

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

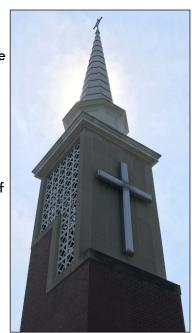
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

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, December 26, 2021

Prelude:

Christmas Carol Medley

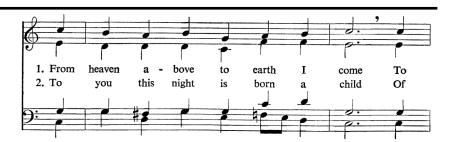
(arr. Gordon Young)

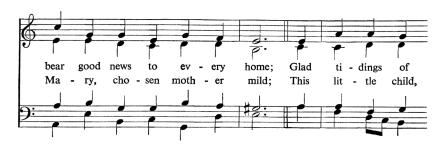
The Opening Hymn:

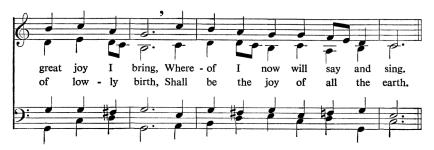
"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

(SBH22)

(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)







- 3 Were earth a thousand times as fair, Beset with gold and jewels rare, She yet were far too poor to be A narrow cradle, Lord, to thee.
- 5 'Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto man his Son hath given,' While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.
- 4 Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child, Make thee a bed, soft undefiled, Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for thee.

Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–78

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

The Confession of Sin (SBH, p. 41)

Pastor (P): Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Congregation (C): Who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

P: Let us bow or kneel for the confession of our sin.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Silent Prayer of Personal Confession)

Together:

O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only-begotten son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives the power to become children of God, and bestows upon them His Holy Spirit. The one who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this O Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen

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).

"Introit" means "to enter into," and is a responsive reading meant to lead God's forgiven children into the worship of Him. The words are from Scripture, and relate to the theme of the day in the liturgical calendar.

"Kyrie" is Latin for Lord, which is the first word of the prayer. Distinct from the confession of sin, it is a prayer for God to grant His mercy in every aspect of our lives and to supply us with all our needs, personally, corporately and for the whole world.

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Your testimonies are very sure.

C: Holiness becomes your house, O Lord, forever. Your throne is established of old.

P: Thou art from everlasting. The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty.

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

(Psalm 93: 1, 2, 5)

The Gloria Patri (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 41)

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 Kyrie (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 48)

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: Christ, have mercy upon us.

C: Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Hymn of Praise:

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" (SBH31)



- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar; Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen his natal star:
- 4 All creation, join in praising
 God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
 Evermore your voices raising
 To the eternal Three in One:

 James Montgomery, 1771–1854, a.

The "collect" is a prayer of the day for each day in the liturgical calendar. It is meant to "collect" the prayers of God's people.

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

The Collect:

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the Name of your beloved Son, we may be made to abound in good works; through the same your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

C: Amen

The Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 13:1-2, 11-15 (NASB)

¹ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."

11 "Now when the Lord brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you, ¹² you shall devote to the Lord the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the Lord. ¹³ But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ It came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to the Lord the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem."

The Psalm: Psalm 111 (NASB, Read Responsively)

P: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly.

C: Great are the works of the Lord; *they are* studied by all who delight in them.

P: Splendid and majestic is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

C: He has made His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

P: He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever.

C: He has made known to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The Psalm: Psalm 111 (NASB, Read Responsively) (cont'd)

P: The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are trustworthy.

C: They are upheld forever and ever; they are performed in truth and uprightness.

P: He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name.

C: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who follow His commandments have a good understanding; His praise endures forever.

The Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17 (NASB)

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

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.

The Gradual:

You are fairer than the children of men. Grace is poured into your lips. My heart is stirred with a good word. 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, wherewith He has girded himself. Alleluia.

(Psalm 45: 1-4)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 2: 22-40 (NASB)

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

And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord. "EVERY *firstborn* MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS." ²⁵ And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, ²⁸ then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹ "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation, ³¹ Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel." ³³ And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— ³⁵ and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when *His parents* had completed everything in accordance with the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. 40 Now the Child continued to grow and to become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

The Congregation shall sing, "Praise be to Thee, O Christ."

