

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

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

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

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

About Us:

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



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

The Divine Service of the Word

The Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18, 2022

Prelude:

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

(W. F. Bach)

“Pastorale”

(P. Tietz)

“Away in a Manger”

(arr. Linker)

The Opening Hymn:

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

(Worship & Rejoice #153)

(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D.

The “invocation” is Latin for “call upon.” In the Invocation we remember our baptism and acknowledge God as our Father. We are reminded that through Christ’s name we have access to the Father’s throne by the Holy Spirit. Because we are children of God, we have the privilege to invite (invoke) God’s presence and blessing upon this service of “divine liturgy” in which we receive the Work of God through His Word and Spirit, and also in which we offer up to God our praise as an act of worship. *Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:15; Ephesians 2:18*

We confess our sins at the beginning of each service, because we are coming into the presence of a holy God. Though we are sinners who daily struggle with sin, we are invited to come to Him to receive the forgiveness of sin earned for us by Jesus. Through this forgiveness, we are given a right standing before a holy God.

Because sin is both corporate and personal, we confess our sins together, and privately in the silence of our hearts.

The Absolution is based upon God’s instruction in Luke 24:47 that repentance and the forgiveness of sins should be widely proclaimed in the name of Jesus. (See also 1 John. 1:9).

The Call to Worship and Invocation

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

Congregation (C): Amen

The Confession of Sins (SBH, p. 15)

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 forgave 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

“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 from the Greek word 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: Drop down, you heavens, from above.

C: And let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open.

P: And let them bring forth salvation. The heavens declare the glory of God.

C: And the firmament shows His handiwork.

(Isaiah 45:8; Psalm 19: 1)

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 Kyrie (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 18)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace that is from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for them that in faith, piety and fear of God offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, pity and defend us, O God, by Thy grace.

C: Amen.

The Hymn of Praise:

"Angels, We Have Heard on High"

(SBH #30)

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?

And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.

4 See him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.

*Traditional French carol
Alt., Earl Marlatt, 1892-*

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, we pray. Come and with great might help and deliver us, that by the help of Your grace whatsoever is hindered by our sins may be readily accomplished through Your mercy and grace; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

C: Amen

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16 (NASB)

¹⁰ Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!" ¹³ Then he said, "Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows *enough* to refuse evil and choose good. ¹⁶ For before the boy will know *enough* to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring on you, on your people, and on your father's house such days as have never come since the day that Ephraim separated from Judah, the king of Assyria."

The Magnificat (Read Responsively, Luke 1: 46-55)

P: And Mary said: My soul exalts the Lord.

C: And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

P: For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

C: For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name.

P: AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

C: He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

P: He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, and has exalted those who were humble.

C: HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; and sent away the rich empty handed.

P: He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy.

C: As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:1-7 (NASB)

¹ Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, ⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, ⁶ among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; ⁷ to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called *as* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gradual

The Lord is near unto all them that call upon Him. To all that call upon Him in truth. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord and let all flesh bless His holy Name. Alleluia, alleluia. You are my help and my deliverer. Make no delay, O my God. Alleluia. (Psalm 145:18, 21; 70:5)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25 (NASB)

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

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

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

Today we are privileged to witness the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We believe that Baptism is God's work. It is not merely a symbolic application of water, but water used according to God's command and in connection with His Word (see Matt. 28:19-20). In Baptism God causes us to be born again through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (see Titus 3:5 and 1 Peter 3:21). For little Zoe Rose, Baptism marks the beginning of a new life in Christ that is nourished through a lifetime of continually hearing and learning God's Word.

The Baptismal Hymn: "Away in a Manger" (SBH #47)

Tenderly

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord
Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky looked
down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay. A-men.

2 The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle to watch lullaby.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there. Amen.

St. 1, 2, Anonymous

St. 3, John Thomas McFarland, 1851-1913

The Baptism of Zoe Rose Dalessandro (11:00 a.m.)

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of Christian belief used since the early Church. It's not specific to any one Christian denomination, but used by the Church as a whole. We choose to confess it together as a unified reminder of what we believe to be true about God, and His caring service to us.

