



From The Pastor's Desk

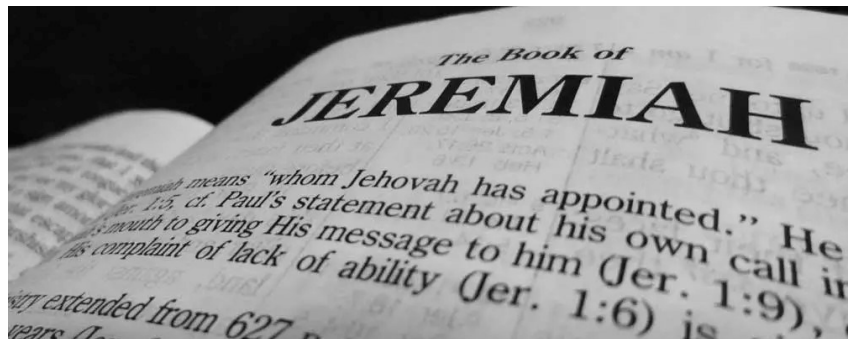
Who Is Jesus to You?

I was struck by our Gospel text on Sunday, August 27th, in Matthew 16:13 and 14. Jesus asked His disciples, “*Who do people say that the Son of Man is?*” They replied, “*Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.*”

Really? Jeremiah? All God’s prophets, especially John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah, had difficult, harsh truths to tell God’s people. They openly rebuked unfaithful people who defied God, candidly preaching such offensive things that people *hated* them and wanted to *kill* them. Indeed, they killed John the Baptist. They tried to kill Elijah, but God saved him. They beat, imprisoned, and threatened to kill Jeremiah too, but God saved him. Jesus, as you know, was killed -- crucified.

Why did some think Jesus was Jeremiah? What’s that say about Jesus? If you want to know Jesus, read Jeremiah.

Some people who thought Jesus was Jeremiah had personally met Jesus, but never met Jeremiah. Jeremiah died 600 years before Jesus was born. All they knew about Jeremiah then is what we



know about him today. They had the Book of Jeremiah, as we do. So, to understand why they thought Jesus was Jeremiah, read Jeremiah. It’s 52 chapters. It takes time. In the past 24 hours I’ve carefully listened to the Book of Jeremiah on my phone using the read-aloud feature at Biblegateway.com. Try it. Listen. Learn about Jesus *through* Jeremiah.

It’s no accident that some thought Jesus was Jeremiah. God reveals that to us in His Word for a reason: To teach us about Jesus. Today many American congregations *claim* to follow the Jesus of the Bible, whom many thought was Jeremiah. The name “Jesus” is on their church buildings, and sometimes they mention the name “Jesus” in their songs and worship services. The “Jesus” they describe, preach, and worship, however, is often nothing like Jeremiah. The 21st century, American “Jesus” preached in many congregations never offends anyone, rarely (if ever) calls sinners to repent or warns sinners about the hell awaiting them if they refuse to repent. The “Jesus” preached in many American congregations today, *like* those congregations, leads people astray from God’s clear Word, is primarily concerned about making people *feel* good, and encourages people to embrace and remain in open sin (abortion, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, gender confusion, covetous class warfare...aka social justice...etc.). He’d never be mistaken for Jeremiah.

Like the *real* Jesus of the Bible, Jeremiah, by God’s grace and strength, obeyed God’s Word, preaching It faithfully, even offending people, making many hate and want to kill him. Like the Jesus of the Bible, Jeremiah didn’t walk on

Continued on page 3 ...

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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Bethel Park , PA 15102
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In This Issue

- 3 From the Pastor's Desk**
Continued from cover page
- 4 Church Picnic;
Morning JTTW**
- 5 Evening JTTW**
- 6 PA March for Life**
- 7 Member Profile**
Coltin Cox
- 8 Updates from the Mission Field**
- 10 Song of the Month**
Blest Be the Tie That Binds
- 12 A Letter from the
Direction Committee**
- 13 Ponderable Quote**
- 14 Worship Team Members
for September;
90+ Birthday Club**
- 15 Official Acts;
Lutherans for Life Quote**
- 16 Church Calendar**
- 17 Youth Calendar**
- 18 Reading Through the Bible 2023**
- 19 A Joyful Heart Is Good Medicine**

