

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

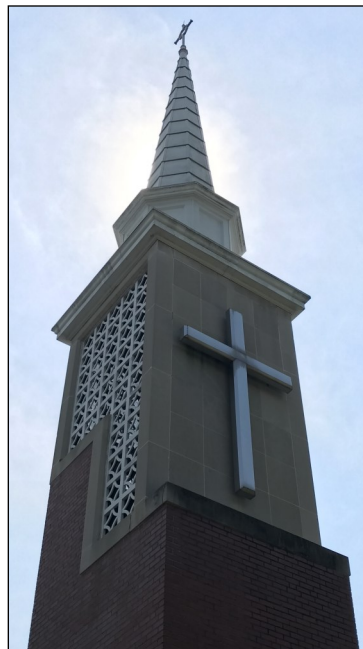
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

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 basket.

About Us:

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

Prelude:

"Prelude on
'Dundee'"

(E. W. Beals)

"Lord, Whose
Love in Humble
Service"

(E. A. Krouse)

The Opening Hymn:

"O Master, Let Me
Walk with Thee"

(SBH #537)

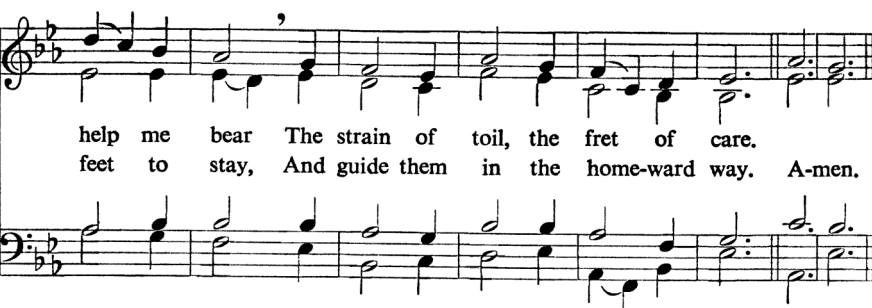
(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)



1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee In low - ly
2. Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,



paths of serv - ice free; Tell me thy se - cret;
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward



help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, And guide them in the home-ward way. A-men.

3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong;

4 In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give;
With thee, O Master, let me live. Amen.

Washington Gladden, 1836-1918

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 (SBH, p. 1)

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 (SBH, p. 252)

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

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

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

C: Amen.

The Giving of the Peace

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

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

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

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

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Consider the covenant.

C: O let not the oppressed return ashamed.

P: Arise, O God, plead Your own cause.

C: Forget not the voice of Your enemies.

P: O God, why have You cast us off forever?

C: Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture? (Psalm 74:1, 20-23)

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21 (NASB)

¹⁵ You who know, O LORD, Remember me, take notice of me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. Do not, in view of Your patience, take me away; know that for Your sake I endure reproach. ¹⁶ Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the circle of merrymakers, Nor did I exult. Because of Your hand *upon me* I sat alone, for You filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why has my pain been perpetual and my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will You indeed be to me like a deceptive *stream* with water that is unreliable? ¹⁹ Therefore, thus says the LORD, "If you return, then I will restore you—before Me you will stand; and if you extract the precious from the worthless, You will become My spokesman. They for their part may turn to you, but as for you, you must not turn to them. ²⁰ Then I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; and though they fight against you, they will not prevail over you; for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. ²¹ So I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem you from the grasp of the violent."

The Gradual (SBH, p. 100)

Consider the covenant. O let not the oppressed return ashamed. Arise, O God, plead Your own cause. Forget not the voice of Your enemies. Alleluia, alleluia. O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee. Alleluia. (Psalm 74: 20-21; 88:1)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:21-28 (NASB)

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

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. ²² Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. ²⁸ "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

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

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

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

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

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who 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.

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 Anthem

11:00: Senior Choir—"Canticle of Fellowship" (C. Courtney)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and patience.

Forgive each other as the Lord forgave you.
And over all these virtues put on love.

