



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### **Candlemas**



*“Then God said, ‘Let there be light, and there was light.’” – Genesis 1:3*

*“Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.” – Isaiah 2:5*

*“In Him [Christ] was life, and the life was the LIGHT of men. The LIGHT shines in the darkness, but the darkness did not comprehend it. ... There was the true LIGHT which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.” – John 1:4,5,9*

*Jesus said, “I am the LIGHT of the world.” – John 9:5*

“Candlemas Day” is on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sorry Punxsutawney Phil, but this day was first celebrated as “The Feast of the Presentation” by the historic church as a holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, forty days after His birth as recorded in Luke 2:22-40. We usually rush these days along and observe this the week after Christmas or soon after, but it actually occurs on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was Candlemas Day which officially marked the end of Christmastide-Epiphany in many cultures. So, if your neighbor still has Christmas lights and decorations up, perhaps they were waiting for Candlemas!

While poor Phil is out shivering in the cold looking for his shadow, the Candlemas tradition was to light every candle in the house and to have a joyous feast. Some churches also held a special Candlemas Service in which people were invited to bring all of their candles which they had stored up for the coming year, to the church for a blessing upon them. It is also this time of year in the northern hemisphere that we gladly notice that the sunlight (when that is seen in Pittsburgh!) hours are finally beginning to lengthen. We welcome the light to come and drive out the darkness!

Light has always been central in the message of God! It is interesting to note that Genesis begins with darkness, but God speaks light into the darkness and the creation of life begins. Throughout the Scriptures, God uses light as a symbol of life. Jesus declares that He is the “LIGHT of the world.” There is no denying the darkness in our world today. If we are honest, we also see the darkness of the old nature within us. Thankfully God speaks forth His life-saving LIGHT and calls us out of the darkness, and into His glorious LIGHT of life! The world around us does not understand its own enslaving darkness, nor does it comprehend the life-giving LIGHT of Christ. The world is spiritually blind.

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## Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road  
Bethel Park , PA 15102  
Www.Ruthfred.org

**Pastor** Steven P. Carlson

**Pastor** Bryce C. McMinn

<b>Office Manager</b>	Sally Ondrejko
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	(currently vacant)
<b>Youth Director</b>	Regan Johnson
<b>Council President</b>	Mark Riley

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<b>Assembly Leader</b>	Joyce Bock

The submission deadline for the next Herald is  
**Sunday, February 20th, 2022**

The email publication date is  
**Tuesday, March 2nd, 2022**



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It is no coincidence that when Jesus declares, “I am the LIGHT of the world” in John 9, that He was in the midst of healing a blind man. Jesus does the miracle of opening the eyes of the physically blind, but the greater miracle that Jesus does is the opening of the eyes of the spiritually blind and healing souls!

After Phil sees or does not see his shadow, he goes back into hibernation for a time. He is no doubt glad to get away from the crowd of spectators, etc. and to get back to sleep in the darkness of his burrow. For those who follow Jesus, whose eyes have been opened by the LIGHT, we are not to go back into the darkness of the burrow of our old life, but rather to live in the newness of the LIGHT of Christ. Jesus declares to us,

***“You are the light of the world, ... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”  
(Matthew 5:14a,16)***

Jesus has gathered up His candles and blessed them, so that we might shine brightly to the glory of God throughout this year!

***Go, light the world!***

***Pastor Carlson***



**Member Profile:****by Mettelise Ziegler**

## Susan Kimmel Wright

Two major characteristics have defined Susan Kimmel Wright from the time she was a small child. Susan has been a Lutheran since the cradle and a writer from the time she could dictate her imaginative stories for her mother to write down. Growing up outside the tiny, rural community of Lambertsville in Somerset County, Susan attended St. John Lutheran Church, which was so small, it shared a pastor with two other congregations and was finally deconsecrated in 1960. As a child, she hiked in the woods, which she still enjoys, often with her husband, Dave, one of the founders of the Montour Trail. Susan takes many nature photographs along the way, sharing on social media.

A gifted story-teller, Susan has published several books and stories for publications like *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. As a child, her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Lloyd, jokingly told Susan to dedicate her first book to her. Susan took that seriously and did exactly that. She recently published *Mabel Gets the Ax*, the first in a series called *Mysteries of Medicine Springs*.