<u>The Confession of Faith:</u> The Apostles' Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth

And In Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Special Music

8:30 Women's Quartet (Peggy Glasser, Jill Kurtz, Jeanine Szalinski & Mettelise Ziegler)—*"The Infant Jesus"* (Yon)

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows, Upon a winter night Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced And at His blessed birth the stars, Their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

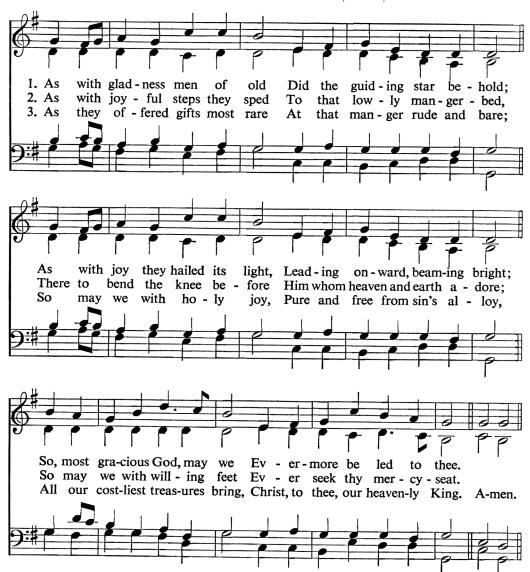
Again the heart with rapture glows, To greet the holy night That gave the word its Christmas Rose, Its King of Love and Light Let every voice acclaim His name, The grateful chorus swell From paradise to earth He came, That we with Him might dwell.

11:00 Christy Hinkelman—*Lullaby* (Beck/Courtney)

The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old" (SBH52)



- 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
 Alleluias to our King. Amen.

William Chatterton Dix, 1837-98

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:

"Rise with Him, or Crash without Him" | Luke 2: 22-40

Sermon Notes:

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)

The Closing & Silent Prayer (Please bow or kneel in prayer)

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison)

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

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:





The Silent Prayer & Chimes

O rest beside the weary road,

And hear the angels sing.

The Postlude: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (arr. Paul Manz)

And all the world give back the song

Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1810-76

Which now the angels sing.

Announcements

<u>The altar flowers</u> are presented by Debbie Skundrich in thankfulness to our Lord for the birth of His Son and for all of our many blessings.

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

<u>Known to be hospitalized:</u> Terry Alwine—Canonsburg Hospital. Please support him with your prayers and cards.

<u>Prayers for Recovery and Healing:</u> Nancy McCloskey is now at the Baptist Home (Room 209) for rehab. Dan Gill is at Townview Health & Rehabilitation Center recovering from surgery for a broken hip. Ray Feller has returned to Concordia in Cabot after his hip surgery. Please also keep Pat Lutz, Larry Holt, and Elaine Grant in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

<u>Upcoming Surgery:</u> John Coldsmith is scheduled to have valve replacement surgery on January 4, hopefully via an artery rather than open heart surgery.

Music Fund: Given by Dorothy Kratz in memory of Conrad Kratz, Sr. and Conrad Kratz, Jr.

<u>Pastor's Fund:</u> Given by Lori and John Yanosich in honor of her mother, Barbara Wilkinson, and his father, Matthew Yanosich, as well as in cherished memory of her father, Don Wilkinson, and his mother, Carol Yanosich. Given by Alfred and Shirley Fascetti in memory of Pastor John Dennis.

<u>Thank you</u> to all who purchased poinsettias to bring beauty to our sanctuary for the Christmas services! If you have not already taken yours, please take them today.

<u>Sunday School TODAY:</u> No formal Children's Sunday School will be held today (to give our teachers a Christmas break). Adult Sunday School will be held. Instead of the study of Romans, Pastor Carlson will be leading the singing of favorite Christmas carols and providing the stories behind some of them. If parents wish to attend the adult class, there will be places for children to go: the Nursery will be staffed for ages 3 and under; a Christian movie will be shown and supervised in the Fellowship Hall for grades Pre-K to 5; youth in grades 6 to 8 may attend the high school class, the movie, or the adult class.

New Year's Eve: There will NOT be an event at the church on New Year's Eve this year because of the number of Christmas events on the calendar.

2021 Contributions: Financial contributions to be recorded in the year 2021 must be postmarked by Friday, December 31, 2021. Contributions postmarked after December 31st will be recorded in 2022.

Bible Reading 2022: We will be reading through the Bible together again in 2022. With the Bible reading app, there will be a reading guide for each day, an opportunity to share comments with others, and additional devotional videos. If you are interested in joining, please contact Don Roose at donroose@yahoo.com or text 412-584-2112. The daily reading schedule will also be posted online on our Ruthfred page. The theme for 2022 will be "The Story Line" as we trace God's story and salvation through the Bible.

<u>The 2022 Flower Chart</u> is now available for your Sunday reservations for altar flowers. It is located by the water fountain in the Patterson Road hallway. Please sign-up if you are able, especially for the January slots.

