



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 an offering basket.

About Us:

- ◆ Since her opening service on Christmas Eve in 1948 and her charter the following year, Ruthfred Lutheran Church has been a congregation rooted in the conviction that the Bible is inspired by God, living and active, capable to produce faith in its hearers, and true and faithful in all its parts. As such, our preaching and teaching aim to be faithful to its correct interpretation and is central to our worship of God.
- ◆ Our Divine Service, called the “Common Service,” possesses a rich history that stems from the early days of the Lutheran Reformation. It is centered upon God’s Word, and proclaims the realities of God’s abundant grace in Jesus Christ from its start to its close. If this is a new form of worship for you, this bulletin will serve as a welcome companion. The order of service begins on page 3.
- ◆ The Divine Service begins as our 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 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 5, 2023

Septuagesima Sunday

Prelude:

"Spirit of God"

(A. Slowins)

**"O Christ, Who
Art the Light and
Day"**

(W. Fr. Bach)

The Opening Hymn:

**"O Word of God
Incarnate"**

(SBH #252)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

1. O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2. The Church from her dear Mas - ter Re - ceived the gift di - vine,

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
And still that light she lift - eth O'er all the earth to shine.

We praise thee for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the gold - en cas - ket Where gems of truth are stored;

A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
It is the heaven - drawn pic - ture Of Christ, the liv - ing Word. A - men.

3 It floateth like a banner
Before God's host unfurled;
It shineth like a beacon
Above the darkling world;
It is the chart and compass
That o'er life's surging sea,
'Mid mists and rocks and quicksands,
Still guides, O Christ, to thee.

4 O make thy Church, dear Saviour,
A lamp of burnished gold,
To bear before the nations
Thy true light, as of old;
O teach thy wandering pilgrims
By this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see thee face to face. Amen.

William Walsham How, 1823-97

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 Order for Public Confession (SBH, p. 247)

Unison: (U): Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, Amen.

P: Let us humbly kneel, and make confession unto God, imploring his forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

U: O God, our heavenly Father, I confess unto thee that I have grievously sinned against thee in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known unto thee. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my offenses, and I beseech thee of thy great goodness to have mercy upon me, and for the sake of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to forgive my sins, and graciously to help my infirmities. Amen.

The Absolution, Admonition & Blessing:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of his dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgiveth us all our sins. As a Minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare unto you who do truly repent and believe in him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

P: On the other hand, by the same authority, I declare unto the impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as they continue in their impenitence, God hath not forgiven their sins, and will assuredly visit their iniquities upon them, if they turn not from their evil ways, and come to true repentance and faith in Christ, ere the day of grace be ended.

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you 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.

God's chief means of extending His grace to His children is through His Word. Hearing it and learning it are central to His proper worship.

The "Gradual" (Latin for *step*) is a liturgical reading bridging the readings of the epistle and the Gospel. It is comprised of Scripture, mostly the Psalms.

"Alleluia" is Hebrew for "Praise the Lord."

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Worship Him, all you His angels. Zion heard and was glad.

C: The daughters of Judah rejoiced because of Your judgments, O Lord.

P: The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice.

C: Let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

(Psalm 97:1, 7, 8)

The Gloria Patri (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 17)

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 Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 58:3-9a(NASB)

³ 'Why have we fasted and You do not see? *Why* have we humbled ourselves and You do not notice?' Behold, on the day of your fast you find *your* desire, and drive hard all your workers. ⁴ "Behold, you fast for contention and strife and to strike with a wicked fist. You do not fast like *you do* today to make your voice heard on high. ⁵ "Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself? Is it for bowing one's head like a reed and for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed? Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the LORD? ⁶ "Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? ⁷ "Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ "Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ "Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'"

The Gradual:

So the heathen shall fear the Name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth Your glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory. Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice. Let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Alleluia.

(Psalm 102: 15, 16; 97: 1)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-20 (NASB)

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

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

During the Service of Holy Communion, we confess our faith using the Words of the Nicene Creed. Though officially adopted a few hundred years after Christ's earthly ministry, the Creed emphasizes the truths that had been taught since the time of the Apostles, namely, that Christ is both fully God and fully man. As such, we are assured that in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself became like us in every way, yet perfect and without sin; and shed His own Blood and gave His own Body in death so that we could find in Him forgiveness of sin and life eternal.