Continued from cover page ...

eggshells, meekly and mildly worrying, too polite and afraid to offend rebellious sinners. By God's grace, Jeremiah faithfully, unequivocally called sinners to repent; openly and harshly rebuking those who refused to repent. Like Jesus, Jeremiah warned sinners that if they didn't repent and turn away from their sin, a reckoning from God would come for them: destruction and eternal punishment. Jeremiah warned sinners, mincing no words with rebels against God. He openly rebuked unfaithful shepherds/pastors who tried to make unrepentant sinners *feel* good in their sin by preaching unbiblical flattery, comfort, and lies to them, when God had commanded His prophets to preach repentance and harsh, honest truths.



When you read Jeremiah, then read Jesus' words in the New Testament, you understand why many thought Jesus was Jeremiah. Jesus is love. He's the Living Word; the walking Gospel. And Jesus minced no words with openly unrepentant sinners while they abused, flogged, and misled His people. Jesus called the Pharisees who rejected Him 'Satan's children'. He told them prostitutes would get into heaven before they did. When His own beloved disciple, Peter, foolishly rebuked Jesus for telling His disciples the truth about His impending suffering

and death, Jesus harshly rebuked even Peter, "*Get behind Me, Satan!*" Like Jeremiah, Jesus was no flatterer or pushover. He boldly, offensively confronted sin, unbelief, and people who needed to be called to repentance. Jesus is our *Lord*. He's no life-coach or therapist who's primary concern is preserving our self-esteem. His primary concern is preserving our *soul* from *hell*. Often that means we need to hear offensive things we don't like.

Like those who met Jesus and heard Him speak, people who heard Jeremiah heard many things they didn't like; things that offended them. That's because Jeremiah faithfully spoke for *God*. God is no respecter of men (Romans 2:11). He shows partiality to no one. He fears no one. He's not afraid to hurt our feelings, or wound our prideful self-esteem. On the contrary, God intentionally *offends* our pride. He asks no one's opinion, neither needing nor wanting it. He takes no polls; doesn't ask what percentage of people agree with Him. His kingdom is *no* democracy. He reigns with absolute authority. His Word is Law. Nevertheless, God is love.

Love forces itself on *no one*. You're free to reject Him, and live however rebelliously you want. Like Jesus, however, Jeremiah faithfully offended people who rejected God and His ways; who lived however they wanted. He warned them that they'd suffer for it. He didn't *force* sinners to repent. He *called* them to repentance. By God's grace, and by the transformational power of His Word, miraculously, many sinners did repent, turning back to God, and many *still* do today. Sadly, as Christ bluntly warns in Matthew 7:13-14, many people do choose to go their own, destructive way, and pay for it eternally.

Who is Jesus to you? Read Jeremiah, or, like I did, go to Biblegateway.com and listen to Jeremiah on your phone. Is the Jesus you know anything like Jeremiah? Or, to you, is Jesus like the culturally sensitive, politically correct, polite, people-pleaser who is popularly preached and worshiped in many mainstream American congregations today? If you read or listen to Jeremiah, and find that Jeremiah has little in common with the Jesus you know, then, by God's grace, repent; because the Jesus you know is *not* the Jesus of Scripture.

Don't let your understanding of Jesus be conformed to the world's understanding of Jesus. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, through God's Word. By God's grace, let the way you *think* of Jesus and the way you *live* shine the light of truth in our ignorant, darkened world. Then others will know God's good, acceptable, and perfect will! Then others will know who Jesus is too!

*Love in Christ,
Pastor McMin*

The **ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC** was held on Sunday, August 20th on the ball field behind the church. Almost 200 of our members and friends attended and enjoyed a great afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun. For more pictures and a nice write-up, check out the 'Ruthfred Reflections' email from Wednesday, August 23rd.



* * * * *

Morning Journey through the Word, Fall 2023



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 first, 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. Check the church website (www.ruthfred.org) to also register online.

In addition to participants, we are always open to people willing to lead a small group. You do not need to be a Bible scholar because you will be guided through each lesson and how to teach it to your class. We are praying for you to step forward and respond to the Holy Spirit's tug on your heart!

