

# CONFIRMATION



RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations ([www.aflc.org](http://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, May 20, 2023—6:00 p.m.

**PRELUDE**

**In the Name** (Tom Leech)

**Mighty to Save** (Ben Fielding/Reuben Morgan) (CCLI #4591782)



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: This Is Amazing Grace** (Phil Wickham/  
Jeremy Riddle/Josh Farro) (CCLI #6333821)

**Verse 1**

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness;  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of glory, the King above all Kings.  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of glory, the King above all Kings.

**Chorus**

This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place. That You would bear my cross.  
You laid down Your life, that I would be set free.  
O Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.

**Verse 2**

Who brings our chaos back into order;  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of glory, the King of glory.  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice,  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of glory, the King above all Kings.

**Chorus**

This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place. That You would bear my cross.  
You laid down Your life, that I would be set free.  
O Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.

**Bridge**

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;  
Worthy, worthy, worthy, O

## **Final Chorus**

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

Because sin is both corporate and personal, we confess our sins together, and privately in the silence of our hearts.

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

## **Opening Song of Praise: This Is Amazing Grace** (cont'd)

**This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place. That You would bear my cross.  
You laid down Your life, that I would be set free.  
O Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.  
All that You've done for me.**

## **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:**

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” 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 Collect**

P: The Lord be with you:

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Almighty, everlasting God, make us to have always a devout will towards You, and to serve Your Majesty with a pure heart; 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 First Lesson: Acts 1:12-26** (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered *the city*, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas *the son* of James. <sup>14</sup> These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the women*, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

<sup>15</sup> At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, <sup>16</sup> “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry.” <sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. <sup>19</sup> And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup> “For it is written in the book of Psalms,

‘LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE,  
AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT’;

and,

‘LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.’

<sup>21</sup> Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—<sup>22</sup> beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these *must* become a witness with us of His resurrection.” <sup>23</sup> So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen <sup>25</sup> to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup> And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**The Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10** (NASB)

P: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee before Him.

**C: As smoke is driven away, *so drive them away*; as wax melts before the fire, *so let the wicked perish before God*.**

P: But let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God; yes, let them rejoice with gladness.

**C: Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up *a song* for Him who rides through the deserts, Whose name is the Lord, and exult before Him.**

P: A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.

**C: God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity, only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.**

P: O God, when You went forth before Your people, when You marched through the wilderness, *Selah*.

**C: The earth quaked; the heavens also dropped *rain* at the presence of God; Sinai itself *quaked* at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

P: You shed abroad a plentiful rain, O God; You confirmed Your inheritance when it was parched.

**C: Your creatures settled in it; You provided in Your goodness for the poor, O God.**

**The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11** (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup> but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; <sup>16</sup> but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. <sup>17</sup> For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? <sup>19</sup> Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your

(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.

**The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11** (NASB) (cont'd)

adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.<sup>9</sup> But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.<sup>10</sup> After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.<sup>11</sup> To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**The Gradual**

Alleluia, alleluia. God reigns over the heathen. God sits upon the throne of His holiness. Alleluia. I will not leave you comfortless. I go, and I will come again to you, and your heart shall rejoice. Alleluia.  
(Psalm 47:8; John 14:28)

**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 17:1-11**

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

<sup>1</sup> Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,<sup>2</sup> even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.<sup>3</sup> This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.<sup>4</sup> I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.<sup>5</sup> Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.<sup>6</sup> I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.<sup>7</sup> Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You;<sup>8</sup> for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.<sup>9</sup> I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;<sup>10</sup> and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.<sup>11</sup> I am no longer in the world; and *yet* they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, *the name* which You have given Me, that they may be one even as *We are*."

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:** What a Beautiful Name (Hillsong) (CCLI #7068424)

##### **Verse 1**

You were the Word at the beginning,  
One with God the Lord Most High.  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You our Christ.

##### **Chorus 1**

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is--  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King.  
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this.  
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

##### **Verse 2**

You didn't want heaven without us,  
So Jesus, You brought heaven down.  
My sin was great, Your love was greater.  
What could separate us now?

##### **Chorus 2**

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is--  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King.  
What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this.  
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.  
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

#### **[INSTRUMENTALS]**

##### **Bridge 1**

Death could not hold You; the veil tore before You.  
You silence the boast of sin and grave.  
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,  
For You are raised to life again.

