

*We
have come
to worship Him*

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

We are delighted to have you with us this 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 begins 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 First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 8, 2023

Prelude:

"Sweet Jesus"

(E. Krouse)

**"As With
Gladness Men Of
Old"**

(P. Manz)

"Morning Star"

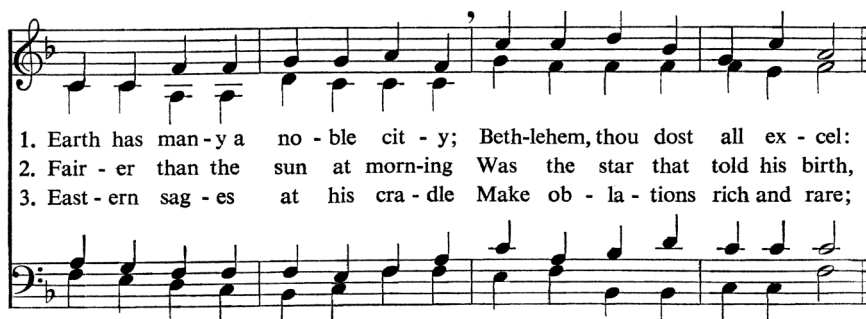
(D. Wells)

The Opening Hymn:

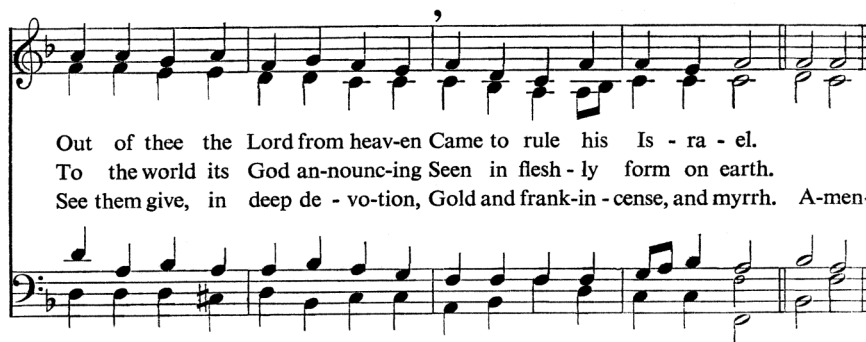
**"Earth Has Many
A Noble City"**

(SBH #51)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)



1. Earth has man - y a no - ble cit - y; Beth-lehem, thou dost all ex - cel:
2. Fair - er than the sun at morn-ing Was the star that told his birth,
3. East - ern sag - es at his cra - dle Make ob - la - tions rich and rare;



Out of thee the Lord from heav-en Came to rule his Is - ra - el.
To the world its God an-nounc-ing Seen in flesh - ly form on earth.
See them give, in deep de - vo-tion, Gold and frank-in - cense, and myrrh. A-men.

4 Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
Incense doth their God disclose,
Gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
Myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.

5 Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped
At thy glad Epiphany,
Unto thee, with God the Father
And the Spirit, glory be. Amen.

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413
Tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78*

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 forgavest the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

P: Let us bow or kneel for the confession of our sins.

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 Latin 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: I saw also the Lord, sitting upon a throne high and lifted up.

**C: And I heard the voice of a great multitude, saying
"Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigns.**

P: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands.

C: Serve the Lord with gladness."

(Revelation 19:6; Psalm 100:1)

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: "Praise Ye The Father For His Lovingkindness" (SBH #421)

1. Praise ye the Fa - ther for his lov - ing - kind-ness; Ten - der - ly

cares he for his err - ing chil - dren; Praise him, ye an - gels,

praise him in the heav - ens, Praise ye Je - ho - vah. A-men.

2 Praise ye the Saviour, great is his compassion;
Graciously cares he for his chosen people;
Young men and maidens, ye old men and children,
Praise ye the Saviour.