Another need we have is for two people to serve our smallest participants in the nursery, giving their moms (or dads or grandparents) an opportunity to attend Journey. Clearances are needed to do this but are easily obtained through our church office.

Journey through the Word is a ministry that is making a difference in people's lives. We grow deeper spiritually, learn to better love, serve, and worship our Lord and God, and build each other up in faith. There are many ways to participate. Choose one and come journey with us!

Questions? Need more information? Contact Pat Moore, 412-833-3034 (patmoore9@msn.com) or Sue Swan at

2023 Evening Journey Thru the Word

Together let's grow in our knowledge and comprehension of one of the major doctrines in the Bible – Christ's Second Coming. In our second year of studying end time prophecy we will continue using the Signs series. Dr. Jeremiah will give us perspective by unpacking "The Book of Signs" containing 31 Undeniable Prophecies of the Apocalypse. We covered the first 11 signs in 2022-2023. If you are joining us for the first time, you can order a study guide on-line when you register. You can also read through the first 11 signs, if you want to be current with everyone else. Each lesson contains stand-alone information and therefore is not contingent upon knowing past or future lessons. If you are continuing this journey, you do not have to order a book since last year's study guide contains all 31 lessons. This year we will examine the heavenly and tribulation signs of the times and the role they play in end-time events. As you continue with or join us for the first time in this study, you will see the steadfast faithfulness of God through the events of the past, allowing you to become confident and expectant about His future second coming. By understanding what God's Word says about the end of this world as we know it, there can be peace and hope in our hearts.



2023 Evening Journey Thru the Word Registration is Open

Join us October 11, 2023 to begin a twelve-week study of end time prophecies at Ruthfred Lutheran Church from 6:45PM to 8:00PM. This year's study guide will cover the next ten of the 31 signs in Dr. Jeremiah's series on the end times. The 2023-2024 study will end with a closing program on January 31, 2024. In an effort to make joining together to study God's word easier for families coming from work and other events and to spend time together as the family of God, the church will continue to offer Forkless Dinners from 6:00 to 6:30PM to registered families just prior to JTTW and to all other families attending Wednesday evening events. Come and join in fellowship during this time with our church family. Please go to our website on www.ruthfred.org to register for evening JTTW online.

For information or questions contact Jodie or Mark Riley, 412.401.9137.

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Not sure if you have time or want to know more about end times?

Did you know that one out of every thirty verses in the New Testament teaches us that Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth? As we wait for God to reveal all the details, the prophetic Scriptures can strengthen us, encourage us, and give us certain hope. Much biblical prophecy is written in apocalyptic or figurative language which requires understanding. We could all call prophecy a “foretelling” of the future, but there is another aspect of prophecy we call “forthtelling”. The act of speaking forth those words from God about the future.

Knowing what is coming in the future gives us perspective on what is happening now. Since the Bible foretells those realities, we are not surprised when we see them happening. When God speaks about the future, it is the same as a promise. No biblical prophecy about events in the past have ever gone unfulfilled. That gives us great certainty about prophecies related to the future because they too are promises from God that we can trust.

We must remember the same prophetic words that encourage you can be used by you to encourage others. The apostle Peter wrote that the “prophetic word” can serve as a “light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19). When we know the rest of the story it doesn’t matter how troubling the middle chapters are ... especially when the Author has given us a copy of the last chapters to read ahead of time. We can use the prophetic Scriptures to empower us to stay on the path of God’s plans and purposes until the day dawns.

“³⁶But about that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸For 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, ³⁹and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so, will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Matthew 24:36-39

PA MARCH FOR LIFE - Monday, October 16, at State Capitol in Harrisburg.

Events begin at 10 a.m. One mile march around capitol starts at noon. “This is an excellent opportunity for anyone to learn about the principles of effective lobbying, the specific and current issues PA is facing, and what you can do right now to champion pro-life policies to your PA elected representatives. This rally and march are suited for all levels of experience and comfort with advocacy.”



For more information, go to
marchforlife.org/Pennsylvania-march-for-life.