This creed has been used in worship across denominational lines.

The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

The Anthem

11:00: Senior Choir—*Reach Out and Touch* (C. Brown)

And let the smile of God touch through you.
Reach out and touch a soul that is hungry,
Reach out and touch a spirit in despair;
Reach out and touch a life torn and dirty,
A man who is lonely...If you care!

Reach out and touch that neighbor who hates you;
Reach out and touch that stranger who meets you;
Reach out and touch the brother who needs you;
Reach out and let the smile of God touch through you.

Reach out and touch a friend who is weary;
Reach out and touch a seeker unaware;
Reach out and touch, though touching means losing
a part of your own self...If you dare!

Reach out and give your love to the loveless;
Reach out and make a home for the homeless;
Reach out and shed God's light in the darkness;
Reach out and let the smile of God touch through you.

The Announcements

The Sermon Hymn:

**"Light of Light,
Enlighten Me"**

(SBH #186)

With feeling



1. Light of light, en-light - en me, Now a - new the day is dawn - ing;
2. Fount of all our joy and peace, To thy liv - ing wa - ters lead me;



Sun of grace, the shad-ows flee, Bright-en thou this ho - ly morn - ing;
Thou from earth my soul re - lease, And with grace and mer - cy feed me;



With thy joy - ous sun-shine blest, Hap-py is my day of rest.
Bless thy word, that it may prove Rich in fruits that thou dost love. A-men.



3 Hence all care, all vanity,
For the day to God is holy;
Come, thou glorious Majesty,
Deign to fill this temple lowly;
Naught today my soul shall move,
Simply resting in thy love.

4 Let me with my heart today,
Holy, holy, holy, singing,
Rapt awhile from earth away,
All my soul to thee upspringing,
Have a foretaste inly given
How they worship thee in heaven. Amen.

*Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78 a.*

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's Salt and Light" | Matthew 5:13-20

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)

On the first Sunday of each month, as well as on other special occasions, we have the privilege of receiving Holy Communion together. We do not require membership to participate in this . However, we do ask that those coming to receive Communion would be baptized believers in the saving work of Jesus Christ, who are of confirmation age (completed 8th grade), and who are in agreement with the biblical teaching of Christ concerning it.

We believe and teach that Holy Communion is a Sacrament in which we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine, that it was instituted by Christ himself, and that it is given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

We believe and teach that the benefit for Christians receiving Communion is expressed in the words "given" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" (See Matthew 26:26-29). As described by Martin Luther in his *Small Catechism*, these words show us that "forgiveness of sin, life and salvation" are given to us in Communion.

Luther formulated a list of 20 questions with appropriate responses to guide the believer to prepare their hearts for Communion. We include a selection of those questions on the following page for the purpose of aiding you in the same way.

The Service for Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy Spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; ever more praising Thee, and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you; This do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also, He took the cup, when He had supped, and, when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison)

P: 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;

C: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.

Are you sorry for your sins?

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

Do you desire to be saved?

Yes, such is my desire.

In Whom do you trust?

In my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.

What has Christ done for you that you trust in him?

He died for me and shed his blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Do you believe that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

Yes, I believe it.

What induces you to believe this?

The Word of Christ, "Take, eat this is My body; This is My blood, drink of it all of you."

Why ought we to remember and proclaim His death?

That we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins but Christ, true God and man; and that we may learn to look with terror at our sins, and to regard them as great indeed, and to find joy and comfort in Him alone, and thus be saved through such faith.

Finally, why do you wish to go to receive Holy Communion?

That I may learn to believe that Christ died for my sin out of great love, as before said; and that I may also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you alway.

C: And with thy Spirit.

