

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

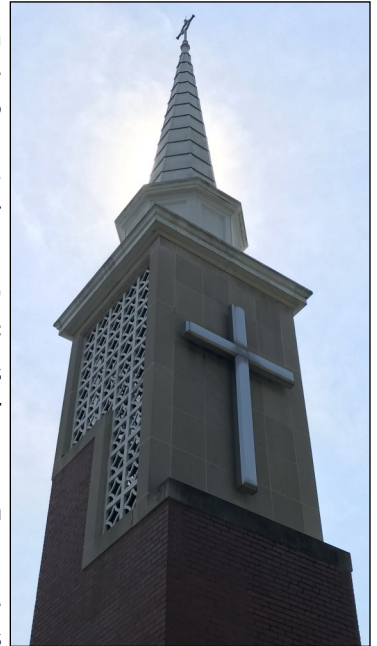
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations ([www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org))

**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.

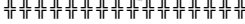
# Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service

Saturday, September 16, 2023—6:00 p.m.

**PRELUDE**

**Ancient Words** (Michael W. Smith/Lynn DeShazo) (CCLI #2986399)

**Holy Water** (We the Kingdom) (CCLI #7136448)



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: Honey in the Rock** (Brandon Lake/Brooke Ligertwood)  
(CCLI #7191257)

**Chorus 1**

There's honey in the rock, water in the stone,  
Manna on the ground, no matter where I go  
I don't need to worry now that I know  
Ev'rything I need You've got, there's honey in the rock.

**Verse 1**

Praying for a miracle, thirsty  
For the Living Well, only You can satisfy  
Sweetness at the mercy seat, now I've tasted  
It's not hard to see, only You can satisfy.

**Chorus 2**

There's honey in the rock, there's honey in the rock  
There's honey in the rock, there's honey in the rock.

**Verse 2**

Freedom where the Spirit is;  
Bounty in the wilderness, You will always satisfy.

**Chorus 3**

There's honey in the rock, water in the stone,  
Manna on the ground, no matter where I go.  
I don't need to worry now that I know  
Ev'rything I need You've got.  
There's honey in the rock, purpose in Your plan,  
Power in the blood, healing in Your hands.  
Started flowing when You said it is done.  
Ev'rything You did's enough.

**Bridge 1A**

I keep looking, I keep finding, You keep giving, keep providing.  
I have all that I need, You are all that I need.  
I keep praying, You keep moving, I keep praising, You keep proving.  
I have all that I need, You are all that I need.

**Bridge 1B**

I keep looking, I keep finding, You keep giving, keep providing.  
I have all that I need, You are all that I need.  
I keep praying, You keep moving, I keep praising, You keep proving  
I have all that I need, You are all that I need.

**Opening Song of Praise: Honey in the Rock** (Brandon Lake/Brooke Ligertwood) (CCLI #7191257) (cont'd)

**Tag**  
**Chorus 4**

**I have all that I need, You are all that I need, yeah.**

**There's honey in the rock, water in the stone  
Manna on the ground, no matter where I go**

**I don't need to worry now that I know**

**Ev'rything I need You've got**

**There's honey in the rock, purpose in Your plan**

**Power in the blood, healing in Your hands**

**Started flowing when You said it is done**

**Jesus, who You are is enough.**

**Interlude**

**There's honey in the rock, There's honey in the rock,**

**There's honey in the rock,**

**There's honey in the rock .**

**Ending**

**Oh, how sweet, how sweet it is to trust in You, Jesus.**

**Oh, how sweet, how sweet it is to trust in You, Jesus.**

**Oh, how sweet, how sweet it is to trust in You, Jesus.**

**The Confession of Sins**

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

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

Pastor (P): Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins 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 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 "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 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, will be saved. Grant this, O Lord, to us all.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Collect**

P: The Lord be with you:

**C: And with your spirit.**

P: Let us continue to pray: O Lord, we beseech You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without Your comfort, preserve it forever by Your help and goodness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**C: Amen.**

## **Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 103:1-12** (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name. <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; <sup>3</sup> Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; <sup>4</sup> Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; <sup>5</sup> Who satisfies your years with good things, *so that* your youth is renewed like the eagle. <sup>6</sup> The LORD performs righteous deeds and judgments for all who are oppressed. <sup>7</sup> He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. <sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. <sup>9</sup> He will not always strive *with us*, nor will He keep *His anger* forever. <sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

## **The Gradual:**

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your Name, O most High. To show forth Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness every night. Alleluia. Alleluia. O God, my heart is fixed. I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Alleluia. (Psalm 92:1-2; 57:7)

## **The Alleluia** (Sung in Unison)

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

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

**The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35** (NASB)

The Congregation rises and sings, “**Glory be to You, O Lord.**”

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. <sup>31</sup> So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. <sup>35</sup> My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

