



RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

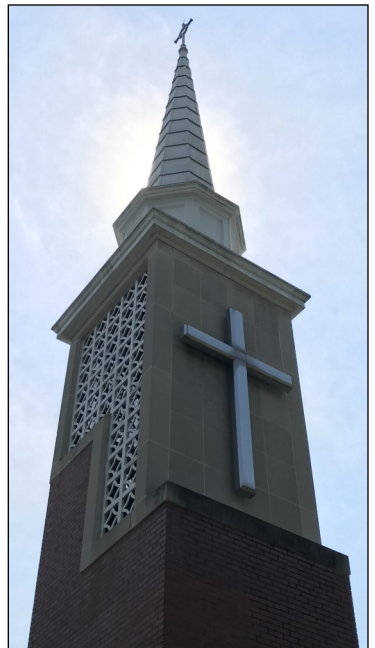
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

We are delighted to have you with us this morning as we gather to worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here! Whether you are visiting from out of town, seeking a new church home, or for any other reason, thank you for choosing to worship with us. We would love to get in touch with you. Please fill out your contact information in the red folder at the end of your pew, or fill out the information on the back cover of this bulletin, and place it in the offering plate as it passes before you.

About Us:

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



Our cover is a paper cut, or *scherenschnitte*, created specially for our church by our very own Kathryn Carr. The artwork will reflect liturgical and Ruthfred-specific themes that occur throughout the year.

The Divine Service of the Word

The First Sunday after Christmas/New Year's Day, January 1, 2023

Prelude:

"Infant Holy"

"In Dulci Jubilo"

(D. Freudenburg)

The Opening

Hymn:

"Joy to the World"

(AMB #18)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! The Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow, Nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
songs em - ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
(And heav'n and na - ture sing,)

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: George F. Handel, 1685–1759; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

ANTIOCH
CM

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, 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

"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 Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Your testimonies are very sure. Holiness becomes Your house, O Lord, forever.

C: Your throne is established of old; You are from everlasting.

P: The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty..

C: The Lord is clothed with strength, with which He has girded Himself.

(Psalm 93:1, 2, 5)

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 First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6 (NASB)

¹ "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² "For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. ³ "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ "Lift up your eyes round about and see; they all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms. ⁵ "Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you. ⁶ "A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and frankincense, and will bear good news of the praises of the LORD."

The Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:6-9 (NASB)

⁶ *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, ⁷ of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. ⁸ To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

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

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

The Gradual

You are fairer than the children of men. Grace is poured into Your lips. My heart is inditing a good matter. I speak of the things which I have made touching the king. My tongue is the pen of a ready writer. Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength, with which He has girded himself. Alleluia. (Psalm 45:1-2; 93:1)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 (NASB)

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

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ² "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;
FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." ⁹ After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

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 proceedeth 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—*"He Is Born"* (arr. M. Scott)

He is born, the divine Christchild. Sound the pipes with a joyful
heralding.

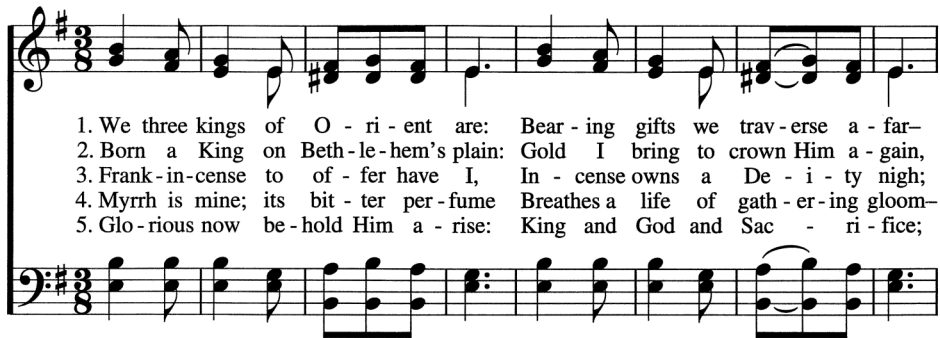
He is born, the divine Christchild. All sing praise to the infant mild.