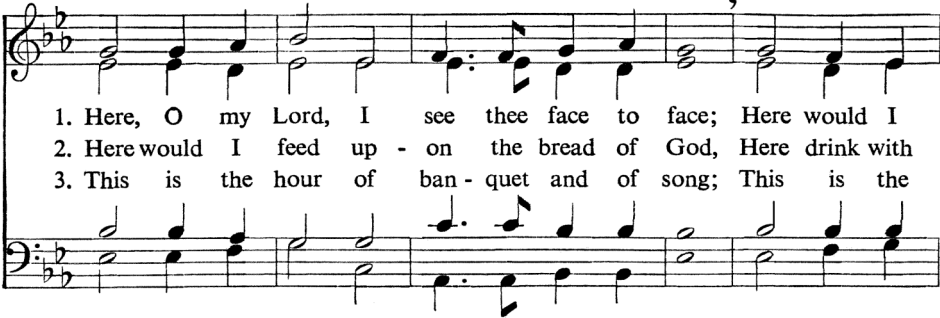
The Agnus Dei:

C: O Christ thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

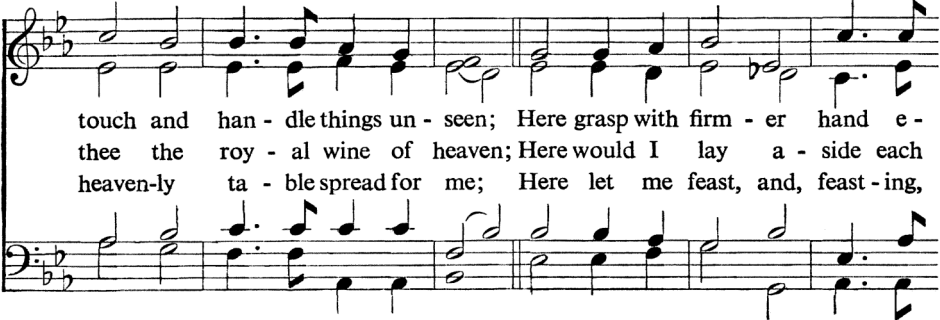
O Christ thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

O Christ thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

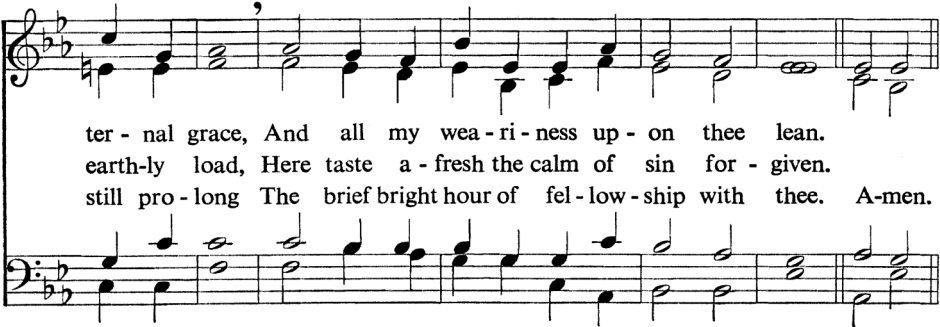
The Distribution *(During Communion)*
"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face" (SBH #275)



1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face; Here would I
 2. Here would I feed up - on the bread of God, Here drink with
 3. This is the hour of ban - quet and of song; This is the



touch and han - dle things un - seen; Here grasp with firm - er hand e -
 thee the roy - al wine of heaven; Here would I lay a - side each
 heavenly ta - ble spread for me; Here let me feast, and, feast - ing,



ter - nal grace, And all my wea - ri - ness up - on thee lean.
 earth - ly load, Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
 still pro - long The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with thee. A-men.

4 I have no help but thine; nor do I need
 Another arm save thine to lean upon;
 It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
 My strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

5 Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;
 Mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing Blood;
 Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;
 Thy Blood, thy righteousness, O Lord, my God. Amen.

Horatius Bonar, 1808-89

The Nunc Dimittis:

U: Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Prayer

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good.

C: And His mercy endureth forever.

The Closing Prayer *(after which the congregation shall sing "Amen.")*

P: The Lord be with you.

C. And with thy spirit.

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" (SBH #129)

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart; Wean it from
2. I ask no dream, no proph-et ec - sta - sies, No sud - den

earth, through all its puls - es move; Stoop to my weak - ness,
rend - ing of the veil of clay, No an - gel vis - i -

might-y as thou art, And make me love thee as I ought to love.
tant, no o-pening skies; But take the dim-ness of my soul a - way. A-men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system has two verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes the hymn with 'A-men.' The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

3 Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King;
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
I see thy Cross; there teach my heart to cling;
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

4 Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame:
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and thy love the flame. Amen.

