

Joy to the World



Ruthfred Lutheran Church

CARR

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

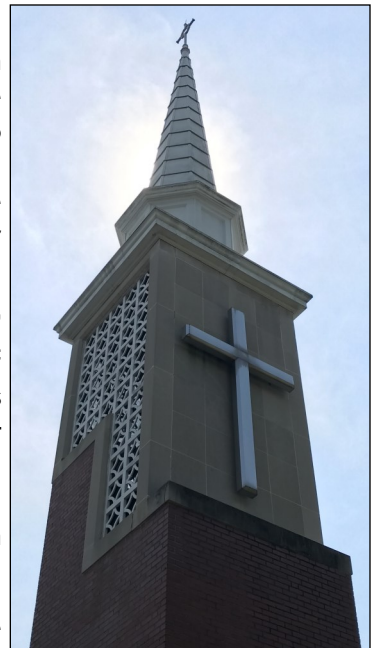
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

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, 2022

Prelude:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

(John M. Rasley)

"In Dulce Jubilo"

(J. S. Bach)

"Still, Still, Still"

(Franklin Ritter)

"From Heaven Above"

(Johann Krieger)

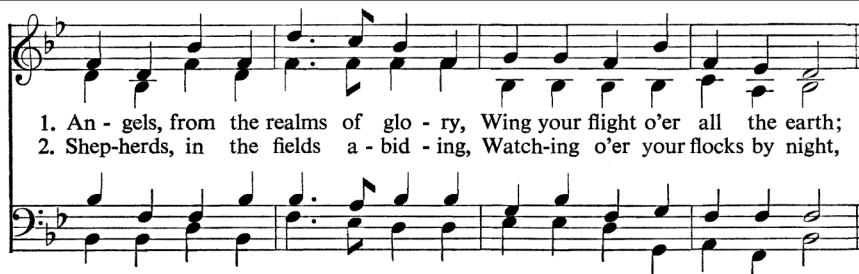
The Opening

Hymn:

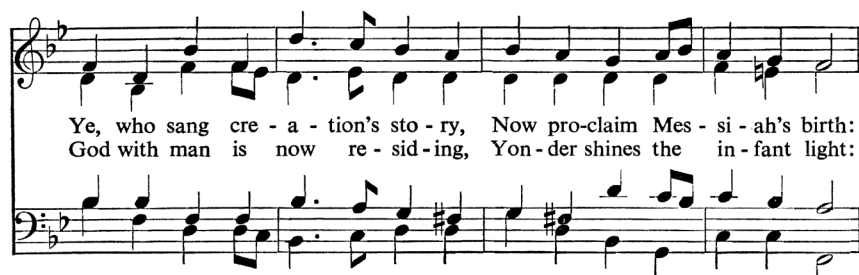
"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

(SBH #31)

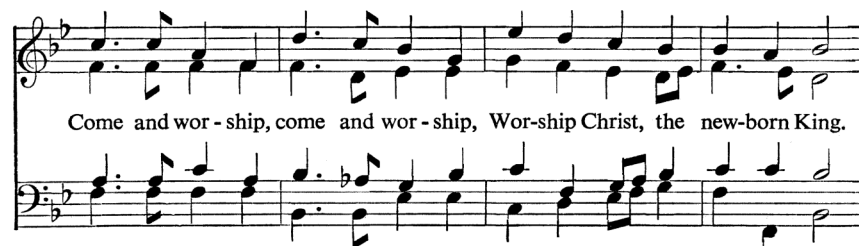
(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,



Ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen his natal star:

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One:

James Montgomery, 1771–1854, a.

The “invocation” is Latin for “call upon.” In the Invocation we remember our baptism and acknowledge God as our Father. We are reminded that through Christ’s name we have access to the Father’s throne by the Holy Spirit. Because we are children of God, we have the privilege to invite (invoke) God’s presence and blessing upon this service of “divine liturgy” in which we receive the Work of God through His Word and Spirit, and also in which we offer up to God our praise as an act of worship. *Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:15; Ephesians 2:18*

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 Call to Worship and Invocation

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.

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, forgives 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 62:10-12 (NASB)

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, clear the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples. ¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth, say to the daughter of Zion, "Lo, your salvation comes; behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him." ¹² And they will call them, "The holy people, the redeemed of the LORD"; and you will be called, "Sought out, a city not forsaken."