Child so pure, child, to thee do we come rejoicing.
Child so pure, perfect love does thy heart embrace.

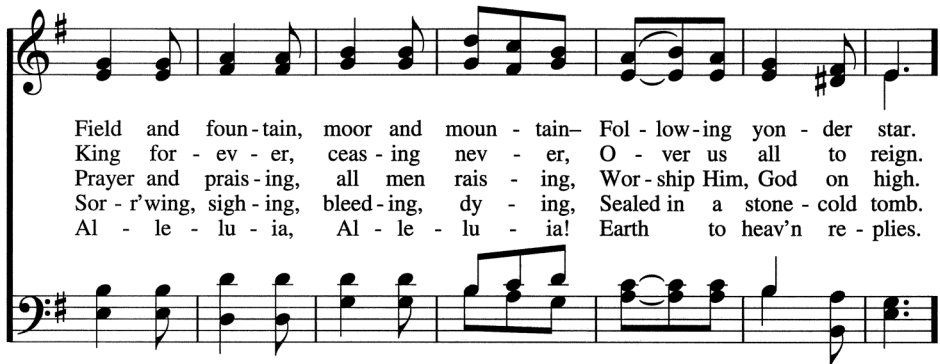
Jesu, King, Lord of all, yet a child among us.
Jesu, King, rule our hearts now and evermore.

The Announcements

The Sermon Hymn: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (Rejoice #221)

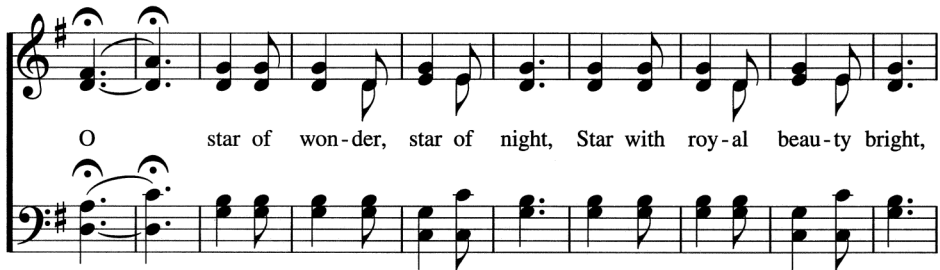


1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are: Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far -
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom -
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise: King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

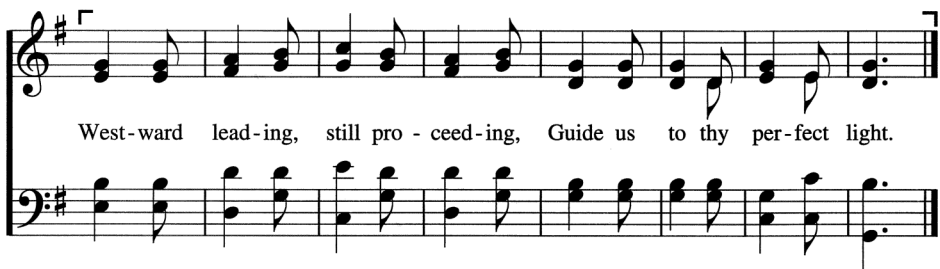


Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain - Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, O - ver us all to reign.
 Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high.
 Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in a stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Earth to heav'n re - plies.

Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

WORDS: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891
 MUSIC: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891

KINGS OF ORIENT
 8.8.8.6. with Refrain

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: "We Have Come to Worship Him" | Matthew 2:1-12

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 always.

C: And with thy Spirit.