<u>A New Member Class</u> will begin on Sunday, January 9th. Meetings will be in the Fireside Lounge during Sunday School.

<u>City Mission Food Sundays</u>: First Sunday of Every Month. The mission no longer picks up food donations, so we can always use volunteers to deliver. There is a flyer on the downstairs bulletin board with staple items they can always use. (No glass please.) There will be a box/bin outside the kitchen the first Sunday of the month for your donations. If you would like to make a delivery to the mission, please contact Jill or Roger Kurtz. Thank you for remembering those struggling to put food on their tables.

<u>2022 VBS Director Needed:</u> Please let one of the pastors know if you are interested in leading this vibrant, week-long summer program for kids.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES: have been moved to the Library.

<u>The 2022 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet</u> is now posted on the wall near the kitchen and Fireside Lounge.

<u>Our congregation thanks</u> Paul Henney Cremation & Funeral Tributes, Inc. for the 2022 calendars. There are still a few available as you leave the sanctuary.



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8th Grades)

There will be no SWAP meeting tonight.

TNT (9-12th Grades)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on Tuesday, December 28, 7-9 p.m.

Ouestions/concerns?

Contact: Regan Johnson at ReganJohnson@ruthfred.org, or

(c) (218)-230-5800

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## **Adult SS Class Today In Large Classroom**

Instead of the study of Romans, Pastor Carlson will be leading the singing of favorite Christmas carols and providing the stories behind some of them. Peggy Arelt will accompany on piano.

## **Today in the Upper Room**

<u>Forgiving What You Can't Forget</u>—Join us for a continuing 6-week Bible study in which author Lysa TerKeurst shares her personal journey with forgiveness and what the Bible has to say about letting go of resentment and finding peace. In each individual session, we will explore a step-by-step plan to free ourselves from hurt, disempower triggers that hijack our emotions, deal with difficult relationships, and discover the life-giving freedom that our souls desperately need. All are welcome to join—drop in on any one of the sessions!!!

## This Week At Ruthfred

## Please welcome Essie Efthimiou as our guest organist today.

#### Today (12/26)

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service 9:45 a.m.—Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

#### Tuesday (12/28)

7:00 p.m.— Worship Team

## Wednesday (12/29)

5:45 p.m.— Children's Choir

## Friday (12/31)

HAPPY 91st BIRTHDAY CORNELL GHISE

#### Saturday (1/1) HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# Sunday (1/2) CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.—Communion Service 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Communion Service 6:00 p.m.—Communion Service



Welcome to worship as we continue to revel in the Christmas season. Friends, we're glad you're here!

#### Attendance for Last Week:

Saturday Contemporary...75 Saturday Live Stream...8 Sunday Worship...263 Sunday School...99 8:30 Live Stream Participants...40

## **Prayer Requests**

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| Priva | lease<br>ate (t | o be | t am | ong |  |

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:                         |
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| Address:                          |
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|                                   |
| Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.) |
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| Email:                            |
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|                                   |
| I am a/an:<br>☐ 1st-Time Visitor  |
| 2nd-Time Visitor                  |

I would like to learn more about:

- ■What It Means To Be a Christian
- Church Membership

Out-of-Town VisitorRegular Attendee

- Ruthfred's Ministries or Groups
- ■Ways To Share My Gifts

#### **Ruthfred Staff**

**Rev. Steven P. Carlson** | Senior Pastor (412) 835-7140 (ext. 229) PastorCarlson@ruthfred.org

**Rev. Bryce C. McMinn** | Associate Pastor (412) 835-7140 (ext. 226) PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org

Sally Ondrejko | Office Manager (412) 835-7140 (ext. 222) SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org

Ron Thorhauer | Business Manager (412) 835-7140 (ext. 224) RonThorhauer@ruthfred.org

**Regan Johnson** | Director of Youth Ministry (412) 835-7140 (ext. 240) ReganJohnson@ruthfred.org

Brian Lyskava | Custodian

**Andrew Vogel** | Multi-Media Coordinator (412) 568-3215 AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org

**A. J. Dolence**| Livestream & Social Media Assistant AJDolence@ruthfred.org

**Robert Vogel** | Senior & Bell Choirs rivogel58@gmail.com

Frederick Schell

Organist

Melissa Manzo

Children's Choir

**Denise Stutzman** | Preschool Head Teacher (412) 835-7140 (ext. 234) | DeniseStutzman@ruthfred.org

Lauren Compel & Denise Stutzman

Kid's Time Leaders

#### Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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www.ruthfred.org