

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

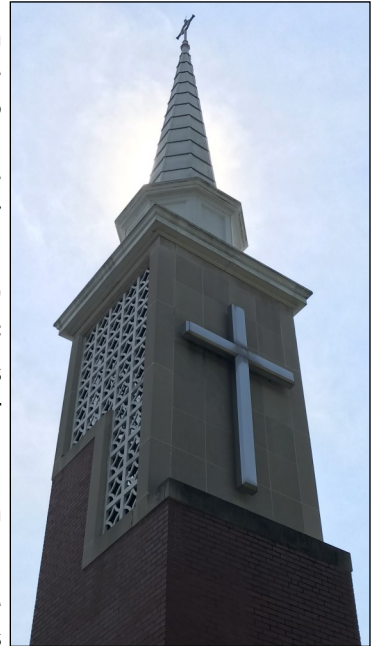
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations ([www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org))

**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 *scherschnitte*, created specially for our church by local artist Kathryn Carr. The artwork will reflect liturgical and Ruthfred-specific themes that occur throughout the year.

# Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service

Saturday, July 15, 2023—6:00 p.m.

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## **PRELUDE**

**Jericho** (Andrew Ripp/Ethan G. Hulse) (CCLI #7159791)  
**Make Room** (Rebekah White/Josh Farro/Evelyn Heideriqui/Lucas Cortazio) (CCLI #7122057)

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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: Come, Now Is the Time to Worship** (Brian Doerksen)  
(CCLI #2430948)

## **Chorus**

Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.

## **Verse**

One day every tongue will confess you are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those.  
Who gladly choose you now.

## **Chorus**

Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.

## **Verse**

One day every tongue will confess you are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those.  
Who gladly choose you now.

[Instrumental Chorus]

## **Verse**

One day every tongue will confess you are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those.  
Who gladly choose you now.

## **Verse**

One day every tongue will confess you are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those.  
Who gladly choose you now.

**Opening Song of Praise: Come, Now Is the Time to Worship** (Brian Doerksen) (CCLI #2430948) (cont'd)

**Closing  
Chorus**

**Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.  
Come.  
Come.**

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 Confession of Sins** (SBH, p. 15)

Pastor (P): Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to 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 to 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 to 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**

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

P: 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, will be saved. Grant this, O Lord, to 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 “Gradual” (Latin for *step*) is a liturgical reading bridging the readings of the epistle and the Gospel. It is comprised of Scripture, mostly the Psalms.

“Alleluia” is Hebrew for “Praise the Lord.”

## **The Collect**

P: The Lord be with you:

**C: And with your spirit.**

P: Let us continue to pray: Lord of all power and might, who is the author and giver of all good things. Graft in our hearts the love of Your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; 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: Isaiah 55:10-13** (NASB)

<sup>10</sup> “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; <sup>11</sup> So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> “For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands. <sup>13</sup> “Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, and instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, and it will be a memorial to the LORD, for an everlasting sign which will not be cut off.”

## **The Gradual:**

Do return, O Lord; how long will it be? And be sorry for Your servants. Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Alleluia, alleluia. O clap your hands, all you people. Shout to God with the voice of triumph. Alleluia. (Psalm 90:1, 13; Psalm 47:1)

## **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: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23** (NASB)

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

<sup>1</sup> That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. <sup>2</sup> And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; <sup>4</sup> and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away <sup>7</sup> Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. <sup>8</sup> And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

<sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. <sup>20</sup> The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup> And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

The Congregation sings, "Praise be to You, 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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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: Knowing You Jesus (All I Once Held Dear)** (Graham Kendrick) (CCLI #1045238)

[Intro]

**Verse 1**

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
All this world reveres, and wars to own,  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

**Chorus**

Knowing you, Jesus,  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best.  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love you, Lord.

[Instrumental Interlude]

**Verse 2**

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,  
To be found in You and known as Yours;  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
All surpassing gift of righteousness.

**Chorus**

Knowing you, Jesus,  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best.  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love you, Lord.

**Verse 3**

Oh, to know the power of Your risen life,  
And to know You in Your sufferings,  
To become like You in Your death, my Lord,  
So with You to live and never die.

**Final Chorus**

Knowing you, Jesus,  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best.  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
You're my all, You're the best.  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
You're my all, You're the best.  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love you, Lord.

**Ending**

(Gently)

You're my all, You're the best.  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love you, Lord.

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:** "God's Word Gives Joy & Peace" | Isaiah 55:10-13

**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.**

**Offering**

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 Service for Communion**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with your Spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is meet and right to do so.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name; ever more praising You, and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that comes 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 broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of Me.