Member Profile:**by Mettelise Ziegler****COLTIN COX**

Our current Youth Director began his ministry among us on July 31. Coltin Cox sprinted out of the gate like one of his family's horses - enthusiastic, confident, and purpose-driven. Ever since high school, Coltin knew he wanted his life to be in Christian ministry. So, he set off to the Association Free Lutheran Bible School to start training. Coltin is convinced that youth ministry is where he should be at this time. He believes that character development with a biblical focus can potentially set a young person's course for life, and the Bible School was a "great school" for his training. According to Coltin, he grew both in faith and in desire to spread the Gospel.

Halfway through his schooling, he married Rebecca Libell from our church, who also studied there. The two married on the Cox family farm in June of 2020. You may know that Coltin is the son of Gina & Josh, grandson of Steve and Peggy, great-grandson of Esther. His Aunt Kate and Uncle Shane, brother Caleb, and cousins Maddie and Isaac are all active at the church. Rebecca is the daughter of Jim Libell and Kathie Libell-Mohr. Family members include step-mom Shelley, sister Michaela, brother Josh, and grandparents Mary Lou and Joseph McKenna.



After graduation, Coltin and Rebecca moved to Laurel, Nebraska, where Coltin worked for United Lutheran Church for two years under Pastor Matthew Quanbeck, one of our former vicars. The only AFLC congregation in an agrarian area, the small congregation had a strong youth program including anywhere from 6 to 20 participants every week. Coltin also took advantage of a youth ministry mentorship program at the Bible School to study under Jason Holt, the national youth ministry director. And he is currently working on a Bachelor's Degree in Christian ministry through Crown College which is located in Minnesota.

According to Coltin, a great youth program should include Bible study, plenty of sharing, and congregational involvement. Coltin is adamant that he will be informing and connecting with members of Ruthfred whether they have children in the program or not. He says every member of the congregation is valuable and that our youth ministry is alive and well but it can be even better when members of the congregation become involved.

Coltin's greatest hope is for our youth to learn how to live as Christians in a secular world, equipped to explain the Gospel. He is planning to take the older youth to Philadelphia for an event called Reality Apologetics next year. The speakers include Greg Koukl, Alan Shemon, Tim Barnett, and several more apologists. Coltin loves Romans Chapter 5. It tells the reader how disobedience to God leads to death and how faith in Jesus leads to everlasting life. For as by the one man's {Adam's} disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Let us support Coltin in his new ministry by praying for him and Rebecca; and by saying "yes" when we are asked to help.

SOME UPDATES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION FIELD

The work of the Raan family in Africa is one of the missions supported by the AFLC, and is also included in our RLC benevolence budget.



July & August 2023: We're Coming to America!

After several years of struggles with a variety of personal things, we have decided that it is time to come back to the States for a (slightly) early and extended furlough. We will leave December 14th and be back for about ten months. Brent will be having a minor surgery; and our kids will have several different doctors' appointments and a variety of therapies. Brent will also return to Uganda for four to five weeks in the spring for the Ambassador Institute graduation season. We're really thankful that we get this opportunity to care well for our family and, at the same time, to still be connected to the work here while we're away. Our time back in the States will be a busy season, but we are hopeful that it will be productive and will allow us to come back to the field refreshed and ready again for ministry.

Spotlight on Ministry: Francis



Teacher Francis travels about three hours to help teach an Ambassador Institute class near our town, Gulu. In a conversation with him, he expressed how he came to know Christ through Ambassador Institute. Specifically, it was in term three of the Ambassador Institute class that he came to the Lord! We praise God to be used to strengthen so many churches here in Uganda and to see souls being won due to pure biblical teaching.

This picture is from the Nwoya class, where Francis is the head teacher.

Continued on next page ...

Some highlights from these past two months...



Amaleah turned 9, Amari turned 2, Isaiah turned into Spiderman in a recent trip to Kampala, and Sarala & Amaleah got a special lunch outing for accomplishing personal reading goals.

In Christ,

Brent, Emily, Amaleah, Sarala, Isaiah & Amari Raan

bentraan@gmail.com

Please pray for...