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 Anthems

8:30 Bell Choir—*"Carol of the Bells"* (McChesney)

11:00 Senior Choir—*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* (Praetorius/Parker/Shaw)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The Lighting Of The Fourth Advent Candle

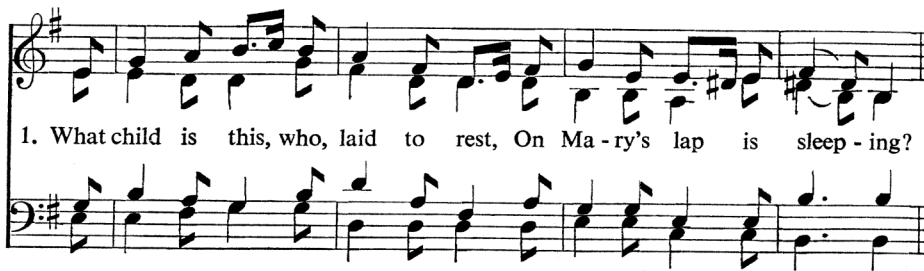
The Reading of the Prophecy: Isaiah 9:2

The Reading of the Fulfillment: John 8:12

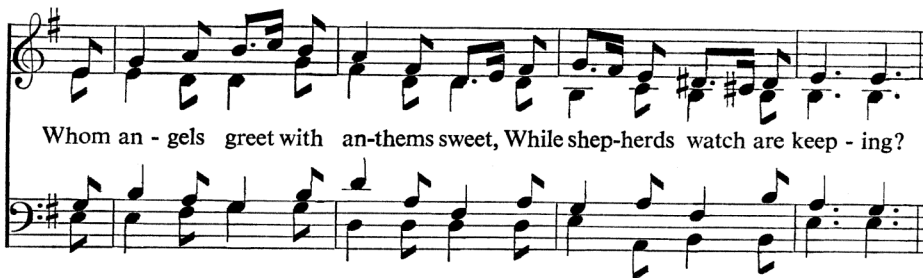
The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn: "What Child Is This?" (SBH #48)

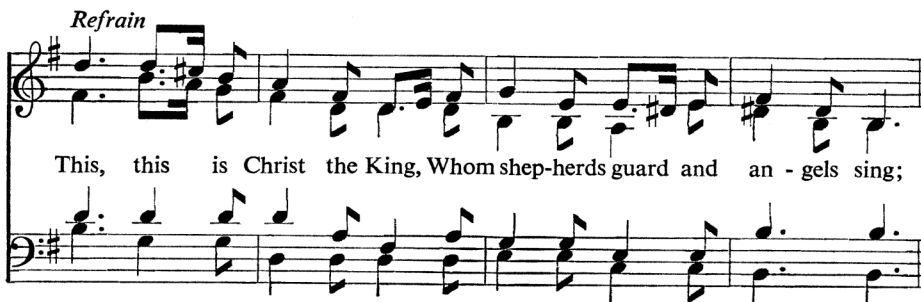


1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?

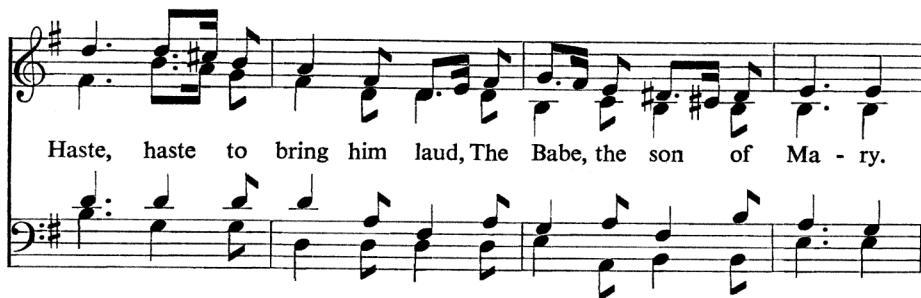


Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, While shep-herds watch are keep-ing?

Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The Babe, the son of Ma-ry.

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

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: "The Miracle of the Christmas Child" | Isaiah 7:10-16

The Offertory Response

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:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

(SBH #27, 1st tune)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

Postlude:

"How Great Our Joy" (arr. Mansfield)

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - . . ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth! A-men.

3 How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel! Amen.

Phillips Brooks, 1835-93

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Donna and Jason Weighley in celebration of Racheal's 21st birthday.

The chancel rail flowers are presented by Carol Munro in loving memory of Bob Munro.

