



We
have come
to worship Him

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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 evening 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 musicians begin 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.

Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service

Saturday, January 21, 2023—6:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

Build a Boat (Colton Dixon) (CCLI Song #2958862)
We Praise You (Matt Redman) (CCLI Song #7130961)

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## The Call to Worship / Opening Prayer

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

**Congregation (C): Amen**

Song: Blessings (Laura Story) (CCLI Song #5897818)

### [Intro]

#### Verse 1

We pray for blessings, ... we pray for peace,  
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep.  
We pray for healing, ... for prosperity.  
We pray for Your mighty hand, ... to ease our suffering.  
And all ... the while, ... You hear each spoken need,  
Yet love us way too much, to give us lesser things.

#### Chorus 1

... 'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops?  
What if your healing comes through tears?  
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes ... to know  
You're near?  
... What if trials of this life, ... are Your mercies in dis-guise?

#### Verse 2

We pray for wisdom, ... Your voice to hear,  
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near.  
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love,  
As if ev'ry promise from Your word is not enough.  
And all ... the while, ... You hear each desp'rate plea,  
And long that we'd have faith, ... to be-lieve.

#### Chorus 2

... 'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops?  
What if your healing comes through tears?  
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes ... to know  
You're near?  
... What if trials of this life, ... are Your mercies in dis-guise?

#### Bridge

... When friends betray us, ... when darkness seems to win,  
We know that pain reminds this heart that this is not, ... this is not  
our home.  
... It's not our home.

(continued on next page)

## Final Chorus

**Song: Blessings** (Laura Story) (CCLI Song #5897818) (cont'd)

... 'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops?  
What if your healing comes through tears?  
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes ... to know  
You're near?  
What if my great-est disappointments, ... or the aching of this life,  
Is a revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy?  
... And what if trials of this life, the rain, the storms, the hardest  
nights,  
Are Your mercies in dis-guise? [Final Chorus]

[Ending]

## The Confession of Sins (SBH, p. 41)

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.

Pastor (P): Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**Congregation (C): Who made heaven and earth.** (Psalm 124:8)

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** (Psalm 32:5)

P: Let us bow or kneel for the confession of our sin.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Silent Prayer of Personal Confession)

## **Together:**

**O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Absolution

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).

P: The Almighty and merciful God grant unto you, being penitent, pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of His Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**Song: Goodness of God** (Jenn Johnson) (CCLI Song #7117726)

**[Intro]**

**Verse 1**

I love You Lord, ... oh Your mercy never fails me.  
... All my days, ... I've been held in Your hands.  
From the moment that I wake up, ... until I lay my head,  
... I will sing of the goodness of God.

**Chorus 1**

... All my life You have been faithful.  
... All my life You have been so, ... so good.  
... With every breath that I am able,  
... I will sing of the goodness of God.

**Verse 2**

I love Your voice, ... You have led me through the fire.  
... In darkest night, ... You are close like no other.  
... I've known You as a father, ... I've known You as a friend.  
... I have lived in the goodness of God.

**Chorus 2**

... All my life You have been faithful.  
... All my life You have been so, ... so good.  
... With every breath that I am able,  
... I will sing of the goodness of God.

**Bridge**

... Your goodness is running after, ... it's running after me.  
... Your goodness is running after, ... it's running after me.  
With my life laid down I'm sur – rendered now, ... I give You ev'ry-  
thing.  
... Your goodness is running after, ... it's running after me.

**Chorus 3**

... All my life You have been faithful.  
... All my life You have been so, ... so good.  
... With every breath that I am able,  
... I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God. (I'm gonna sing! I'm gonna  
sing!)  
... 'cause all my life You have been faith-ful.  
... All my life You have been so, ... so good.  
... With every breath that I am able,  
... I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.  
... I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.

**The Collect**

P: The Lord be with you:

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of your Majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**C: Amen**

God's chief means of extending His grace to His children is through His Word. Hearing it and learning it are central to His proper worship.

**The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4** (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. <sup>2</sup> The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. <sup>3</sup> You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

**The Psalm: Psalm 27:1-9** (Read Responsively)

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?

**C: When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.**

P: Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in *spite of* this I shall be confident.

**C: One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple.**

P: For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.

**C: And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

P: I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

**C: Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me.**

P: *When You said, "Seek My face,"* my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek."

**C: Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation!**

**The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18** (NASB)

<sup>10</sup> Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

<sup>11</sup> For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup> Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

<sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one would say you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. <sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**The Gradual**

So the heathen shall fear the Name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth Your glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory. Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice. Let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Alleluia.

(Psalm 102:15, 16; 97:1)

**The Alleluia** (Sung in Unison)

**Allelu**, By Tom Leech (Lyrics based on Psalm 148)

Al-He-lu, Al-He-lu, Al-He-lu-u-ia Al-He-lu-u-ia, Al-He-lu-u-ia.