In the same manner also, He took the cup after supper, and, when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

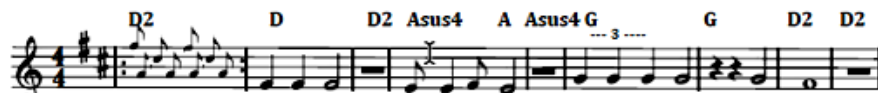
# The Lord's Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

Leech/Traditional ABCP 1662


$\text{♩} = 100$

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



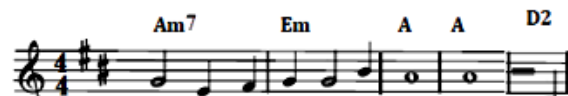
PETITION: Thy king-dom come, Thy will be done, On earth, As it is in heav'n.

Bm Asus4 Bm Asus4 Cmaj7 Em



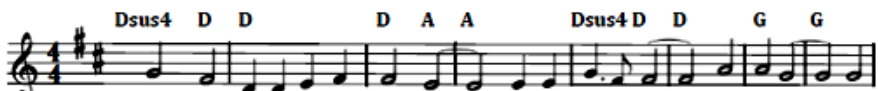
PETITION: Give us this day, Our dai-ly bread, And for- give us our sins, As we for-

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



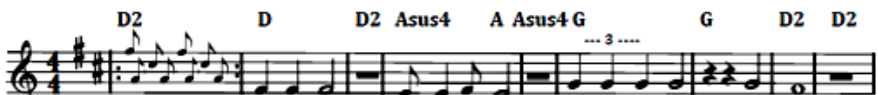
PETITION: Lead us not in-to temp- ta- tion. But de- liv-er us from e- vil. For

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.

G D Em D G D A D rit.



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

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, Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us;  
O Christ, Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us;  
O Christ, Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.**

## The Distribution

*During Communion we will sing:*

**Communion Song: You Are My All in All** (Dennis Jernigan) (CCLI #825356)

**You are my strength when I am weak.**

**You are the treasure that I seek.**

**You are my all in all.**

**Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord,**

**To give up I'd be a fool.**

**You are my all in all.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**Worthy is Your name!**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**Worthy is Your name!**

**Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,**

**Rising again I bless Your name;**

**You are my all in all.**

**When I fall down, You pick me up;**

**When I am dry, You fill my cup;**

**You are my all in all.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**Worthy is Your name!**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**Worthy is Your name!**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**Worthy is Your name!**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**Worthy is Your name!**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**Worthy is Your name!**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**Worthy is Your name!**

**The Nunc Dimittis**

**U: Lord now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; For mine eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your 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**

**Closing Song: The Blessing** (Chris Brown...et al.) (CCLI #7147007)

**[Introduction]**

**Verse**

**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.**

**Verse**

**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.**

(continued on next page)

**Closing Song: The Blessing** (Chris Brown...et al.) (CCLI #7147007) (cont'd)

**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,  
Amen! Amen!

**Chorus**

Amen  
Amen, amen,  
Amen,  
Amen, amen.

**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.

**Postlude: Cornerstone** (Hillsong) (CCLI #6158927)

[Intro]

**Verse 1**

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

**Verse 1**

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

**Chorus**

Christ alone, cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

**Verse 2**

When darkness seems to hide His face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
My anchor holds within the veil.

(continued on next page)

**Postlude: Cornerstone** (Hillsong) (CCLI #6158927) (cont'd)

**Chorus**

**Christ alone, cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**Interlude**

**He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**Verse 3**

(Softly)

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless stand before the throne.**

**Closing**

**Chorus**

**Christ alone, cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.  
Christ alone, cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**[Outro]**

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by Debbie Skundrich in loving memory of my husband, Ray, on our 53rd wedding anniversary.

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

**Special Thanks** to Eric Wente and Rich Rostauscher, who are reading Scriptures tomorrow at 8:30 and 11:00, respectively.

**Known to Be Hospitalized:** Kay Wyrwas—Washington Hospital, Room 683 (broken hip and stroke).

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Susan Barrett—medical tests and upcoming surgery. Jodie Riley—breast cancer. Bill VanKirk—skin cancer. Karl Munn. Dee Coldsmith—Providence Point Rehab. Marian Meyer—back fracture. Ken Meyer (Marian's son)—stage 4 prostate cancer. Gene Hershberger—treatment for lung cancer. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Virginia DiSalvo. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

**Official Act:** On Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 11 a.m. Pastor McMinn officiated at the funeral for Joanne Salvetti in the Ruthfred sanctuary. Please continue to be in prayer for Joanne's family and friends as they grieve this loss.

**Current Fund:** Given by John and Donna Erisman in memory of Erna Jochum. Given by the Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home in memory of longtime member Claudie Goldsmith, with whose family it was their pleasure to work to create a beautiful tribute for her.

