



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 row, or fill out the information on the back cover of this bulletin, and place it in an offering basket.

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, March 18, 2023—6:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

Behold the Lamb of God (Tom Leech)

Poured Out His Life (Tom Leech)

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Pastor (P): All Rise

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

Opening Song of Praise: Who Am I (Mark Hall/Casting Crowns)

(CCLI #4196651)

Verse 1

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name
Would care to feel my hurt?
Who am I, that the bright and morning star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever-wandering heart?

Pre-Chorus

Not be—cause of who I am
But be—cause of what You've done
Not be—cause of what I've done
But be—cause of who You are.

Chorus

I am a flower quickly fading
Here to—day and gone to—morrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
A vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You told me who I am.

Verse 3

[Instrumental Interlude]

Verse 2

Who am I, that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love
And watch me rise a—gain?
Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me?

Pre-Chorus

Not be—cause of who I am
But be—cause of what You've done
Not be—cause of what I've done
But be—cause of who You are.

(continued on next page)

Chorus

I am a flower quickly fading
Here to—day and gone to—morrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
A vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You told me who I am.
I am Yours....

Pre-Chorus

Not be—cause of who I am
But be—cause of what You've done
Not be—cause of what I've done
But be—cause of who You are.

Final Chorus

I am a flower quickly fading
Here to—day and gone to—morrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
A vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You told me who I am.
I am Yours....

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.

Opening Song of Praise: Who Am I (cont'd)

The Confession of Sins (SBH, p. 15)

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. For this reason 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 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).

The Absolution:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His Name, He gives power to become the sons of God, and bestows upon them His Holy Spirit. He that believes, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen

Song: God So Loved (Ed Cash...et al.) (CCLI #7138599)

Verse 1

**Come all you weary, come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more**

Verse 2

**Come all you sinners, come find His mercy
Come to the table, He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for.**

Chorus 1

**For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Who – ever believes in Him
Will live for – ever.**

Interlude

[Whoa's]

Verse 3

**Bring all your failures, bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms.**

Chorus 2

**For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Who – ever believes in Him
Will live for – ever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved
God so loved the world.**

Bridge 1A

**Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.**

Bridge 1B

**Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.**

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Chorus 3

Song: God So Loved (cont'd)

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save...
For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Who – ever believes in Him
Will live for – ever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved
God so loved the world.

Verse 4

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.

The "collect" is a prayer of the day for each day in the liturgical calendar. It is meant to "collect" the prayers of God's people.

The Collect

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray: Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Your grace may mercifully be relieved; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

C: Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7 (NASB)

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.

¹ But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. ⁴ Since you are precious in My sight, *since* you are honored and I love you, I will give *other* men in your place and *other* peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. ⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give *them* up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold *them* back.' Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, ⁷ Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

The Psalm: Psalm 142 (NASB)

P: I cry aloud with my voice to the LORD; I make supplication with my voice to the LORD. I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him.

C: When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path. In the way where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

P: Look to the right and see; for there is no one who regards me; there is no escape for me; no one cares for my soul.

C: I cried out to You, O LORD; I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

P: Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

C: Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name; the righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me."

The Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1:1-11, 27-30 (NASB)

¹ Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸ in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

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.

The Gradual

I was glad when they said to me: let us go into the house of the Lord. Peace be within your walls and prosperity within your palaces. They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abides forever. (Psalm 122:1, 7; 125:1)

Following the Gradual reading, the congregation sings

The Sentence for Lent

Christ has humbled Himself, and become obedient unto death: even the death of the Cross.

The Holy Gospel Lessons:

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

John 20:30, 31 (NASB)

³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The Congregation 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 sitteth 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

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.

Sermon Song: The Wonderful Cross (Chris Tomlin/Matt Redman)
(CCLI #3148435)

[Instrumental Intro]

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Verse 2

See from His head, His hands His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Chorus

O the wonderful cross! O the wonderful cross!
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross! O the wonderful cross!
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Verse 3

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an off'ring far too small.
Love so amazing so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Chorus 2

O the wonderful cross! O the wonderful cross!
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross! O the wonderful cross!
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.
O the wonderful cross! O the wonderful cross!
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.

