

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 artist 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 Pentecost, July 2, 2023

The Celebration of 4th of July

Prelude:

"Rondeau in G"

(D. Lasky)

"Variations on 'America'"

(C. Wesley)

The Opening Hymn:

"My Country Tis of Thee"

(SBH #360)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

AMERICA. 6 6 4, 6 6 6 4.

With dignity

Thesaurus Musicus, 1744

1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, Land of the no - ble free,

Of thee I sing: Land where my fa - thers died, Land of the
Thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and

pil-grims' pride, From ev - ery moun - tain side Let free-dom ring.
tem - pled hills; My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove. A-men.

3 Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

4 Our fathers' God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King. Amen.

Samuel Francis Smith, 1809-95

The Call to Worship

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

Congregation (C): Amen

A Reading from the Declaration of Independence

The Star-Spangled Banner—(vs. 1 & 4)

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Oh, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation;
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Power that has made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto "In God is our trust";
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Order for Public Confession (SBH, p. 247)

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.

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 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).

"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.

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, forgives 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

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand) (SBH p. 2/95)

P: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

C: The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

P: When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me they stumbled and fell.

C: Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.

(Psalm 27:1-3)

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.

God's chief means of extending His grace to His 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 First Lesson: Psalm 119:153-160 (NASB)

¹⁵³ Look upon my affliction and rescue me, for I do not forget Your law.

¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause and redeem me; revive me according to Your word.

¹⁵⁵ Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your statutes.

¹⁵⁶ Great are Your mercies, O LORD; revive me according to Your ordinances.

¹⁵⁷ Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, *yet* I do not turn aside from Your testimonies.

¹⁵⁸ I behold the treacherous and loathe *them*, because they do not keep Your word.

¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness.

¹⁶⁰ The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

The Gradual (SBH p. 96)

Forgive our sins, O Lord, lest the heathen say, Where is their God? Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy Name and deliver us. Alleluia, alleluia. The king shall joy in Thy strength, O Lord, and in Thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice. Alleluia.

(Psalm 79:9-10; 21:1)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison) (p. 4/24)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 10:38-42 (NASB)

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

³⁸ Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up *to Him* and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; ⁴² but *only* one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

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

The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (Confessed in Unison) (p. 4)

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 Special Music

11:00: Mettelise Ziegler—“*Precious Jesus*” (Jay Althouse)

The Announcements

FLY Convention Attendee Blessing

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 Sermon Hymn:

**"Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty"**

(SBH #408)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gen - tly sus -

a - tion;
va - tion: All ye who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw
reign - eth,
tain - eth: Hast thou not seen? All that is need - ful hath

near; Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
been Grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth. A - men.

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew

What the Almighty can do,

If with his love he befriend thee!

4 Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him;
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the Amen

Sound from his people again;

Gladly for aye we adore him. Amen.

*Joachim Neander, 1650–80
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–78
Based on Psalms 103 and 150*

By permission of the Oxford University Press

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.

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.

The Sermon: "Forgiveness & Salvation Are Here" | Psalm 119:153-160

The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand) (SBH p. 27)

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 Service for Communion (SBH p. 29)

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.

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 believers 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 Words of Institution: (SBH p. 12/35)

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 (SBH p. 12/35)

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.

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

C: And with thy spirit.

The Agnus Dei (p. 12/36)

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.

This is the Feast"

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and
 hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -
 lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
 le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

The Distribution

During Communion:

"O Bread of Life from Heaven" (SBH #271)

1. O Bread of life from heav - en, To wea - ry pil - grims giv - en,
2. O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er stream - ing

O Man - na from a - bove! The souls that hun - ger feed thou, The
From Je - sus' ho - ly side! Come thou, thy - self be - stow - ing On

hearts that seek thee lead thou, With thy most sweet and ten - der love.
thirst - ing souls, and flow - ing Till all their wants are sat - is - fied. A-men.

3 O Jesus, by thee bidden,
We here adore thee, hidden
'Neath forms of bread and wine;
Grant, when the veil is riven,
We may behold in heaven
Thy glorious countenance divine. Amen.

*Latin hymn, cir. 1661
Tr. St. 1, 2, Philip Schaff, 1819-93
Tr. St. 3, Athelstan Riley, 1858-1945*

The Nunc Dimittis (SBH p. 13/38)

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 (SBH p. 13/38)

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

C: And His mercy endures 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 (SBH p. 14/40)

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:

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

(SBH #346)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"Variations to the Sicilian Hymn"

(B. Carr)

1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress

For pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,

And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.
Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.