**Pastor's Fund:** Given by the Michael family (Nancy, Joe, Alan, Molly, and Gene) to honor the memory of Claudie Goldsmith, our friend and neighbor, who was a shining example of all things good, and we were blessed to have known her.

**Youth Fund:** Given by Arlene Fees in memory of Joanne Salvetti. Given by Joyce Bock in memory of Joanne Salvetti. Given by Sue Hughes in memory of Joanne Salvetti. Given by Mary Habovick in loving memory of Joanne Salvetti.

**Address Update:** Virginia DiSalvo, c/o Karl DiSalvo, 205 Coldbrook Ct., Rincon, GA 31326. Her cell phone number will be her phone number: 412-334-7050. She has moved to a care facility.

**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/>.

**VBS 2023 Volunteers Needed:** Please prayerfully consider being a **Crew Leader** volunteer for VBS. This is the most important position for VBS, as Crew Leaders guide the kids from class to class and help to ensure the success of VBS. No advanced training is needed—just a willingness to help children learn God's Word. You can sign up online at the registration link (<https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>) or on the sheets on the interior window outside the Fellowship Hall entrance. We also need **snack and craft volunteers**. Please note that all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances. If you can't volunteer during VBS, please consider helping with set-up/decorating at 10 a.m. on July 22<sup>nd</sup> or noon on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Staff News:** Please welcome Essi Efthimiou as our official organist! Essi has been serving as our substitute and then interim organist since last October, when Fred Schell fell ill. At its July meeting, Council approved her hiring as organist. We are blessed to have someone who already knows Ruthfred so well.

# Announcements (cont'd)

**Benevolence Committee Meeting:** We will meet Monday, July 31, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Fire-side Lounge to begin preliminary discussion of the 2024 budget. We welcome any member of the congregation.

**Employment Opportunities at Ruthfred:** Nursery Attendant: Do you have a heart for the youngest in our Church family? We have a need for nursery workers. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help.

**2023-2024 Preschool Registration** is now open online at [ruthfred.org](http://ruthfred.org). Contact Annie Buzon ([AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org](mailto:AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org)) with any questions or to schedule a tour. Spaces are available.

**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!

**Calling All Picnic Planners:** We need YOU! Our annual Church Picnic is a wonderful way for us to enjoy food, fellowship, games, and entertainment on our beautiful church grounds. We need people with a heart for planning fun and engaging events. Our date is Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Many hands make light work! If you'd like to participate in the planning, have questions, or have ideas and suggestions you'd like to share, please reach out to Felicia Rieck ([FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org](mailto:FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org)) or Erin McMinn ([ErinMcMinn@hotmail.com](mailto:ErinMcMinn@hotmail.com)) as soon as possible.

**VBS 2023 Donations List:** Please consider donating a snack item for VBS. Alternatively, please consider donating gifts cards for Walmart, Target, or Aldi, which would be used to purchase any snack items not donated. A donation bin is in the Fellowship Hall for snacks, while a box for gift cards is in the church office. Thank you for all the donations so far! The items still needed are:

Pretzel rods (22 bags)	Red fruit roll-ups (4 boxes)	Swedish Fish (15 large bags)
Pretzel sticks (18 bags)	Apples (25 bags)	Juice boxes (9 packages)
Fig Newtons (12 packages)	White icing (1 tube)	Frozen mini pancakes (25 boxes)
<b>Regular-size marshmallows (18 bags)</b>		

**Journey Through the Word Summer Film Festival:** 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 July issue of *The Herald*. Come for one; come for all! No registration is necessary, and **all** are welcome! Movies are shown at 10:00a.m. on Wednesdays (except July 26<sup>th</sup>) through August 9<sup>th</sup>. This week's movie will be "**Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister.**" This documentary tells the dramatic story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the young German theologian and Lutheran pastor who became part of a plot to kill Adolf Hitler.

**Upcoming Guest Preachers:** We're blessed and excited to announce that Ruthfred will welcome several guest preachers in the coming months on Sundays when Pastor McMinn and his family will be away. On Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, the AFLC's Presidential Ministry Associate, Pastor Jason Holt, will preach. On Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, the AFLC's Vice President, Pastor Gary Jorgenson, will preach and serve Holy Communion. On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> (Reformation Sunday) the Dean of the AFLC's seminary and beloved Ruthfred pastor of 17 years (1996-2013), Pastor James Molstre, will preach here once again! We look forward to welcoming these dear pastors, and hearing them preach God's Word.