[Instrumental]

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: “Farewell: Blessings & Prayers” | Philippians 1:1-11, 27-30

The Pastor's Prayer

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)

Offering Prayer

The Closing & Silent Prayers

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 3 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 3 G D2 D2

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

rit. G D Em D G D A D

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

Communion Song: Jesus Thank You (Pat Sczebel) (CCLI #4475341)

[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 Benediction: The Blessing (Chris Brown...et al.) (CCLI #7147007)

Verse 1

The Lord bless you ... and keep you
Make His face shine up – on ... you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His ... face toward you
And give ... you peace.

Chorus

A – men
A – men ... a –men
A – men
A – men ... a –men.

[Instrumental Interlude]

(continued on next page)

The Benediction: The Blessing (cont'd)

Bridge 1

May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children and their children.

Bridge 2

May His presence go before you
And be – hind ... you and beside you
All a – round you and within you
He is with ... you He is with you.

Bridge 3

In the morning in the evening
In your coming ... and your going
In your weeping and rejoicing
He is for ... you He is for you.

Tag

He is for ... you He is for you
He is for ... you He is for you
He is for you He is for you
He is for ... you.

Chorus

A – men
A – men ... a –men
A – men
A – men ... a –men.

Closing Song: Be Thou My Vision (8th c. Irish hymn; arr. Leech)

Verse 1

Be thou my-y vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my-y be-est tho-ought, by day or by night;
Wa-king or sle-e-ping, Thy-y presence my light.

Verse 2

Be thou my-y wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I e-ver with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Thou my-y gre-eat Fa-ther; and I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwe-ell-ing -a-and I with Thee one.

Verse 3

Be Thou my-y shield and my sword for the fight;
Be Thou my dig-ni-ty, be Thou my might;
Thou my-y so-oul's shel-ter and Thou my high tow'r.
Raise Thou me hea-ven-ward, O-O pow'r of my pow'r.

Verse 4

Rich-es I-I heed not, nor man's em-pty praise;
Thou mine in-her-i-tance, now and al-ways;
Thou a-and Thou-ou on-ly first i-in my heart,
High King of he-eav-en, my-y trea-sure Thou art.

Verse 5

High King o-of hea-ven, my vic-to-ry won;
May I reach hea-ven's joys, O bright heav'n's sun!
Heart o-of my-y own heart, what-ev-er be-fall,
Still be my vi-i-sion, O-O Ruler of all.

Postlude: 10,000 Reasons (Jonas Myrin/Matt Redman) (CCLI #6016351)

[Instrumental Intro]

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.

Verse 1

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again.
What-ever may pass, and what-ever lies be-fore me
Let me be singing when the eve-ning comes.

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.

Verse 2

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.

[Instrumental chorus]

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise un-ending
Ten thousand years and then for – ev – er – more ... forevermore!

Closing Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.
Yes, I will worship Your holy name]
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

[Instrumental interlude]

Ending

Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.
Jesus I will ... worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name.

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Barb Thomas in honor of her twin grandsons' 16th birthdays.

Nursery Tomorrow: 8:30 and Sunday School—TBD; 11:00—Claudia Patalong

Known to be hospitalized: Fred Schell—Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Sewickley. Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Joanne Salvetti—back at Magee Women's Hospital. Lundy Castro—Asbury Heights. Bill VanKirk—St. Clair Hospital. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Linda Donolo (broken leg & hip replacement). Linda is currently in Florida, so cards can be sent to: 307 Reynolds Ct., Naples, FL 34112. Pat Lutz (recent surgery). Nancy Jane Weighley (Jason's mother) is out of the hospital but continuing to be monitored. Fritz Heilman is home continuing his recovery. Please keep all of them in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Condolences: Our pastors and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Lynn and Bob Vogel and family on the death of Lynn's father, George Kopac, Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Pastor's Fund: Given by Andrew and Carol Ausefski in loving memory of Fritz Motzer. Given by Mary Habovick in memory of Fritz Motzer. Given by Mick and Marlene Nowicki in memory of Fritz Motzer. Given by Lou and Arlene Ball in memory of Fritz Motzer and Becky Lindner. Given by Carol and Bill Ward in memory of Fritz Motzer and Becky Lindner.