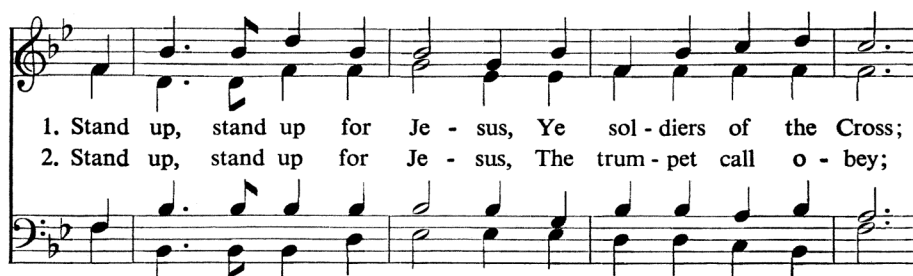
Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds, Is like to that above.
Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Love.

We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows, The sympathizing tear.
When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Love.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and joy shall reign throughout eternity.
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Love.

The Announcements

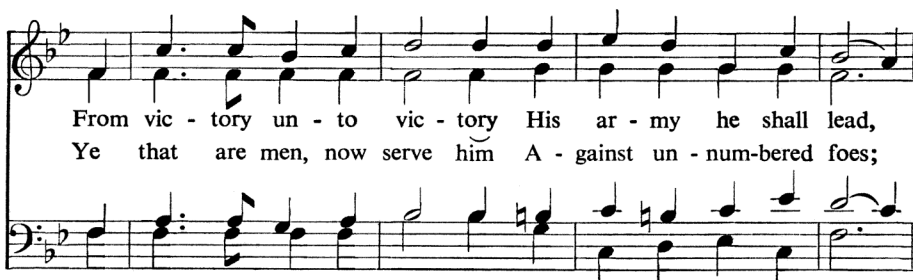
The Sermon Hymn: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" (SBH #551, 2nd tune)



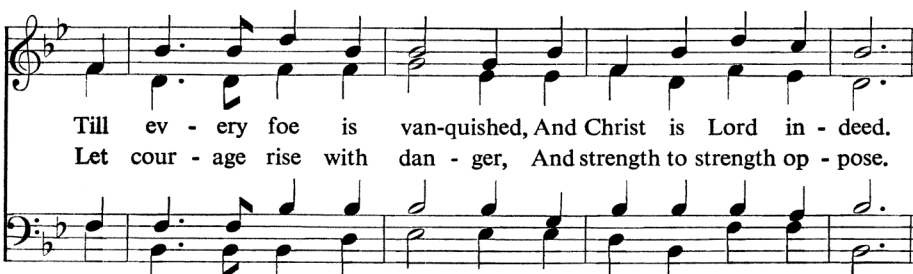
1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the Cross;
2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, The trum - pet call o - bey;



Lift high his roy - al ban - ner, It must not suf - fer loss:
Forth to the might - y con - flict In this his glo - rious day:



From vic - tory un - to vic - tory His ar - my he shall lead,
Ye that are men, now serve him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;



Till ev - ery foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger, And strength to strength op - pose.

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Stand in his strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own:
Put on the gospel armor,
Each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle,
The next the victor's song:
To him that overcometh
A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally.

George Duffield, 1818-88

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

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

The Sermon:

"You Standing with God, Or the World?" | Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon Notes:

The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand) (SBH, p. 6/27)

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. (Psalm 51:10-12)

The Service for Communion (SBH, p. 9)

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.

(continued on next page)

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

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

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

The Service for Communion (cont'd)

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 (SBH, p. 12)

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

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

The Lord's Prayer (SBH, p. 12)

P: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

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

P: The peace of the Lord be with you 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

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.

During Communion:
"According to Thy Gracious Word" (SBH #266)

1. Ac - cord - ing to thy gra - cious word, In meek hu - mil - i - ty,
2. Thy Bod - y, bro - ken for my sake, My bread from heaven shall be;
3. Geth - sem - a - ne can I for - get, Or there thy con - flict see,

This will I do, my dy - ing Lord, I will re - mem - ber thee.
Thy tes - ta - men - tal cup I take, And thus re - mem - ber thee.
Thine ag - o - ny and blood - y sweat, And not re - mem - ber thee? A - men.

