

# RUTHFRED HERALD

June 2022

Volume 32, No. 6



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### Some “Inside Baseball” at Ruthfred!

Ever hear the term, “inside baseball?” If someone asks you to share the “inside baseball” with them, it means they want to know some details about what’s going on with a particular project, strategy, or event.

I want to share some “inside baseball” with you about something going on at Ruthfred. It’s no secret that we had a visitation luncheon at Ruthfred after church on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Many people registered for and attended the luncheon. In addition, many who couldn’t attend signed up to help with visitation at Ruthfred, whether by doing in-person visits, sending notes or cards, or calling to check in on Ruthfred members. During Pastor Carlson’s sabbatical, Ruthfred’s elders, staff, many volunteers, and I will prioritize maintaining regular visitation and outreach to the usual list of 87 people (many of whom are homebound) with whom Pastor Carlson and I normally maintain regular contact. The long term goal is to increase our outreach into the future, beyond Pastor Carlson’s sabbatical.



The “inside baseball,” however, is that it’s not only those 87 people on that list who need visitation and outreach. Many other Ruthfred members need concerted, personal outreach from us too. We’re praying that, especially with so many more volunteers, we’ll be able to connect with many more members of our congregation.

Walk down the main hallway at Ruthfred. Look at the photos of the people who’ve been confirmed here. Some have moved away, some attend other congregations, some attend no congregation at all, and some still attend Ruthfred. Looking at those photos, do you know who’s who, where they are now, how they’re doing, or their current level of involvement in God’s Church?

And those are just our confirmands. Many people have been baptized at Ruthfred, yet we rarely see them. Are their parents and baptismal sponsors honoring the vows they took at the baptismal service? We should do all we can to find out, to help them, and to minister to them.

Our entire congregation takes a solemn vow during every baptismal service. We vow to be witnesses to the baptism of these precious souls, to remember them in our prayers to God, and to *“make certain as far as possible that they’re brought up in the faith and fear of God.”*

There are still many offering envelopes currently sitting in our library, waiting to be taken by the people (members of this congregation) for whom they were printed. Some haven’t attended a worship service at Ruthfred in over a year. Some members who joined our congregation via one of our new member classes haven’t attended in months. Other members who were once active in ministry here now rarely attend.

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## Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is  
**Sunday, June 27th, 2022**

The email publication date is  
**Friday, July 1st, 2022**



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These challenges aren't unique to Ruthfred. They're part of a growing trend in churches across America. In fact, Ruthfred has been blessed by God to expand and grow in many ways as a congregation while other congregations have suffered severely and even closed their doors. Thank God for His grace, mercy, and blessings to our congregation!

This article isn't intended to be an exercise in prideful finger-wagging, trying to shame anyone into action or repentance. I'm not a perfect pastor. I've been a pastor at Ruthfred for two years now and readily admit that I haven't been perfectly successful in effectively ministering to every member of our congregation. I'm as imperfect as anyone else and equally in need of God's grace and mercy to be faithful in my vocation.

Nevertheless, Matthew 18:12-14 stands. Purposefully seeking after straying members of the flock is a sacred responsibility of Ruthfred's pastors, and of every faithful member of our congregation. No, we may not always know the perfect things to do or say to help, nor are we always perfectly aware of every unique need of the members of our congregation. We need God's grace and guidance to seek and minister to straying members of God's Church, as well as to bless and tend to those members who steadfastly remain.

As is said at the end of every baptismal service at Ruthfred, "*May we be faithful in this responsibility and privilege. Peace be with you. Amen.*"

***Pastor McMinn***







## **Congratulations New Confirmands!**

On Sunday, May 22nd, five new confirmands confirmed the Christian faith into which they had been baptized, and publicly declared their intention to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Pictured above, left to right, are: Abigail Stutzman, Noah McMinn, Madelynn Cox, Elias Manzo, and Vienne Battaglia.

"We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you be filled with the knowledge of [God's] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Colossians 1:9-10

## Member Profile:

by Mettelise Ziegler

### Ralph Thompson

Ralph Thompson represents a mid-twentieth century generation of American men that dutifully accepted responsibilities to family and church without fanfare, accepted challenge without complaint and quietly lived with strength.

Times were difficult for a plumber's family in the 1930's and early 1940's. Ralph's father had to move the family several times to find work and attempted to find a climate suitable for an arthritic wife. So, although Ralph had not yet completed Baldwin High School, the family moved to Altadena California and later to Tuscon Arizona. The family returned to Pittsburgh. They lived in Banksville where Ralph finished his last year at South Hills High School in 1947. By then, Ralph had entered the family plumbing business. It was not a career Ralph would have chosen, but he did so out of respect for his family.