3 Praise ye the Spirit, Comforter of Israel,
Sent of the Father and the Son to bless us,
Praise ye the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Praise ye the Triune God. Amen.

Elizabeth Rundle Charles, 1828-96

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: Let us pray: O Lord, we beseech You mercifully to receive the prayers of Your people who call upon You; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill 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 Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 42: 1-9 (NASB)

¹ "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street. ³ A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law. ⁵ Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it. And spirit to those who walk in it, ⁶ I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison. ⁸ I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images. ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."

The Psalm: Psalm 29 (NASB, Read Responsively)

P: Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of the mighty, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

C: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in holy array.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord is over many waters.

C: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

P: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; yes, the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

C: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

P: The voice of the Lord hews out flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

C: The voice of the Lord makes the deer to calve and strips the forests bare; and in His temple everything says, "Glory!"

P: The Lord sat as King at the flood; yes, the Lord sits as King forever.

C: The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 6:1-11 (NASB)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 Gradual

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things; and blessed be His glorious Name forever. The mountains will bring peace to the people and the little hills, by righteousness. Alleluia, alleluia. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness. Alleluia. (Psalm 72:3, 18, 19; 100:1)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:13-17 (NASB)

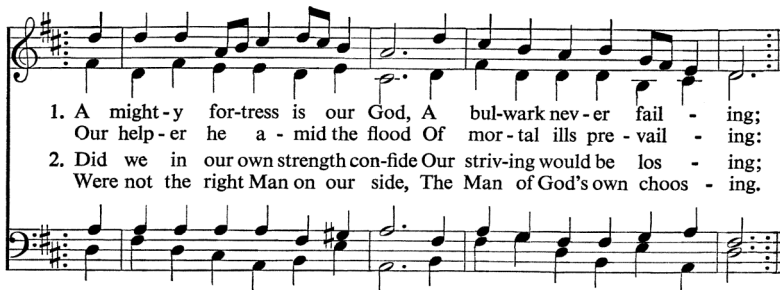
The Congregation shall rise and sing, **"Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹³ Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. ¹⁶ After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

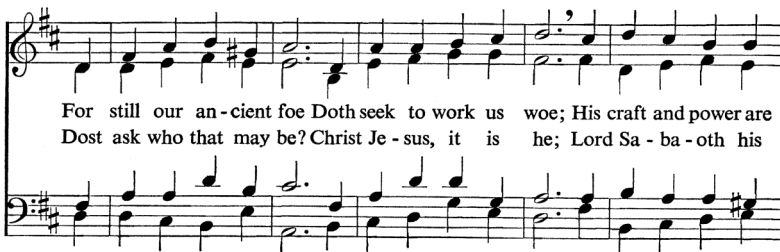
The Congregation shall sing, **"Praise be to Thee, O Christ."**

Today we are privileged to witness the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We believe that Baptism is God's work. It is not merely a symbolic application of water, but water used according to God's command and in connection with His Word (see Matt. 28:19-20). In Baptism God causes us to be born again through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (see Titus 3:5 and 1 Peter 3:21). For little Casper Ivan, Baptism marks the beginning of a new life in Christ that is nourished through a lifetime of continually hearing and learning God's Word.

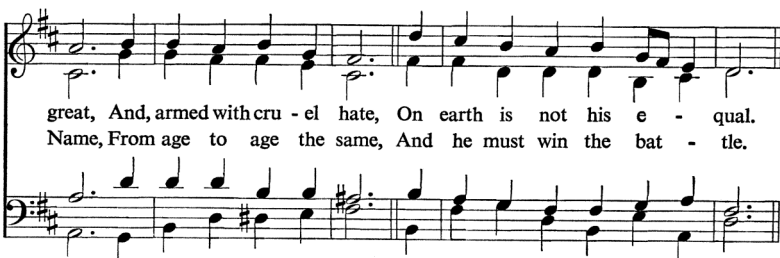
The Baptismal Hymn: 8:30 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (SBH #150)



