

Hallelujah



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, April 15, 2023—6:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

Forever (We Sing Hallelujah) (Kari Jobe) (CCLI #7001228)
Raise a Hallelujah (Bethel Music) (CCLI #7119315)

♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯♯

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: Graves Into Gardens (Elevation Worship)
(CCLI #7138219)

[Intro]

Verse 1

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.
Then You came along and put me back together.
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love.

Chorus 1

Oh there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

Verse 2

Yes, I know it's true ... I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.
My failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all,
And You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

Chorus 2

Oh there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.
Oh there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

Bridge 1

(Repeat)

You turn mourning to dancing.
You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory.
You're the only one who can.

Bridge 2

You turn graves into gardens.
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can.

Chorus 2

Bridge 2

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: Graves Into Gardens (cont'd)

Oh there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.
Oh there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

You turn graves into gardens.
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.
You turn graves into gardens.
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can.

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 "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.

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 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

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 have celebrated the solemnities of the Lord's Resurrection may, by the help of Your grace, bring forth the fruits of these in our life and conversation; through the same Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson: Acts 5:29-42 (NASB)

²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses of these things; and *so* is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." ³³ But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. ³⁵ And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. ³⁶ For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away *some* people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God." ⁴⁰ They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them. ⁴¹ So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

The Psalm: Psalm 148 (NASB)

P: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts!

C: Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all stars of light!

P: Praise Him, highest heavens, and the waters that are above the heavens!

C: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created.

P: He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a decree which will not pass away.

C: Praise the LORD from the earth, sea monsters and all deeps;

P: Fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word; Mountains and all hills; fruit trees and all cedars;

C. Beasts and all cattle; creeping things and winged fowl;

P: Kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth;

C: Both young men and virgins; old men and children.

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.

C. And He has lifted up a horn for His people, praise for all His godly ones; *even* for the sons of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the LORD!

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (NASB)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,. ⁷ so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

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

Alleluia, alleluia. The angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. Alleluia. After eight days Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst of His disciples and said to them, Peace be unto you. Alleluia. (Matthew 28:2; John 20:19)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

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

Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu-u-ia Al-le-lu-u-ia, Al-le-lu-u-ia.
Al-le-lu.

The Holy Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

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

¹⁹ So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained." ²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." ²⁶ After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." ²⁸ Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed." 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.

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

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 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

Sermon Song: Glorious Day (Casting Crowns) (CCLI #5638022)

Verse 1

One day when Heaven was filled with His praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men, my example is He
Word became flesh and the light shined among us
His glory revealed

Chorus

Living, He loved me. Dying, He saved me
Buried, He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He's coming. Oh glorious day, oh glorious day

Verse 2

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He
Hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree
And took the nails for me

Chorus

Living, He loved me. Dying, He saved me
Buried, He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He's coming. Oh glorious day, oh glorious day

Verse 3

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer
One day the stone rolled away from the door
Then He arose over death He had conquered
Now He's ascended, my Lord evermore
Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him
From rising again

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Sermon Song: Glorious Day (cont'd)

Chorus 2

Living, He loved me. Dying, He saved me
Buried, He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He's coming ... Oh glorious day, oh glorious day;
Glorious day! Oh glorious day!

Bridge

Glorious day!
One day the trumpet will sound for His coming
One day the skies with His glories will shine
Wonderful day, my Beloved One, bringing
My Savior, Jesus, is mine

Chorus 2

Living, He loved me, Dying, He saved me
Buried, He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He's coming ... Oh glorious day, oh glorious day;
Glorious day! Oh glorious day!

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: "Blessed Are They Who Did Not See, and Yet Believed!"
| John 20:19-31

Sermon Notes

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.

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

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 (Sung)

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 below for the purpose of aiding you in the same way.

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.

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

During Communion we will sing:

Communion Song: O Come to the Altar (Elevation Worship) (CCLI #7051511)

[Intro]

**Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?**

Jesus is calling

Have you come to the end of yourself?

Do you thirst for a drink from the well?