4 When to the Cross I turn mine eyes, 5 Remember thee, and all thy pains,
And rest on Calvary, And all thy love to me;
O Lamb of God, my Sacrifice, Yea, while a breath, a pulse remains,
I must remember thee! Will I remember thee.

6 And when these failing lips grow dumb,
And mind and memory flee,
When thou shalt in thy kingdom come,
Jesus, remember me. Amen.

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

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.

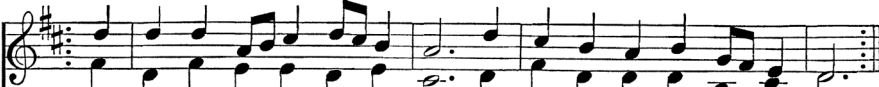
(Numbers 6:24-26)

The Closing Hymn:



"A Mighty Fortress"
(SBH #150)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes



The Postlude:
"Ein Feste Burg"
(J. Pachelbel)




1. A might-y for-ress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail - ing;
Our help-er he a - mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre - vail - ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide Our striv-ing would be los - ing;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his



great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
Name, From age to age the same, And he must win the bat - tle.



- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him. | 4 That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever. |
|--|---|

*Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–90
Based on Psalm 46*

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Norma, Robert, Lynn, Jennifer, Andrew, and Cassie Vogel in loving memory of Linda Vogel, who entered glory nineteen years ago today.

Special thanks to Kurt Ziegler, Rory Smith, and Steve Cox. They are reading Scriptures and serving as Communion Assistants at 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6 p.m., respectively.

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

Known to be hospitalized: None known.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Michelle Hopkins and her family as she continues to battle another illness. Dot Corbett—back at Halcyon Senior Living. Dan Gill—broken hip. Dee Coldsmith—Providence Point. Gene Hershberger—treatment for lung cancer. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Virginia DiSalvo. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

In hospice care: Cliff Morton and John Coldsmith.

Livestream and Pastors Funds: Given by Chris and Marcia Clark in honor of Andrew Vogel.

Sunday School Fund: Given by Virginia DiSalvo in memory of Joanne Salvetti.

A Sincere Thank You: Thanks to our pastor and all the dear people at Ruthfred Lutheran Church for the many expressions of love and sympathy when Jim went to be with the Lord. They were such a comfort and so appreciated by us all!—*Joanne Segerdahl & family*

Senior Choir: The Senior Choir has returned to a job they love, singing at Ruthfred's worship services. It's not too late to join them. If you have a pleasant singing voice, prayerfully consider attending our rehearsal this Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Handbell Choir: The Handbell Choir rehearsals will begin this Wednesday, September 6, at 6:30 p.m. If you are high school age or older and have basic music reading skills, please consider joining us!

Kids' Time Volunteers Needed: Do you enjoy games and teaching kids about the Word of God? If so, we need you for **Wednesday** night **Kids' Time** starting September 20 to help spread the love of Jesus. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Mason Mitchell at MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org. Thank you!

Confirmation 2023-2024: This year the junior (7th grade) and senior (8th grade) confirmands will meet together, starting on Wednesday, September 20th. If you have a student starting 7th grade, or an older student who has not been confirmed and would like to be, please call the church office and speak with Felicia or Sally. Letters have been sent to members of last year's junior class and their parents regarding the start of classes for their second (senior) year.

Save the Date! Fall Family Sunday School Rally Day will be Sunday, September 10th at 9:45 a.m. Please join us for food, fellowship, and a meet-and-greet with the Sunday School teachers. This is for ALL families, from nursery through 12th grade.

Service Opportunity: Please consider donating breakfast goodies for our Fall Family Sunday School Rally Day on Sunday, September 10th. Sign-up sheets are located by the sanctuary and at the bottom of the stairs near the Fellowship Hall. Contact Coltin Cox with any questions: coltincox@ruthfred.org.

Announcements (cont'd)

Save the Date for the Fall Festival/Harvest Party at the Cox Farm: Get ready for some fall fun with your Ruthfred family on Saturday, October 21, from 3—8 p.m. We are going to have a chili/mac and cheese cook-off, as well as a bonfire and hayrides. Stay tuned for updates!