- *Another person or family to join us in the ministry here in northern Uganda. _The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few...
 - *For teacher Francis.
 - *Emily's mom, Julie, who was given a breast cancer diagnosis in May. Praise God with us that she has had the lump removed and no cancer was found in the tissue! She will continue with about a month of precautionary radiation, beginning soon.
 - *For our team, Nate & Rhoda Jore and Michael Rokenbrodt, as we all continue to seek the Lord's direction and for opportunities in our communities for church planting and Bible training. The Jores and Michael are currently all in the US.
 - *Our family as we seek to minister well, especially while our partners are all State-side; and as we plan for this time away - both what we will be doing there and what will continue to go on here in our absence.
 - *That we never get so busy or distracted that we lose sight of our reason for our faith and for being in Uganda - the Gospel & Jesus' finished work on the cross!
-

Gifts can be sent to:
AFLC World Mission
3110 E Medicine Lake Blvd
Plymouth, MN 55441



*Please include a note indicating the gift is for "Raan family."

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Lyrics: John Fawcett

Music: Hans Georg Naegeli / Lowell Mason

I don't think it would be a stretch to say that most hymns center around God and our relationship to Him; whether it be God's work of creation, redemption, and sanctification; or our responses of thankfulness, praise, and supplication. "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" seems to be one of the rarer exceptions to those motifs. It focuses, instead, on the fellowship that Christians are blessed to share between themselves.

*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.*

*We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*

*When here our pathways part, we suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet again.*

*This glorious hope revives our courage by the way,
While each in expectation lives and longs to see the day.*

*From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.*

We here at Ruthfred are, I believe, blessed to be part of a congregation that exemplifies the kinds of fellowship and mutual support that are described in this hymn. The fourth stanza as shown here refers to the painful experience of parting pathways. This could be a reference to death, or just separations in this life, or both. A Biblical example of the latter that comes to mind is when Paul was saying farewell to the Ephesian congregation as he prepared to return to Jerusalem.

"And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul

and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship." Acts 20:37-38

The composer of the lyrics of "Blest", John Fawcett, actually had a similar experience, but with a different outcome! To see what I mean, read the following biographical sketch from Hymnary.org:

An orphan at the age of twelve, John Fawcett (b. Lidget Green, Yorkshire, England, 1740; d. Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, 1817) became apprenticed to a tailor and was largely self-educated. He was converted by the preaching of George Whitefield at the age of sixteen and began preaching shortly thereafter. In 1765 Fawcett was called to a small, poor, Baptist country church in Wainsgate, Yorkshire. Seven years later he received a call from the large and influential Carter's Lane Church in London. Fawcett accepted the call and preached his farewell sermon. The day of departure came, and his family's belongings were loaded on carts,

Continued on next page ...

but the distraught congregation begged him to stay. In *Singers and Songs of the Church* (1869), Josiah Miller tells the story associated with this text: "This favorite hymn (Blest) is said to have been written in 1772, to commemorate the determination of its author to remain with his attached people at Wainsgate. The farewell sermon was preached, the wagons were loaded, when love and tears prevailed, and Dr. Fawcett sacrificed the attraction of a London pulpit to the affection of his poor but devoted flock. Fawcett continued to serve in Wainsgate and in the nearby village of Hebden Bridge for the remainder of his active ministry."

In closing, I feel a need to point out that the melody we have in our SBH hymnal is not the one I grew up with using the old Missouri Synod 'TLH' hymnal. Both melodies are beautiful, and interestingly, both have the stamp of Lowell Mason on them. In the SBH hymnal, credit is given to Hans Georg Naegeli, but with adaptation by Mason. In the TLH hymnal, Mason is given sole credit for the melody which is identified as 'Boylston'. Speaking of different melodies, this month the RLC senior choir will be singing yet another arrangement of Fawcett's familiar text, this one by the contemporary composer Craig Courtney.



A letter from the new Direction Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Direction Committee would like to share an update with you on our efforts to ensure Ruthfred Lutheran Church (RLC) continues to thrive as an authentic Christian fellowship. The Committee was given a charter by the Church Council to direct our efforts. After thoroughly reviewing this charter, the Committee identified the following four key priorities to address:

- * **Develop recommendations to facilitate church healing.**
- * **Evaluate trends in attendance, member base, and giving.**
- * **Develop recommendations to facilitate future growth at RLC.**
- * **Identify the appropriate church organizational structure, including staffing requirements, number of Pastors, position duties, etc.**