Jesus is calling

O come to ... the altar

The Father's arms are open wide

**Forgiveness ... was bought with ... the precious blood of Jesus
Christ**

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes

Come today there's no reason to wait

Jesus is calling

Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy

From the ashes a new life is born

Jesus is calling

O come to ... the altar

The Father's arms are open wide

**Forgiveness ... was bought with ... the precious blood of Jesus
Christ**

O come to ... the altar

The Father's arms are open wide

Forgiveness ... was bought with ... the precious blood

Oh what a Savior

Isn't He wonderful?

Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen

Bow down before Him

For He is Lord of all

Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen [Repeat all]

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Communion Song: O Come to the Altar (cont'd)

Final Chorus

O come to ... the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness ... was bought with ... the precious blood of Jesus Christ
O come to ... the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness ... was bought with ... the precious blood of Jesus Christ
The Father's arms are open wide

Verse 3

(softly)

Bear the cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world o the treasure you found

Communion Song 2: In Christ Alone (Keith Getty/Stuart Townend)
(CCLI #3350395)

[Intro]

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

(continued on next page)

Verse 4
(softly)

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

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

The Closing & Silent Prayers

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

Verse 1

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

Chorus

Amen
Amen ... amen
Amen
Amen ... amen.

[Instrumental Interlude]

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 behind ... you and beside you
All around 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.

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The Benediction: The Blessing (cont'd)

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

Amen
Amen ... amen
Amen
Amen ... amen.

Closing Song: Great Things (Phil Wickham & Jonas Myrin) (CCLI
#7111321)

[Introduction]

Verse 1

Come let us worship our King
Come let us bow at His feet
He has done great things
See what our Savior has done
See how His love overcomes
He has done great things
He has done great things.

Chorus

O Hero of Heaven You conquered the grave
You free every captive and break every chain
O God You have done great things
We dance in Your freedom awake and alive
O Jesus our Savior Your name lifted high
O God You have done great things.

Verse 2

You've been faithful through every storm
You'll be faithful forevermore
You have done great things
And I know You will do it again
For Your promise is Yes and Amen
You will do great things
God You do great things.

Chorus

O Hero of Heaven You conquered the grave
You free every captive and break every chain
O God You have done great things
We dance in Your freedom awake and alive
O Jesus our Savior Your name lifted high
O God You have done great things.

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Closing Song: Great Things (cont'd)

Bridge

Hallelujah ... God above it all
Hallelujah ... God ... unshakable
Hallelujah ... you have done great things
Hallelujah ... God above it all
Hallelujah ... God ... unshakable
Hallelujah ... you have done great things
You've done great things.

Chorus

O Hero of Heaven You conquered the grave
You free every captive and break every chain
O God You have done great things
We dance in Your freedom awake and alive
O Jesus our Savior Your name lifted high
O God You have done great things.

Ending

... You have done great things
O God You do great things.

[Outro]

Instrumental Postlude: Great Things (Phil Wickham & Jonas Myrin)

(CCLI #7111321)

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Dan and Dianne Groves in honor of Pastor McMinn and his family, the entire church staff, all church musicians, and all volunteers who support the beautiful Ruthfred services that glorify God. Thank you for all you do!

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

Known to be hospitalized: Joanne Salvetti—Magee Women’s Hospital. Caryl Hansen—now at Paramount Senior Living, Room 328, 240 Cedar Hill Dr., McMurray, PA 15317. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Fred Schell is at home—103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Linda Donolo (broken leg & hip replacement). Linda is currently in Florida, send cards to: 307 Reynolds Ct., Naples, FL 34112. Pat Lutz—recent surgery. Greg Saul—back surgery. Sylvia Fitzgerald—broken leg. Amy Taylor—upcoming rotator cuff surgery. Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson’s father)—cancer. Jen Carlson—gall bladder surgery. Erna Jochum—Concordia Health Center Room 283. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Sincere Thanks: I am recovering well from my surgery and want to thank our caring, loving, faithful, and simply amazing church family for all the cards and beautiful messages! I never realized how wonderful it feels to have so many people care. I love my church and all of its members, and I am truly grateful! — *Linda Donolo*

Current Fund: Given by TJ and Jamie Christensen in memory of Rebecca Lindner.

Music Fund: Given by Susan Wright in memory of George Kopac (Lynn Vogel’s father).