3 O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine.

4 O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees, beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

Katherine Lee Bates, 1859-1929

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by the Fife Family in loving memory of Jack Fife (a charter member of Ruthfred) in honor of his 95th birthday.

Special thanks to Al Macugoski, Kurt Ziegler, and Steve Cox. They are reading Scripture and assisting with Holy Communion today at the 8:30, 11:00, and 6:00 services, respectively.

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

Known to be hospitalized: None known.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Jodie Riley—breast cancer. Bill VanKirk—skin cancer. Karl Munn is now home. Dee Coldsmith—Providence Point Rehab. Joanne Salvetti is home but struggling. Susan Boehme—ankle surgery. Gene Hershberger—treatment for lung cancer. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Virginia DiSalvo is at a rehab facility for PT, but she has developed a blood clot which is requiring bed rest. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Official Act: On Tuesday, June 27, 2023, Pastor McMinn officiated at a funeral service for Claudie Goldsmith in the Ruthfred sanctuary and at her burial at Jefferson Memorial Park. Please keep Claudie's children (William, Carol, and Thomas) and extended family in your thoughts and prayers.

Condolences: Our pastor and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Chris (Briana) Wellinger and his family on the passing of his father on June 27, 2023, after an extended illness. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Music Fund: Given by Chris and Marcia Clark in memory of Fred Schell. Given by Sibyl Mose in memory of Erna Jochum.

Preschool Fund: Given by Chris and Marcia Clark in memory of Garnett Wasson.

Welcome Today!: We are so blessed to have everyone, visitors and regular attendees alike, in worship today! Please take the time to greet one another in His Name!

Youth FLY Convention: Please keep the youth and chaperones in your prayers as they head tomorrow (Monday) to Estes Park, CO, for the 2023 FLY Convention. This is the biennial youth gathering of the AFLC, the purpose of which is to provide congregations with a tool for encouraging youth in their faith and discipleship. They will return home on Saturday.

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.

VBS 2023: Dates are July 24-28. The theme this year will be "**Twists and Turns.**" Come and learn how following Jesus will help you through life's twists and turns. Registration is open at: <https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>.

VBS 2023 Volunteers Needed: Please prayerfully consider being a **Crew Leader** volunteer for VBS. This is the most important position for VBS, as Crew Leaders guide the kids from class to class and help to ensure the success of VBS. No advanced training is needed—just a willingness to help children learn God's Word. You can sign up online at the registration link (<https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>) or on the sheets on the interior window outside the Fellowship Hall entrance. We also need **snack and craft volunteers**. Please note that all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances. There will be a **volunteer meeting** in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **July 9th**, after the 11 a.m. service.

Announcements (cont'd)

2023-2024 Preschool Registration is now open online at ruthfred.org. Contact AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org with any questions or to schedule a tour. Spaces are available.

Youth Bible Camperships: \$100 Bible Camperships are available to our youth attending a Christian camp. All camperships must be approved by Church Council. Deadline to submit an application is July 9 for approval at the July Council meeting. Application forms are available on the table at the bottom of the stairs near the Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office. Please place completed applications in the Council Secretary mail slot in the Conference Room.

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!

Altar Flowers: There are still a few openings remaining on the flower chart for this year, the most immediate need being for July 23rd. Just call the office to let Sally or Felicia know. Thank you to all who help provide this beauty in our sanctuary!

Calling All Picnic Planners: We need YOU! Our annual Church Picnic is a wonderful way for us to enjoy food, fellowship, games, and entertainment on our beautiful church grounds. We need people with a heart for planning fun and engaging events. Our tentative date is Sunday, August 20th. Many hands make light work! If you'd like to participate in the planning, have questions, or have ideas and suggestions you'd like to share, please reach out to Felicia Rieck (FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org) or Erin McMinn (ErinMcMinn@hotmail.com) as soon as possible.

VBS 2023 Donations List: Please consider donating a snack item for VBS. Alternatively, please consider donating gifts cards for Walmart, Target, or Aldi, which would be used to purchase any snack items not donated. A donation bin is in the Fellowship Hall for snacks, while a box for gift cards is in the church office. The items needed are:

Pretzel rods (25 bags)	Red Twizzlers (10 bags)	Swedish Fish (20 large bags)
Pretzel sticks (25 bags)	Apples (25 bags)	Bananas (20 bunches)
Fig Newtons (25 packages)	White icing (4 tubes)	Red fruit roll-ups (4 boxes)
Juice boxes (20 packages)	Frozen mini pancakes (25 boxes)	
	Regular-size marshmallows (25 bags)	

JOIN OUR TEAM!
RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL

- Do you love teaching children?
- Do you love sharing the love of Jesus?
- Are you looking for a part time position where you can do both of those things?

