

## Praying for America . . .

In I Timothy 2:1 & 2, the Apostle Paul calls upon Timothy and fellow Christians to be in prayer for “all men, kings, and for all who are in authority, so that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”

We tend to take peace, order, protection, prosperity, freedom, and normal routines for granted! Right now, we see more clearly what a prized possession peace really is to us! We are living in a time of great unrest, anxiety, upheaval, and uncertainty. Between the coronavirus, the racial unrest, rioting, political polarization, etc., the boredom of a “peaceful routine” would be welcome right now! The Apostle Paul lived in such a day! His response was to turn to God and to pray! As people of God, we are called to pray for our nation, our leaders (even those we vigorously disagree with. Remember, Paul was later beheaded by Emperor Nero!), and all in authority. Their actions affect our nation corporately and our individual lives. As we celebrate our nation’s birth this weekend, let us do so with prayer as well.

As a nation, we have been blessed like no other nation in history. We have a wonderful heritage as well, as we had leaders who were all well-schooled in the truths of divine Scripture. This informed their principles and practices; although at the same time, they were flawed and imperfect individuals. However, they appealed to God and to His revelation, and the foundation they laid down for our nation was solidly based upon God’s Word.

President Thomas Jefferson, as the primary author of the Declaration of Independence, wrote, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” He later wrote, “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.”

Jefferson deeply believed that God was the author of life and liberty, and that those gifts were for ALL. He wrote additional words of even greater strength for the Declaration of Independence that specifically addressed the evils of slavery, but those were removed for the final draft. Ironically, Jefferson owned slaves and although he despised the institution of slavery, he did not free his slaves. He was deeply in debt and never broke free of his own chains to the institution, even though he had no peace in his heart about his own practices, which violated his Biblical principles. President George Washington on the other hand both freed all of his slaves and put aside enough money for each of them to make their way forward in life with their new freedoms.

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## Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road  
Bethel Park, PA 15102  
www.Ruthfred.org

**Pastor** Steven P. Carlson  
**Pastor** Bryce McMinn

**Office Manager** Paula Mikulan  
**Administrative Assistant** Pat Lutz  
**Youth Director** Brandon Fouks  
**Council President** Joe Roman

## Herald Staff

<b>Editor</b>	Steven Rothermel
<b>Staff Writers</b>	Mettelise Ziegler Tom Glasser
<b>Proofreading</b>	Ruth and Alan Hinkelman
<b>Mailing Labels</b>	Lauren Daugherty
<b>Printing</b>	Paula Mikulan
<b>Assembly Leader</b>	Joyce Bock

The submission deadline for the next Herald is  
**Saturday, July 18, 2020.**

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### "Space for Grace"

As we continue to move forward in the midst of the Covid-19 concerns and constraints, let me again encourage us to all make "space for grace" for one another. It has been repeatedly said that "we are all in this together." In many ways this is true, but not in all ways. We are certainly in the same storm on the same sea together, but the reality is that we are in different boats in different places on the sea. We each have different health concerns, needs, fears, freedoms, frustrations, responsibilities, etc. Therefore, we need to continue to give each other the "space and grace" to do what one needs to do regarding their safety and comfort level. This is not an issue of faith or lack of faith in God. (see the Two minutes Together video of 5/20/2020 – "To meet/meet or not to meet/meet?") I am so thankful for our Re-entry Team and the excellent work that they and the entire church council and so many others have been doing in leading and serving our congregation through this time!

Pastor Carlson

## Continued from Front Page . . .

Our nation began with a “new birth of freedom” for many, but lamentably, not for all. Slavery would persist for almost another century until the bloody Civil War. Even after the war, racial injustice would continue to chain many down in fear and servitude. In the 1960’s many cities in America were literally on fire with riots after the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. Today, the smoldering embers of racial injustice have been fanned into flame again, especially with the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota and others as well.

However, today is also another opportunity for our nation to be led by our churches in healing this deep and deadly wound. God speaks clearly about His heart for justice! (Check out the “Two Minutes Together” videos from 5/28/2020 and 6/5/2020 on our Ruthfred.org site.) God reminds us (Micah 6:8) that what He requires is that we “Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.”