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

**[Intro]**

**Verse 1**

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

**Chorus 1**

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

**Verse 2**

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

**Chorus 2**

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

**Bridge**

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

**Chorus 3**

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

The 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:** "How Godly Forgiveness Actually Works" | Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon Notes



**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 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.

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 Lord's Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer

Leech/Traditional ABCP 1662

♩ = 100

D2 D D2 Asus4 A Asus4 G ... 3 .... G D2 D2

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

Bm Asus4 Bm Asus4 Cmaj7 Em A A

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

Bm Asus4 Bm Asus4 Cmaj7 Em

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

Am7 Em A A D2

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

Dsus4 D D D A A Dsus4 D D G G

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

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

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: Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) (Chris Tomlin) (CCLI #4768151)**

**Amazing grace**

**How sweet the sound**

**That saved a wretch like me.**

**I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see. [verse 1]**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved.**

**How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed. [verse 2]**

**My chains are gone;  
I've been set free.**

**My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace. [chorus]**

**[Instrumental interlude]**

**The Lord has promised good to me;  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures. [verse 3]**

**My chains are gone;  
I've been set free.**

**My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace. [chorus]**

**My chains are gone;  
I've been set free.**

**My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace. [chorus]**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine,  
But God, Who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine,  
Will be forever mine.**

**You are forever mine. [verse 4]**

**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.**

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by Elaine Widich in appreciation of the faithful and generous Ruthfred servants who have volunteered their time and talents to serve on the Direction Committee. Please keep them in your prayers!

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

**Scripture Readers Tomorrow:** Many thanks to Al Macugoski and Rory Smith who are reading Scriptures tomorrow at 8:30 and 11:00, respectively.

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Michelle Hopkins and her family as she continues to battle another illness. Dot Corbett. Dan Gill—broken hip. Dan is now back at Country Meadows, in Building 1, Room 141. Dee Coldsmith—Providence Point. Gene Hershberger—treatment for lung cancer. Amy Jones (Al Malone’s daughter)—broken pelvis. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Gladys Constant—Concordia. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

**Condolences:** Our pastor and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Sharon Snyder and her family on the passing of her brother, Roger Graff, on September 12, 2023. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**Pastor’s Fund:** Given by Linda Schweitzer in loving memory of her husband, Wil.

**Sincere thanks** from the planning committee to all those who helped to make the Family Sunday School Rally Day a success on September 10<sup>th</sup>!

**“Souper” September:** We are again going to hold our annual “Souper” September soup drive in memory of Pastor Dennis. It’s hard to believe that it has been 15 years since he was called to his heavenly home! This year’s donations will benefit S.H.I.M. (South Hills Interfaith Movement) located in Bethel Park, and also City Mission in Washington, PA. Any type of soup will be accepted, but they are especially in need of low-sodium soups. The containers where you may place your donations are near the South Park entrance, near the double-oak doors, and in the Fireside Lounge. The last day to drop off will be Sunday, 9/24. For questions please contact Carol Ward at (412) 559-2592 or wardmailbox1@gmail.com. Thank you!

**Direction Committee Invitation:** All RLC members are invited to join the Committee at a meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, September 21, 7—9 p.m. This is an opportunity for you to share your ideas on how RLC can grow and continue to thrive as a beacon for God’s word in the South Hills. The Committee has already presented some ideas to church Council based on input from fellow members. We look forward to listening to additional thoughts you might have to foster future growth at RLC. Please join us!

**2024 Budget Congregational Input Meeting:** Each year during the church budget planning a meeting is open for members of the congregation to attend to ask questions or provide their input for the forthcoming budget year. The Congregational Budget Input Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. Church members are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Ward or John Morden.

**Kids’ Time Volunteers Needed:** Do you enjoy games and teaching kids about the Word of God? If so, we need you for **Wednesday** night **Kids’ Time** starting September 20 to help spread the love of Jesus. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Mason Mitchell at MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org. Thank you!

**Consecration of 2023-2024 Teachers/Leaders:** Please note that at both services tomorrow we will be consecrating Sunday School, Confirmation, and Preschool teachers, Kids’ Time leaders, and JTTW leaders.

# Announcements (cont'd)

**Confirmation 2023-2024:** This year the junior (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and senior (8<sup>th</sup> grade) confirmands will meet together, starting on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have a student starting 7<sup>th</sup> grade, or an older student who has not been confirmed and would like to be, please call the church office and speak with Felicia or Sally. Letters have been sent to members of last year's junior class and their parents regarding the start of classes for their second (senior) year.

**Save the Date for the Fall Festival/Harvest Party at the Cox Farm:** Get ready for some fall fun with your Ruthfred family on Saturday, October 21, from 3–8 p.m. We are going to have a chili/mac and cheese cook-off, as well as a bonfire and hayrides. Stay tuned for updates!