##### **Bridge 2**

You have no rival, You have no equal.  
Now and forever, God You reign.  
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory.  
Yours is the Name above all names.

(continued on next page)



### **Chorus 3**

### **Ending**

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.

### **Sermon Song: What a Beautiful Name** (cont'd)

**What a powerful name it is, what a powerful name it is--  
The name of Jesus Christ my King.**

**What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against.  
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.**

**What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.  
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.**

**The Sermon:** "Suffering Isn't Surprising. Rejoice in Christ!" |  
1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

### **Sermon Notes**

**The Offertory Response:** *Create in Me (Tom Leech; based on Psalm 51)*  
(©2023)

(Sung in Unison; Please Stand)

**Create in me, a clean and pure heart, O Lord.  
Renew in me, a faithful spirit.  
Cast me not away, from Your presence, O Lord.  
Do not take away, Your Spirit from me.  
Restore to me, the joy of Your salvation.  
And lift me up, with Your free Spirit.  
Create in me, a clean and pure heart, O Lord.  
Wash me and I shall be, whiter than snow.**

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.

**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: In Christ Alone** (Keith Getty/Stuart Townsend)  
(CCLI #3350395)

**[Intro]**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**

**Communion Song 2: O Come to the Altar** (Elevation Worship) (CCLI  
#7051511)

**[Intro]**

**Verse 1**

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.

**Chorus 1**

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

**Verse 2**

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.

**Chorus 2**

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

**Bridge**

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.

**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 of the treasure you found.

**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.

**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: You Are My King (Amazing Love)** (Billy J. Foote) (CCLI #2456623)

**Verse**

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken.  
I'm accepted; You were condemned.  
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me,  
Because You died and rose again

**Verse**

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken.  
I'm accepted; You were condemned.  
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me,  
Because You died and rose again.

**Chorus**

Amazing Love, how can it be  
That You, My King, would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true.  
It's my joy to honor You  
In all I do, may I honor You.

**Bridge**

You are my King.  
You are my King, Jesus.  
You are my King, Jesus.  
You are my King.

**Chorus**

Amazing Love, how can it be  
That You, My King, would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true.  
It's my joy to honor You.

**Final Chorus**

Amazing Love, how can it be  
That You, My King, would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true.  
It's my joy to honor You.  
In all I do, may I honor You.

**Instrumental Postlude: You Are My King** (Billy J. Foote) (CCLI #2456623)

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by the Cimarolli and Tarrant families in honor of Josh Cimarolli and Jonathan Tarrant who are being confirmed tomorrow. May God bless them on their faith journeys!

**Nursery Tomorrow:** 8:30—Donna Weighley; 11:00—Claudia Patalong.

**Known to be hospitalized:** Joanne Salvetti—Concordia South Hills Room 279. Dan Gill—Genesis HealthCare (Bridgeville) for rehab. Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's father)—hospice care. Erna Jo-chum—hospice care. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Susan Boehme—ankle surgery. Gene Hershberger—beginning treatment for lung cancer. Sue Dawson—knee replacement surgery on May 24. Sylvia Fitzgerald—broken leg. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Virginia DiSalvo is now at a rehab facility recovering her strength. Heather Weighley—medical tests. Mark Pugh—received heart monitor. Caryl Hansen is now home. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

**On Hospice Care:** John Coldsmith. Please pray for comfort for John and his family.

**Official Act:** On Monday, May 15, 2023, Pastor McMinn officiated at a memorial service for Mary Ann Scott at Ruthfred. Mary Ann passed away November 14, 2022, and was buried on November 17, but in keeping with her wishes, her family planned a memorial service to take place at Ruthfred, the church home so dear to her heart.

**Official Act:** On Saturday, May 20, 2023, Pastor McMinn officiated at a memorial service for Fred Schell, our long-time and beloved organist. Please continue to be in prayer for Fred's widow, Margery, in this time of loss.

**Current Fund:** Given by Karen Alwine Whipkey in memory of her dad, Terry Alwine, on the anniversary of his May birthday.