Due to the deep emotions experienced at RLC over the past several months, the Committee unanimously decided that focusing on congregational healing was the first priority to be addressed. We have conducted several committee meetings over the past few months, some with committee members only, and others with various members of the church in attendance to gain a broader perspective. We have found that meeting together in a small group, sharing different perspectives, meeting people where they are on this journey, breaking down barriers to healing, and allowing the Holy Spirit to do the healing works very well! As a result of these meetings, the Committee has presented the following initial list of recommendations to the Church Council for consideration:

Near Term for Congregation:

1. The Direction Committee would like to hear from all church members who have ideas for how RLC can continue to heal, grow and flourish moving forward. Please join the members of this Committee at a special meeting on September 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall to share ideas you may have to strengthen our church.
2. Additionally, beginning in October all members of the congregation have an open invitation to attend the Direction Committee's meetings scheduled on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall. This Committee and RLC need every church member's support as we address the four key priorities mentioned above.
3. Schedule and conduct on a to-be-determined date this fall a special "praise and gathering" worship service at RLC with special music, special messaging, and an opportunity for the congregation to engage in Christian fellowship with one another. This is an opportunity to unify the 8:30 and 11:00 attendees in one worship service.
4. Purchase and distribute to all church members the book titled *I Am A Church Member*. It is a small easy read that provides deep insight into what it means to be a member of the church. [[I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference: Thom S. Rainer](#)]
5. Schedule informal congregational meetings on a quarterly basis to allow all church members to stay current and have a say in church activities.

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Near Term - Operations

6. Immediately create a Nominating Committee to begin working to ensure a full slate of candidates for the next Church Council election.
7. Establish a formal Human Resources (HR) Committee that can provide support on future church personnel matters.
8. The Direction Committee has heard the need to expand leadership of all education ministries. A gap in connectivity with adult youth as they move on beyond high school has been identified. Connected to youth there is also a need to evaluate and implement consistent social media outreach. The Direction Committee has proposed, and Church Council is pursuing, creating and filling a position for Parish Education Leader/Young Adult Ministry Coordinator.

Longer Term:

9. The committee anticipates it will take at least 6 to 9 months to formulate a recommendation regarding the church's organizational structure, including the number of pastors required long-term at RLC.
10. Create a committee to review, evaluate and recommend changes to the church constitution.

We thank God for all He provides. Please pray for God's will to be done in our mission to continue to spread the Gospel through Ruthfred Lutheran Church.

In His name,

Members of the Direction Committee

Kevin Boehme	Nathan Donolo	Mark Killinger	Bob Vogel
Sydney Dalessandro	Dan Groves	Christine Stout	Bill Ward
Mari Donlin	Sue Hughes	Jeanine Szalinski	

Note: A copy of the Direction Committee's charter was recently mailed to all members of our congregation. It was also included as a separate attachment with the emailed version of this issue of the Herald.

Ponderable Quote:

"The modern man thought Beckett's robes too rich and his meals too poor. But then the modern man was really exceptional in history; no man before ever ate such elaborate dinners in such ugly clothes ... The man who disliked vestments wore a pair of preposterous trousers. And surely if there was any insanity in the matter at all, it was in the trousers, not in the simply falling robe. If there was any insanity at all, it was in the extravagant entrees, not in the bread and wine."

G.K. Chesterton

Editor's Note: Chesterton wrote this in 1908. Imagine what he would have thought about some of the clothing styles over the past 50 years!

Worship Team Members for September 2023

		<u>Acolytes</u>
9/3	8:30 AM	Elliott McMinn
	11:00 AM	TBD
9/10	8:30 AM	Asher Manzo
	11:00 AM	Ryan Handshue
9/17	8:30 AM	Elliott McMinn
	11:00 AM	Evan Gusky
9/24	8:30 AM	Asher Manzo
	11:00 AM	Ryan Handshue

	<u>Crucifers</u>

	Morgan Dolence
	Courtney Gelicetti

	Holly Miller
	Holly Miller



Ushers:

8:30 AM	Bernard Paterra
	John Ruzicka
11:00 AM	George Barrett
	Ray Urksa

Counters:

8:30 AM	Mark Killinger
	Steve Cox
11:00 AM	Josh Cox
	Eric Wente

Altar Guild

Debbie Skundrich

Coffee Hour

Lynn Vogel



90+ Birthday Club

Cliff Morton	September 23rd	90
Frank King	September 30th	90

Happy Birthday !!

