

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 morning 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 pew, or fill out the information on the back cover of this bulletin, and place it in the offering plate as it passes before you.

## 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 organist plays 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.

# The Divine Service of the Word

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 23, 2023

## Prelude:

**“Allegretto,”  
“Largo,” and  
“Sinfonia”**

(H. Purcell)

## The Opening Hymn:

**“My Hope Is Built  
on Nothing Less”**

(AMB #600)

(Please stand as we  
join our hearts in  
song)

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus' Blood and  
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face I rest on His un -  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his Blood, Sup - port me in the  
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

right - eous - ness; No mer - it of my own I claim, But  
chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale My  
whelm - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, He  
Him be found, Dressed in His right - eous - ness a - lone, Fault -

*Refrain*  
whol - ly lean on Je - sus' Name.  
an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id  
then is all my hope and stay.  
less to stand be - fore the throne!

rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1787-1874  
Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

MELITA  
88 88 88

The "invocation" is Latin for "call upon." In the Invocation we remember our baptism and acknowledge God as our Father. We are reminded that through Christ's name we have access to the Father's throne by the Holy Spirit. Because we are children of God, we have the privilege to invite (invoke) God's presence and blessing upon this service of "divine liturgy" in which we receive the Work of God through His Word and Spirit, and also in which we offer up to God our praise as an act of worship. *Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:15; Ephesians 2:18*

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).

## **The Call to Worship and Invocation**

Pastor (P): We open this service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (C): Amen**

## **The Confession of Sins** (SBH, p. 41)

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 Thou 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 thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring thy grace, for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Silent Prayer of Personal Confession)

**Together:**

**O most merciful God, who hast given thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of thee and of thy will, and true obedience to thy Word, that by thy 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-begotten son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on his name, He gives the power to become children of God, and bestows upon them His Holy Spirit. The one who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this O Lord, unto us all.

**C: Amen**

“Introit” means “to enter into,” and is a responsive reading meant to lead God’s forgiven children into the worship of Him. The words are from Scripture, and relate to the theme of the day in the liturgical calendar.

“Kyrie” is from the Greek word for *Lord*, which is the first word of the prayer. Distinct from the confession of sin, it is a prayer for God to grant His mercy in every aspect of our lives and to supply us with all our needs, personally, corporately and for the whole world.

**The Introit** (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: O clap your hands, all you people;

**C: Shout to God with the voice of triumph.**

P: He shall subdue the people under us;

**C: And the nations under our feet.** (Psalm 47: 1, 3)

**The Gloria Patri** (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 43)

**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 Kyrie** (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 48)

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P: Christ, have mercy upon us.

**C: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

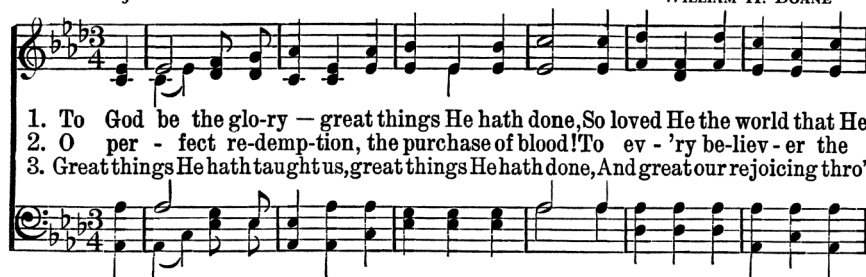
**The Hymn of  
Praise:**

**"To God Be the  
Glory"**

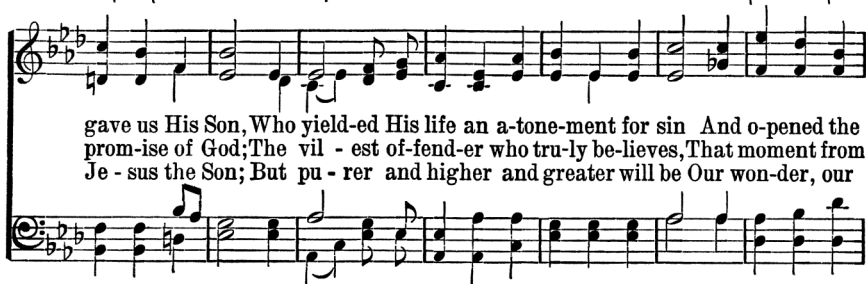
(Crowning Glory #14)

