newman in honor of our children, Hannah and James, son-in-law, Tommy, and our baby granddaughter due in March, 2022. In memory of Sandy's mother, Elisabeth Milton, and Bryan's mother, Joan Newman. (2)
- * Marlene and Mick Nowicki to the glory of God in celebration of our Lord's birth and His many blessings. (1)
- * Mary Ann Presto in memory of loved ones. (1)
- * Janelle Ghise Psihas. (1)
- * Katie Recaldini in loving memory of Agnes and Victor Recaldini. (1)
- * Gladys and Bob Reith in honor of our children (Sue Swan, Linda Baird, Janet Pacich, and David Reith) and our grandchildren (Nathan and Bethany Swan & Alexandra and Jenna Pacich). In memory of our parents (Bert and Dorothy Reith & Charles and Gladys Schueler) and Pastor John H. Dennis and his Christmas Eve solos—"In heaven it must be Christmas time." (4)
- Mark and Jodie Riley and family in praise and honor of our newborn King. (1)
- Kathy and Rich Rostauscher in memory of all our loved ones. (1)
- Bev Rowan with a thankful heart for our Pastors and Church. (1)
- * Jan and John Ruzicka in loving memory of family members who have passed away. (1)
- * Joanne Salvetti in honor of our Savior's birth. (1)
- * Annette, Greg, Sean, and Ryan Saul in memory of our parents and grandparents: Carmella and Frank Ferraro and Esther and John Saul. (1)
- * Patty, Russ, Danielle, and Clayton Schrey with heartfelt thanks to all the doctors, nurses, EMTs, first responders, police, and fire fighters who have worked tirelessly through the COVID pandemic. May God bless them all! (1)
- * Debbie Skundrich in loving memory of her husband, Raymond A. Skundrich. (1)
- Elizabeth and John Stilley in honor of our loving family and in memory of our loved ones.
 (1)
- * Chris and Ron Stout in honor of our Lord Jesus—thanks be to God!—and in honor of our mothers, Evelyn Meyer and Betty Stout. (2)
- * Miss Mary Lou in honor of Melissa Manzo and the great kids in the Children's Choir. (1)
- * Mary Lou Streiner with loving memories of Ernie. (1)
- * Norma Vogel in loving memory of her dear sister, Linda J. Vogel. (1)
- * Carol and Bill Ward. For unto you is born a Savior! Rejoice! (1)
- * Donna and Jason Weighley in memory of all our loved ones who are no longer with us and in honor of our wonderful church family and all our youth. (2)

- * The Wente Family: Praise God for our many blessings, none greater than Your only begotten Son, Christ Jesus. (1)
- * Elaine Widich in memory of Alex Widich. (1)
- * Marly Willis in loving memory of my husband, Thomas, and my parents, Joseph and Ruth McCorkle. (2)
- * Libby Wood in memory of Merle R. Brickner and in honor of my son Doug. (2)

Many thanks to the Altar Guild for arranging the lovely poinsettias and decorating our church!



<u>The altar flowers</u> are presented by the Cuthbert Family in loving memory of their parents.

<u>We heartily thank</u> all who ordered poinsettias! If you wish to take yours this morning, please do so.

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. We believe, in accordance with God's Word, that we not only receive bread and wine, but we truly receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We do not practice the communion of unconfirmed children, but you may bring them with you for a family blessing.

Bible Reading 2022: We will be reading through the Bible together again in 2022. With the Bible reading app, there will be a reading guide for each day, an opportunity to share comments with others, and additional devotional videos. If you are interested in joining, please contact Don Roose at donroose@yahoo.com or text 412-584-2112. The daily reading schedule will also be posted online on our Ruthfred page.

Please welcome Peggy Arelt as our Guest Organist.

Merry Christmas! The Word of God became flesh and lives among us. We, in turn, gather to worship him.

Sunday, December 26, 2021 Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Requests

Priv	lease ate (t	o be	kep	t an	non	
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Visiting with us?

Please use this tear-off section to help us get to know a little bit about you and how we may best serve you.

If you have a specific concern or prayer request, please use the space on the other side of this fold.

Date:
Name:
Children:
Address:
Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)
Email:
I am a/an: 1st-Time Visitor 2nd-Time Visitor Out-of-Town Visitor Regular Attendee
I would like to learn more about: What It Means To Be a Christian

Church Membership

■ Ways To Share My Gifts

■ Ruthfred's Ministries or Groups

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