Pastor Andy Olson Visit: Today, we will have a special guest with us for worship and for the adult Sunday School class. Pastor Andy Olson will be visiting from Minnesota. Andy and his family recently served in Tanzania with Lutheran Bible Translators. He now has a ministry he founded to extend a translation of John 3:16 to unreached people groups anywhere in the world. Come and learn about Andy’s passion for Jesus, which he is melding with internet technical expertise and networking. Andy is Pastor Kevin Olson’s son and Pastor Nathan Olson’s brother. Ruthfred has been supporting Andy via your Benevolence giving.

Staff News: A. J. Dolence completed his time as Live Stream & Social Media Assistant last Sunday. Please welcome John Sperandio to this role beginning today. Thank you, A. J. for a job well done! Welcome, John!

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, May 7, 2023, for approval at the May Council meeting. Please place applications in the Council Secretary mail slot in the Conference Room. Please contact the church office if you need a copy of the application.

GIFT Bible Study: Our April study will be at the Arelt’s next Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

Young Adult Bible Study: This group will meet next Sunday 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.

Open Church Council Position: The position of Secretary is currently open. The primary duty is to record minutes from the monthly meetings. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please contact Mark Riley, Council President, at markriley@ruthfred.org.

Announcements (cont'd)

Meals on Wheels Collection: Our neighbors at Meals on Wheels, located at Grace Lutheran Church in South Park, need bottled salad dressings. Donations will be accepted until June 4th. Their preferred purchase places are Aldi's or The Dollar Store. Please place these items in the appropriate bin outside the kitchen. They are grateful for any donation! If you have any questions, please contact Carol Ward. Thank you!

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.

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.

Ruthfred Reflections Newsletter: This new publication will be a weekly email. If you subscribed to Two on Tuesday, you should have received an issue in your inbox on Wednesday. If you did not receive a copy and would like to, please call or send an email to the church office to have your email address added. If you would like to be removed from the list, please call or email to let the church office know that. If you have items to be added to the newsletter, please send them either to Melissa Bostaph, Parish Assistant, or Sally Ondrejko, Office Manager. Contact information for both is on the back of this bulletin.

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 began last Tuesday, 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.

XYZers: The next meeting will be Friday, April 28th. The program will be presented by Susan Kimmel Wright, author and Ruthfred member. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the Library. Please join us for a wonderful lunch catered by Peggy Cox and a thought-provoking program! This will be the last meeting until September.

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.

Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom

Pastor Andy Olson will be our special guest tomorrow. Please join us as we learn about Andy's passion for Jesus, which he is melding with internet technical expertise and networking.



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 April 18th, 7-9 p.m.

Questions/concerns?

Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee



Thank You for the Easter Baskets...

Gladys Constant: Thank you to my church family for the wonderful Easter basket! Also, thank you to Kristin Cimarolli and her daughter, Alaina, for delivering the basket. They were very nice to talk to!

Carol Holt: Thank you for the blessing of receiving an Easter basket!

Marian Meyer: Thank you so much for the lovely Easter basket! I especially like the handmade Easter card!



This Week At Ruthfred

Tomorrow (4/16) 1st Sunday after Easter

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Monday (4/17)

9:30 a.m.—Craft and Sew

Tuesday (4/18)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

7:00-9:00—VBS Decorating

Wednesday (4/19)

9:30 a.m.—JTTW End-of-year Brunch

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

6:45 p.m.—Confirmation Classes

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

Thursday (4/20)

2:00 p.m.—Ruth

Friday (4/21)

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

Sunday (4/23)

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

6:30 p.m.—GIFT Bible Study (Arelts' house)

6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Bible Study (A & C Vogels')

Happy Easter! Indeed, the season lasts 50 days.

Welcome as we continue celebrating our Risen Lord.

Attendance for Last Week:

Maundy Thursday... 166 Live Stream... 10

Good Friday Afternoon...88

Good Friday Evening...143 Live Stream...21

Easter Sunrise...35 Easter Worship...554

8:30 Live Stream...39

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.

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
Interim Organist

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

Erin McMinn | Interim Preschool Head Teacher
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