

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations ([www.aflc.org](http://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 in Advent, November 27, 2022

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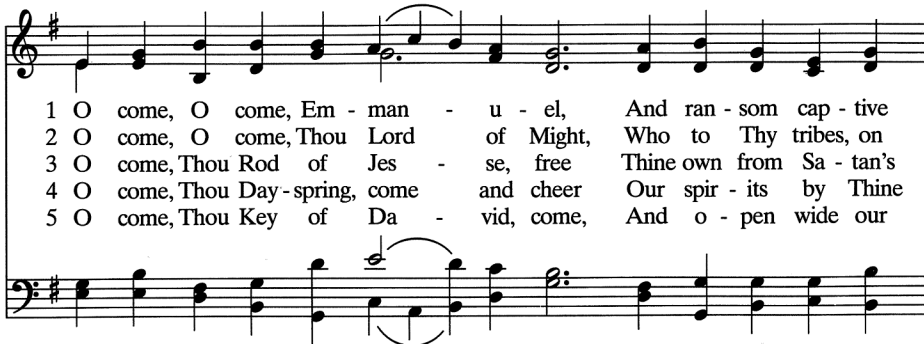
## **Prelude:**

**“Freu dich sehr”** (G. Boehm)

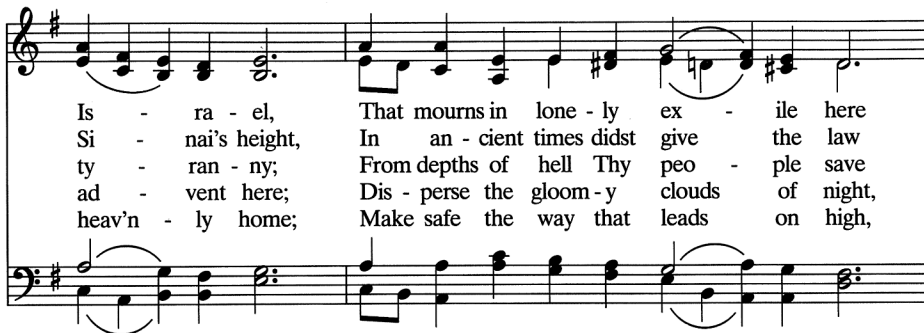
**“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”** (D. Christensen)

# **The Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** (AMB #2)

(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)



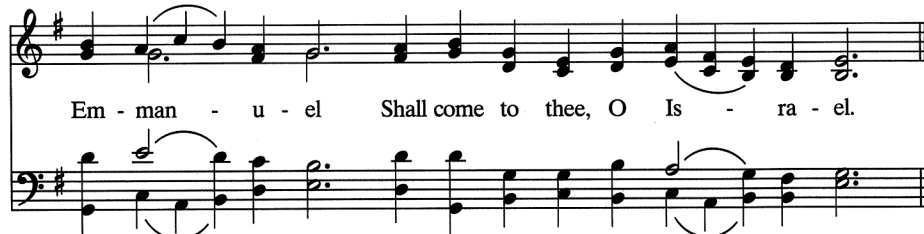
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might, Who to Thy tribes, on  
3 O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's  
4 O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine  
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height, In an - cient times didst give the law  
ty - ran - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save  
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
And give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice, re - joice!  
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Text: medieval antiphons; Latin hymn, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866  
Tune: plainsong melody, Mode I

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL  
88 88 88

## **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 Sins** (SBH, p. 41)

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.

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:**

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).

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

**C: Amen**

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

**The Introit** (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Unto You, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

**C: O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed.**

P: Let not my enemies triumph over me; yes, let none that wait on You be ashamed.