Susan did not always have the luxury of writing fiction full-time. She graduated from Duquesne Law School in 1972 and worked as a corporate lawyer for many years. She specialized in writing summary briefs that were descriptive enough to hold the attention of the reader. She coached new lawyers and clerks on ways to do this.

In the mid-1980's, Susan and Dave adopted three children from Honduras at different times. The process was complicated and lengthy. Their oldest child, Tony (Antonio David) was the first. Then came two more, Maria Natalia, whom they call Daisy, and Francisca del Carmen, whom Tony dubbed Kika. For weeks, Susan stayed in an old-fashioned hotel room washing out clothes and diapers in the sink, hand-wringing and hanging clothes on a clothes-line while waiting for adoption papers to come through. The children were raised in South Fayette in an old farmhouse the Wrights still live in today.



Susan's Christian faith shines through. She sings with our adult choir and leads a discussion group at the morning Journey Through the Word Bible study. She hopes that readers of her books will see Gospel truth while enjoying fiction that is wholesome, warm and funny. Susan is a rescuer of Australian Cattle dogs. She adores spending time with her seven-year-old granddaughter. Although in her seventies, she says she has more to accomplish before she goes home to be with the Lord. She is very grateful to be living a full life.

## Official Acts -- January 2022

### Baptisms:

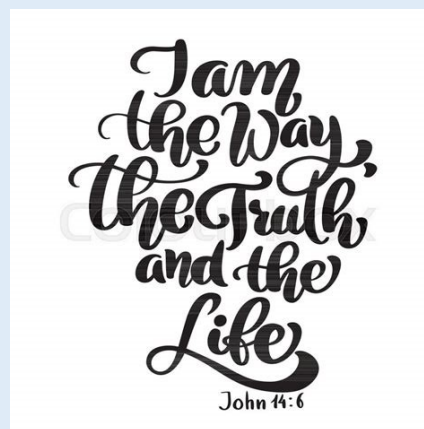
Clara Frances Handshue -- 01/09/22

### Funerals:

\* Wilbert J. Vogel -- 01/22/22

\* Alma L. Vogel -- 01/22/22

\* indicates member



### ***Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life***



*“You are not and never have been simply a number, a blob of tissue, or an invisible nobody. Rather, you are now and always have been God’s handcrafted gift to the world.”*

Michelle Bauman, director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life  
lutheransforlife.org

### **Evening JTTW Schedule:**



February 2nd: The Pilgrim's Progress Week 1

February 9th: The Pilgrim's Progress Week 2

February 16th: The Pilgrim's Progress Week 3

February 23rd: The Pilgrim's Progress Week 4

**Time: 6:45 pm – 8:00 pm**



## Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

# Borning Cry

Lyrics and Music: John Carl Ylvisaker

*I was there to hear your borning cry.  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
To see your life unfold.*



The first time I heard this song was about a year or so ago by our own talented Kurt Radke. I noticed that he performed it again recently as “special music” during the service when little Clara Frances Handshue was baptized. Unfortunately I was not at that service and missed it. The song was composed by John Ylvisaker as a reflection on baptism, but its scope is actually much larger. The lyrics are written from the perspective of God who tells us He was there at our “borning day” and who promises to be with us throughout our lives. It covers birth to baptism, childhood through the years of “sowing wild oats”, marriage and friendship, middle age, and the time when the “evening gently closes in”. The lines that particularly struck me, perhaps because I’m entering those “evening” years, are these:



*When the evening gently closes in  
And you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been,  
With just one more surprise.*

Have you ever thought about what heaven is like? I mean, really given it serious thought? Obviously, as Christians, we believe we will be with our Savior and will see God clearly, and not as through a mirror, darkly. On the other hand, we can immediately dismiss the naive images of playing harps on clouds or singing endlessly in a huge choir. So, moving beyond these givens, what do you hope for in heaven? If we have suffered with handicaps or poor health, maybe we look forward to restoration and wholeness. If we are weary with our labors, perhaps we long for rest. Missing loved ones and friends? A chance to reunite. Saddened by regrets? A second chance for do-overs. Feeling like you’ve failed or under-achieved? Another opportunity to take on challenges and do better this time. The adventurous type? More adventures beyond imagination. Maybe all of the above depending on our shifting circumstances or moods.

*Continued on next page ...*

Whatever heaven might be like, I love how Ylvisaker describes it as “just one more surprise”. The analogy that best encapsulates it for me is imagining that a fetus in the womb is able to think like an adult, and is trying to wrap its little brain around what life could possibly be like on the outside. And then: SURPRISE!