FANNY J. CROSBY

WILLIAM H. DOANE

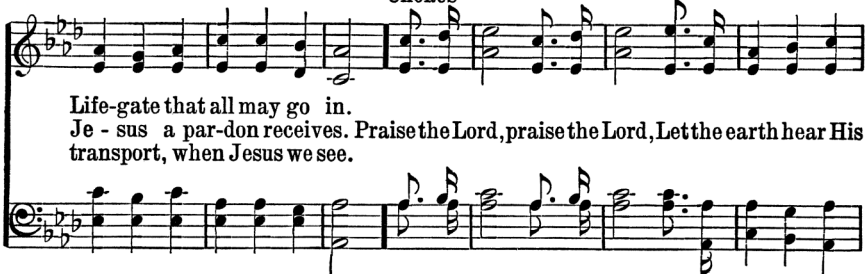


1. To God be the glo-ry — great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He  
2. O per - fect re-demp-tion, the purchase of blood! To ev - 'ry be-liev - er the  
3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our rejoicing thro'

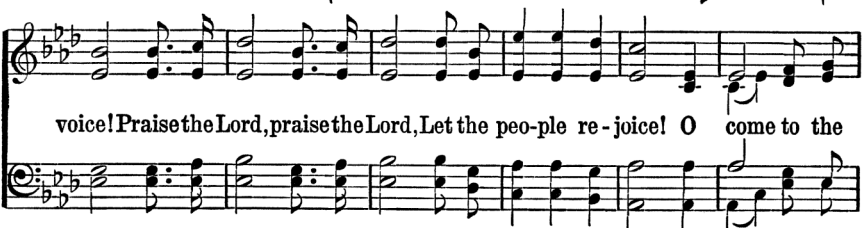


gave us His Son, Who yield-ed His life an a-tone-ment for sin And o-pened the  
prom-ise of God; The vil - est of-fend-er who tru-ly be-lieves, That moment from  
Je - sus the Son; But pu - rer and higher and greater will be Our won-der, our

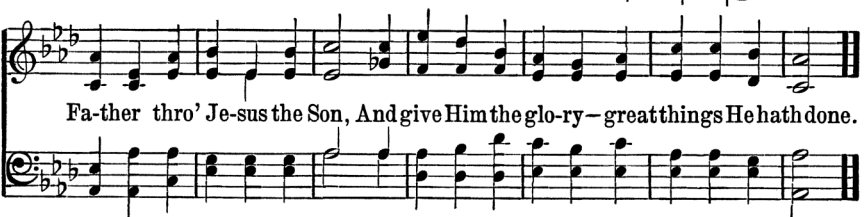
**CHORUS**



Life-gate that all may go in.  
Je - sus a par-don receives. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His  
transport, when Jesus we see.



voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo-ple re-joice! O come to the



Fa-ther thro' Je-sus the Son, And give Him the glo-ry — great things He hath done.

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: O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly beseech You to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**C: Amen**

### **The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 44:6-8** (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me. <sup>7</sup> 'Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; yes, let him recount it to Me in order, from the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place. <sup>8</sup> Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced *it* to you and declared *it*? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, or is there any *other* Rock? I know of none.'"

### **The Psalm: Psalm 119:57-64** (NASB)

P: The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words.

**C: I sought Your favor with all *my* heart; be gracious to me according to Your word.**

P: I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies.

**C: I hastened and did not delay to keep Your commandments.**

P: The cords of the wicked have encircled me, *but* I have not forgotten Your law.

**C: At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You because of Your righteous ordinances.**

P: I am a companion of all those who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts.

**C: The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O LORD; teach me Your statutes.**

### **The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:18-27** (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

<sup>19</sup> For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; <sup>27</sup> and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will* of God.

### **The Gradual**

Come, you children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord. They looked to Him and were lightened, and their faces were not ashamed. Alleluia, alleluia. Deliver me from my enemies, O my God. Defend me from those that rise up against me. Alleluia.

(Psalm 34:5, 11; 59:1)

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

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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 Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43** (NASB) (cont'd)

The Congregation shall rise and sing, **"Glory be to Thee, O Lord."**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. <sup>27</sup> The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' <sup>28</sup> And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' <sup>29</sup> But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

<sup>36</sup> Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." <sup>37</sup> And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, <sup>38</sup> and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*; <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, <sup>42</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

The Congregation shall sing, **"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 sits 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 Special Music**

8:30 & 11:00 Christy Hinkelman—*Wayfaring Stranger* (arr. R. Walters)