Great! We are Hiring for the 2023/2024 school year!

Email your cover letter and your resume to AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org

For The Month of July

Acolytes:

8:30 a.m. (7/2)
(7/9)
(7/16)
(7/23)
(7/30)

Jonathan Tarrant
Asher Manzo
Jonathan Tarrant
Elliot McMin
Asher Manzo

11:00 a.m. (7/2)
(7/9)
(7/16)
(7/23)
(7/30)

Josh Cimarolli
Ryan Handshue
Josh Cimarolli
Evan Gusky
Ryan Handshue

Flag Bearers in Celebration of 4th of July

8:30 a.m. (7/2)

Elliot McMinn

1 1:00 a.m. (7/2)

Evan Gusky

Altar Guild:

Kathy Siciliano & Eileen Bernish

Counters:

8:30 a.m.

Shane Cox, Al Macugoski

1 1:00 a.m.

Tom Sanders, Tom Glasser

Ushers:

8:30 a.m.

Bernard Paterra, John Ruzicka

1 1:00 a.m.

None

Coffee Hour:

Handshue Family

[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.

Upcoming Guest Preachers: We're blessed and excited to announce that Ruthfred will welcome several guest preachers in the coming months on Sundays when Pastor McMinn and his family will be away. On Sunday, July 30th, the AFLC's Presidential Ministry Associate, Pastor Jason Holt, will preach. On Sunday, August 6th, the AFLC's Vice President, Pastor Gary Jorgenson, will preach and serve Holy Communion. On Sunday, October 29th (Reformation Sunday) the Dean of the AFLC's seminary and beloved Ruthfred pastor of 17 years (1996-2013), Pastor James Molstre, will preach here once again! We look forward to welcoming these dear pastors, and hearing them preach God's Word!

Adult Sunday School Class Today In Large Classroom

Why is Ruthfred part of a national church body called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)? What's the AFLC, what's a congregation, and why does that matter to me? Pastor McMinn and others will guide the adult Sunday School class through a series called "*The Gospel in The Congregation*," written in part by Pastor James Molstre, a former pastor at Ruthfred. Join us for this series, which includes great videos and a short, helpful workbook.

Don't assume you already understand the Biblical role of a congregation and your part in it. Come and see for yourself what it's all about. This Sunday we will finish **Lesson 3—Organization of the congregation**.

Next week we will welcome **Jack Rusenko and family** to the Adult Sunday School class to share about their ministry in the mission field in Arab nations.

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## **Summer Sunday School for Kids**

Miss Bunny (Barger) and Miss Susan (Wholey) will continue their wonderful Sunday School class for 4- & 5-year-olds through the summer. Jason Weighley & Friends will offer a special Sunday School series for kids ages 6—5<sup>th</sup> grade featuring the Torchlighters' animated films about heroes of the Faith. Students in grade 6 and up will join Mason for youth Sunday School classes. If you can help with the nursery this summer, please contact Shane Cox.

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YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is NO **SWAP** meeting tonight.

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will NOT meet on Tuesday, July 4th.

FLY 2023 Convention "Restored" (Rev. 21:5-7) July 3-8

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### **Questions/concerns?**

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

## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (7/2) 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Holy Communion

6:00 p.m.—Holy Communion

## City Mission Food Sunday

## Monday (7/3)

### 7:00 p.m.—Elders' Meeting

HAPPY 96<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY ELIZABETH WOOD

# HAPPY 93<sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY FRITZ HEILMAN

**Tuesday (7/4) INDEPENDENCE DAY**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

### Wednesday (7/5)

10:00 a.m.—Journey Through the Word Summer

### Films ("Shadowlands")

## Friday (7/7)

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

### Saturday (7/8)

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

**Sunday (7/9) 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School (Rusenko family)

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Noon-ish—VBS Volunteer Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

As our nation prepares to celebrate its independence,  
we praise God for the freedom to gather for worship.

Welcome to all!

**Attendance for Last Week:**

Church...226 Sunday School...39

8:30 Live Stream...40

JTTW...22

## Prayer Requests

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


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☐ 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.

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

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. Each ruling unit consists of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line, which is a common format for teaching handwriting or basic writing skills. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

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

**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 234)  
AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org

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