**Current Fund:** Given by Amy and Todd Chontos (friends of Marie's brother Ed and his wife Linda) in memory of Marie Wilmer.

**Music Fund:** Given by Andrea Groves Havener in memory of Fred Schell for being a fantastic organist to work with for Special Music. Given by Barb Thomas in memory of Fred Schell and Mary Ann Scott.

**Pastor's Fund:** Given by John and Jan Ruzicka in loving memory of Marie Wilmer and Fred Schell.

**A Sincere Thank You** from Lorraine Graham to Ruthfred members and Pastor McMinn for the cards and get well wishes!

**The Senior Confirmation** will be held TOMORROW at the 11:00 a.m. service. All members are invited to attend the cake reception to honor the confirmands after the 11:00 a.m. service. Please pray for the students and their parents as they take this important step in their spiritual development.

## 2023 CONFIRMATION CLASS

After baptism, years of Sunday School, home training, two concentrated years of Confirmation study in the Word of God and in the Catechism of Luther, the following young people are to confirm their baptismal vows, and to vow allegiance to Jesus Christ and to His church.

Joshua Cimarolli  
Jonathan Tarrant

Jeremiah 29:11  
Psalm 37:4, 5

# Announcements (cont'd)

**On June 4<sup>th</sup> the Senior Confirmation Class** will receive their First Holy Communion at the 11:00 a.m. service.

**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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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!

**Volunteer Guidelines:** Please note that **all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances** in order to serve with children and youth at VBS, Sunday School, and youth events. Clearances are good for 5 years. Contact Felicia Rieck in the church office for more information.

**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! Volunteer sign-up sheets are also available on the interior window outside the Fellowship Hall entrance.

**VBS Decorating 2023:** This year decorating will be an in-house project. We meet each Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. These meetings will continue until the decorations are completed. Please consider supporting this important ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Jason or Donna Weighley.

**College Graduates:** It is that time of year when we want to recognize our graduates. Please let us know (via email to [sallyondrejko@ruthfred.org](mailto:sallyondrejko@ruthfred.org)) of any college or graduate school students who will be graduating this Spring. Please include name of student, name of college, date of graduation, and degree. We will be highlighting these students in future bulletins.

**High School Graduates:** Ruthfred will celebrate our high school graduates on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. We hope you are able to join us that day to receive a blessing from the church as well as a special, personalized gift.

**Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) Annual Conference:** Our church body, the AFLC, will hold its Annual Conference June 14<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Inn & Ramkota Conference Center in Sioux Falls, SD. Ruthfred Church Council has agreed to cover airfare, meals, and hotel expenses for up to 6 Ruthfred members to attend. Visit [aflc.org/about-us/conferences/](http://aflc.org/about-us/conferences/) for more information. Contact John Morden if you plan to attend. Register ASAP.

**Save the Date—Parents' Date Night:** Mark June 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., in your calendars! This is a babysitting event, so parents are able to go out and have fun!!! We play games, sing songs, have a Bible lesson, feed the kiddos dinner, and have a snack while watching a movie. Register online at: <https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredParentsDateNight>. Volunteers are needed for the event, and they can register on the same website.

**Young Adult Bible Study:** This group will meet TOMORROW at 6:30 p.m. at Andrew and Cassie Vogels' house. All young adults are welcome to join. For questions or further information, please contact Andrew at [andrewvogel@ruthfred.org](mailto: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](mailto:markriley@ruthfred.org).



# Announcements (cont'd)

**2023-2024 Preschool Registration** is now open online at [ruthfred.org](http://ruthfred.org). Contact [preschool@ruthfred.org](mailto:preschool@ruthfred.org) with any questions or to schedule a tour. Preschool Director Annie Buzon welcomes your questions and comments!

**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 Sunday School. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help: [coxfarrierservice@gmail.com](mailto:coxfarrierservice@gmail.com).

**Ruthfred 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Request:** Next April, Ruthfred will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its incorporation. Planning has begun for celebrating this milestone. If you would like to join the planning committee, please contact Becky Evans. In the meantime, please be thinking about your happiest memories of Ruthfred. If you are willing to share a memory or memories, there is a collection box on the table near the elevator on the lower level. Or, feel free to send an email to [ruthfred@ruthfred.org](mailto:ruthfred@ruthfred.org). Thank you for blessing us with your memories!