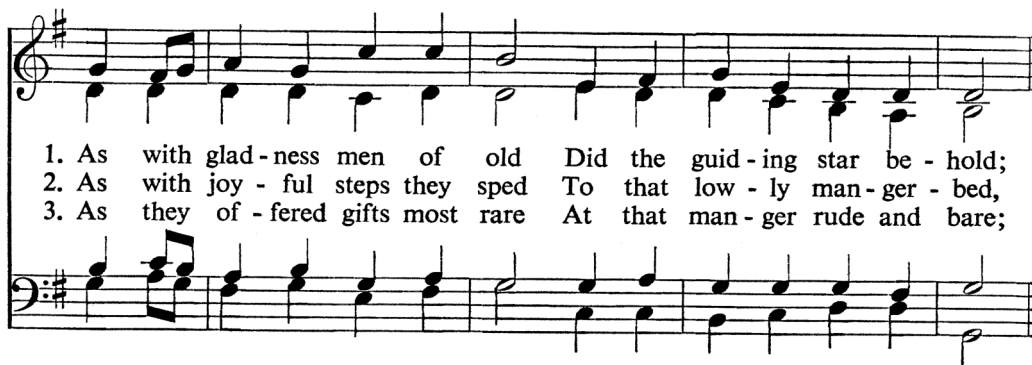
The Agnus Dei:

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

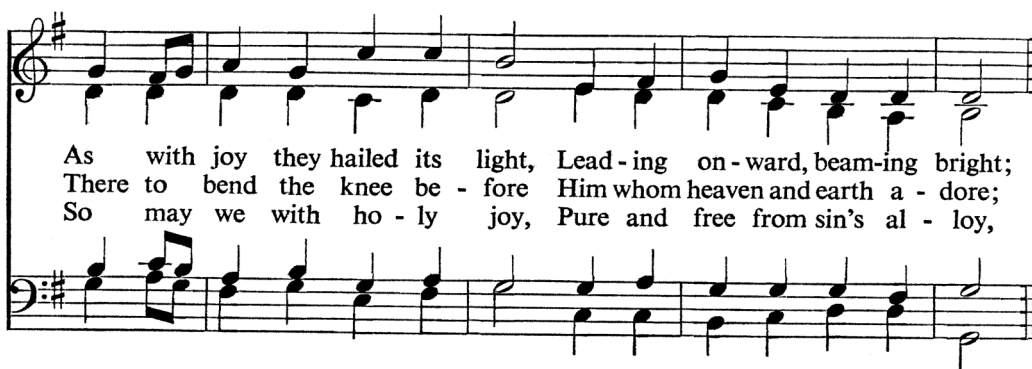
O Christ thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

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

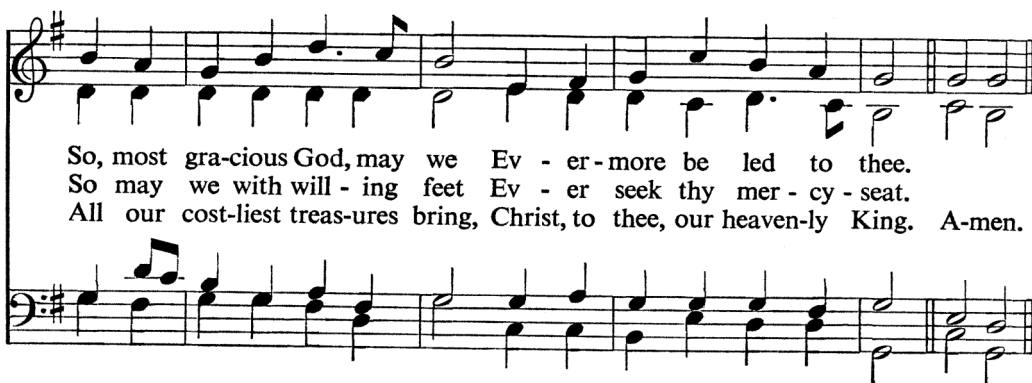
The Distribution (*During Communion*): "As With Gladness" (SBH #52)



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



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



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

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

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

William Chatterton Dix, 1837-98

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 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

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: "Good Christian Men Rejoice" (SBH #39)

Smoothly, in quiet time

1. Good Christian men, re - joice, With heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, And he is in the

man - ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

2 Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath ope'd the heavenly door,
And man is blessèd evermore.
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!

*Medieval Latin Carol
Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66*

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"Noel" (C. Franck)

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Melissa Bostaph with thanks for the joy and privilege it is to worship together with all of you. May the Word of God guide us throughout the year ahead, and may His peace fill our hearts and homes. Happy New Year!