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 bonds slave; 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: Luke 2:1-14 (NASB)

The Congregation shall rise and sing, **“Glory be to Thee, O Lord.”**

¹ Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ² This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵ in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶ While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸ In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² This *will* be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

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

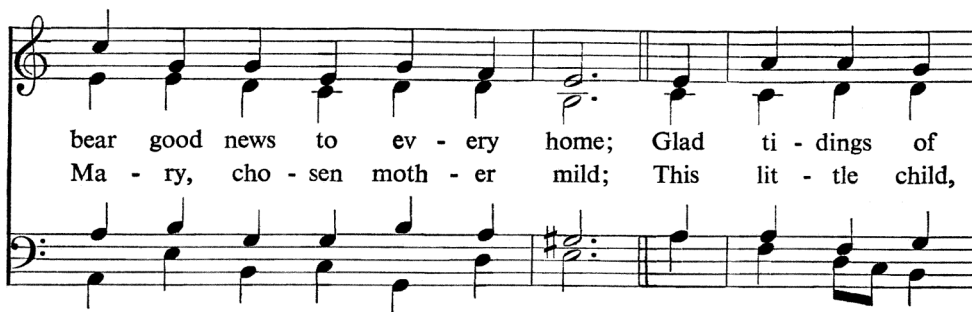
Christy Hinkelman—*Noel* (M. Redman/C. Tomlin/E. Cash)

The Announcements

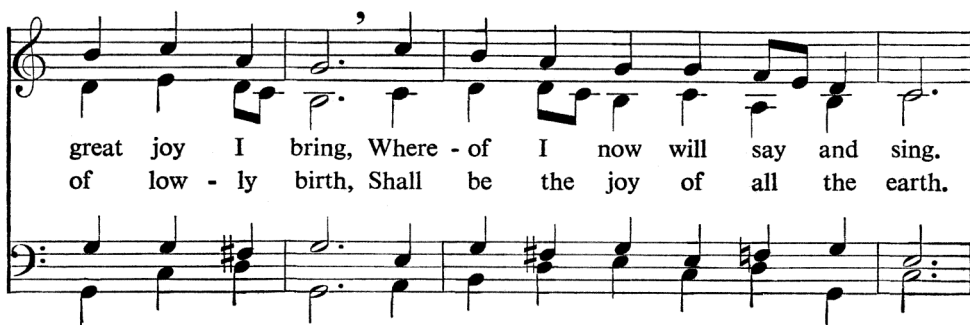
The Sermon Hymn: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (SBH #22)



1. From heaven a - bove to earth I come To
2. To you this night is born a child Of



bear good news to ev - ery home; Glad ti - dings of
Ma - ry, cho - sen moth - er mild; This lit - tle child,



great joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing.
of low - ly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, to thee.

4 Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child,
Make thee a bed, soft undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for thee.

5 'Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man his Son hath given,'
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–78

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: "Don't Be Afraid. Peace Has Come" | Luke 2:1-14

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.

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

C: And with Thy Spirit.

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.

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!" (SBH #39)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

Postlude:

"Festive Postlude" (Unknown)

Smoothly, in quiet time

1. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, With heart, and soul, and voice;

This system shows the first two staves of the hymn. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;

This system continues the hymn. The melody and accompaniment are consistent with the first system. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, And he is in the

This system continues the hymn. The melody and accompaniment are consistent with the first system. The lyrics are written below the staves.

man - ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

This system concludes the hymn. The melody and accompaniment are consistent with the first system. The lyrics are written below the staves.

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 blessed 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 POINSETTIAS ARE PRESENTED BY.....

