

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

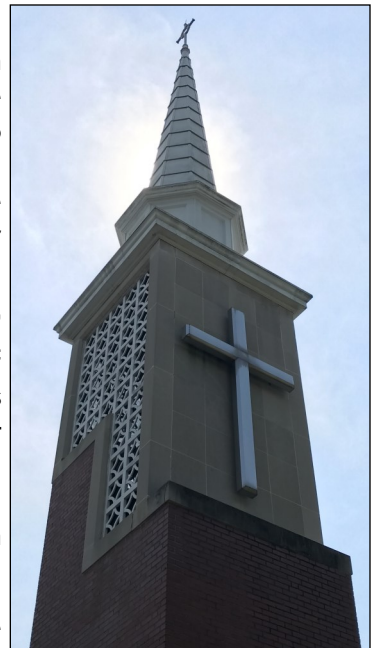
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

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 an offering basket at the rear of the sanctuary.

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 *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.

The Divine Service of the Word

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 10, 2023

Prelude:

"Moderato"

(A. P. Vernet)

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

(J. Barr)

The Opening Hymn:

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

(SBH #524)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)



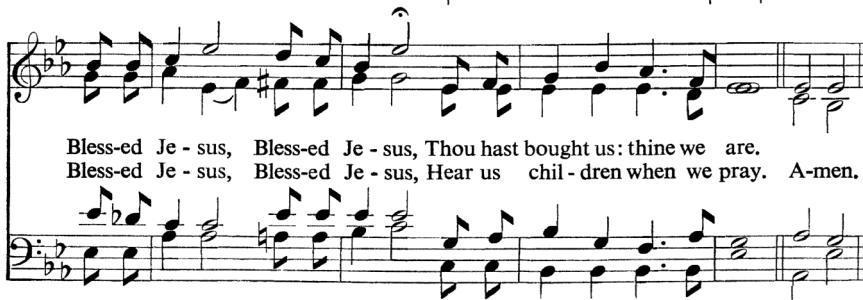
1. Sav-iour, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need thy ten-der care;
2. We are thine; do thou be-friend us, Be the guard-ian of our way;



In thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, For our use thy folds pre-pare:
Keep thy flock, from sin de-fend us, Seek us when we go a-stray;



Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Thou hast bought us: thine we are.
Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Hear us chil-dren when we pray.



Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Thou hast bought us: thine we are.
Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Hear us chil-dren when we pray. A-men.

3 Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to thee.

4 Early let us seek thy favor,
Early let us do thy will;
Blessèd Lord and only Saviour,
With thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Amen.

Dorothy Ann Thrupp, 1779–1847

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 (SBH, p. 41)

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. 41-2)

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 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: (SBH, p. 42)

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 (SBH, p. 42)

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) (SBH, p. 100)

P: Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed.

C: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.

P: How amiable are Your tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts.

C: My soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of the Lord.

(Psalm 84: 1-2, 9-10)

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

**Glorify 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.

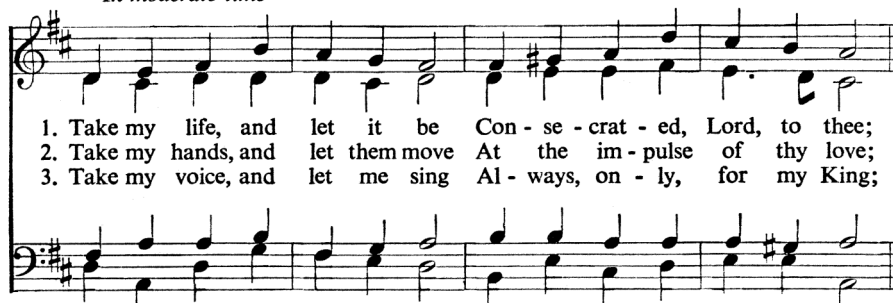
C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Hymn of Praise:

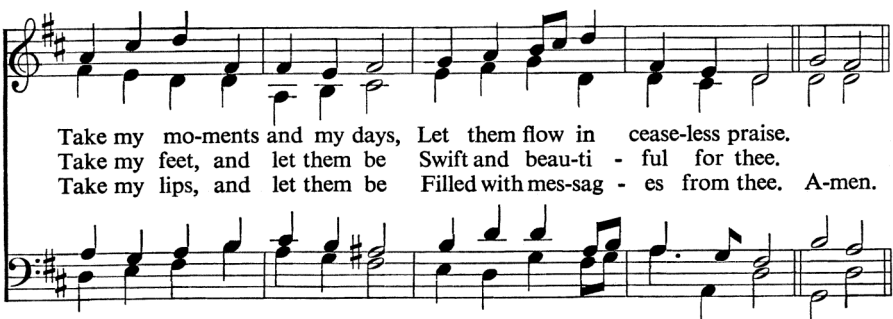
**"Take My Life,
and Let It
Be" (SBH #510)**

PATMOS. 7 7, 7 7.
In moderate time

WILLIAM HENRY HAVERGAL, 1793–1870



1. Take my life, and let it be Con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of thy love;
3. Take my voice, and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly, for my King;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from thee. A-men.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own,
It shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee. Amen.