Ralph told a touching story. Two years after high school graduation, he would be marrying Betty Lou Morris. He was living at home paying room and board. Ralph explained to his father he needed a raise. His father looked at him with a sly smile and suggested \$10 per week, for which Ralph was grateful. Later that day, Ralph's mother told him the room and board would be increased by \$10 per week. They laughed about it. But when Ralph and Betty Lou were married, every dollar of the room and board Ralph had paid his parents was returned to him as a gift.

Eventually, Ralph joined Plumbers Local 127. He worked on the nuclear power plant in Shippingport, many of the UPMC hospital buildings, and several other major construction projects.

In 1956, Ralph read an advertisement for building lots available on Hoover Lane, off Thompsonville Rd. in Peters. When he met with the owner, he was told to pick any he liked. A hundred dollars would make it his, including the tax liability, and he could pay whatever he could afford until he'd paid the total \$700 fee. A mortgage loan for \$12,000 made his new home a reality.

The Thompsons had three daughters. They were one of the founding families of Peace (formerly Hope) Lutheran Church. Sadly, Ralph lost Betty Lou and later, his middle daughter.

Life changed again for Ralph when he met Karen Dengler, a member of Ruthfred, during a church bowling league event. Karen was an English teacher at Upper St. Clair High School. With a bit of encouragement from Ralph's daughters the two started dating. They were happily married in 1975, attending Ruthfred until Karen's health failed. She passed away in 2019.

These days, Ralph welcomes visitors to his spotless Peters home. His memory and mind are sharp. Ralph lives a quiet, faithful life of dignity and good cheer.



Registration for VBS (Vacation Bible School) is now open! Come with us on a Monumental Journey celebrating God's Greatness July 25 to 29<sup>th</sup> at Ruthfred Lutheran Church from 9AM to Noon. Registration is available on [www.ruthfred.org](http://www.ruthfred.org). For information or questions contact [jason.weighley@gmail.com](mailto:jason.weighley@gmail.com).



## ***Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life***



*“Your ascended Jesus goes with you. When you have doubts and struggles, take them to Jesus. When you’re conflicted and troubled by sin and guilt, take it to Jesus and the cross. Together we lift each other up and grow up in Jesus! You are gifted! You are equipped! Know you are serving Jesus! Now and to eternity.”*

**Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)**



## Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

### Deck Thyself With Joy and Gladness

Lyrics: Johann Franck

Music: Johann Cruger

Would you consider yourself a generally upbeat, happy, glass-half-full kind of person? If so, I envy you that. I feel like my personality is more a mash-up of the dwarfs Sleepy, Bashful, Dopey, and Grumpy. Talk show host Dennis Prager wrote a book titled "Happiness Is a Serious Problem". I've never read the book, but I've listened to his shows enough to know that one of his main tenets is that everyone, regardless of how they feel on the inside, has a moral obligation to be as happy as possible for the sake of themselves, their spouse, family, friends, neighbors, etc. There is a lot of wisdom in that advice. How much more true should this be for Christians who have real reasons to harbor hope and joy in their hearts despite everything that life can throw at us? Consider the opening lines of this month's featured hymn:

*Deck thyself with joy and gladness,  
Dwell no more, my soul, in sadness;  
Let the daylight shine upon thee,  
Put thy wedding garment on thee.*



Wedding garment? Who's getting married? The Church is, and Christ is the bridegroom! (See, for example, Isaiah 61, Eph. 5, Rev. 19, 21, and 22). Now, how many sad-faced brides have you ever seen walking down the aisle?

Interestingly, "Deck Thyself" in our SBH hymnal is the first hymn in the 'Holy Communion' section. Somehow the hymn combines the themes of "the marriage supper of the Lamb" and the "Lord's Supper". Perhaps we could say that until the Church's marriage with Christ is accomplished at the Second Coming, He courts us with His Word and sacraments.

Schmucke Dich! That's the name of the beautiful melody composed by Johann Cruger. My eighth grade German failed me and I had to look it up. 'Schmucke dich' means 'Adorn thyself'. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, five new RLC confirmands will receive Holy Communion for the first time. They will literally adorn themselves with white robes. With the help of the Holy Spirit, may they, and us, be always ready to say with the poet:

*Jesus, source of life and pleasure,  
Truest friend and dearest treasure,  
Joy, the sweetest man e'er knoweth;  
Fount, whence all my being floweth;*

*Humbly now I bow before thee,  
And in penitence adore thee;  
Worthily let me receive thee,  
Perfect peace and pardon give me. Amen*