Unfortunately, today is also an opportunity for evil. Not only has injustice and murder been at work against some black Americans, there is also the growing injustice of attacks and murders of some police officers. There is only one winner in this. The devil wins on both sides. He could care less about who is killed or what their skin color is or where they live, etc. Satan only wants to “steal, kill and destroy,” just as Jesus said in John 10:10 that “The thief [Satan] comes only to steal, kill and destroy, but I [Jesus] have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.” Satan wants to destroy everything that God has beautifully created, and people are his special target because “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son . . .” Satan hates what God loves.

In the burning of the buildings during the riots in Minneapolis, someone posted on social media a picture they had taken. In the plume of smoke, one could see the hideous face of the devil. Satan was so pleased to bring destruction and death! When I started writing this, I tried to find that picture again, but I could not remember who posted it, so I googled it and found it, but at the same time I found many pictures of the “devil face” in many smoke plumes of devastating fires. Some included the fires from 9/11 at the World Trade Towers and others were from the recent fires in Australia. Needless to say, the “devil face” is evil and sinister, striking a menacing pose of the face of evil. I also found that scientists have shown through geometric analysis that the “devil face” is simply formed by the physics of smoke from catastrophic fires. Nevertheless, it is Scriptural to point out that the devil is behind all this evil! From the Garden of Eden onward, his goal has been to sow the seeds of evil, to try to destroy God’s creation, and to prevent God’s redemption and restoration of all of creation back to its perfect place.

The coronavirus, the racial unrest, and the political polarization of today are all very real and visible things, but behind them all there is an invisible spiritual war that is being waged with growing intensity. The only hope of the world is Jesus! God calls on us as Christians (as Paul declares) to not passively withdraw, but to passionately engage our world through the power of prayer, “so that we might live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”

Let us begin with prayer . . .

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Pastor Carlson

## Official Acts

(\*indicates member)

### Baptisms

Elliott Alan Harrold – May 10, 2020

\*Ella Elizabeth Battiste May 31, 2020

### Confirmands

May 31, 2020

Samuel Christopher Carlson

Isaac Shane Cox

Connor Nelson Esposito

Meghan Anna Ghise

Patrick Ryan Gold

Reilly Albert Gusky

### Confirmands, Continued

Megan Joy Huwe

Nathan Michael Stutzman

Alea Rose Taylor

Megan Kristina Wentz

### Funerals

\*Jean Cook – May 18, 2020

### Weddings

\*Rebecca Pauline Libell and \*Coltin Thomas Cox  
– June 20, 2020

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## Graduates

### High School Seniors

David Boehme

Maercy Campion

Hannah Gold

Henry Hunter

Logan Huwe

Maura James†

Miranda Johns†

Shane Kelly

Heather Kinlan

Sarah Long

Ryan Maerkle

Sean Maerkle

Carly Mannarino†

Mason Mitchell

Jenna Pacich

Zachary Roman

Joshua Russell

Jenna Schwartz

Lily Wilson†

Tyler Ziolkowski

### College Graduates

Rachel Pollock–North Carolina State  
University/Bachelor of Graphic Design  
Matthew Moore–AFLBC

†(not a member, but attends TNT)

## Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

# Jesus Loves Me

Lyrics: Anna Bartlett Warner

Music: William Bradbury

There are only two civilians buried in the military cemetery at West Point— Susan and Anna Warner—and thereby hangs a tale of how the most popular children’s Christian song in modern history came into existence. Susan and Anna were honored with their military burial site in recognition of their forty years of conducting Bible studies for academy cadets. Their involvement at West Point was most likely due to the fact that they lived on Constitution Island directly across the Hudson from the academy.