1. A might-y for-ress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
Our help-er he a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide Our striv-ing would be los-ing;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-ing.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sa-ba-oth his



great, And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
Name, From age to age the same, And he must win the bat-tle.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him. | 4 That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever. |
|--|---|

*Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–90
Based on Psalm 46*

The Baptism of Casper Ivan Rothermel

The Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth

And In Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Anthem

8:30 Senior Choir—" *Guiding Star Carol*" (arr. O. C. Christiansen)

Beautiful the sky so blue, Stars above are shining thru.
How they twinkle softly beaming, How they smile and beckon
gleaming,
While they draw our hearts to heaven.

Long ago it was foretold, By God's chosen men of old.
When at midnight such a wonder, Did appear in heaven up yonder,
Born should be a Savior King.

Wise men by this star were led, To the Christchild's lowly bed.
Building star, O may we heed thee, May we know we ever need thee,
Lead us to our heavenly King.

The Special Music

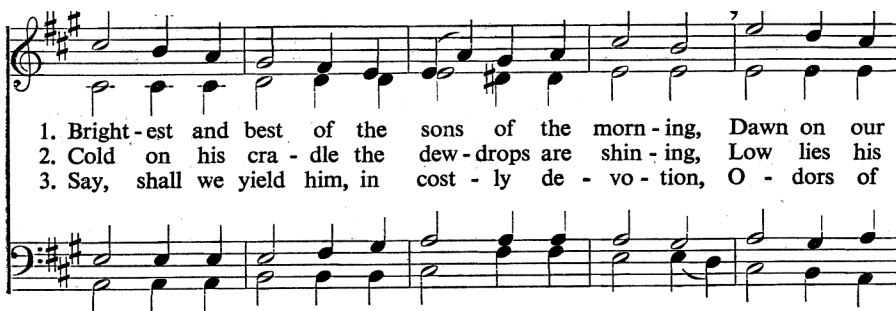
11:00 Kerry Macugoski and Peggy Cox —" *Sanctuary*" (L. Larson)

The Announcements

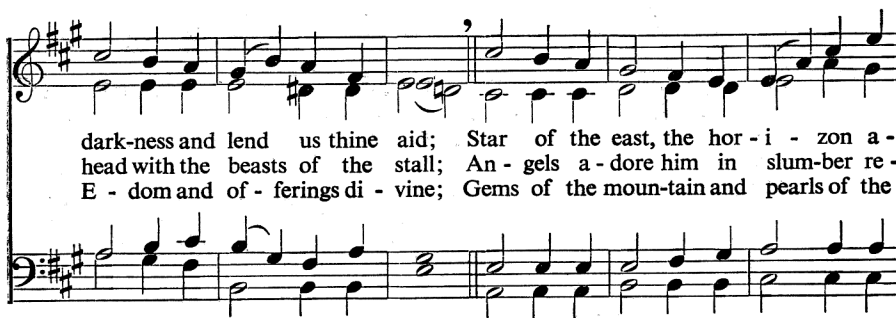
The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn:

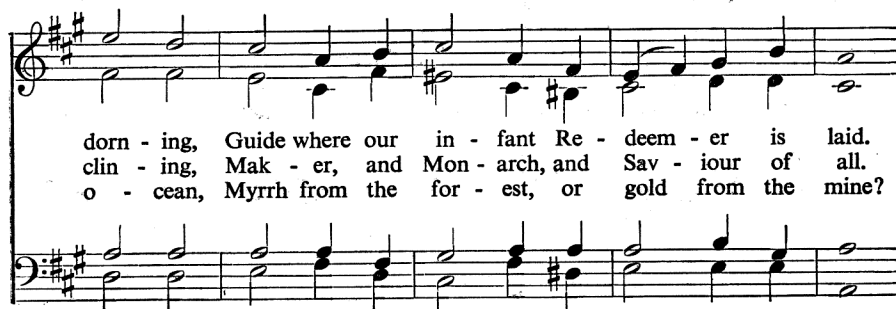
"Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning" (SBH #53, 1st tune)