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836–79

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 (SBH, p. 100)

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Keep, we beseech You, O Lord, Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without You cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation. 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: Ezekiel 33:7-9 (NASB) (SBH, p. 52)

⁷ “Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. ⁸ When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. ⁹ But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.”

The Psalm: Psalm 32:1-7 (NASB) (SBH, p. 52)

P: How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!

C: When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

P: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of summer. *Selah*.

C: I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”; and You forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*.

P: Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

C: You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. *Selah*.

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 13:1-10 (NASB) (SBH, p. 52)

¹ Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will

(continued on next page)

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 13:1-10 (NASB) (SBH, p. 52) (cont'd)

receive condemnation upon themselves.³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.⁸ Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.⁹ For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.

The Gradual (SBH, p. 100)

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes. Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Alleluia.

(Psalm 118:8-9; 90:1)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison) (SBH, p. 52-53)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:12-20 (NASB) (SBH, p. 53-54)

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

¹² "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? ¹³ If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. ¹⁴ So it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

¹⁵ If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

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 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 Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:12-20 (NASB) (cont'd)

¹⁹ Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

The Congregation shall sing, "**Praise be to Thee, 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, 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—*Canticle of Fellowship* (Courtney)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and patience.

Forgive each other as the Lord forgave you.
And over all these virtues put on love.

Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds, Is like to that above.
Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Love.

We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows, The sympathizing tear.
When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Love.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and joy shall reign throughout eternity.
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Love.

The Special Music

11:00 Will Charlton—*Jesus Loves Me* (arr. by F. Bock)

The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

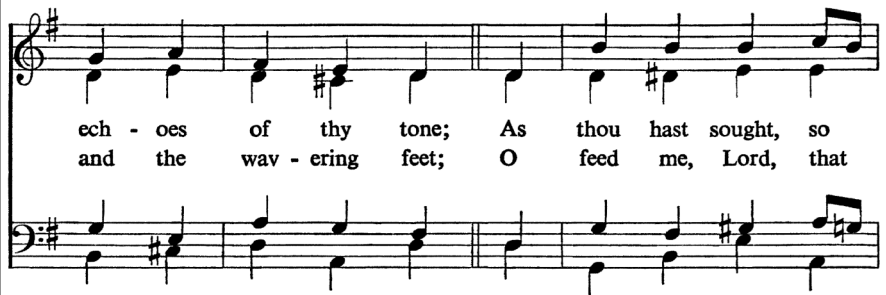
The Sermon Hymn:

**"Lord, Speak to Me,
That I May Speak"**

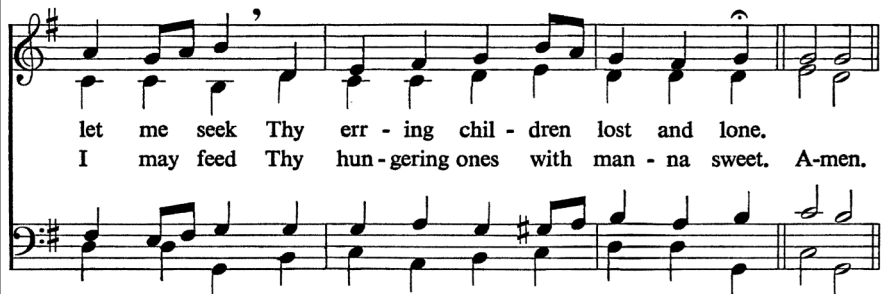
(SBH #538)



1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In liv - ing
2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wan - dering



ech - oes of thy tone; As thou hast sought, so
and the wav - ering feet; O feed me, Lord, that



let me seek Thy err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
I may feed Thy hun - gery ones with man - na sweet. A-men.

3 O strengthen me, that while I stand
Firm on the Rock, and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand
To wrestlers with the troubled sea.

4 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious things thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

5 O fill me with thy fulness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word
Thy love to tell, thy praise to show. Amen.