Speaking of surprises, when I researched Mr. Ylvisaker, I was pleasantly surprised to learn of his dyed-in-the-wool Lutheranism. Born in 1937, John “graduated from Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in music and history in 1959 from Concordia College (Moorhead) where his mother was the librarian and his father had chaired the Religion Department.” [www.ylvisaker.com]

John went on to have a long and varied career including civil rights activism, teaching, media services for the American Lutheran Church, music directing, radio production, and leading of music for various types of Lutheran gatherings. God granted John his one more surprise on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



## **90+ Birthday Club**

**Bob Reith**                      **February 6th**    **92**

**Bob Christman**              **February 10th**    **96**

### **Ponderable Quote:**

**Science depends on sound rational thinking. But science cannot explain rational thinking.**

**The Editor**

## Worship Team Members for February 2022

### Acolytes:

8:30 a.m. Jonathan Tarrant  
11:00 a.m. Elias Manzo

### Crucifers:

8:30 a.m. (2/13, 2/27) Maddie Cox  
11:00 a.m. (2/6, 2/20) Vienne Battaglia

### Altar Guild:

Dianne Groves

### Counters:

8:30 am Kris Wente & Josh Cox  
11:00 am Eric Wente & Kurt Ziegler

### Ushers:

8:30 am Bernard Paterra,  
John Ruzicka  
11:00 am Nathan & Jonathan  
Stutzman

### Coffee Hour:

Susan Bohaski

CL



~Psalm 84:10  
(KJV)~

For a day in thy courts  
is better than a thousand.  
I had rather be a  
doorkeeper in the  
house of my God, than  
to dwell in the tents  
of wickedness.

CL



## RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 17th, 2022

Members Present: Brian Schmidt, Bill Ward, Rich Kleiser, Shane Cox, Frank Fife, Chris Clark, Nathan Donolo, Steve Cox, Tom Sanders, Eric Wente, Kurt Zeigler, Peter Huwe, Tom Eld, Josh Cox, Will Charlton, Mark Riley, Regan Johnson, Mark Arelt

Ex-officio Members in Attendance: Pastor Carlson, Pastor McMinn, Ron Thorhauer

The meeting was called to order by Interim President, Brian Schmidt at 7:32 and Pastor Carlson opened in prayer and a devotion on Isaiah 1:18.

A motion was made by Kurt and seconded by Pete Huwe to approve the November meeting minutes which was unanimously approved.

Brian thanked all of the council members who were finishing their term for their time and all of their help over the last two years.

The Benevolence committee did not submit a report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Carlson's and Pastor McMinn's reports are attached.

Youth Report: Regan spent the weekend at the Youth Works Weekend at the ARC retreat center. It was good to talk to other people who have experience in youth ministry. He has some new ideas and plans to have a meeting with the youth committee soon. He is planning activities for the summer. The kids are growing with one another and growing in their faith as well.

Elder's Report: Attached

Sunday school Report: No report

Deacon's Report: No report

Trustees' Report: The report was emailed and is attached.

- \* Pete Huwe made a motion to approve the purchase of an industrial carpet cleaner in the range of \$300 to \$700 dollars. Mark Arelt seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- \* Pete discussed the replacement of the blinds that was not completed last year. Someone will have an estimate for the blinds for the next council meeting which can be voted on for approval.
- \* Pete also mentioned that Tracy Cogley of Cogley Carpets wanted to donate industrial carpet. She is working on getting samples. Suggestions for the carpet are the nursery area, confirmation class, youth director lobby area. Cogley would have people who could install the carpet.

*Continued on next page ...*

## Treasurer's Report:

- \* The email from Bill Ward with the year-end report is attached.
- \* The first payroll with MCC was launched on Friday. Ron was a big help with all the paperwork to get that started.
- \* Because of the year end benevolence deficit, Bill moved to transfer \$14,000 from the current fund to the benevolence fund. Mark Arelt seconded the motion and it passed.
- \* Bill asked Ron to help find a suitable fund to expense the carpet cleaner.

## Old Business:

- \* Due to the need to fill the Accounting Manager position as soon as possible, council voted online and approved a motion made by Pete Huwe and seconded by Mark Riley to hire John Morden for the position for 28 hours per week at a rate of \$21 per hour. He will start training with Ron at the end of the month. Ron said thank you and that working at Ruthfred was the best job he ever had.