Official Acts -- August 2023

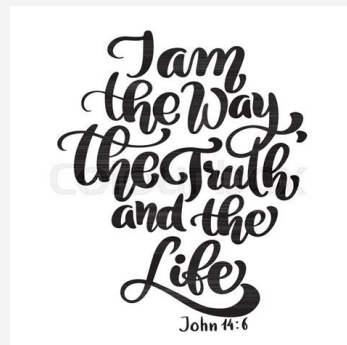
Baptisms:

Winona May Miller -- 08/19/23

Valerie Lynn Miller -- 08/19/23

* Brycen Garrett Morrow -- 08/20/23

* Reid Everett Morrow -- 08/20/23



Funerals:

* Donna Lee Neil -- 08/19/23 (Memorial service; no burial)

New Members: -- 08/13/23

Anna Marie Bostaph

Jack and Lisa Robinson

Melissa Lowman

Anna Sanchiolo

Aiden Anderson

Elizabeth Sovitski

Meghan Mitchell

Rodlyn Checcio

* *Indicates member*

Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life



Lutherans
For Life

"We are made holy by the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, ours by faith in His life, death, and resurrection. Yet we are holy in another sense, too. We have been set apart, called out, by a holy God for God's holy purposes—to love God and our neighbor, to serve, to make disciples. We have been set apart to serve as spouses, parents and grandparents, citizens, workers."

Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"

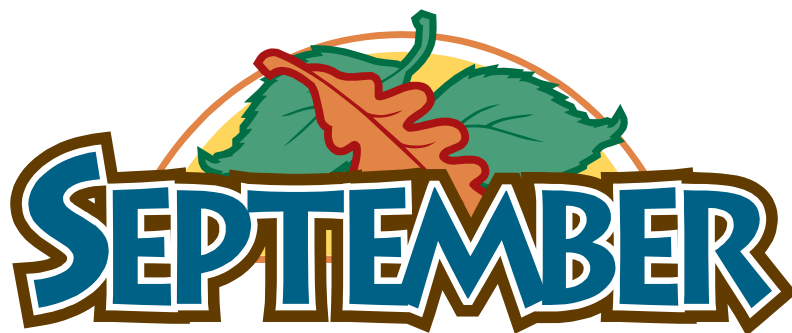
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

SEPTEMBER



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	2
3 Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00 CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY	4 Church Office closed 	5 Preschool Opens (age 3) Worship Team 7:00	6 Preschool Opens (age 4) Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Choir 7:30	7	8 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	9 Mary Bible Study 9:30 (Fireside Lounge)
10 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 RALLY DAY GIFT Bible Study 6:30 @ the Kurtzes'	11 Patriot Day Craft & Sew 9:30 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Elders' Meeting & Prayer Time 6:30 Council Meeting 7:30	12 Worship Team 7:00	13 JTTW 9:15 Esther Noon Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 Senior Choir 7:30	14 Holy Cross Day Knit Wits 10:00	15 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	16 Contemporary Liturgical Worship 6:00.
17 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Young Adult Bible Study 6:30 (A & C Vogels')	18 Craft & Sew 9:30 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Benevolence 7:00 (Fireside Lounge)	19 Worship Team 7:00	20 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation starts 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	21 St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist Ruth 2:00 Direction Committee All-Church Meeting 7:00	22 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge) XYZ Noon	23 Birthday Blessings HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY CLIFF MORTON!
24 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	25 JTTW Leaders 9:30	26 Worship Team 7:00	27 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30 Herald deadline	28 Knit Wits 10:00	29 St. Michael and All Angels Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	30 HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY FRANK KING!