Al-He-lu.

**The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:12-25** (NASB)

The Congregation rises and sings, "**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; <sup>13</sup> and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. <sup>14</sup> *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

<sup>15</sup> "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES—<sup>16</sup> "THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED."

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>18</sup> Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and

(continued on next page)

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 Apostles' Creed is a statement of Christian belief used since the early Church. It's not specific to any one Christian denomination, but used by the Church as a whole. We choose to confess it together as a unified reminder of what we believe to be true about God, and His caring service to us.

### **The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:12-25** (NASB) (cont'd)

Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. <sup>23</sup> Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and *the* Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and *from* beyond the Jordan.

The Congregation rises and sings, "**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**"

### **The Confession of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth

And In Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Announcements**



**Sermon Song: Jesus, Thank You** (Pat Sczebel) (CCLI Song #2958862)

**[Intro]**

**Verse 1**

The myst'ry of the cross I cannot compre-hend  
The agonies of Calvary  
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son  
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for ... me.

**Chorus 1**

Your blood has washed away my sin, Jesus, thank You  
The Father's wrath com-pletely satisfied, Jesus, thank You  
Once Your ene-my, now seated at Your table  
Jesus, thank You.

**Verse 2**

By ... Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near  
Your enemy You've made Your friend  
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace  
Your mercy and Your kindness know no ... end.

**Chorus 2**

Your blood has washed away my sin, Jesus, thank You  
The Father's wrath com-pletely satisfied, Jesus, thank You  
Once Your ene-my, now seated at Your table  
Jesus, thank ... You ... Jesus, thank you.

**Bridge**

Lover of ... my soul ... I want to live ... for ... You  
Lover of ... my soul ... I want to live ... for ... You  
Lover of ... my soul ... I want to live ... for ... You  
Lover of ... my soul ... I want to live ... for ... You

**Chorus 3**

Your blood has washed away my sin, Jesus, thank You  
The Father's wrath com-pletely satisfied, Jesus, thank You  
Your blood has washed away my sin, Jesus, thank You  
The Father's wrath com-pletely satisfied, Jesus, thank You  
Once Your ene-my, now seated at Your table  
Jesus, thank ... You ... Jesus, thank you  
Once Your ene-my, now seated at Your table  
Jesus, thank ... You ... Jesus, thank you.

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:** "From Hopelessness to Joy!" | Isaiah 9:1-4

**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 Your presence: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.** (Psalm 51:10-12)

## The Closing & Silent Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

(Please bow or kneel in prayer)

### The Lord's Prayer

Leech/Traditional ABCP 1662

♩ = 100

D2 D D2 Asus4 A Asus4 G G D2 D2

REFRAIN Our Fa-ther, Who art in heav'n, Hal-low-ed be, thy name.

Bm Asus4 Bm Asus4 Cmaj7 Em A A

PETITION: Thy king-dom come. Thy will be done, On earth. As it is in heav'n.

Bm Asus4 Bm Asus4 Cmaj7 Em

PETITION: Give us this day, Our dai-ly bread. And for-give us our sins, As we for-

Am7 Em A A D2

give those who tres-pass a- gainst us. And

Dsus4 D D D A A Dsus4 D D G G

PETITION: Lead us not in-to temp- ta- tion. But de- liv-er us from e- vil. For

F#m G F#m G F#m G A

rit. thine is the king-dom, And the pow-er, and the glo- ry, for- ev'r.

D2 D D2 Asus4 A Asus4 G G D2 D2

REFRAIN: Our Fa-ther, Who art in heav'n, Hal-low-ed be, thy name.

G D Em D G D A D

CLOSING: A- men, A- men, A- men, A- men.

## 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**

## Closing Song: I Thank God (Maverick City) (CCLI Song #7169680)

### Verse 1

**Wandering into the night wanting a place to hide  
This weary soul ... this bag of bones.  
I try with all of my might, but I just can't win the fight;  
I'm slowly drifting ... a vagabond.**

### Pre-Chorus 1

**And just when I ran out of the road,  
I met a man I didn't know,  
And He told me that I was not a-lone.**

### Chorus

**You picked me up, You turned me around  
And placed my feet on solid ground.  
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior,  
Because You healed my heart, You changed my name;  
For-ever free, I'm not the same.  
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior, I thank God.**

**[Turnaround]**

### Verse 2

**I cannot deny what I've seen, got no choice but to believe;  
My doubts are burn-in' ... like ashes in the wind....  
So, so long to my old friends burden and bitterness.  
You can't just keep it mov-ing ... nah you ain't welcome here.**

### Pre-Chorus 2

**From now till I walk streets of gold,  
I'll sing of how You saved my soul;  
This wayward son has found his way back home.**