George Croly, 1780–1860

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude: "Allegretto" (P. G. Kreckel)

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Norma, Robert, Lynn, Jennifer, Andrew, and Cassie Vogel in loving memory of Alma and Wilbert Vogel on Wilbert's birthday, today.

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

Known to be hospitalized: Fred Schell—Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Sewickley. 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: Becky Lindner. Joanne Salvetti, who will be having surgery tomorrow, February 6. Lundy Castro, who is back at the Carlson's home. Also, please keep in your prayers all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

A-V/Live Stream Fund: Given by Geri & Bill Ligetti in memory of Jim Agnew.

Benevolence Fund: Given by Andrew & Carol Ausefski in memory of Jim Agnew.

Current Fund: Given by Karen & Ken Wellman in memory of Terry Alwine. Given by Edward & Katherine Darney in memory of Jim Agnew. Given by Alanna & Sean Fyalkowski in thanksgiving for the baptism of their daughter, Scarlett, and for the lovely pillow and Rhyme Book.

Stained Glass Window Panel Book: Part of the beauty of the Ruthfred sanctuary is the stained glass window panels. Each panel is unique and designed by artist Jane Buckley based on requests from church members who wish to honor or memorialize loved ones. Have you ever wondered about the history behind a panel? Thanks to the work of Bob Reith (who compiled a list years ago) and Debbie Skundrich, Elaine Widich, Jane Buckley, and Felicia Rieck (who more recently worked on the project), there is a complete identification guide, with photos, available. Two copies are available for your perusal—in the Church Library and in the Chapel. Thank you to all who helped to compile this resource!

City Mission Food Sunday: Today, Sunday, February 5, is our monthly food collection for the City Mission in Washington, PA. There is a flyer with needed items on the bulletin board across from the downstairs elevator. Donations can be placed outside the kitchen. Thank you for helping!

A New Member Class continues. Meetings are in the Conference Room during Sunday School.

Journey Through the Word: Morning JTTW began a new study on January 18, 2023—Nancy Guthrie's The Promised One (Jesus in Genesis). Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about this study: 412-708-3535 or writingcygnet@gmail.com. The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah's The Book of Signs. This week, our final meeting until Fall, we will watch Dr. Jeremiah's video "The Stand You Can Take Today." Each lesson stands alone; there are plenty of books. Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

Fellowship Breakfast Today: Please join us this morning during the Sunday School hour (9:45—10:45 a.m.) in the Fellowship Hall for our first monthly breakfast. Enjoy pancakes, scrambled eggs, and bacon (including GF and DF options) while connecting with fellow church members. There will NOT be Adult or Children's Sunday School today. Let us be in communion this Communion Sunday!

Lutheran Ambassador: The February issue is now available on the tables near all church entrances. Please pick one up today!

Announcements (cont'd)

Preschool Registration is now open for the 2023-2024 school year. Register online at Ruthfred.org. Contact: preschool@ruthfred.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.

Support Life: During January and February, we will be collecting items needed by the two pregnancy centers we support, Health for Her in Bethel Park and New Life Options in Monongahela. Bins will be in the Fireside Lounge through February 12th for your donations. There will be a box in the church office for gift cards. Thank you for supporting these ministries! Please contact Jill Kurtz with any questions. The following items are especially needed: baby wash, baby lotion, bathtubs, crib sheets for **mini** cribs, video baby monitors, diaper bags (backpack style), girls' sleepers 9 months to 2T, girls' outfits 12-18 months, boys' sleepers 9-18 months, boys' outfits 9 months to 4T, and gift cards for Walmart, Target, Amazon, Kohls, etc. (Clothing, mini crib sheets, and diaper bags can be gently used.)

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@yahoo.com.

Time & Talent Sheets: If you have not already filled out your Time & Talent Sheet for 2023, please do so as soon as possible and return it to the church office. The information about your interests is updated each year, so we do need a new sheet each year. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to serve the church and your fellow members!