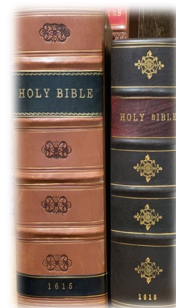
2023 Youth Ministry Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 MIGHT & SWAG 6:30-8 (Men's & Women's Groups)
3 Sunday School 9:45 NO SWAP	4 Church Office Closed 	5 TNT @ Church 7-9	6	7	8	9
10 Grandparents' Day Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	11 	12 TNT @ Church 7-9	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP Late Night @ Church 6-8:30	18	19 TNT @ Church 7-9	20	21	22	23 MIGHT & SWAG 6:30-8 (Men's & Women's Groups)
24 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	25	26 TNT @ Church 7-9	27 See You at the Pole	28	29	30

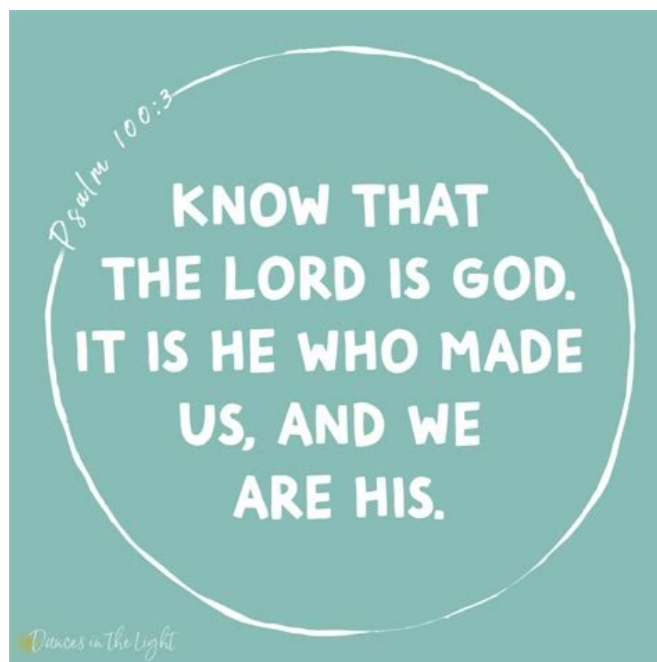
Reading Through the Bible 2023

"One Story that Leads to Jesus"

Schedule for September



1st	Matthew 17	Matthew 18	Psalm 89	
2nd	Matthew 19	Matthew 20	Psalm 90	
3rd	Matthew 21	Matthew 22	Psalm 91	
4th	Matthew 23	Matthew 24	Psalm 92	
5th	Matthew 25	Matthew 26	Psalm 93	
6th	Matthew 27	Matthew 28	Psalm 94	
7th	Mark 1	Mark 2	Psalm 95	
8th	Mark 3	Mark 4	Psalm 96	
9th	Mark 5	Mark 6	Psalm 97	
10th	Mark 7	Mark 8	Psalm 98	
11th	Mark 9	Mark 10	Psalm 99	
12th	Mark 11	Mark 12	Psalm 100	
13th	Mark 13	Mark 14	Psalm 101	
14th	Mark 15	Mark 16	Psalm 102	
15th	John 1	John 2	Psalm 103	
16th	John 3	John 4	Psalm 104	
17th	John 5	John 6	Psalm 105	
18th	John 7	John 8	Psalm 106	
19th	John 9	John 10	Psalm 107	
20th	John 11	John 12	Psalm 108	
21st	John 13	John 14	John 15	Psalm 109
22nd	John 16	John 17	John 18	Psalm 110
23rd	John 19	John 20	John 21	Psalm 111
24th	Luke 1	Psalm 112		
25th	Luke 2	Luke 3	Psalm 113	
26th	Luke 4	Luke 5	Psalm 114	
27th	Luke 6	Luke 7	Psalm 115	
28th	Luke 8	Luke 9	Psalm 116	
29th	Luke 10	Luke 11	Psalm 117	
30th	Luke 12	Luke 13	Psalm 118	



A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a

Next to Solomon, who was the smartest person in the Bible?
Abraham -- he knew a lot.

What kind of person was Boaz before he got married?
Ruthless.

Which servant of God was the worst lawbreaker in the Bible?

Moses -- he broke all ten commandments at once!

Mom: How was your first day of school, dear?

Johnny: Fine

Mom: How is your teacher?

Johnny: Fine

Mom: How was your ride on the bus?

Johnny: Fine

Mom: What did you learn today?

Johnny: Apparently not enough.
They want me to come back again tomorrow.

Oh sure! Just sit there watching your football while I go to church on my own again!



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