# Announcements (cont'd)

**Support Life:** Human Coalition/Health for Her in Bethel Park has contacted Ruthfred with some urgent needs. If you would like to make a donation, please place your items in the marked bin in the Fireside Lounge by August 13. If a group would like to go in on an item, they are in need of NEW (still in the box) Pack 'N Plays, travel systems, and infant car seats. Other needs include shampoo, lotion, diaper cream, wipes; NEW receiving blankets, baby blankets, and mini crib sheets; NEW or GENTLY USED **newborn** short & long sleeve onesies; **newborn** girls' sleepers; **newborn to 6 months** girls' and boys' spring/summer clothes; **newborn to 12 months** girls' fall/winter clothing; and **newborn** boys' fall/winter clothing. Thank you for your help. Please contact Jill Kurtz with any questions.

**August 6 Holy Communion:** Please note that there will NOT be a 6:00 p.m. service on this day.

**SHIM Back-to-School Drive:** Check out SHIM's website ([shimcares.org](http://shimcares.org)) for needed back to school items. They are collecting donations at their 5301 Park Ave., Bethel Park site (also accessible from South Park Rd.) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. til 4 p.m. through August 2. Some of the supplies they need are: 70-count spiral notebooks, pencil cases, index cards, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, folders and glue. Additional supplies are listed on the website.

Save the Date!

## RUTHFRED CHURCH PICNIC

GAMES | FUN | MUSIC



Get ready for Ruthfred's annual church picnic! We'll be cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs, you bring a side or dessert. Last names A-K please bring a salad, L-S please bring a side (not salad), and T-Z please bring a dessert.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH  
RUTHFRED BALLFIELD

3 PM - 7 PM

## **Adult Sunday School Class Today In Large Classroom**

Today we welcome Symphorien Rabe, who resides in the Cote d'Ivoire and represents the Gideons. He joined the Gideons in August of 2007 and quickly became the Camp Secretary. By 2009 he and his family had moved, and he became a member of the Yopougon West Camp and served as their secretary from 2009 - 2012. Then he was Vice President for a year, and finally he served as President from 2014 - 2016. In 2016 he was promoted to Field Representative through 2020. Symphorien is married to Adeline Rabe. They have four children between the ages of one and twelve.

He has been traveling around western PA all week speaking every day, and he will be going from here to Louisville, KY, for the Gideon International Convention which starts on Tuesday. We are very fortunate to have him here this morning to share about his ministry with the Gideons in Africa.

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## **Summer Sunday School for Kids**

Miss Bunny (Barger) and Miss Susan (Wholey) will continue their wonderful Sunday School class for 4- & 5-year-olds through the summer. Jason Weighley & Friends will offer a special Sunday School series for kids ages 6–5<sup>th</sup> grade featuring the Torchlighters' animated films about heroes of the Faith. Students in grade 6 and up will join Mason for youth Sunday School classes. If you can help with the nursery this summer, please contact Shane Cox.

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# **YOUTH NEWS**

### **SWAP (6-8 Grade)**

There is a **SWAP** meeting tonight at Ruthfred, 6-7:30 p.m.

### **TNT (9-12 Grade)**

**TNT** will meet on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m., at the Griffith's house (431 Coleman Rd., McDonald, PA).

### **Questions/concerns?**

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

## Next Week At Ruthfred

### Tomorrow (7/16) 7th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & New Member Class  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
**Happy 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Helen McNall!**

### Tuesday (7/18)

1:30 p.m.—Ruth (note date and time change)  
7:00 p.m.—Worship Team  
7:00 p.m.—75th Anniversary Committee Meeting  
**Happy 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Esther Cox!**

### Wednesday (7/19)

10:00 a.m.—JTTW Summer Films (“Bonhoeffer”)  
**Happy 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday, George Schneider!**

### Friday (7/21)

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

### Saturday (7/22) St. Mary Magdalene

10:00 a.m.—VBS Set-up and Decorating  
**Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Andy Kovac!**

### Sunday (7/23) 8th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & New Member Class  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
Noon-ish—VBS Set-up and Decorating

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The psalmist proclaims that God’s Word is a lamp for our feet (*Psalms 119:105*). May you experience the light of God’s guidance on your path today. Welcome!

### Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...246 Sunday School...58  
8:30 Live Stream...35  
JTTW...15

## Prayer Requests

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

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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:

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Name:

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Children:

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Address:

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Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

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Email:

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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)

**Melissa Bostaph** | Parish Assistant  
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**Sally Ondrejko** | Office Manager  
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**John Morden** | Accounting Manager  
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**Felicia Rieck** | Administrative Assistant  
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**Mason Mitchell** | Interim Director of Youth Ministry  
412-926-8698  
[MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org](mailto:MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org)

**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

**Andrew Vogel** | Multi-Media Coordinator  
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**John Sperandio** | Live Stream & Social Media Asst.  
[JohnSperandio@ruthfred.org](mailto:JohnSperandio@ruthfred.org)

**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Essi Efthimiou**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 234)  
[AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org](mailto:AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org)

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