1. Bright - est and best of the sons of the morn - ing, Dawn on our
 2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing, Low lies his
 3. Say, shall we yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion, O - dors of



dark-ness and lend us thine aid; Star of the east, the hor - i - zon a -
 head with the beasts of the stall; An - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re -
 E - dom and of - ferings di - vine; Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the



dorn - ing, Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 clin - ing, Mak - er, and Mon - arch, and Sav - iour of all.
 o - cean, Myrrh from the for - est, or gold from the mine?

4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
 Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
 Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
 Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
 Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826

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 Powerfully Saves His People!" | Psalm 29

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.

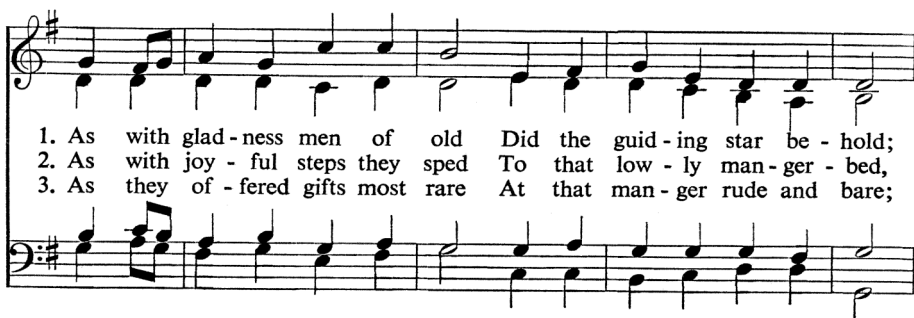
May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.


(Numbers 6:24-26)

C: Amen.

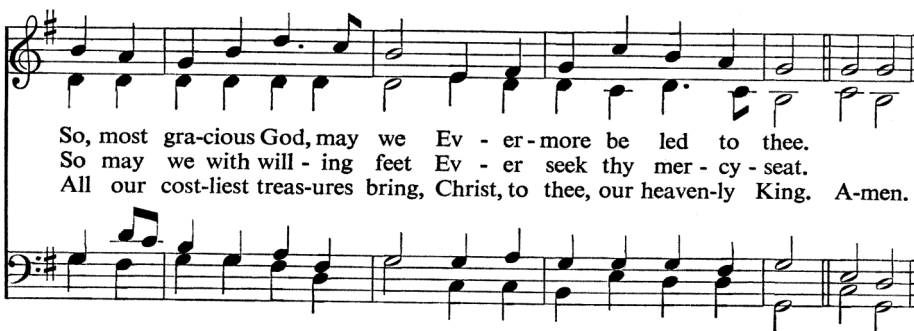
The Closing Hymn: "As With Gladness Men Of Old" (SBH #52)



1. As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2. As with joy-ful steps they sped To that low-ly man-ger-bed,
 3. As they of-fered gifts most rare At that man-ger rude and bare;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be-fore Him whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,



So, most gra-cious God, may we Ev-er-more be led to thee.
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek thy mer-cy-seat.
 All our cost-liest treas-ures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly King. A-men.

4 Holy Jesus, every day
 Keep us in the narrow way;
 And, when earthly things are past,
 Bring our ransomed souls at last
 Where they need no star to guide,
 Where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heavenly country bright
 Need they no created light;
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
 Thou its sun which goes not down;
 There for ever may we sing
 Alleluias to our King. Amen.

William Chatterton Dix, 1837-98

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"Noel Suisse" (C. Franck)

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Chris and Ron Stout to honor all Ruthfred Lutheran employees and pastors, who glorify God with their outstanding service to our congregation.

Nursery Today: 8:30 & Sunday School—Jenna Schwartz; 11:00—Claudia Patalong.