## New Business:

- \* Mason Mitchell applied for the Bible College scholarship. The scholarship is \$2,500 per semester and candidates must apply each semester. Eric Wenthe made a motion to approve the application and Josh Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- \* The results of the council election are as follows:

President – Mark Riley

Vice President – Kevin Boehm

Elder

-Tom Glasser

-Tom Sanders

-Kurt Zeigler

Trustees

-Mark Killinger

-Neil Wagner

Deacon 11:00

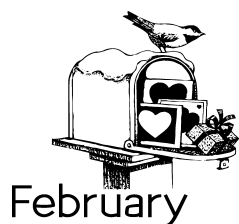
-Marty Rieck







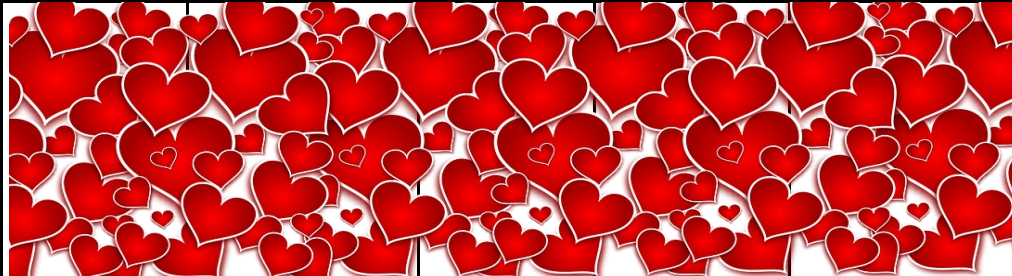
- \* Rich Kleiser needed counters for February. Kris Wenthe and Josh Cox offered to do the 8:30 and Eric Wenthe and Kurt Zeigler offered to do 11:00 service.
- \* John Welsh asked if his family could use the fellowship hall after his grandson's baptism.
- \* Pete said that AJ did a very good job with the contemporary service live stream and that Logan helped him. The worship team may need additional technical products in the future to assist with the services.

Pastor McMinn closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kris Wenthe







# February 2022

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Worship Team 7:00	<b>2</b> JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00 CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY Happy 92 <sup>nd</sup> Birthday Bob Reith	<b>7</b> JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew 9:30 	<b>8</b> Worship Team 7:00	<b>9</b> JTTW 9:15 Esther Noon Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	<b>10</b> Knit Wits 10:00 Happy 96 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Bob Christman 	<b>11</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>12</b> Mary Bible Study 9:30 (Fireside Lounge)
<b>13</b> Worship Service 8:30 (Demkowicz baptism) Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	<b>14</b> Presidents' Day JTTW Leaders 9:30 Elders' Meeting & Prayer Time 6:30 Council Meeting 7:30 	<b>15</b> Worship Team 7:00	<b>16</b> JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	<b>17</b> Ruth 2:00	<b>18</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>19</b> Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service 5:00
<b>20</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Herald Deadline	<b>21</b> JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew 9:30 Council dinner 6:00	<b>22</b> Worship Team 7:00	<b>23</b> JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	<b>24</b> Knit Wits 10:00	<b>25</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)  XYZ Noon	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 (Cannata baptism) GIFT Bible Study 6:30 (Arelts' House)	<b>28</b> JTTW Leaders 9:30 					