**C: Show me Your ways, O Lord. Teach me Your paths.**

(Psalm 25: 1-4)

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

**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.**

“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 Hymn of Praise:

### "Rejoice, All Ye Believers" (SBH #14)

1. Re - joice, all ye be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
 2. The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing And dark - er night is near;  
 Go meet him as he com - eth With hal - le - lu - jahs clear;

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, And soon he draw - eth nigh;  
 The mar - riage-feast is wait - ing, The gates wide o - pen stand;

Up, pray, and watch, and wres - tle, At mid-night comes the cry!  
 Up, up, ye heirs of glo - ry, The Bride-groom is at hand! A - men.

3 Ye saints, who here in patience  
 Your cross and sufferings bore,  
 Shall live and reign for ever  
 When sorrow is no more.  
 Around the throne of glory  
 The Lamb ye shall behold,  
 In triumph cast before him  
 Your diadems of gold!

4 Our hope and expectation,  
 O Jesus, now appear;  
 Arise, thou Sun so longed for,  
 O'er this benighted sphere!  
 With hearts and hands uplifted,  
 We plead, O Lord, to see  
 The day of earth's redemption  
 That brings us unto thee! Amen.

*Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722*  
*Tr. Sarah Borthwick Findlater, 1823-1907*

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: Stir up, Your power, O Lord, and come; that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins, and saved by Your mighty deliverance; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**C: Amen**

### **The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5** (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. <sup>3</sup> And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war. <sup>5</sup> Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

### **The Psalm: Psalm 122** (NASB)

P: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

**C: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that is built as a city that is compact together;**

P: To which the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD—an ordinance for Israel—to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

**C: For there thrones were set for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.**

P: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.”

**C: “May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces.”**

P: For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, “May peace be within you.”

**C: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.**



### **The Epistle Lesson: Romans 13:8-14** (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law. <sup>9</sup> For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. <sup>11</sup> *Do* this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

### **The Gradual**

Let none that wait on You be ashamed. Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths. Alleluia, alleluia. Show us Your mercy, O Lord and grant us Your salvation. Alleluia. (Psalm 25: 3,4; 85: 7)

### **The Alleluia** (Sung in Unison)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 19:28-40** (NASB)

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

<sup>36</sup> "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. <sup>37</sup> For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>40</sup> Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. <sup>44</sup> For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.

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

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 Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed** (Confessed in Unison)

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

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

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

**The Anthem**

8:30 Senior Choir—*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (Hopkins)

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a Child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thy own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thy all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne. Amen.

**The Special Music**

11:00 Peggy Glasser and April Blackston—*A Stable Lamp Is Lighted*  
(R. Wilbur; arr. by A. Mahnke)