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

Guest Organists: Essi Efthimiou continues as our long-term substitute and is playing for both morning services. For the evening service, please welcome Peggy Arelt.

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

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's dad). Please keep him and all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges in your prayers.

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

On Hospice Care: Marie Wilmer. Please support her with prayers and cards.

Condolences: Our pastors and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Janet Ghise, Janelle Prihas, and Eric Ghise, who lost their husband/father, Cornell Ghise, on December 27th. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Official Act: On Friday, December 30, 2022, Pastor Carlson officiated at a funeral service for Cornell Ghise in the Ruthfred sanctuary at 10 a.m.

Current Fund: Given by Shirley and Alfred Fascetti in memory of Pastor John Dennis, who truly loved Christmas. Given by Shirley and Dick Rose in memory of Terry Alwine.

Live Stream Fund: Given by Bob and Gladys Reith in memory of Terry Alwine.

Music Fund: Given by friends in Christ in memory of Will, Alma, and Linda Vogel. Given by Joan Reagan in loving memory of Carol Mueller. Given by Joan Ewing in memory of Carol Mueller. Given by Penny Kaercher, a friend from EWI, in memory of Carol Mueller. Given by Olivia Runco Leslie in memory of Carol Mueller, my former co-worker at Allegheny Ludlum/ATI.

Confirmation Classes, Adult Choirs, and Kids' Time resume January 4th.

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

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

Announcements (cont'd)

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

Kane Community Center Thank You: Thank you to everyone who contributed! Your generosity was overwhelming and very much appreciated. You made a difference in the Kane residents' lives this Christmas. Most of them received no other presents. Thank you, again! Jan Ruzicka

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

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

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES have been moved to the Library.

The 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet is now posted on the wall near the kitchen and Fireside Lounge. No one has signed up for January at this point.


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

Our congregation thanks Paul Henney Cremation & Funeral Tributes, Inc. for the 2023 calendars. There are still a few available as you leave the sanctuary.

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

[illegible]

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE: Today, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Today, by means of bread and wine, communicant. This is His Word and are not a member of a Lutheran pastors at any time about the meaning desire to receive it. When we come to and repentant hearts. As we return we thanksgiving to God for what Jesus 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.

A black and white line drawing of a chalice (cup) with a cross on its front, resting on a host (a round piece of bread).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

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

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

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

[illegible]

For The Month of January, 2023

Acolytes: 8:30 a.m. (1/1, 1/15, 1/29) Jonathan Tarrant
(1/8, 1/22) Elliot McMin
11:00 a.m. Ryan Handshue

<u>Crucifers:</u>	8:30 a.m. (1/8)	Morgan Dolence
	(1/22)	Holly Miller
	11:00 a.m. (1/1)	Sadie Carlson
	(1/15)	Courtney Felicetti
	(1/29)	Holly Miller

Altar Guild: Kathi Siciliano

Counters: 8:30 a.m. Frank Fife and Shane Cox
11:00 a.m. Will Charlton and Kris Wentz

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. Bernard Paterra, John Ruzicka
11:00 a.m. Rich Rostauscher, Mark Riley (1), Mark Sheatsley (8-29)

Coffee Hour: TBD

Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom*

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

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



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

No SWAP meeting tonight.

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

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on January 3rd, 7-9 p.m.

Questions/concerns?

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

This Week At Ruthfred

Today (1/1) CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS/1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:30 a.m.— Communion Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Communion Service

6:00 p.m.—Communion Service

City Mission Food Sunday

Monday (1/2) Church Office Closed

7:00 p.m.—Elders' Meeting

Tuesday (1/3)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

Wednesday (1/4)

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

6:45 p.m.—Confirmation; Kids' Time

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

Friday (1/6) THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

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

Saturday (1/7)

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

Sunday (1/8) BAPTISM OF OUR LORD/EPIPHANY SUNDAY

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

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Welcome! We begin worship and this new year as we
always live: in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Attendance for Last Week:

Christmas Eve...560

Christmas Day...56

Prayer Requests

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

☐ 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

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

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Denise Stutzman
Kids' Time Leader

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