**Consecration of VBS Volunteers** (both services)

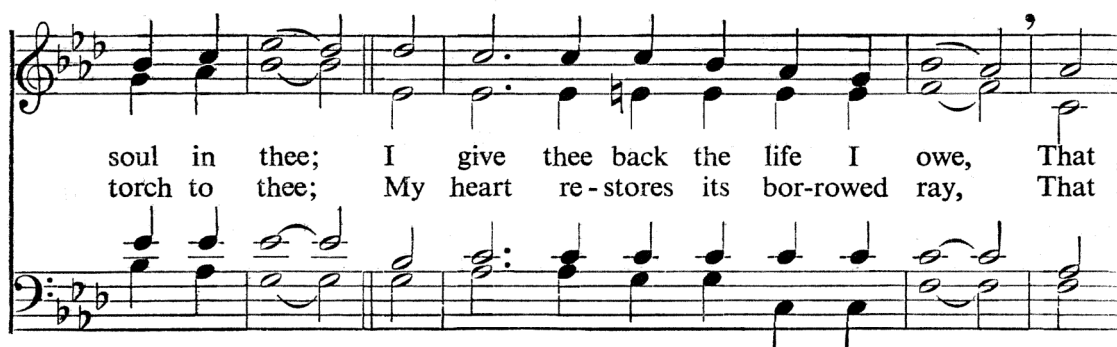
**The Announcements**

**The Children's Object Lesson**

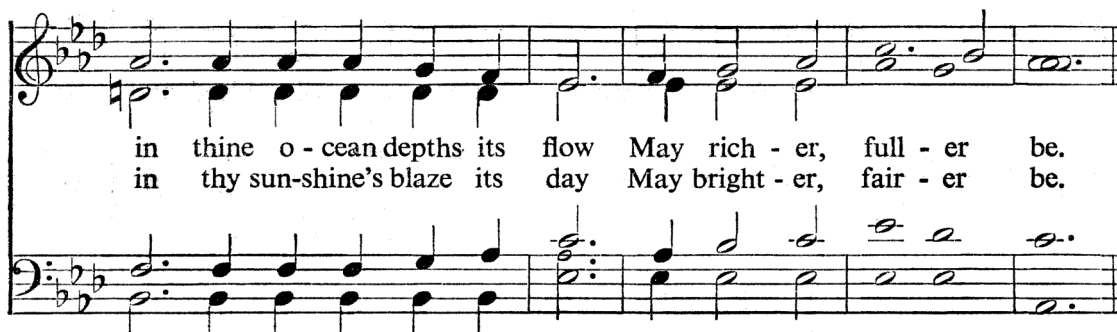
**The Sermon Hymn: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" (SBH #402)**



1. O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my wea - ry  
2. O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my flick-ering



soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That  
torch to thee; My heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, That



in thine o - cean depths its flow May rich - er, full - er be.  
in thy sun-shine's blaze its day May bright - er, fair - er be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

*George Matheson, 1842-1906*

*Words and music by permission of Novello and Company, Ltd.*

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:** "There's Hope, Even in Suffering" | Romans 8:18-27

**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 thy presence: and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and uphold me with thy free Spirit.** (Psalm 51:10-12)

**The Closing & Silent Prayer** (Please bow or kneel in prayer)

**The Lord's Prayer** (Prayed in Unison)

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Benediction**

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

**C: Amen.**

### The Closing Hymn:

#### **"Lead On, O King Eternal"**

(SBH #550)

### The Silent Prayer & Chimes

### The Postlude:

#### **"Trumpet Tune"**

(H. Purcell)

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, The day of march has come;  
2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,

Hence-forth in fields of con - quest Thy tents shall be our home:  
And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet A - men of peace;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Thy grace has made us strong,  
For not with swords loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums,

And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle - song.  
But deeds of love and mer - cy, The heaven-ly king-dom comes. A-men.

3 Lead on, O King eternal:  
We follow, not with fears,  
For gladness breaks like morning  
Where'er thy face appears:  
Thy Cross is lifted o'er us;  
We journey in its light;  
The crown awaits the conquest;  
Lead on, O God of might. Amen.

*Ernest Warburton Shurtleff, 1862-1917*

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by Jason and Donna Weighley in honor of all the awesome volunteers helping to make VBS at Ruthfred a success, including our sister in Christ, Joanne Salvetti, who will forever be missed.

**Special thanks** to Jason Weighley. He is reading Scripture today at the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

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

**Known to Be Hospitalized:** Dot Corbett—St. Clair Hospital (broken hip). Please keep her in your prayers and support her with cards.

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Debbie Huffman—will be having thoracic surgery on 7/25. Dee Coldsmith is now home at Providence Point. Susan Barrett—medical tests and upcoming surgery. Jodie Riley—breast cancer. Bill VanKirk—skin cancer. Karl Munn. 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.