**The Lighting of the First Advent Candle**


**The Reading of The Prophecy: Genesis 3:15**

**The Reading of The Fulfillment: Galatians 4:4**

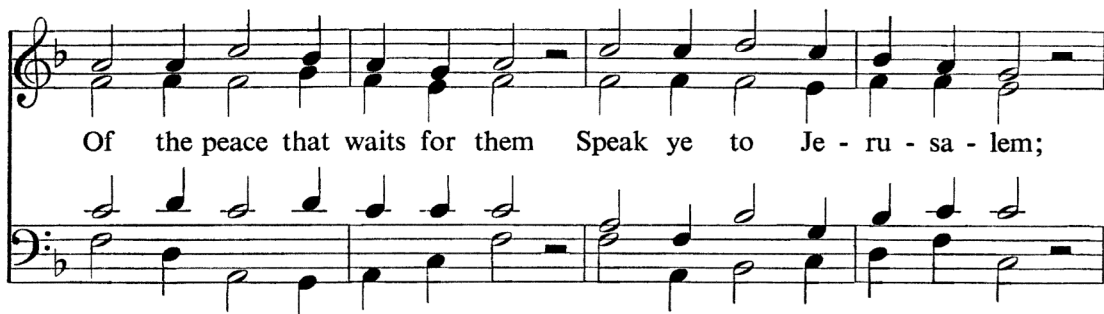
**The Announcements**

**The Children's Object Lesson**

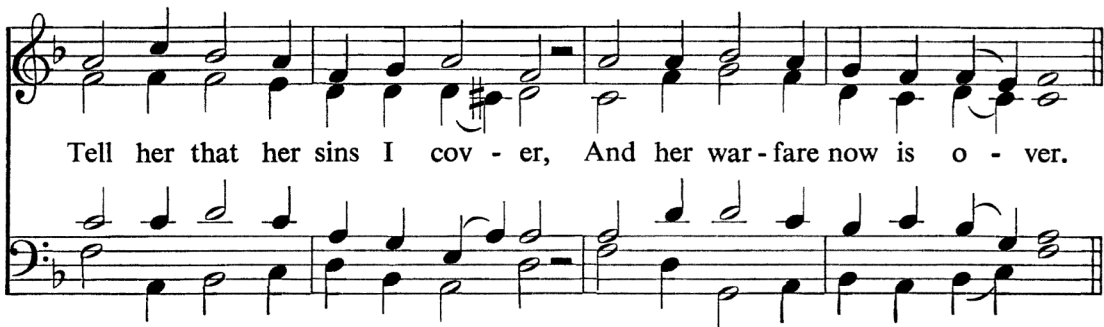
**The Sermon Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People" (SBH #12)**



1. Com-fort, com-fort ye, my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness, Bowed be-neath their sor - row's load;



Of the peace that waits for them Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem;



Tell her that her sins I cov - er, And her war - fare now is o - ver.

2 For the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Bidding all men to repentance,  
Since the kingdom now is here.  
O, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him,  
And the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,  
Make the rougher places plain;  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits his holy reign;  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That his word is never broken.

*Johannes Olearius, 1611-84  
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78 a.*

The Sermon is the central component of our Worship. In it, we hear God's Word taught and explained. We hear His Law, convicting of sin and guiding the believer. We also hear the promises of His Gospel, the Good News of Christ's work for us—His redemption, forgiveness and provision of life eternal.

### The Sermon:

"Be Ready. He Is Coming" | Matthew 24:36-44

### 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:

### "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

(SBH #7, 2nd tune)

*Jubilantly*

1. Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, The watch-men on the  
Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing

*Wake, a - wake, for*

heights are cry - ing, A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last!  
cry re - joic - es: Come forth, ye vir - gins, night is past!

The Bride - groom comes, a - wake, Your lamps with glad - ness take; Al - le - lu - ia!

And for his mar - riage feast pre - pare, For ye must go to meet him there. A - men.

The musical score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef) in G major and 4/4 time. It features a joyful, rhythmic melody with many eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with some words in italics. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
And all her heart with joy is springing,  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom;  
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
The strong in grace, in truth victorious,  
Her Star is risen, her Light is come.

Ah come, thou blessèd One,  
God's own beloved Son,  
Alleluia!  
We follow till the halls we see  
Where thou hast bid us sup with thee.

## The Silent Prayer & Chimes

### The Postlude:

"Fugue in F" (G. P. Telemann)

3 Now let all the heavens adore thee,  
And men and angels sing before thee,  
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone;  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where we are with the choir immortal  
Of angels round thy dazzling throne;

Nor eye hath seen, nor ear  
Hath yet attained to hear  
What there is ours;  
But we rejoice, and sing to thee  
Our hymn of joy eternally. Amen.

*Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608*

*Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–78*

Adapted and harm. by J. S. BACH, 1685–1750

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by the Kurtz family in honor of all military spouses taking care of home and family while their loved one is away serving. Prayers for God's strength, patience, and provision.

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

**Substitute Organist:** Please note that Essi Efthimiou is our long-term substitute organist during Fred's absence. Thank you, Essi!

**Known to be hospitalized:** Fred Schell (broken ribs and now a cancer diagnosis)—UPMC Shadyside Hillman Hospital. (Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.) Fred's birthday is on December 2. Please keep him in your prayers and support him with cards.