## Official Acts -- May 2022

### Confirmands:

5/22/22

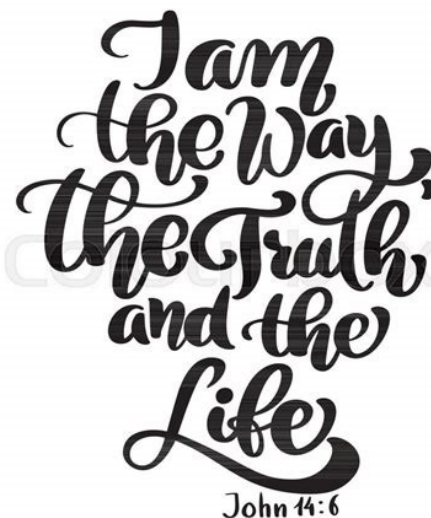
Vienne Capri Battaglia

Madelynne Claire Cox

Elias Matthew Manzo

Noah William McMinn

Abigail Kelly Stutzman



### Members removed per their request:

Brian and Wade Picard -- 5/3/22



## **90+ Birthday Club**

Kay Wyrwas

June 15th 91

### **Ponderable Quote:**

**The entry of a child into any situation  
changes the whole situation.**

**Iris Murdoch**



## Worship Team Members for June 2022

### Acolytes:

8:30 a.m. Jonathan Tarrant (6/5, 6/26)  
Isaiah Compel (6/12)  
Noah McMinn (6/19)

11:00 a.m. Josh Cimarolli (6/5, 6/26)  
Elias Manzo (6/12, 6/26)

### Crucifers:

8:30 a.m. Maddie Cox (6/12)  
11:00 a.m. Sadie Carlson (6/5)

### Altar Guild:

Rich Kleiser

### Counters:

8:30 am Tom Eld  
Neil Wagner  
11:00 am Will Charlton  
Mark Riley

### Ushers:

8:30 am Bernard Pattera  
John Ruzicka  
11:00 am Ned Wellman  
Mark Riley

### Coffee Hour:

Arlene Fees

CL










~Psalm 84:10  
(KJV)~

For a day in thy courts  
is better than a thousand.  
I had rather be a  
doorkeeper in the  
house of my God, than  
to dwell in the tents  
of wickedness.

CL










# JUNE 2022

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 30th Anniversary of Pastor Carlson & Jen's Ministry	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>  <b>Pentecost SUNDAY</b> Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 (Family Gathering in Fellowship Hall) Holy Communion 11:00 (First Holy Communion for 2022 Confirmands) Holy Communion 6:00 CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY; H.S. GRADUATE RECOGNITION	<b>6</b> Craft & Sew 9:30 (Crafters)  Elders' Meeting 7:00	<b>7</b> Worship Team 7:00	<b>8</b> Esther Noon	<b>9</b> Knit Wits 10:00	<b>10</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>11</b> St. Barnabas, Apostle Mary Bible Study 9:30 (Fireside Lounge)
<b>12</b> HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Young Adult Bible Study 6:30 (A & C Vogels') 	<b>13</b> Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30	<b>14</b> FLAG DAY Worship Team 7:00	<b>15</b> JTTW Summer Session 9:15 ("Thunder") HAPPY 91 <sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY Kay Wyrwas 	<b>16</b> Ruth 2:00 	<b>17</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>18</b> Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service 6:00 
<b>19</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 	<b>20</b> Craft & Sew 9:30 (Crafters)	<b>21</b> Worship Team 7:00 	<b>22</b> JTTW Summer Session 9:15 ("I Saw You")	<b>23</b> Knit Wits 10:00	<b>24</b> Nativity of St. John the Baptist Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>25</b> Anniversary of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530
<b>26</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Young Adult Bible Study 6:30 (A & C Vogels') GIFT Bible Study 6:30	<b>27</b> Herald Deadline 	<b>28</b> Craft & Sew 9:30 (Sewers) Worship Team 7:00 Anniversary of Pastor McMinn's Installation (2020)	<b>29</b> St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles JTTW Summer Session 9:15 ("Matthew 4:24")	<b>30</b> 		