Easter Flower Orders: Please consider ordering a tulip or a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Easter. Envelopes will be available in the pew racks from now until March 26. **The cost for a tulip or a lily is \$13.00.** Place your cash or check in the envelope and write your dedication, name, and type of flower you prefer on the outside of the envelope. Envelopes may be placed in the collection baskets or in the box in the office.



Family Easter Festival: The 4th annual festival for families with young children returns on April 2, 4-6 p.m. Activities are geared to children ages 2-8, but ALL are welcome. Inviting friends is encouraged. To ensure we have adequate supplies and food, **sign-up is REQUIRED by March 26.** This can be done online at ruthfred.org/announcements or on the list posted next to the Nursery. Please join us!

Volunteer/Donation opportunities for the Family Easter Festival: We are needing donations of desserts for the Festival. You can sign up on the list at the base of the stairs or by calling Peggy Cox. Also, we could use a few more kitchen helpers and "where needed" helpers. Please sign up on the list if you can serve, or contact Barb Harrold, brharrold@comcast.net.

Young Adults: This group will meet on Sunday March 26th at 6:30 p.m. at Andrew and Cassie Vogel's house. All young adults are welcome to join! For questions or further information, please contact Andrew at andrewvogel@ruthfred.org.

XYZers: The next meeting is Friday, March 24th. Our featured speaker will be Tomi Larson, leader of the Bethel Park Genealogy Group. Her talk is entitled "My Islands." She will be sharing about how researching her family tree opened up a whole world of new family and adventures in the Aeolian Islands of Sicily. Peggy Cox will provide a delicious lunch. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the Library. Please join us!

Announcements (cont'd)

Lenten Soup and Salad Suppers: Please join us for soup and salad suppers on Wednesday evenings from 6—7 p.m. An evening service will follow at 7:30 p.m. If you attend the 2:00 p.m. service, you are welcome to attend the supper also. Peggy Cox will be organizing the food. Arlene Ball will be coordinating volunteers for setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Please contact Arlene at 412-977-8013 or Arlene1952@gmail.com if you are able to help. Thank you in advance!

VBS 2023: Dates are July 24-28. The theme this year will be “Twists and Turns.” Come and learn how following Jesus will help you through life’s twists and turns. Registration is open at: <https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>. This link allows parents to register their children for this fun event and also allows volunteers to sign up to help make VBS a success!

VBS Decorating 2023: This year decorating will be an in-house project. We will begin Tuesday, April 11, 7-9 p.m. on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. These Tuesday meetings will continue until the decorations are completed. Please consider supporting this important ministry. We particularly need cardboard boxes (square 12” x 12” or 24” x 24”). Larger boxes would also be appreciated. Please contact Jason Weighley at jason.weighley@gmail.com, or bring the boxes to the stage. If you have any questions, please contact Jason or Donna Weighley.

Youth Bible Camperships: \$100 Bible Camperships are available to our youth attending a Christian camp. All camperships must be approved by Church Council. Deadline to submit an application is Sunday, April 9, 2023, for approval at the April Council meeting. Please place applications in the Council Secretary mail slot in the Conference Room.

Farewell Receptions for Pastor Carlson and Family: Please join us for one of two receptions to honor Pastor Carlson and his family: after this evening’s service or after the 11:00 a.m. service tomorrow.

Benevolence Committee: We will be meeting on Monday, March 27, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. All members of the congregation are invited to come with any questions, input, or suggestions. We will be reviewing the ministry of the Schierkolks and Chosen People Ministries (Pastor Kipp).