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Joe Cawley and Larry Sheatsley are now home. Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's dad) is battling Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma. His mailing address is: 49196 N. Grosse Pointe Shores Rd., Hancock, MI 49930. Derrick Fouks (father of Brandon) was in a car accident on October 9th and sustained serious injuries, but he will soon be home and having in-home physical therapy. (Address: 2463 County Rd. H, Deer Park, WI 54007.) Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

**Pastor's Fund:** Given by Carol and Don McDowell in remembrance of Shirley Watson. Given by Mary Lou and Joe McKenna in loving memory of Shirley Watson. Given by Sandy and Fred Pellegrino in loving memory of Shirley Watson.

**Christmas Giving Tree:** A tree outside the elevator is decorated with small red & green envelopes to benefit the Adopt-A-Family program. This program benefits local families who cannot provide meals, or gifts, for their family at Christmas. The holidays are one of the most expensive times of the year for families—especially those who are struggling to make ends meet. Your generosity can help alleviate this burden. Last year this program helped over 200 local families to enjoy Christmas. If you can possibly donate a gift card to Giant Eagle, Shop N Save, Walmart, Aldi's, Eat 'N Park, or Target, it would help provide food, and possibly a small gift, this Christmas. Please include the gift card receipt, or write the dollar amount on the envelope, and then either place it in the weekly offering basket or take it to the office where there is a decorated collection bin. All gift cards must be turned in by Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. I will deliver them the next day. Thank you! **Carol Ward (412) 559-2592**

**Additional Christmas Giving Tree:** This year we will be collecting items for the January opening of a new emergency shelter for female survivors of sex trafficking and/or sexual violence/exploitation—Refuge for Women, a faith-based ministry. They will provide temporary housing, crisis intervention, and support services. The shelter will have 10 bedrooms. They are in need of hair dryers, sweatshirts, and sweatpants. (Any size and any color for the clothing.) Tags are available on the tree in the Fireside Lounge. Please return your donations, unwrapped, to the lounge by December 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jill Kurtz with any questions.

**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](mailto:melissabostaph@ruthfred.org).

## Announcements (cont'd)

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** are now on a table in the hall near the elevator on the Sanctuary level. Please pick your envelopes up this morning if you have not already done so!

**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.

**Poinsettia Orders:** It's that time of year! Again we are providing an opportunity for you to place a poinsettia plant in memory of or in honor of loved ones to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Christmas. Envelopes are in the pew racks. The cost is \$12.50 per plant. There are new, larger envelopes this year. Be sure to place your dedication on the envelope. Remember to write your name & color preference (red or white) on the envelope as well. Please place your cash/check in the envelope and drop it in the collection plate or in the box in the Church Office.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Once again, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for their continued generosity. Last Monday night I dropped off 136 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes at the South Hills Bible Chapel, which means that 136 children from around the world will have a gift to open at Christmas! Last year's total was 111, so this was a significant increase. Thank you so very much! **Carol Ward**

**Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets:** Pastor Carlson's stewardship letter, along with pledge cards and time and talent sheets, has been mailed. Please prayerfully complete your pledge card and time and talent sheet and return them by next Sunday. Your faithfulness is a blessing!

**Kane Regional Center Angel Tree:** Since the Baptist Home has closed, we will be collecting gifts for the 25 residents of Kane. These are people who have no one else to bring them joy at Christmas. There is a tree in the Fireside Lounge with gift tags attached. Please take a tag and follow the directions on the sign-up sheet. The due date is December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Jan Ruzicka at 724-941-3572. Thank you for your generosity!