Children's Choir: Children in grades 1-6 are invited to meet together on Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:40, starting September 13, to enjoy a time of biblical, Scripture-centered music education. For more information, please contact Melissa Manzo, 724-518-0220 or mmanzos@yahoo.com.

Craft & Sew: Our start-up date for the Craft & Sew is Monday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. For further information on the sewers, please contact Arlene Ball. For further information on the crafters, please contact Kathy Rostauscher. If you can cut, paste, or sew a straight seam, we could use your help.

Knit Wits: The KNIT WITS knitting and crochet group, which meets monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 10:00 a.m., will be resuming on September 14. Please join us!

Wednesday morning Journey Through the Word: It's time to look forward to the fall! We're excited to be studying the book of Ecclesiastes for the first seven weeks, starting September 13. Ecclesiastes has much to teach us about wisdom from the wisest person who ever lived, King Solomon. The Bible frequently contrasts the wise and the foolish. This book will help us understand how to live our lives in and with God's wisdom. Starting on November 1st, we'll finish this session with a four-week study of Ruth. Everyone is welcome! We have study groups for both women and men and an online discussion group. Please fill out a registration form and put it in the basket outside the sanctuary across from the elevator. Or check the church website (www.ruthfred.org) to register online.

Service Opportunity: Morning JTTW would like to offer babysitting services during their meetings so that parents with very young children can attend the meetings. If you would be able to volunteer for about 2 1/2 hours on Wednesday mornings to care for these youngsters, please contact Sally or Felicia in the church office.

Volunteer Guidelines: Please note that **all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances** in order to serve with children and youth at VBS, Sunday School, and youth events. Clearances are good for 5 years. Contact Felicia Rieck in the church office for more information.

"Souper" September: We are again going to hold our annual "Souper" September soup drive in memory of Pastor Dennis. It's hard to believe that it has been 15 years since he was called to his heavenly home! This year's donations will benefit S.H.I.M. (South Hills Interfaith Movement) located in Bethel Park, and also City Mission in Washington, PA. Any type of soup will be accepted, but they are especially in need of low-sodium soups. The container where you may place your donations will be in the Fireside Lounge beginning Sunday, 9/3, and the last day to drop off will be Sunday, 9/24. For questions please contact Carol Ward at (412) 559-2592 or wardmail-box1@gmail.com. Thank you!

Attention all XYZers: We will have our first meeting at noon on September 22nd. The sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board outside the Library. Andy Amrhein from Evey Hardware will share about favorite products and tips for the home. Please be sure to sign up to hear the program and also to experience a great lunch, lovingly prepared by our own Peggy Cox.

2023-2024 Preschool Registration is now open online at ruthfred.org. For further information or to schedule a tour please contact AnnieBuzon @ruthfred.org. Spaces are available.

Announcements

New Member Address: The following new member address was inadvertently left out of the bulletin on August 13: Elizabeth Sovitski, 3261 South Park Rd., Bethel Park, PA 15102.

Leaders of Youth Today Email (LYTE) Sign-Up: This group is a monthly email chain for anyone who wants to stay up-to-date with current events in the lives of youth and youth culture, including the health and events of Ruthfred youth. LYTE will serve as a training and equipping resource for those who serve the youth of our church, both within the walls and outside the walls. If you have a desire for the youth in our congregation to know and love Jesus within the culture where they live, this group is for you. Please contact our Youth Director, Coltin Cox, if you would like to be added to the list: ColtinCox@ruthfred.org.

Ruthfred 75th Anniversary Committee Request: Next April, Ruthfred will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its incorporation. Planning has begun for celebrating this milestone. If you would like to join the planning committee, please contact Becky Evans. In the meantime, please be thinking about your happiest memories of Ruthfred. If you are willing to share a memory or memories, there is a collection box on the table near the elevator on the lower level. Or, feel free to send an email to ruthfred@ruthfred.org. Thank you for blessing us with your memories.