Guest Organists: Essi Efthimiou continues as our long-term substitute while Fred is convalescing.

Known to be hospitalized: Fred Schell—Select Specialty Hospital (McKeesport). Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Please support him with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's dad, who is now living with the Carlsons). Lorraine Graham and Bob Boyd, who are both now home after brief hospital stays. Please keep them, and all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges, in your prayers.

Prayer Request: Please be in prayer for our member Becky Lindner. Her husband, Rich, is one of our church elders. Becky has been on dialysis and is in need of a kidney transplant. She is now on the National Kidney Registry. Additional information can be found at: www.NKR.ORG/JGM887. Please pray that a matching kidney donor can be found for Becky and that God would give her sustaining strength and health while she waits.

Official Act: At noon on Sunday, January 1, 2023, Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn officiated at the baptism of Scarlett Rose Fyalkowski [daughter of Alanna (Rudolf) and Sean Fyalkowski.]

Condolences: Our pastors and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Judy Agnew, James, Jr., Jeffrey, Jennifer (Allen) DiCenzo, Neil, Alana, and Nathan Agnew, who lost their husband/father/grandfather, Jim Agnew, on January 3rd, 2023. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Current Fund: Given by the Ghise, Psihas, Weitzel, and Battiste Families in loving memory of Cornell Ghise. Given by Eric and Robin Ghise in loving memory of Cornell Ghise. Given by Dorothy Kratz in memory of Carol Mueller and Terry Alwine.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Your attendance is requested at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held immediately following the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services on Sunday, January 15, 2023. The agenda includes the presentation of 2022 financial reports and the election of members of Church Council.

Bible Reading 2023: Please join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2023, starting on January 1, 2023. We will be using the YouVersion Bible app, which provides a reading guide for each day (including a daily Psalm), over 150 videos to engage readers throughout the year, and a talk-it-over feature. The daily reading schedule will also be available on the Ruthfred website, as well as being printed in each month's Herald. The theme for 2023 will be "One Story That Leads to JESUS." For questions, or to sign up, please email Don Roose at DonRoose@ruthfred.org.

Journey Through the Word: Morning JTTW resumes January 11, 2023. Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about their study: 412-708-3535 or writingcygnet@gmail.com. The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah's The Book of Signs. Each lesson stands alone; there are plenty of books. Evening JTTW also resumes January 11, with the topic of "Radical Islam" and Ezekiel. Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

New Member Class: We are still gathering names for a new member class to be offered starting **Sunday, January 22, 2023**. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let Melissa Bostaph, our Parish Assistant, know. Email: melissabostaph@ruthfred.org.

Portals of Prayer for January—March 2023: The new copies are now available at each of the church and sanctuary entrances, both in regular and large print.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES have been moved to the Library.

The 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet is now posted on the wall near the kitchen and Fireside Lounge.

2023 Flower Chart is now available on the bulletin board by the water fountain in the Patterson hallway. Please sign up for helping to provide the blessing of altar flowers next year. Please note that the cost of altar flowers has increased from \$40 to \$50 for next year.

XYZ Resumes Friday, January 27: Start your New Year off right by joining us for an informative presentation given by Jody Garlick, Registered and Licensed Dietitian. Jody will be speaking about the importance of a healthy, aging microbiome (healthy gut) and giving a live cooking demonstration. You won't want to miss this important and informative event, or the lunch catered by Peggy Cox. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the Library.