**Journey Through the Word:** Both morning and evening sessions are up and running, but you can still join one of these Wednesday studies. The morning group is studying *1 Corinthians*, using N. T. Wright's study guide. Contact Sue Swan if you would like more information: 412-708-3535 or writing [cygnet@gmail.com](mailto:cygnet@gmail.com). The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah's The Book of Signs. Each lesson stands alone, and there are plenty of books. The lesson for November 30<sup>th</sup> will be "America: Is America in Prophecy (Gospels)". Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

**Attention All Parents:** Our Christmas program has been on hiatus, but this year it is back! It will be on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to have all involved, from the littlest to the biggest, so all children from preschool through high school are invited to participate. Remaining rehearsal times for children in grades one and up will be: 12:30—2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and during Sunday School on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided on the 4th. If you have questions, please contact Kerry Macugoski, Donna Weighley, or Erin McMinn.



# YOUTH NEWS

## SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is NO **SWAP** tonight.

Save the date: SWAP Christmas Party on December 18th, 5-8 p.m.

**All 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 Wentz 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 November 29<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

Save the date: TNT Christmas Party on December 17th, 7-10 p.m.

## Questions/concerns?

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



		Expenses Compared to Receipts			
<u>RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES OF BUDGETED FUNDS</u>		Member Donations	Transfers to Other Funds	Less:	Surplus/ (Shortfall)
				Actual Expenses	
Year to Date October 31, 2022					
	Current	689,632*	(44,000)	678,606	(32,974)
	Building	31,791		55,689	(23,898)
	Benevolence	138,047	44,000	176,021	6,025
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>859,470</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>910,316</b>	<b>(50,847)</b>

\* Includes special gift from Birmingham UCC — see article in March Herald newsletter.

## **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!

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**Please join us**

Children's Christmas Program

**"The Son Has Come"**

Sunday, December 11th  
4 pm in the Sanctuary

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Congregational potluck dinner to follow  
Please sign up at the bottom of the stairs by the  
Fellowship Hall by December 4th.  
Meat, rolls, and drinks will be provided.

Please bring the following:  
Last names A-K: salads  
Last names L-S: sides (not salads)  
Last names T-Z: desserts



## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (11/27) FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Herald deadline

**MONDAY (11/28)**

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders Meeting

**TUESDAY (11/29)**

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

**Wednesday (11/30) St. Andrew, Apostle**

9:15 a.m.—JTTW

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:00 Forkless dinner

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

6:45 p.m.—Confirmation; JTTW; Kids' Time

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

## Friday (12/2)

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

**SUNDAY (12/4) SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

## 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

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

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and a new church year. Welcome to this rich season of worship!

**Attendance for Last Week:**

Saturday Evening Service...48

Sunday Worship...262    Sunday School...148

8:30 Live Stream ...38

“Christmas is also a time to contemplate the gift of mortal LIFE through the miracle of birth. Christmas is the gift of LOVE that moms and dads shower on their children by saying yes to life—sometimes under very difficult circumstances. Regardless of the challenges,

God has a perfect plan for each life that He brings into the world, and His will for them is to out-sparkle and out-shine any ornament." *Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request Private (to be kept amongst the pastors only).

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

## Visiting with us?

Please use this tear-off section to help us get to know a little bit about you and how we may best serve you.

If you have a specific concern or prayer request, please use the space on the other side of this fold.

Date:

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Name:

---

Children:

---

Address:

---

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

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Email:

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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

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

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

**Melissa Bostaph** | Parish Assistant  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 225)  
[MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org](mailto:MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org)

**Sally Ondrejko** | Office Manager  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 222)  
[SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org](mailto:SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org)

**John Morden** | Accounting Manager  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 224)  
[JohnMorden@ruthfred.org](mailto:JohnMorden@ruthfred.org)

**Felicia Rieck** | Administrative Assistant  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 221)  
[FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org](mailto:FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org)

**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

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

**A. J. Dolence** | Live Stream & Social Media Assistant  
[AJDolence@ruthfred.org](mailto:AJDolence@ruthfred.org)

**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Frederick Schell**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

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

**Lauren Compel & Denise Stutzman**  
Kids' Time Leaders

### Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road  
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102  
Phone: (412) 835-7140  
Email: [ruthfred@ruthfred.org](mailto:ruthfred@ruthfred.org)