- * Zoe Akhtar, to the Glory of the Newborn King and in memory of departed loved ones. (2)
- * Jack & Karen Alderson and Jeen & Rick Harper, with love and thanks to Jill and Roger Kurtz for their constant care and support towards our families. Jesus in your hearts shines in your service. (2)
- * Joyce Alderson, in loving memory of husband Bill. (1)
- * Joyce Alderson's seven loving great-grandchildren, in honor of their Gigi. The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. (1)
- * Bunny Barger, in honor of Betzi Barger—the most wonderful sister and best friend ever. (1)
- * Bunny and Betzi Barger, in honor of Susan Wholey and in thanks for her friendship, her enthusiasm, and for always being there to lend a helping hand along with a smile. Also, in memory of our mother, Janet, and in thanks for the joy she brought to each and every Christmas we shared together. (2)
- * Ray & Linda Baughman and Mary Jane Jones, in memory of Ray & Ruth Baughman and all loved ones. (1)
- * Patty Bierman-Schrey, with praise to God for the glorious birth of baby Jesus and in prayer for my sister and brother-in-law, that God may bless and guide them. (1)
- * The Boehme family, rejoicing in the birth of Christ. (1)
- * Pastor, Jen, Ben, Sadie, and Sam Carlson, in celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation, and in thanksgiving for the Christian love of our congregation. (2)
- * Carolyn and Kathryn Carr, with thankfulness for Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn, our church staff, and our congregational family-in-Christ of Ruthfred Lutheran Church. (1)
- * The Cimarolli family, in loving memory of our parents, Stan & Carol Kletch. (1)
- * Chris and Marcia Clark, in loving memory of their parents: Glenn & Alice Clark and Al & Anna Mae Hamilton. (2)
- * Steve and Peggy Cox, in honor of our family. (2)
- * Larry Cumberledge, in memory of Imogene and Dan Cumberledge. (1)
- * Lauren and Hollynne Daugherty, Vienne Battaglia, and Paul Briggs, in loving memory of Joseph Habovick, grandfather/great grandfather to Lauren, Vienne, and Hollynne, and in memory of Jay, beloved brother to Paul. (2)
- * Sue and Bill Dawson, in memory of loved ones. (2)
- * Grace Diehm, in loving memory of Charles Diehm. (1)
- * Virginia DiSalvo & family, in loving memory of Charles DiSalvo. (1)
- * Mari Donlin, in memory of my parents. (1)
- * Nathan and Abby Donolo and family, in memory of Blaise Donolo. (1)
- * Tom and Linda Eld. (2)
- * Steve and Becky Evans, given to the glory of God. (1)
- * Arlene Fees, in loving memory of my husband, Ronald Fees; in loving memory of the Fees & Yurko families. (2)
- * Frank and Lisa Fife, in memory of Lisa's father William O'Lare and brothers Bill and John O'Lare; in honor of our mothers, Priscilla O'Lare and Anne Fife; in memory of Frank's father, Jack Fife, his sister Sue Fife Greensberger, and Baby Owen Weimer Shilatz. (3)
- * Frank Fife, in honor of his wife, Lisa O'Lare Fife. (1)

- * Mary Habovick, to the praise and glory of Jesus Christ our Lord and in remembrance of loved ones. (2)
- * Russ and Linda Hafen, in thanksgiving for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His many blessings. (1)
- * Marc and Barbara Harrold, in honor of Carol Hall and the celebration of our Lord's birth; in thankfulness of God's blessings and His gift of Jesus's birth. (2)
- * Debbie Huffman, in loving memory of my mother, Patricia VanKirk; in honor of my father, William VanKirk, and my grandchildren—Ava, David, Emma, and Bobbie. (2) and Gerry Sippel. (2)
- * Sue Hughes, in memory of Lee Hughes, Betty Hess, and Isobel Porter, and in gratitude for their present Joy. (1)
- * Jeremy, Logan, & Megan Huwe, Merry Christmas to Gram & Pap Schrott and Grandma Huwe! Also, in memory of PapPap Huwe and our great-grandparents. (2)
- * Mike Kovac, in memory of loved ones who have passed and in honor of my parents, Sue & Andy, and our newest family member, Asher David Kovac. (3)
- * Jill and Roger Kurtz, in worship of Christ, our Savior, Redeemer, and King. (1)
- * Meig Kurtz, thanking God for loving memories of Mom and Dad, my friends. (1)
- * Mimi, Mary Anne, and Philip Lindauer, in honor of their mother, Pat Lindauer. (1)
- * Pat Lindauer, in loving memory of Leonard. (1)
- * Ed and June Malachosky, in memory of our parents, Bill & Eleanor and Ed & Mary. (2)
- * Melissa and Matt Manzo & family, in honor of Mary Lou Streiner with love and appreciation for her friendship and support; in loving memory of Nancy Thomas. (2)
- * Joe, Joyce, and Brian McClune in loving honor of Barbara McClune and in loving memory of Wayne McClune. (1)
- * Joyce, Joe, and Brian McClune in loving memory of parents and grandparents Lois & Don Funk. (1)
- * Don and Carol McDowell, in memory of our parents. (1)
- * Pastor and Erin McMinn & family, in honor of Ruthfred's lovingly devoted Sunday School teachers. Thank you all! (1)
- * Pastor and Erin McMinn and family, in honor of our parents, Jim McMinn, Stephanie Schlinkman, and Bill & Sue Dawson. (2)
- * Sibyl Mose, in memory of DeWayne and Martha Kanagy. (1)
- * Karl and Connie Munn, to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones. (1)
- * Mick and Marlene Nowicki, to the glory of God in honor of The Christ Child and the blessings of family. (1)
- * Katie Recaldini, in loving memory of Agnes & Victor Recaldini. (1)
- * Bob and Gladys Reith, in memory of their parents, Charles & Gladys Schueler and Herbert & Dorothy Reith; in honor of their children: Susan Swan, Linda Baird, Janet Pacich, and David Reith; in honor of their grandchildren: Nathan Swan, Bethany Hosack, Alexandra Pacich, and Jenna Pacich. (3)
- * The Rieck family, in honor of Pastor Carlson & family and Pastor McMinn & family. (2)
- * Mark and Jodie Riley, Glory to the Newborn King! (1)
- * Kathy and Rich Rostauscher, in memory of loved ones. (1)
- * Bev Rowan, to thank and honor God for all blessings, trials, and challenges. (1)