### Chorus

**You picked me up, You turned me around  
And placed my feet on solid ground.  
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior,  
Because You healed my heart, You changed my name;  
For-ever free, I'm not the same.  
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior, I thank God.**

### Bridge

**Hell lost another one; I am free, I am free, I am free.  
Hell lost another one; I ... am free, I ... am free, I am free.  
Hell lost another one; I am free, I am free, I am free.  
Hell lost another one; I ... am free, I ... am free, I am free.**

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**Closing Song: I Thank God (Maverick City) (CCLI Song #7169680) (cont'd)**

**Chorus**

You picked me up, You turned me around  
And placed my feet on solid ground.  
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior,  
Because You healed my heart, You changed my name;  
For-ever free, I'm not the same.  
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior, I thank God.

**[Outro]**

**Postlude: Open the Eyes of My Heart (Paul Baloche) (CCLI Song #2298355)**

**[Intro]**

**Chorus**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord ... Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You ... I want to see ... You.  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord ... Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You ... I want to see ... You.

**Verse**

To see You high and lifted up ... shi-ning in the light of Your glo-ry  
Pour out Your power and love ... as we sing holy, holy, ho-ly.

**Chorus**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord ... Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You ... I want to see ... You.  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord ... Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You ... I want to see ... You.

**Verse**

To see You high and lifted up ... shi-ning in the light of Your glo-ry  
Pour out Your power and love ... as we sing holy, holy, ho-ly.  
To see You high and lifted up ... shi-ning in the light of Your glo-ry  
Pour out Your power and love ... as we sing holy, holy, ho-ly.

**Ending**

Holy, holy, ho-ly ... holy, holy, ho-ly  
Holy, holy, ho-ly ... I want to see ... you.  
Holy, holy, ho-ly ... holy, holy, ho-ly  
Holy, holy, ho-ly ... I want to see ... you.  
Holy, holy, ho-ly ... holy, holy, ho-ly  
Holy, holy, ho-ly ... I want to see ... you.

**[Acapella]**

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by Dan and Leslie Gill to the glory of God in thankfulness for His mercy and faithfulness.

**Nursery Tomorrow:** 8:30 & Sunday School—Jenna Schwartz; 11:00—No attendant.

**Guest Organists:** Essi Efthimiou continues as our long-term substitute during Fred’s recovery.

**Known to be hospitalized:** Fred Schell—Select Specialty Hospital (McKeesport). Fred’s home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Lundy Castro—Canonsburg Hospital. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

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

**Prayer Request:** Please be in prayer for our member Becky Lindner. Her husband, Rich, is one of our church elders.

**Official Act:** At 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2023, Pastor McMinn officiated at the funeral of Ruth Anne Wilkinson at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**Current Fund:** Given by Marian Meyer in memory and honor of Carol Mueller.

**Pastor’s Fund:** Given by Lou and Arlene Ball in memory of Terry Alwine.

**Gifts to the Church in Memory of Jim Agnew:** Given to the Benevolence Fund by Dorothy and Steve Kratz. Given to the Current Fund by Mary Lou & Joe McKenna, by Marilyn Schuster, and by Lou, Susan, & Bethany Slautterback. Given to the Pastor’s Fund by Joan & Cliff Morton, by Lou & Arlene Ball, and by Fred & Sandy Pellegrino.

**Support Life:** During January and February, we will be collecting items needed by the two pregnancy centers we support, Health for Her in Bethel Park and New Life Options in Monongahela. Bins will be in the Fireside Lounge through February 12<sup>th</sup> for your donations. There will be a box in the church office for gift cards. Thank you for supporting these ministries! Please contact Jill Kurtz with any questions. The following items are especially needed: baby wash, baby lotion, bathtubs, crib sheets for **mini** cribs, video baby monitors, diaper bags (backpack style), girls’ sleepers 9 months to 2T, girls’ outfits 12-18 months, boys’ sleepers 9-18 months, boys’ outfits 9 months to 4T, and gift cards for Walmart, Target, Amazon, Kohls, etc. (Clothing, mini crib sheets, and diaper bags can be gently used.)

**Installation of New/Re-elected Council Members:** The installation of new and re-elected council members will be held TOMORROW, Sunday, January 22, 2023, at both services.

**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@yahoo.com.

# Announcements

**Thank you** dear Ruthfred family for all the kind words, cards, and offers of “Is there anything we can do,” at Jim’s passing. Thank you also for the peace plant, the luncheon, and to Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn for the personal and Christ-centered funeral service. What a blessing and treasure you all are to me and my family. **Judy Agnew and family**

**New Member Class:** A new member class starts today, **Sunday, January 22, 2023**. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let Melissa Bostaph, our Parish Assistant, know. Email: melissabostaph@ruthfred.org.