**Portals of Prayer for October thru December:** The new edition is available near all entrances. Pick yours up today!

**Benevolence Committee:** We will meet Monday, September 18, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge to continue our discussion of the 2024 budget. We welcome any member of the congregation to join us.

**Wednesday morning Journey Through the Word:** It's time to look forward to the fall! We're excited to be studying the book of Ecclesiastes for the first seven weeks, starting September 13. Ecclesiastes has much to teach us about wisdom from the wisest person who ever lived, King Solomon. The Bible frequently contrasts the wise and the foolish. This book will help us understand how to live our lives in and with God's wisdom. Starting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, we'll finish this session with a four-week study of Ruth. Everyone is welcome! We have study groups for both women and men and an online discussion group. Please fill out a registration form and put it in the basket outside the sanctuary across from the elevator. Or check the church website ([www.ruthfred.org](http://www.ruthfred.org)) to register online.

**Service Opportunity:** Morning JTTW would like to offer babysitting services during their meetings so that parents with very young children can attend the meetings. If you would be able to volunteer for about 2 1/2 hours on Wednesday mornings to care for these youngsters, please contact Sally or Felicia in the church office.

**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.

**Attention all XYZers:** We will have our first meeting this Friday at noon. The sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board outside the Library. Andy Amhrein from Evey Hardware will share about favorite products and tips for the home. Please be sure to sign up to hear the program and also to experience a great lunch, lovingly prepared by our own Peggy Cox.

**Knit Wits:** The KNIT WITS knitting and crochet group, which meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Lounge, resumed on September 14. Please join us! For further information, please contact Pat Lutz at [patricialutz@comcast.net](mailto:patricialutz@comcast.net).

**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.

# Announcements

**Kids' Time 2023-2024:** All kids in grades kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> are invited to join us starting this Wednesday night for fun, friends, and fellowship, 6:45—8:00 p.m. Register at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/ruthfredlutherankids-time2023>. Please contact Mason Mitchell if you have questions: [masonmitchell@ruthfred.org](mailto:masonmitchell@ruthfred.org).

**Leaders of Youth Today Email (LYTE) Sign-Up:** This group is a monthly email chain for anyone who wants to stay up-to-date with current events in the lives of youth and youth culture, including the health and events of Ruthfred youth. LYTE will serve as a training and equipping resource for those who serve the youth of our church, both within the walls and outside the walls. If you have a desire for the youth in our congregation to know and love Jesus within the culture where they live, this group is for you. Please contact our Youth Director, Coltin Cox, if you would like to be added to the list: [ColtinCox@ruthfred.org](mailto:ColtinCox@ruthfred.org).

**PA March for Life:** This event will be Monday, October 16, at the State Capitol in Harrisburg. Events begin at 10 a.m. A one-mile march around the Capitol starts at noon. "This is an excellent opportunity for anyone to learn about the principles of effective lobbying, the specific and current issues PA is facing, and what you can do right now to champion pro-life policies to your PA elevated representatives. This rally and march are suited for all levels of experience and comfort with advocacy." For more information, visit: <https://marchforlife.org/pennsylvania-march-for-life/>.

**Lutherans for Life National Conference:** This annual event will be at the Holiday Inn, Cincinnati Airport in Erlanger, KY, October 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit: <https://lutheransforlife.org/conference>.

**Calling Those with a Heart to Serve:** It is time to start the nomination process for open Council positions. The nominating committee is asking you to pray for our current Council and for our future leadership. Think about the spiritual gifts and participation of members in our fellowship. Consider nominating someone who you believe would be a good Council member.

This year has been difficult for Ruthfred, but we believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to move us forward. Perhaps you are here at Ruthfred because the Lord put you here for "such at time as this" (Esther 4:14). If you hear the Lord calling you as Isaiah did, please consider responding "here I am Lord, send me" (Isaiah 6:8). Being on Council requires more than just attending a meeting once a month. But, being on Council also offers an opportunity to grow spiritually, serve our Lord, and, hopefully, form lasting relationships for prayer and fellowship.

Open council positions we are seeking to fill: President, Vice President, three Elders, one 11:00 Deacon, two Trustees, and Secretary. It is the goal of the nominating committee to have at least two names on the ballot for each open position. Job descriptions for positions are available to help you consider your participation or someone else's.

Please contact anyone on the nominating committee if you have any questions or you wish to nominate someone.

Chris Stout, chairperson

Gary Fischer

Alan Hinkelman

Sue Hughes

Paula Mikulan

Mick Nowicki

Jeanine Szalinski

[chaunschild@me.com](mailto:chaunschild@me.com)

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[JeanineSz@aol.com](mailto:JeanineSz@aol.com)



# YOUTH NEWS

## SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is **SWAP** tomorrow night for the middle school students! 6-7:30pm at the Church.