- * Jan & John Ruzicka, in memory of the family members who have passed on to be with the Lord. (1)
- * Joanne Salvetti, in honor of the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. (1)
- * Annette, Greg, Sean, and Ryan Saul, in memory of our parents/grandparents: Carmella & Frank Ferraro and Esther & John Saul. (1)
- * Russ and Patty Schrey & family, in prayer for the Ukrainian people and for the war to end ASAP. Guide our leaders and support our troops, doctors, nurses, and all emergency personnel. In appreciation for the stained glass Christmas scene above the altar—it is stunning. (1)
- * Debbie Skundrich, in memory of my dearest husband of 50 years. Raymond A. Skundrich; with gratitude to our dear pastors and their families. (2)
- * Skundrich and Alwine Families, in memory of our beloved parents, Bob & Louise Johns, and our dear brother David. (1)
- * Lois Smock, in memory of Marcia and in thankfulness for many blessings. (2)
- * John and Lynn Sperandio, in loving memory of Jerry and Sally Power and in loving memory of Helen Sperandio. (2)
- * John and Elizabeth Stilley, in honor of our family. (1)
- * Ron and Chris Stout, in honor of our moms, Betty Stout and Evelyn Meyer. (2)
- * Mary Lou Streiner, in loving memory of Ernie and our wonderful Christmases together; in honor of the special kids in the Children's Choir and Melissa Manzo, their loving director. (2)
- * Bill VanKirk, in loving memory of my wonderful wife, Patricia VanKirk. (1)
- * Norma Vogel, in loving memory of her dear sister, Linda J. Vogel, and in loving memory of her wonderful parents, Wilbert J. and Alma L. Vogel. (2)
- * Carol and Bill Ward, in gratitude for Bob Vogel, Melissa Manzo, the Senior Choir, the Children's Choir, the Bell Choir, and all the musicians who acclaim Jesus's birth with glorious music. (1)
- * Donna & Jason Weighley, in memory of Donna's parents and Jason's grandparents, in honor of our church family that we are blessed to be a part of, in honor of the birth of our Savior, and in honor of Jaeden Mohring and all those deployed away from those who love them. (4)
- * Marly Willis, in loving memory of Kristie McCorkle, sadly missed by Devon, Beckett, the McCorkle family, and the Oshita family. Also, in loving memory of Tom Willis, Earl & Vera, and Joseph & Ruth McCorkle—blessed family in the Lord. (2)
- * Libby Wood, in honor of my son Doug; in memory of Merle R. Brickner. (2)

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

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Cynthia Wehrum and family with warm wishes to everyone for a blessed holiday season. May Jesus bless and fill your hearts with love this Christmas!

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

Guest Organist: Please welcome Peggy Arelt as our Guest Organist.

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.

Known to be hospitalized: Fred Schell—UPMC Shadyside Hillman Hospital. (Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.) Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's dad)—St. Clair Hospital. Please keep them in your prayers and support them with cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Please keep all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges in your prayers.

Prayer Request: Please be in prayer for our member Becky Lindner. Her husband, Rich, is one of our church elders. Becky has been on dialysis and is in need of a kidney transplant. She is now on the National Kidney Registry. Additional information can be found at: www.NKR.ORG/JGM887. Please pray that a matching kidney donor can be found for Becky and that God would give her sustaining strength and health while she waits.

Official Act: On Wednesday, December 21, 2022, Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn officiated at a burial service for Terence Neil Alwine at the National Cemetery for the Alleghenies at 2 p.m.

Condolences: Our pastors and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Ellen Alwine upon the death of her husband, Terry, on Sunday, December 18, 2022. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Current Fund: Given by Charles Queenan in memory of Carol Mueller; given by a Friend in Christ in memory of Carol Mueller.

Live Stream Fund: Given by Linda Friedel, Keith Boucher, and Sandy Pellegrino in loving memory of Oona Richardson.

Music Fund: Given by Sibyl Mose in memory of Carol Mueller; given by Richard Madden & May Wang in memory of Carol Mueller; given by Bob & Gladys Reith in memory of Carol Mueller.