**Lutheran Ambassador January Issue:** Please pick up your copy at one of the church entrances.

**Journey Through the Word:** Morning JTTW began a new study on January 18, 2023—Nancy Guthrie’s The Promised One (Jesus in Genesis). Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about this study: 412-708-3535 or writingcygnet@gmail.com. The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah’s The Book of Signs. This week’s topic will be “Spiritual Warfare: When Christians Wouldn’t Know They Were in a War.” Each lesson stands alone; there are plenty of books. Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

**XYZ Resumes Friday, January 27:** Start your New Year off right by joining us for an informative presentation given by Jody Garlick, Registered and Licensed Dietitian. Jody will be speaking about the importance of a healthy, aging microbiome (healthy gut) and giving a live cooking demonstration. You won’t want to miss this important and informative event, or the lunch catered by Peggy Cox. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the Library.

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** have been moved to the Library.

**Craft & Sew is calling:** We are in need of new or gently used dish or hand towels (no microfiber towels please). These are used to make adult clothing protectors. The residents of various nursing homes love these. Please put your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. If you or anyone you know could use a clothing protector (adult bib) please let me know. We will gladly give you as many as you need. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. Arlene Ball: 412-977-8013 or [Arlene1952@gmail.com](mailto:Arlene1952@gmail.com). Thank you for your continued support!

**A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life:** *“When an abortion is performed, we proclaim that we know better than God. We disregard His wisdom, for He taught us that we should never kill innocent human beings. We proclaim that we do not want or need a gift from God. And in doing so, we seek to make ourselves more powerful than God. We seek to make ourselves God.”*  
– *Archbishop Samuel Aquila*

## COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The following church members were newly elected, or re-elected for a second term, at the Congregational Meeting held last Sunday, January 15, 2023:

|                                     |                                          |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <u>Recording Secretary:</u>         | Barb Harrold                             |
| <u>Treasurer:</u>                   | Bill Ward*                               |
| <u>Financial Secretary:</u>         | Rich Kleiser*                            |
| <u>Sunday School Superintendent</u> | Shane Cox*                               |
| <u>Elders:</u>                      | Eric Wente*<br>Al Macugoski<br>Steve Cox |
| <u>8:30 Deacons:</u>                | Chris Clark*<br>Paul Mikulan             |
| <u>11:00 Deacons</u>                | Nathan Donolo                            |
| <u>Trustees:</u>                    | Jonathan Stutzman*<br>Josh Cox*          |
| *Indicates Incumbent                |                                          |

Many thanks to those who have finished their terms and to those who graciously submitted their names for nomination.

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PLEASE PLAN ON JOINING US FOR OUR FIRST MONTHLY

# *Fellowship Breakfast*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Fellowship Hall

Held during Sunday School hour  
(9:45am-10:45am)

Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Assorted Juices, Coffee, Tea,  
(GF and Dairy Free options will be available)

*There will NOT be any Adult or Children's Sunday School this day,  
please join us for breakfast and fellowship instead!*



## Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom\*

Pastor Carlson is teaching a series on the book of I Thessalonians for the Adult Sunday School Class. The little book of I Thessalonians is perhaps the earliest canonical writing of St. Paul. It's focus is "The Life of the Christian Congregation." It is a gem of a book, filled with "an unmingled sweetness" of Christian love. In it we will be learning about sharing our faith, serving one another, living godly lives, understanding the end times, and how to live out the Gospel in the community of the congregation. You are invited!!! It will be wonderful to study and discuss this book together.

\*Audio recordings of the class are available on the Ruthfred website.



## MOVIE NIGHT

On Sunday, January 29, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., we will host a viewing of the faith-based documentary "Ends of the Earth." Learn about Mission Aviation Fellowship pilots going to "hard-to-reach villages, willing to risk it all for the sake of sharing Christ's love." The documentary explores stories of faith, calling, and adventure by weaving together the true stories of MAF pilots, past and present, who strive along with other missionaries, churches, and organizations to take the gospel to the most isolated and inaccessible places on earth." MAF was added to our benevolence budget this year. Come see how your monetary gifts are being used. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Kurtz.



## YOUTH NEWS

### SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is a **SWAP** meeting tomorrow night at the church, 6-7:30.

**TNT and SWAP:** Meet us at the Rink! Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> at the South Park Ice Rink for the 7:30- 9:30 p.m. skating session. Purchase your own ticket and rentals (\$5 Admission/\$2 skate Rental). No transportation will be provided, but youth chaperones will be there!

### TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

### Questions/concerns?

Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee





## 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:

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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

## Ruthfred Staff

**Rev. Steven P. Carlson** | Senior Pastor  
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**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

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**A. J. Dolence** | Live Stream & Social Media Assistant  
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**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Frederick Schell**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Denise Stutzman** | Preschool Head Teacher  
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**Denise Stutzman**  
Kids' Time Leader

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