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 15, 2023, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services. The agenda includes the presentation of 2022 financial reports and the election of members to Church Council. The members who have agreed to be put on the ballot as nominees are detailed below.

|                                     |                                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Recording Secretary:</u>         | Barb Harrold                                          |
| <u>Treasurer:</u>                   | Bill Ward*                                            |
| <u>Financial Secretary:</u>         | Rich Kleiser*                                         |
| <u>Sunday School Superintendent</u> | Shane Cox*                                            |
| <u>Elders:</u><br>(elect 3)         | Eric Wentz*<br>Al Macugoski<br>Pete Huwe<br>Steve Cox |
| <u>8:30 Deacons:</u>                | Chris Clark*<br>Paul Mikulan                          |
| <u>11:00 Deacons</u>                | Nathan Donolo                                         |
| <u>Trustees:</u>                    | Jonathan Stutzman*<br>Josh Cox*                       |
| *Indicates Incumbent                |                                                       |

2023 Nominating Committee Members: Lynn Vogel, Sue Hughes, Megan Huwe, Frank Fife, and Rich Rostauscher. Thank you to all!

Ex Officio: Pastor Carlson, Pastor McMinn, and Melissa Bostaph

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

Pastor Carlson is teaching a series on the book of I Thessalonians for the Adult Sunday School Class. The little book of I Thessalonians is perhaps the earliest canonical writing of St. Paul. It's focus is **"The Life of the Christian Congregation."** It is a gem of a book, filled with "an unmingled sweetness" of Christian love. In it we will be learning about sharing our faith, serving one another, living godly lives, understanding the end times, and how to live out the Gospel in the community of the congregation. You are invited!!! It will be wonderful to study and discuss this book together.

**\*Audio recordings of the class are available on the Ruthfred website.**



## **MOVIE NIGHT**

On Sunday, January 29, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., we will host a viewing of the faith-based documentary *"Ends of the Earth."* Learn about Mission Aviation Fellowship pilots going to "hard-to-reach villages, willing to risk it all for the sake of sharing Christ's love." The documentary explores stories of faith, calling, and adventure by weaving together the true stories of MAF pilots, past and present, who strive along with other missionaries, churches, and organizations to take the gospel to the most isolated and inaccessible places on earth." MAF was added to our benevolence budget this year. Come see how your monetary gifts are being used. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Kurtz.



## **YOUTH NEWS**

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

There is a **SWAP** meeting tonight at the church, 6-7:30.

**All 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students:** Registration for the AFLC Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Convention, slated to be July 3-8, 2023, at the YMCA in Estes Park, Colorado, opened on October 20<sup>th</sup>. This biennial convention brings approximately 2,000 AFLC youth from across the nation together for an unparalleled opportunity for spiritual, emotional, and relational growth! The theme will be "Restored," based on **Rev. 21:5-7**. Contact Jill Huwe or Kris Wentz for more information. You can review information at <https://www.flyconvention.org>. An informational letter was sent to your homes!

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

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

### **Questions/concerns?**

**Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee** (Pete & Jill Huwe; Eric & Kris Wentz; Jon & Denise Stutzman; or Shane & Kate Cox)

## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (1/8) EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service (Rothermel Baptism)

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

## Monday (1/9)

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders' Meeting

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew

7:00 p.m.—Elders' Prayer Time

7:30 p.m.—Council Meeting

## Tuesday (1/10)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

### Wednesday (1/11)

9:15 a.m.—JTTW

## Noon—Esther

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:00 p.m.—Forkless Dinner

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

6:45 p.m.—Confirmation; JTTW; Kids' Time

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

## Thursday (1/12)

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits

### Friday (1/13)

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

## Saturday (1/14)

9:30 a.m.—Mary Bible Study (Fireside Lounge)

**Sunday (1/15) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of Jesus**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER BOTH SERVICES

Welcome, beloved of God! As the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism, so does God's Spirit rest on us as we gather today—and always .

**Attendance for Last Week:**

Sunday Worship...287    Sunday School...49

8:30 Live Stream...30

Kids' Time...22

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request Private (to be kept amongst the pastors 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. Steven P. Carlson** | Senior Pastor  
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**A. J. Dolence** | Live Stream & Social Media Assistant  
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**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Frederick Schell**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Denise Stutzman** | Preschool Head Teacher  
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**Denise Stutzman**  
Kids' Time Leader

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