Pastor's Fund: Given by Dorothy Kratz in memory of Conrad Kratz, Sr., and in memory of son Conrad Kratz, Jr., on his December 25th birthday.

Bible Reading 2023: Please join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2023, starting on January 1, 2023. We will be using the YouVersion Bible app, which provides a reading guide for each day (including a daily Psalm), over 150 videos to engage readers throughout the year, and a talk-it-over feature. The daily reading schedule will also be available on the Ruthfred website, as well as being printed in each month's Herald. The theme for 2023 will be "One Story That Leads to JESUS." For questions, or to sign up, please email Don Roose at DonRoose@ruthfred.org.

New Year's Eve: Welcome the New Year with prayer and hymns! Join us for a short time of prayer and hymn-singing at the church at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jill or Roger Kurtz for more information.

Announcements (cont'd)

Thank you for the Adopt-A-Family Gift cards!!! This past week I dropped off your gift cards totaling \$4,035 to Adopt A Family/South Hills. Wow, you exceeded last year's amazing total of \$3,300, and your generosity continues to amaze me! Please know that these gift cards will make a world of difference to so many struggling local families, truly our neighbors, this Christmas. Thank you so very much! Carol Ward. As an addendum, Boy Scout Troop 215, to which Nathan Stutzman belongs, delivered gift cards at the Council meeting to be passed on to Adopt-A-Family. The director of the program described this addition as "a Christmas miracle." She had just received the names of two more families to serve, and she did not know how she was going to find the resources, and then this extra gift was given.

New Member Class: We are still gathering names for a new member class to be offered starting **Sunday, January 22, 2023**. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let Melissa Bostaph, our Parish Assistant, know. Email: melissabostaph@ruthfred.org.

Portals of Prayer for January—March 2023: The new copies are now available at each of the church and sanctuary entrances, both in regular and large print.

2022 Contributions: Financial contributions to be recorded in the year 2022 must be postmarked by Saturday, December 31, 2022. Contributions postmarked after December 31st will be recorded in 2023.

Stained Glass Panel: "May the God of Peace, Bring Peace to This House."

This Celtic-themed panel has been donated by Jim and Diann Marshall in loving memory of her mother, Jean Darroch Blazek, who moved to the United States from Scotland at the age of 3 with her family.

Location: Facing the Altar: left side set of windows; 1st window back; 2nd row up from the window sill, the left of the two panels.

2023 Flower Chart is now available on the bulletin board by the water fountain in the Patterson hallway. Please sign up for helping to provide the blessing of altar flowers next year. Thank you to everyone who filled up the January slots! Please note that the cost of altar flowers has increased from \$40 to \$50 for next year.

Time and Talent Sheets and Pledge Cards: If you have not turned in your Time and Talent Sheet or pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. We build the Time and Talent database anew each year, so we need the updated information. You all have so many talents to share!

2023 Offering Envelopes are now in the Library. Please pick your envelopes up this morning if you have not already done so!

The 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet is now posted on the wall near the Fireside Lounge kitchen.

Journey Through the Word: Morning JTTW is taking a break until after the holidays. Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about their study starting in January: 412-708-3535 or writingcygnet@gmail.com. The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah's The Book of Signs. Each lesson stands alone, and there are plenty of books. Evening JTTW is paused until January 11, 2023. Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

This Week At Ruthfred

Today (12/25) CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m.—Communion Service

NO Sunday School

NO SWAP Meeting

Monday (12/26) Church Office Closed

Tuesday (12/27)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

NO TNT Meeting

Herald deadline

Wednesday (12/28)

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

Saturday (12/31)

7:00 p.m.—New Year's Eve Prayer Time

Happy 92nd Birthday, Cornell Ghise!

Sunday (1/1) NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:30 a.m.— Communion Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Communion Service

Noon—Fyalkowski Baptism

6:00 p.m.—Communion Service

CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY

Merry Christmas! Welcome to the manger, which
cradles the very Word made flesh.

Attendance for Last Week:

Contemporary Worship...63

Sunday Worship...278 Sunday School...73

8:30 Live Stream...40

Prayer Requests

Please use this space to let the
pastors, elders and/or church
know of your prayer needs.

☐ Please keep this request
Private (to be kept amongst the
pastors only).

☐ Please make this request
known to the Ruthfred prayer
team and announce it to the
congregation when
appropriate.

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
- ☐ Ruthfred's Ministries or Groups
- ☐ Ways To Share My Gifts

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Frederick Schell
Organist

Melissa Manzo
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