Nursery Sunday: 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.) Terry Alwine—St. Clair Hospital. Please keep them in your prayers and support them with cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's dad) is battling Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma. Cards can be sent to his attention at the Carlson's house. Please keep him in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

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

Official Act: On Saturday, December 17, 2022, Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn officiated at a funeral for Carol June Mueller in the Ruthfred sanctuary at 11 a.m.

Livestream Fund: Given by Lois Montgomery in appreciation for being able to attend the online services. "I feel blessed. Thank you very much!"

Condolences: Our pastors and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Linda Donolo and family upon the death of her great-aunt, Carol Mueller. Carol passed away on Monday, December 12, 2022. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Sunday School on December 25th: Because Christmas falls on a Sunday, there will be no Sunday School that day.

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

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. Thank you to everyone who filled up the January slots! Please note that the cost of altar flowers has increased from \$40 to \$50 for next year.

Announcements

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.

Thank you for the Adopt-A-Family Gift cards!!! This past week I dropped off your gift cards totaling \$4,035 to Adopt A Family/South Hills. Wow, you exceeded last year's amazing total of \$3,300, and your generosity continues to amaze me! Please know that these gift cards will make a world of difference to so many struggling local families, truly our neighbors, this Christmas. Thank you so very much! Carol Ward. As an addendum, Boy Scout Troop 215, to which Nathan Stutzman belongs, delivered gift cards at the Council meeting to be passed on to Adopt-A-Family. The director of the program described this addition as "a Christmas miracle." She had just received the names of two more families to serve, and she did not know how she was going to find the resources, and then this extra gift was given.

2022 Contributions: Financial contributions to be recorded in the year 2022 must be postmarked by Saturday, December 31, 2022. Contributions postmarked after December 31st will be recorded in 2023.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES: are now by the elevators near the Sanctuary. Please pick your envelopes up this morning if you have not already done so!

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.

The 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet is now posted on the wall near the kitchen and Fireside Lounge.

Additional Christmas Giving Tree: We are 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 any size sweatshirts and sweatpants. Tags are available on the tree in the Fireside Lounge. Please return your donations, unwrapped, to the lounge by today. Contact Jill Kurtz with any questions.

Kane Regional Center Angel Tree: Since the Baptist Home has closed, we are collecting gifts for the 25 residents of Kane. These are people who have no one else to bring them joy at Christmas. All of the tags have been taken, so please be sure to return your gifts by today. If you have any questions, please call Jan Ruzicka at 724-941-3572. Thank you for your generosity!

Journey Through the Word: Morning JTTW is taking a break until after the holidays. Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about their study starting in January: 412-708-3535 or writingcygnet@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. Evening JTTW is paused until January 11, 2023. Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

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

Lutherans for Life Quote: "There is no more clear-pointed, rest-giving demonstration of the love of God for you than the gift of His Son." — *Paul David Tripp, pastor, author, conference speaker*

Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom*

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

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



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

SWAP Christmas Party at Ruthfred tonight, December 18th, 5-8 p.m.

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

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on December 20th, 7-9 p.m.

Questions/concerns?

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

This Week At Ruthfred

Today (12/18) 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service (Dale's baptism)

Monday (12/19)

11:00 a.m.—Preschool Christmas Program (4 YO)

Tuesday (12/20)

11:00 a.m.—Preschool Christmas Program (3 YO)

6:30 p.m.—Gideons' Christmas Dinner

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

Wednesday (12/21)

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

Happy 91st Birthday to Lorraine Christman!

Thursday (12/22)

10:00 p.m.—Knit Wits

Saturday (12/24) CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m.—Worship Service

7:00 p.m.—Worship Service (Livestream available)

9:00 p.m.—Worship Service

Sunday (12/25) CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m.—Communion Service

"... and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). What message is more comforting and praiseworthy? Welcome to worship!

Attendance for Last Week:
Sunday Worship...237 Sunday School...83
8:30 Live Stream Participants...45
JTTW (p.m.)...45

Prayer Requests

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

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

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

Visiting with us?

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

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

Date:

Name:

Children:

Address:

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

Email:

I am a/an:

- ☐ 1st-Time Visitor
- ☐ 2nd-Time Visitor
- ☐ Out-of-Town Visitor
- ☐ Regular Attendee

I would like to learn more about:

- ☐ What It Means To Be a Christian
- ☐ Church Membership
- ☐ Ruthfred's Ministries or Groups
- ☐ Ways To Share My Gifts

Ruthfred Staff

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Frederick Schell
Organist

Melissa Manzo
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