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-79

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: "What Godly Shepherding Looks Like" | Matthew 18:12-20

Sermon Notes:

The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand) (SBH, p. 56-57)

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) (SBH, p. 57)

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison) (SBH, p. 57)

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 (SBH, p. 57)

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:

"Jesus Calls Us"

(SBH #553)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"Fughetta"

(J. E. Rembt)

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the melody for the hymn "Jesus Calls Us" with three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the melody and includes the lyrics for the "Fughetta" section. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

1. Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult Of our life's wild, rest - less sea,
2. As of old Saint An-drew heard it By the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of the vain world's gold-en store;

Day by day his clear voice sound-eth, Say - ing, 'Chris-tian, fol-low me!'
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, Leav-ing all for his dear sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, Say-ing, 'Chris-tian, love me more.' A-men.

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'

5 Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Saviour, make us hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
Serve and love thee best of all. Amen.

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1823-95

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Nathan and Abby Donolo in honor of their son Wyatt's 5th birthday.

Special thanks to Eric Wente and **TBD**. They are reading Scriptures today at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., respectively.

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

Known to be hospitalized: None known.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Michelle Hopkins and her family as she continues to battle another illness. Dot Corbett—back at Halcyon Senior Living. 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. 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.

Current Fund: Given by Deb Skundrich in memory of Donna Neil. Given by Eugene Hershberger in memory of my friend Jim Segerdahl, Sr.

"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!

September Lutheran Ambassador: The new edition is available near all entrances. Pick yours up today!

Senior Choir: The Senior Choir has returned to a job they love, singing at Ruthfred's worship services. It's not too late to join them. If you have a pleasant singing voice, prayerfully consider attending our rehearsal this Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. We are blessed and thankful this year to be using new music folders that were donated by Grace Motzer in memory of her husband, Fritz.

Handbell Choir: The Handbell Choir rehearsals began last week. If you are high school age or older and have basic music reading skills, please consider joining us on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Children's Choir: Children in grades 1-6 are invited to meet together on Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:40, starting September 13, to enjoy a time of biblical, Scripture-centered music education. For more information, please contact Melissa Manzo, 724-518-0220 or mmanzos@yahoo.com.

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!

Confirmation 2023-2024: This year the junior (7th grade) and senior (8th grade) confirmands will meet together, starting on Wednesday, September 20th. If you have a student starting 7th 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.

Announcements (cont'd)

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!

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 1st, 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) 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 at noon on September 22nd. 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.

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!

Craft & Sew: Our start-up date for the Craft & Sew is Monday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. For further information on the sewers, please contact Arlene Ball. For further information on the crafters, please contact Kathy Rostauscher. If you can cut, paste, or sew a straight seam, we could use your help.

Knit Wits: The KNIT WITS knitting and crochet group, which meets monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Lounge, will be resuming on September 14. Please join us! For further information, please contact Pat Lutz at patricialutz@comcast.net.

2023-2024 Preschool: The school year has begun, but registration is still open online at ruthfred.org. For further information or to schedule a tour please contact AnnieBuzon at AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org. Spaces are available.

Ruthfred 75th Anniversary Committee Request: Next April, Ruthfred will celebrate the 75th 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. Thank you for blessing us with your memories.

Announcements

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.

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 11th-13th. For more information, visit: <https://lutheransforlife.org/conference>.

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



Kids' Time

Did you love VBS? Then come and join us Wednesday nights for some fun, friends, and fellowship—all while learning more about God's Love.

WHEN: Wednesday nights, Sept 20, 2023 - Feb 21, 2024

TIME: 6:45-8:00 p.m.

WHO: All kids in grades Kindergarten-5th

Register here:

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/ruthfredlutherankids-time2023>

NO Registration Fee

Please contact Mason Mitchell with any questions: masonmitchell@ruthfred.org.

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 7—Mutual Assistance**.



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)**," on September 17th, led by one of our Elders, Eric Wenthe.

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!

YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is **SWAP** tonight 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 12th, 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

## 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.*

## This Week At Ruthfred

## Today (9/10)

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & Rally Day

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

6:30 p.m.—GIFT Bible Study @ at the Kurtzes'

**Monday (9/11) Patriot Day**

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders

6:30 p.m.—Elders' Meeting and Prayer Time

7:30 p.m.—Council Meeting

## Tuesday (9/12)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

### Wednesday (9/13)

9:15 a.m.—Journey Through the Word (JTTW)

## Noon—Esther

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

## Thursday (9/14) Holy Cross Day

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits

## Friday (9/15)

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

### Saturday (9/16)

6:00 p.m.—Contemporary Liturgical Worship

### Sunday (9/17)

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

## Consecration of Sunday School and Preschool

teachers, Kids' Time and JTTW leaders—both

services

6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Bible Study@ A.&C. Vogels'

Welcome to worship, Christian education, and fellowship—a chance to be fed and nourished by God’s Word before being sent again to serve the world in the week ahead.

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Church...268   Sunday School...50

8:30 Live Stream...27


SWAP...no meeting TNT...16

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ 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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