Susan and Anna had not always lived on Constitution Island. They grew up in a fashionable home in Manhattan where their father was a prosperous attorney. The economic “Panic of 1837,” however, caused Henry Warner to lose his business and the family was forced to move to “a ramshackle Revolutionary War-era home on Constitution Island.” (Then Sings My Soul.) As we emerge from the economic effects of a pandemic-induced shutdown, we can perhaps empathize a little with what they experienced. Throughout their vicissitudes, however, the Warner family clung to their strong Christian faith.

To supplement their family’s household income, Anna and Susan took to writing poems and stories for publication. A novel on which they collaborated in 1860 was titled “Say and Seal.” The characters in the story include John Linden, a Sunday School teacher; Faith, a young girl seeking to grow in her Christian faith; and Johnny Fox, a young boy who is dying from some terminal illness. There is a scene in which John is trying to comfort Johnny, who then in response requests a song. While Susan Warner was the primary author of this novel, one of Anna’s contributions was the poem that John sings to Johnny. “Say and Seal” has passed into virtual oblivion, but Anna’s poem was destined for greater things. ([www.patheos.com](http://www.patheos.com).)

The three stanzas as they appeared in the original publication are as follows:

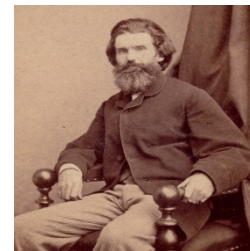
Jesus loves me – this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong, –  
They are weak, but He is strong.

Jesus loves me – loves me still,  
Though I’m very weak and ill;  
From His shining throne on high,  
Comes to watch me where I lie.

Jesus loves me – He will stay,  
Close beside me all the way.  
Then His little child will take,  
Up to heaven for His dear sake.

In 1862, hymn writer William Bradbury set the poem to music and added a refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.



The rest, as they say, is history. Speaking of history, “in 1943 in the Solomon Islands, John F. Kennedy’s PT-109 was rammed and sunk. Islanders Biuku Gasa and Eroni Kumana who found Kennedy and the survivors remember that when they rode on PT boats to retrieve the survivors, the Marines sang this song with the natives, who had learned it from Seventh-day Adventist missionaries.” (Wikipedia)

## Ordination of Pastor Bryce McMinn



Pictured (left to right) are: Pastor Nathan Olson, Pastor Brent Olson, Pastor Bryce McMinn, Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, Pastor Steven Carlson

As a congregation we were blessed to celebrate the ordination service for Pastor McMinn at Ruthfred! This is a sacred occasion in both the life of a pastor as well as that of the congregation. We also had the installation service for Pastor McMinn as our Associate Pastor. Pastor Lyndon Korhonen (president of our AFLC) officiated at the service. May God bless the ministry of Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn together in our congregation for the glory of God and for the growth of our faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



## Ruthfred Camping Weekend

We had nine tents filled with families and other members from the youth group. Friday night we watched Yogi Bear on an outdoor movie screen and enjoyed time around the campfire singing and talking. Saturday we all enjoyed being at the lake swimming, kayaking, and playing in the sand. While it rained heavily in the afternoon, it did not dampen our spirits and after the rain passed the clouds disappeared for a pleasant evening. Saturday night we had a time of prayer around the campfire, and enjoyed laughing and eating s'mores as well. We even had a Bigfoot sighting that tried to scare some of the girls. Overall we enjoyed being together in fellowship and laughter for an amazing weekend.



## Ruthfred Lutheran Preschool Program

Beth Blanc is retiring from the Ruthfred Lutheran Preschool Program after 20 years of service. Within her career at the Preschool, Beth served as an assistant, head teacher, and the director of the program. I was fortunate to work with Beth for the past 12 years. She brought joy to every moment and student of the class. She had boundless energy, creative ideas, and humor in everything she did. There was never a wasted moment. Beth had a song, fingerplay, story, or activity to continually engage the students, help them learn, and expand their development. She filled the class time with excellent teaching, memorable rhymes, and games that the students would ask to play over and over again. Beth listened to every child's comments and worked to encourage their hearts and grow their minds. She was able to weave parts of their lives and contributions into any activity or lesson. She was an expert storyteller, loved new crafts, enjoyed singing, and had a career's worth of educational learning experiences to share. Beth is optimistic, encouraging, collaborative, and a true champion of children. Each day, someone wanted to play with Beth. She willingly dropped whatever was going on, to give each child the time they needed. It was an honor and joy to work beside her and see her excellence and imagination in action.