Craft & Sew is calling: We are in need of new or gently used dish or hand towels (no microfiber towels please). These are used to make adult clothing protectors. The residents of various nursing homes love these. Please put your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. If you or anyone you know could use a clothing protector (adult bib) please let me know. We will gladly give you as many as you need. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. Arlene Ball: 412-977-8013 or Arlene1952@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support.

Family Easter Festival: Young families, mark your calendars for Sunday, April 2, for this fun fellowship event! Next Sunday, February 12, returning activity chairpersons are having a planning meeting. On Sunday, February 26, anyone interested in volunteering is invited to an informational meeting in the Fireside Lounge during the Sunday School hour. We especially welcome NEW volunteers! For more information, contact Barb Harrold, brharrold@comcast.net.

For The Month of February, 2023

Acolytes:

8:30 a.m. (2/5)
(2/12, 2/26)
(2/19)

1 1:00 a.m.

7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday (2/22)

Elliot McMinn
Jonathan Tarrant
Evan Gusky
Asher Manzo
Ryan Handshue

Crucifers:

8:30 a.m. (2/12)
(2/26)

1 1:00 a.m. (2/5)

(2/19)

Morgan Dolence
Holly Miller
Morgan Dolence
Courtney Felicetti

Altar Guild:

Dianne Groves

Counters:

8:30 a.m.

1 1:00 a.m.

Chris Clark, Tom Sanders
Mark Riley, Kurt Ziegler

Ushers:

8:30 a.m.

1 1:00 a.m.

Bernard Paterra, John Ruzicka
George Barrett, Ray Urksa

Coffee Hour:

Arlene Fees

[illegible]

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE: Today, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Today, by means of bread and wine, Jesus Christ gives Himself to each communicant. This is His Word and promise. We accept His Word. If you are not a member of a Lutheran church, we ask you to speak to our pastors at any time about the meaning of Holy Communion and a person's desire to receive it. When we come to the altar.. we must come with believing and repentant hearts. As we return.. we always bow or kneel in prayer in thanksgiving to God for what Jesus Christ has given unto us. We do not practice the communion of children who are not instructed and confirmed, but the children are encouraged to come to the altar rail for a family blessing.



Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom*

Pastor Carlson will continue teaching a series on the book of I Thessalonians for the Adult Sunday School Class next week. 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.**



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

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

Save the dates:

7 p.m. February 24 to 2 p.m. February 25: 30-Hour Famine: Youth in Grades 6-12 are invited to join us for this annual, nationwide event. The kids go without food to better understand the lives of kids who this even was created to help—those who face hunger on a daily basis. In addition to learning about world hunger and what they can do to help, the youth will be participating in themed games and volunteering at the World Vision Center. Forms and sign-up sheets are available outside the Youth Office. Contact Kris Wente or Jill Huwe with questions.

Friday, March 17: Parents' Night Out Dinner. Youth in Grades 6-12 will help prepare and serve a delicious meal for their parents!

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on February 7th, 7-9 p.m.

Save the date:

March 24-26: Seneca Hills Retreat for Grades 9-12.

Questions/concerns?

Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee

This Week At Ruthfred

Today (2/5) CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.—Communion Service
9:45 a.m.—Fellowship Breakfast & New Member Class
11:00 a.m.—Communion Service
6:00 p.m.—Communion Service

Monday (2/6)

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders Meeting
9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew
7:00 p.m.—Elders' Meeting

HAPPY 93rd BIRTHDAY BOB REITH

Tuesday (2/7)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

Wednesday (2/8)

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 (2/9)

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits

Friday (2/10)

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

HAPPY 97th BIRTHDAY BOB CHRISTMAN

Saturday (2/11)

9:30 a.m.—Mary Bible Study

Sunday (2/12) Sexagesima Sunday

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & New Member Class
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Welcome to worship as Jesus continues to reveal himself during Epiphany. May you sense anew your Savior's deep love for you and all the world.

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...264 Sunday School...97

8:30 Live Stream...43

JTTW (morning)...46 Online...6

JTTW (evening)...46 Kids' Time...19

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:

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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Frederick Schell
Organist

Essi Efthimiou
Interim Organist

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

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