**Donations for Allegheny County Jail:** From now until June 11, we will be collecting the following items for the Allegheny County Jail: jigsaw puzzles (new and used), shampoo, conditioner, body wash, 2-in-1 shampoo/body wash, 3-in-1 shampoo/condition/body wash, deodorant (men's and women's), bar soap, and toothpaste. Please note that these items should be regular size only, with no pump bottles or travel sizes. Items can be placed in the marked bin in the Fireside Lounge. Thank you for your support! Please contact Jill Kurtz if you have questions.

**New Member Class:** Many people have expressed interest in joining Ruthfred lately, so we'd like to schedule another New Member class to begin soon. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Ruthfred or in attending a New Member class (current members are allowed, and even encouraged, to do so), please contact Melissa Bostaph (contact information on back of bulletin) to let her know.

**Parents of Sunday School Students:** The school year is winding down, and our last day of Sunday School for kids will be May 28<sup>th</sup>. Please know that during the summer we will be doing a video series for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Younger kids will be able to go to the nursery. Middle school kids will join the high school group.

Thank you to all those who have given of their time and talents over this past year to teach our Sunday School classes! We have amazing teachers who pour their hearts and souls into sharing with Ruthfred's youth (and adults) about Jesus.

**Journey Through the Word:** "The Great Journey Through the Word Summer Film Festival" will take place Wednesday mornings, June 14 through August 9, at 10 a.m. Many excellent Christian movies have been released through the years. A variety of old and new, fiction and documentary, will be shown for your viewing pleasure! See the complete list of movies and brief summaries in the May issue of *The Herald*. (There will be no movie July 26 because of VBS.) Come for one; come for all! No registration is necessary, and **all** are welcome!

## **Adult Sunday School Class Tomorrow in Large Classroom**

Why is Ruthfred part of a national church body called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)? What's the AFLC, what's a congregation, and why does that matter to me? Starting Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> Pastor McMin and others are guiding the adult Sunday School class through a series called "*The Gospel in The Congregation*," written in part by Pastor James

Molstre, a former pastor at Ruthfred. Join us for this brand new series, which includes great videos and a short, helpful workbook. Don't assume you already understand the Biblical role of a congregation and your part in it. Come and see for yourself what it's all about.

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## **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 May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

### **Questions/concerns?**

**Contact: Mason Mitchell at [MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org](mailto:MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org), or  
(c) (412)-926-8698**



**Lutherans for Life Quote:** "This, dear friends, is why Christ's ascension is a good goodbye. Jesus leaves you with everything! He has done it all. The grave is empty. Death is defeated. Life is yours. So, people of God, 'Why do you stand here looking into the sky?' You have an ascension victory to celebrate and an ascended Savior to proclaim!"—**Rev. Peter Sulzle**, *St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN.*

## This Week At Ruthfred

## Tomorrow (5/21) Confirmation Sunday

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

## Noon-ish—Confirmation Reception

6:30 p.m.—GIFT Bible Study @ Sauls'

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

## Monday (5/22)

10:45 a.m.—Preschool School Closing Program

in the Sanctuary (4-year-olds)

## Tuesday (5/23)

Last day of Preschool (3-year-olds)

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew (sewers only)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

7:00-9:00 p.m.—VBS Decorating

## Wednesday (5/24)

Last day of Preschool (4-year-olds)

6:45 p.m.—Senior Confirmation class

## Thursday (5/25)

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits (at Carol McDowell's house)

## Friday (5/26)

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

## Herald deadline

**Sunday (5/28) PENTECOST and MEMORIAL DAY  
SUNDAY**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

In ***John 17***, Jesus prays that His Father will protect and unify His followers. In confidence that God binds us together as Christ's family, let us join in worship.

**Attendance for Last Week:**

Sunday Worship...307    Sunday School...84

8:30 Live Stream...43

## 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

**Rev. Bryce C. McMinn** | Pastor  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 226)  
[PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org](mailto:PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org)

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**Mason Mitchell** | Interim Director of Youth Ministry  
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**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

**Andrew Vogel** | Multi-Media Coordinator  
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**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Essi Efthimiou**  
Interim Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
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