# February 2022

## Youth Calendar



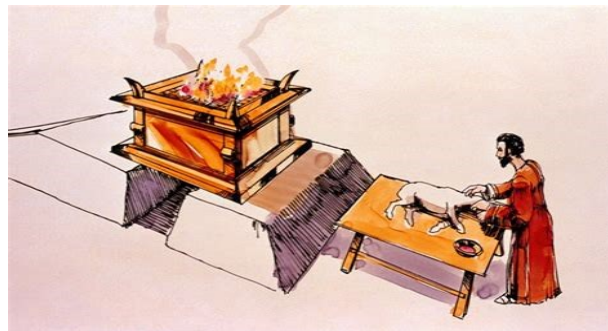
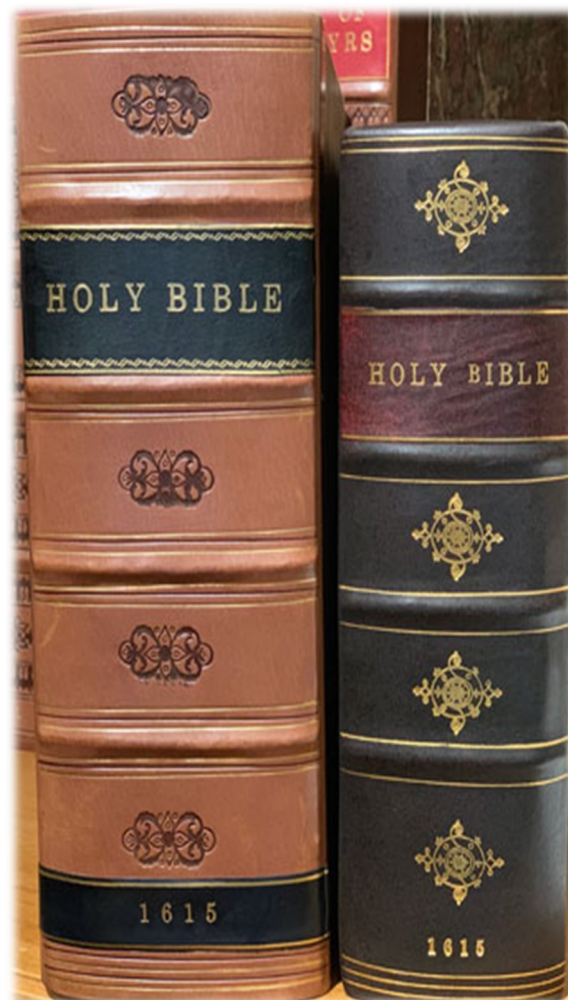
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  TNT @ Church 7-9	2	3	4	5
6  Sunday School 9:45  SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	7	8  TNT @ Church 7-9	9	10	11	12
13  Sunday School 9:45  SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	14   Valentine's Day	15  TNT @ Church 7-9	16	17	18  TNT/SWAP Ice Skating @ South Park 7:30-9:30 p.m.  ICE SKATING PARTY	19
20  Sunday School 9:45  SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	21	22  TNT @ Church 7-9	23	24	25  <u>30-Hour Famine</u>  Meet @ 7:00 p.m.	26  Go Home @ 1:45 p.m.
27  Sunday School 9:45  SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	28  					



# Reading Through the Bible 2022

## Schedule for February

1st	Leviticus 1	Leviticus 2	Leviticus 3	Leviticus 4
2nd	Leviticus 5	Leviticus 6	Leviticus 7	
3rd	Leviticus 8	Leviticus 9	Leviticus 10	
4th	Leviticus 11	Leviticus 12	Leviticus 13	
5th	Leviticus 14	Leviticus 15		
6th	Leviticus 16	Leviticus 17	Leviticus 18	
7th	Leviticus 19	Leviticus 20	Leviticus 21	
8th	Leviticus 22	Leviticus 23		
9th	Leviticus 24	Leviticus 25		
10th	Leviticus 26	Leviticus 27		
11th	Numbers 1	Numbers 2		
12th	Numbers 3	Numbers 4		
13th	Numbers 5	Numbers 6		
14th	Numbers 7			
15th	Numbers 8	Numbers 9	Numbers 10	
16th	Numbers 11	Numbers 12	Numbers 13	
17th	Numbers 14	Numbers 15		
18th	Numbers 16	Numbers 17		
19th	Numbers 18	Numbers 19	Numbers 20	
20th	Numbers 21	Numbers 22		
21st	Numbers 23	Numbers 24	Numbers 25	
22nd	Numbers 26	Numbers 27		
23rd	Numbers 28	Numbers 29	Numbers 30	
24th	Numbers 31	Numbers 32		
25th	Numbers 33	Numbers 34		
26th	Numbers 35	Numbers 36		
27th	Deuteronomy 1	Deuteronomy 2		
28th	Deuteronomy 3	Deuteronomy 4	Deuteronomy 5	
	Deuteronomy 6	Deuteronomy 7		





**A joyful heart is good medicine.**

**Proverbs 17:22a**

**Where is baseball mentioned in the Bible?**

*When God created the heavens and the earth in the big inning.*

**Where is tennis mentioned in the Bible?**

*When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.*



**Where is banking first mentioned in the Bible?**

*When Pharaoh's daughter went to the Nile bank and withdrew a little prophet.*