Employment Opportunity at Ruthfred: Do you have a heart for the youngest in our Church family? We have a need for a nursery worker during the 8:30 a.m. service and Sunday School. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help: coxfarrierservice@gmail.com.

Craft & Sew Candy Collection: As of February, the women at Craft & Sew have sent nearly 2000 favors to local nursing homes since September. Because of this, our candy supply is almost depleted. Please help to refill our supply with snack-size Milky Way bars, M & M’s, Hershey’s Kisses, KitKats, or Twix bars. These candy favors put smiles on many faces. Thank you so much for doing your part! There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Portals of Prayer: The April-June issues are here and can be found at all church entrances. There are both regular print and large print copies. Please pick one up today!

Preschool Registration is now open for the 2023-2024 school year. Register online at Ruthfred.org. Contact: preschool@ruthfred.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.

Easter Baskets for our Shut-Ins/Homebound Members

This project is back to normal this year. Donations and volunteers are needed. You are encouraged to visit with those receiving a basket depending on your and their comfort level. Some facilities may require that a mask be worn. Sign-up sheets for assembly at 10 a.m. and pickup/delivery beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, are on the bulletin board across from the elevator.

Thank you so much for your help.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS

HOMEMADE GOODIES - muffins, cookies, etc. in baggies or individually wrapped for easier distribution.

Soft candies	Small notebooks
Mini candy bars	Pens
Snack crackers	Note cards
100 calorie snacks	Postage stamps
Breakfast bars	Applesauce
Hot/cold cereal	Wrapped tea bags
Mini muffins	Hot chocolate mix
Cookies	Soup packets
Pudding/Jello cups	Tissue packs
Diced fruit	Chapstick

Raisin or Craisin boxes

Please choose store items that are individually wrapped and/or single-serving food items. **NOTHING WITH NUTS. Sugar-free items are welcomed.** Any unused items will be donated to Meals on Wheels.

Please place items in the Easter basket collection bin outside the kitchen by Thursday, March 30.

Questions??? Contact Jeanine Szalinski or Jill Kurtz



Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom

Mark Arelt continues his series tomorrow.

Bible Questions Answered?

Anyone who reads the Bible seriously is bound to run across certain passages that leave them thinking, "Hmm. Why is that in there?" or "How does that make sense?" or "What does that really mean?"

Join us as we discuss some of the questions YOU have asked about The Bible.



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

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

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on March 21st, 7-9 p.m.

Save the date:

March 24-26: Seneca Hills Retreat for Grades 9-12.

Questions/concerns?

Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee



Lutherans for Life: "When we ignore the baby in the womb and focus instead on what is now being labeled as the rights of the mother and women's health care, we are turning our backs on God. Never has God authorized killing and called it a right. Never has God condoned promoting abortion and called it health care. His love for life is written throughout Scripture. What are we doing when we ignore His sacred Word?" *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life*

This Week At Ruthfred

Tomorrow (3/19) 4th Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Noon—Farewell Reception for the Carlsons

Monday (3/20) St. Joseph

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders' Meeting

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew



Tuesday (3/21)

6:00 p.m.—Gideons' Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

Wednesday (3/22)

9:15 a.m.—JTTW

2:00 p.m.—Lenten Service

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:00-7:00 p.m.—Soup & Sandwich Supper

6:30 p.m.—Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

7:30 p.m.—Lenten Service

Thursday (3/23)

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits

Friday (3/24)

7:00 a.m.—Men's Prayer Group (Fireside Lounge)

Noon-XYZ

Sunday (3/26) 5th Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Easter Flower order deadline

Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

Please keep this request
Private (for the pastor only).

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

Welcome to worship! May God's Word help us each see something or someone in a new way today.

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...229 Sunday School...95

8:30 Live Stream...43

JTTW (morning)...44 Online...4

Lenten Services... 187

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

Ruthfred Staff

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Frederick Schell
Organist

Essi Efthimiou
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Melissa Manzo
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