**Save the date:** SWAP Retreat at Seneca Hills, October 13-15. More information coming!

## TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

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### Questions/concerns?

Contact: **Coltin Cox** at [ColtinCox@ruthfred.org](mailto:ColtinCox@ruthfred.org), or  
(c) (724)-825-9790

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## Adult Sunday School Class In the 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? Pastor McMinn and others will guide 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 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.

This Sunday we will complete **Lesson 8—Domination by church body or free cooperation?**



## Adult Sunday School Class In the Upper Room

**Add to your calendar:** We are looking forward to kicking off our upstairs Sunday School series, entitled "**Relate(able)**," today, led by one of our Elders, Eric Wentz.

From the moment we are born, relationships shape who we are and how we engage with the world around us. Beginning with how we see ourselves, we develop a view of God and others that impacts the way we relate to our parents, navigate friendships, dating relationships, and marriage. Because God has gone to extraordinary lengths to relate to us, we have the potential to build incredible relationships with one another. Embracing God's love and receiving His grace changes the way we relate to Him, our family, our friends, and ourselves.

In this six-session video Bible study, Louie Giglio explores—from a pastoral and biblical perspective—the fundamental question of what makes us *relatable* to others. All are welcome to join us. Each session is stand-alone, so feel free to join at any time!

## 2023-2024 Evening Journey Through the Word (JTTW)

Join us and grow in knowledge and comprehension of Scripture through Dr. David Jeremiah's The Book of Signs, "31 Undeniable Prophecies of the Apocalypse." Evening Journey Through the Word (JTTW) will study the heavenly and tribulation signs and their significance to end-time events. As you study with Evening JTTW you'll see not only how God's Word offers insights into the future, but also how Scripture builds faith through the events of the past and encouragement in the uncertainty of the present. Discover more of what Scripture reveals about the signs of the times and the signs of God's plan for the future. We may be in the end times, but as Christians, our future is secure. Indeed, we live in a chaotic world, but we can have peace because God is the author of history, and the return of the Prince of Peace may be closer than we think.



Please join us **October 11, 2023**, as we begin a twelve-week study of Dr. Jeremiah's The Book of Signs. Our Wednesday evening gatherings will begin with a Forkless Dinner offered for all registered families from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Following this fellowship time, Evening JTTW Bible study will run from 6:45-8:00 p.m. in parallel with a Kids' Time program is offered for children and Confirmation Class. For more information on programs and to register for Evening JTTW, visit the Ruthfred Lutheran Church website at [www.ruthfred.org](http://www.ruthfred.org). There is also an article in the current issue of the Herald.

If you have any questions, please contact Jodie or Mark Riley, 412-401-9137.

*To obtain your study guide, please register for the 2023-2024 Evening Journey Through the Word session by October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.*

**Life Quote from Lutherans for Life:** "The science is conclusive: Human life starts at fertilization. The Bible is conclusive: Life is from God, it begins at fertilization, and God's commandment of 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13) certainly applies to the slaying of an innocent child in the womb. Because that little baby in the womb IS a human being." Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan

# This Week At Ruthfred

## Sunday (9/17)

- 8:30 a.m.—Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service
- 6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Bible Study @ A.&C. Vogels’

## Monday, (9/18)

- 9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders
- 9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew
- 7:00 p.m.—Benevolence Committee (Fireside Lounge)

## Tuesday (9/19)

- 7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

## Wednesday (9/20)

- 9:15 a.m.—JTTW
- 5:45 p.m.—Children’s Choir
- 6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir
- 6:45 p.m.—Confirmation; Kids’ Time
- 7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

## Thursday (9/21) St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist

- 2:00 p.m.—Ruth
- 7:00 p.m.—Direction Committee All-Church Meeting

## Friday (9/22)

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

## Saturday (9/23) First Day of Autumn

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Cliff Morton!

## Sunday (9/24)

- 8:30 a.m.—Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

In the words of the Israelites: “The Lord is ... the reason for [our] song, because He has saved [us]” (Exodus 15:2).  
Welcome to worship!

Attendance for Last Week:  
 Sunday Worship...260 Sunday School...95  
 8:30 Live Stream...44  
 JTTW morning...50  
 SWAP...14 TNT...18

# 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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**John Morden** | Accounting Manager  
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**Coltin Cox** | Director of Youth Ministry  
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**Felicia Rieck** | Administrative Assistant  
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**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

**Andrew Vogel** | Multi-Media Coordinator  
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**John Sperandio** | Live Stream & Social Media Asst.  
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**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Essi Efthimiou** | Organist  
[EssiEfthimiou@ruthfred.org](mailto:EssiEfthimiou@ruthfred.org)

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Mason Mitchell** | Kids' Time Director  
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**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
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