Benevolence Committee Meeting: We will meet Monday, September 18, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge to continue discussion of the 2024 budget. We welcome any member of the congregation.



Kids' Time

Did you love VBS? Then come and join us Wednesday nights for some fun, friends, and fellowship—all while learning more about God's Love.

WHEN: Wednesday nights, Sept 20, 2023 - Feb 21, 2024

TIME: 6:45-8:00 p.m.

WHO: All kids in grades Kindergarten-5th

Register here:

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/ruthfredlutherankids-time2023>

NO Registration Fee

Please contact Mason Mitchell with any questions: masonmitchell@ruthfred.org.

For The Month of September

Acolytes:

8:30 a.m. (9/3)
(9/10)
(9/17)
(9/24)

Elliot McMinn
Asher Manzo
Elliott McMinn
Asher Manzo

11:00 a.m. (9/3)
(9/10)
(9/17)
(9/24)

Evan Gusky
Ryan Handshue
Evan Gusky
Ryan Handshue

Crucifers:

11:00 a.m. (9/3)
8:30 a.m. (9/10)
11:00 a.m. (9/17)
8:30 a.m. (9/24)

Morgan Dolence
Courtney Felicetti
Holly Miller
Holly Miller

Altar Guild:

Debbie Skundrich

Counters:

8:30 a.m.
1 1:00 a.m.

Mark Killinger, Steve Cox
Josh Cox, Eric Wente

Ushers:

8:30 a.m.

Bernard Paterra, John Ruzicka

1 1:00 a.m.

George Barrett, Ray Urksa

Coffee Hour:

Lynn Vogel

[illegible]

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



Adult Sunday School Class Today In Large Classroom

Why is Ruthfred part of a national church body called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)? What's the AFLC, what's a congregation, and why does that matter to me? Pastor McMinn and others will guide the adult Sunday School class through a series called "*The Gospel in The Congregation*," written in part by Pastor James Molstre, a former pastor at Ruthfred. Join us for this series, which includes great videos and a short, helpful workbook. Don't assume you already understand the Biblical role of a congregation and your part in it.

Come and see for yourself what it's all about.

This Sunday we will begin **Lesson 7—Mutual Assistance**.

Adult Sunday School Class In the Upper Room

Add to your calendar: We are pleased to announce that the Upper Room Sunday School Class looks forward to kicking off on Sunday, September 17th for all adults, as well as young adults who have recently graduated. The initial series information will be shared in the upcoming weeks, with the opportunity to grow in our faith with a small group video- and discussion-based format. We look forward to seeing you all on the 17th!

Summer Sunday School for Kids

Miss Bunny (Barger) and Miss Susan (Wholey) will continue their wonderful Sunday School class for 4- & 5-year-olds through the summer. Jason Weighley & Friends will offer a special Sunday School series for kids ages 6—5th grade featuring the Torchlighters' animated films about heroes of the Faith. Students in grade 6 and up will join Coltin for youth Sunday School classes.

YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is **NO SWAP** tonight.

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet on Tuesday, September 5th, at Ruthfred, 7—9 p.m.

Save the date: "See You at the Pole" on Wednesday, September 27th.

Questions/concerns?

**Contact: Coltin Cox at ColtinCox@ruthfred.org, or
(c) (724)-825-9790**

This Week At Ruthfred

Today (9/3) 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

Monday (9/4) LABOR DAY

Church Office closed

Tuesday (9/5)

Preschool Opens (3-year-olds)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

Wednesday (9/6)

Preschool Opens (4-year-olds)

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

Friday (9/8)

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

Saturday (9/9)

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

Sunday (9/10)

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School (Family Rally Day)

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

6:30 p.m.—GIFT Bible Study @ the Kurtzes' house

Welcome! As we transition from summer to fall, God leads us, steady in love and care, even as our seasons change. Let us worship!

Attendance for Last Week:

Church...214 Sunday School...54

8:30 Live Stream...37

SWAP...18 TNT...20

Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request private (for the pastor only).

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

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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Robert Vogel
Senior & Bell Choirs

Essi Efthimiou
Organist

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

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Annie Buzon | Preschool Director
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