**On Hospice Care:** John Coldsmith and Cliff Morton. Please keep them wrapped in prayers of love and support.

**Condolences:** Our pastor and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Kay Wyrwas's family on her passing. Kay passed away on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at the age of 92. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**Current Fund:** Given by Deb Skundrich in loving memory of Joanne Salvetti. Given by Fritz and Linda Balsinger in loving memory of Stacie Klick. Given in loving memory by the family of Joanne Salvetti.

**Music Fund:** Given by Chris and Marcia Clark in memory of Fred Schell.

**Pastor's Fund:** Given by Mick and Marlene Nowicki in memory of Joanne Salvetti.

**Youth Fund:** Given by Friends in Christ in memory of Joanne Salvetti. Given by Steve and Peggy Cox in memory of Joanne Salvetti.

**Address Update:** A. J. Dolence left last week for Coast Guard Boot Camp. Please pray for him for this transition and that he continues to look towards God for support during this time. You can send cards or letters of support to: SR Dolence, Andrew J. | ECHO 204 | USCG Training Center | 1 Munro Ave. | Cape May, NJ 08204-5083.

**VBS 2023 Is Here!:** Dates are July 24-28. The theme is "Twists and Turns." Today at both services we will be consecrating VBS Volunteers for this year. Please keep all of our VBS staff and participants in your prayers as they learn and grow in God's love.

**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 (cont'd)

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

**Employment Opportunity 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.

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

**Save the Date!** Ruthfred's annual church picnic is Sunday, August 20th, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. We'll be cooking up hamburgers and hotdogs; 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. Fun for all ages, including a dunk tank, bounce house, face painting, and bingo. The Praise Team will also be performing. Please join us!

**Journey Through the Word Summer Film Festival:** There will be NO movie this week because of VBS. Please join us next week for **The War Room**.

**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.

**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.

**Kids' Time Coordinator Needed:** This is a service opportunity for one or two people who love kids and love sharing God's love with them. Kids' Time provides bible study, games, and a snack during evening Journey Through the Word, October to the start of Lent. For more information, please contact Jason Weighley via email at [jason.weighley@gmail.com](mailto:jason.weighley@gmail.com).



## **Adult Sunday School Class Today 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? 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 begin **Lesson 4—The Sacred Obligation of the Congregation to Cleanse Itself.**

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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.



## **YOUTH NEWS:**

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

There is **SWAP** tonight, 6-7:30 at the Church.

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

TNT will meet on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Bostaphs' house, 7-9 p.m. The address is 344 Turngate Dr., Bethel Park, PA.

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### **Questions/concerns?**

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

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## **Lutherans for Life Quote**

*"Jesus, who is all Man and all God, becomes one of us in order that all of us might become one with Him. Finally, a sigh of relief, a cry of joy, even, a shout of thanksgiving! God is on the throne. Amen."*—Rev. Dr. John Nunes, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"

**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**

## This Week At Ruthfred

### Today (7/23) 8<sup>th</sup> 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

### Monday (7/24)

9:00 a.m.-Noon—VBS

### Tuesday (7/25) St. James the Elder, Apostle

9:00 a.m.—Noon—VBS  
7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

### Wednesday (7/26)

9:00 a.m.-Noon—VBS Summer

### Thursday (7/27)

9:00 a.m.-Noon—VBS Summer

### Friday (7/28)

9:00 a.m.-Noon—VBS  
Herald deadline

### Sunday (7/31) 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & New Member Class  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
(Rev. Jason Holt preaching today)

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Welcome! The Holy Spirit calls us together as the church to worship and praise God, made known to us in Christ. Peace be with you all!

#### Attendance for Last Week:

Saturday Worship...28  
Sunday Worship...206   Sunday School...52  
8:30 Live Stream...36  
JTTW...27

## Prayer Requests

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

☐ Please keep this request private (for the pastor only).

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

# Visiting with us?

Please use this tear-off section to help us get to know a little bit about you and how we may best serve you.

If you have a specific concern or prayer request, please use the space on the other side of this fold.

Date:

Name:

Children:

Address:

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

Email:

I am a/an:

- ☐ 1st-Time Visitor
- ☐ 2nd-Time Visitor
- ☐ Out-of-Town Visitor
- ☐ Regular Attendee

I would like to learn more about:

- ☐ What It Means To Be a Christian
- ☐ Church Membership
- ☐ Ruthfred's Ministries or Groups
- ☐ Ways To Share My Gifts

# Ruthfred Staff

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Senior & Bell Choirs

**Essi Efthimiou**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

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