Each year, Beth added something new to our repertoire and continued to enhance the program. She was a faithful servant to the work of the Preschool and the church, leading children in prayer, teaching Bible stories, and guarding their souls. The influence she leaves on the Preschool is vast and I am grateful for her partnership and expertise. Beth—and all that she so happily brought to the Preschool, each student, and their family—will be greatly missed. Beth made it fun to come into work. She is kind, concerned about others, and willing to step up and help with a generous heart. Blessings to Beth, and her family, in her retirement. Thank you, to Beth, for the decades of Preschool . . . from the many students, families, and co-workers that she inspired.

Sincerely,

Erin Campion  
Preschool Director

Ruthfred Lutheran Church Preschool has an immediate opening with the retirement of Beth Blanc after many faithful years of teaching.

Please contact Joe Roman (President) or Brian Schmidt (Vice-president) if you have any interest in teaching in our preschool ministry or know someone who might be interested.



## Weddings

Congratulations to Colton Cox and Rebecca Libell, who were married at the Cox Farm on June 20, 2020!











*Photo Credit: Abbie Berge*

Congratulations to Steven Rothermel and Svetlana Suvorova, who were married at the Rothermel residence on June 27, 2020!



# JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> HAPPY 93 <sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY ELIZABETH WOOD  HAPPY 90 <sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY FRITZ HEILMAN	<b>4</b> HAPPY 104 <sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY DOROTHY JACOX 
<b>5</b>  Holy Communion 8:30 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00	<b>6</b> Elders' Meeting 7:00	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:00 Esther—yes (Conference room)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Mary Bible Study—yes 9:30 (Conference Room 13 people)
<b>12</b> HAPPY 90 <sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY JACKIE FELLER  Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	<b>13</b> Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> HAPPY 94 <sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY AL HATALA 2:00 Ruth 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> HERALD ARTICLE DEADLINE
<b>19</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> HAPPY 92 <sup>nd</sup> BIRTHDAY ANDY KOVAC 	<b>23</b> 7:15 Benevolence Mtg.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 
<b>26</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	<b>27</b> <b>VBS BEGINS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> HERALD MAILING	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

# July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	6	7 TNT @ The James' 7-9pm	8	9	10	11
12 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	13 <u>TNT Cabin</u>	14 <b>NO TNT</b> <u>Retreat @</u>	15 <u>Tionesta PA</u>	16	17	18
19 <b>NO SWAP</b> <u>2020 FLY</u>	20 <u>Beyond</u>	21 <u>@ The</u>	22 <u>Association</u>	23 <u>Retreat</u>	24 <u>Center</u>	25
26 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	27	28 TNT @ The Huwe's 7-9pm	29	30	31 SWAP Late Night 5-10pm @ Church	

## Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar

# Bible in a Year Reading Plan

## July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Psalms 96-102	2 Psalms 103-105	3 Psalms 106-107	4 Psalms 108-114
5 Psalms 115-118	6 Psalm 119	7 Psalms 120-125	8 Psalms 126-132	9 Psalms 133-139	10 Psalms 140-145	11 Psalms 146-150
12 Proverbs 1-3	13 Proverbs 4-6	14 Proverbs 7-9	15 Proverbs 10-12	16 Proverbs 13-15	17 Proverbs 16-18	18 Proverbs 19-21
19 Proverbs 22-23	20 Proverbs 24-26	21 Proverbs 27-29	22 Proverbs 30-31	23 Ecclesiastes 1-4	24 Ecclesiastes 5-8	25 Ecclesiastes 9-12
26 Song of Songs 1-8	27 Isaiah 1-4	28 Isaiah 5-8	29 Isaiah 9-12	30 Isaiah 13-17	31 Isaiah 18-22	