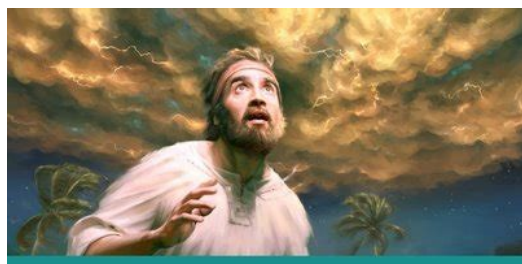
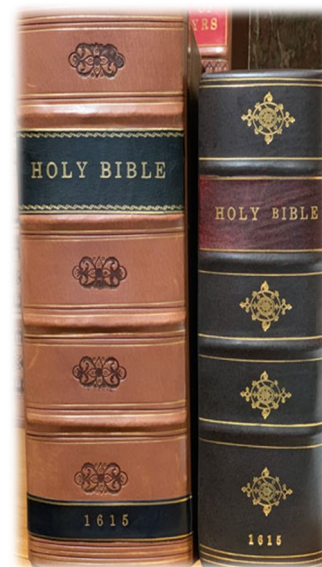
# 2022 Youth Ministry Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
<b>5 Senior Sunday</b> Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30 	6	<b>7</b> Summer Kick-off @ Church 5:30-9 	8	9	10	11
<b>12</b> Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30 	13	<b>14</b> TNT @ Tatum Brown's house 7-9	<b>15</b> AFLC Annual Conference 	16	17	18
<b>19</b> Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30 	20	<b>21</b> TNT @ ??? 7-9 	22	23	24	25
<b>26</b> Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	27	<b>28</b> TNT @ Huwe's house 7-9	29	30		
						

# Reading Through the Bible 2022

## Schedule for June

1st	Ezekial 9	Ezekial 10	Ezekial 11	Ezekial 12				
2nd	Ezekial 13	Ezekial 14	Ezekial 15					
3rd	Ezekial 16	Ezekial 17						
4th	Ezekial 18	Ezekial 19	Ezekial 20					
5th	Ezekial 21	Ezekial 22						
6th	Ezekial 23	Ezekial 24						
7th	Ezekial 25	Ezekial 26	Ezekial 27					
8th	Ezekial 28	Ezekial 29	Ezekial 30					
9th	Ezekial 31	Ezekial 32	Ezekial 33					
10th	Ezekial 34	Ezekial 35	Ezekial 36					
11th	Ezekial 37	Ezekial 38	Ezekial 39					
12th	Ezekial 40	Ezekial 41	Ezekial 42					
13th	Ezekial 43	Ezekial 44	Ezekial 45					
14th	Ezekial 46	Ezekial 47	Ezekial 48					
15th	Hosea 1	Hosea 2	Hosea 3	Hosea 4	Hosea 5	Hosea 6	Hosea 7	
16th	Hosea 8	Hosea 9	Hosea 10	Hosea 11	Hosea 12	Hosea 13	Hosea 14	
17th	Joel 1	Joel 2	Joel 3					
18th	Amos 1	Amos 2	Amos 3	Amos 4	Amos 5			
19th	Amos 6	Amos 7	Amos 8	Amos 9	Obadiah 1			
20th	Jonah 1	Jonah 2	Jonah 3	Jonah 4				
21st	Micah 1	Micah 2	Micah 3	Micah 4	Micah 5	Micah 6	Micah 7	
22nd	Nahum 1	Nahum 2	Nahum 3					
23rd	Habakkuk 1	Habakkuk 2	Habakkuk 3	Zephaniah 1	Zephaniah 2	Zephaniah 3		
24th	Haggai 1	Haggai 2						
25th	Zechariah 1	Zechariah 2	Zechariah 3	Zechariah 4	Zechariah 5	Zechariah 6	Zechariah 7	
26th	Zechariah 8	Zechariah 9	Zechariah 10	Zechariah 11	Zechariah 12	Zechariah 13	Zechariah 14	
27th	Malachi 1	Malachi 2	Malachi 3	Malachi 4				
28th	Psalm 1	Psalm 2	Psalm 3	Psalm 4	Psalm 5	Psalm 6	Psalm 7	Psalm 8
29th	Psalm 9	Psalm 10	Psalm 11	Psalm 12	Psalm 13	Psalm 14	Psalm 15	Psalm 16
30th	Psalm 17	Psalm 18	Psalm 19	Psalm 20				





**A joyful heart is good medicine.**

**Proverbs 17:22a**

**For the golfers among us and those who put up with them:**

A doctor who had recently done an artificial heart transplant was reassuring the recipient's wife that her husband would soon be well enough to play golf. The wife replied, "Hasn't the man suffered enough?"



*"You have fits of rage, followed by temporary spells of euphoria, all within several hours. Are you, by chance, a golfer?"*

**WANTED!  
GOOD  
WOMAN**

Must be able to clean,  
cook, sew, caddy, and  
find lost balls.

Must have golf  
cart and trailer.

PLEASE SEND PICTURE  
OF GOLF CART & TRAILER



**Golfer's  
Serenity Prayer**

*God grant me the serenity to  
accept the shots I miss,  
the courage to try, try again,  
and the wisdom not to throw  
my clubs in the lake*

**We blame fate for other accidents,  
but we feel personally responsible  
when we make a hole in one.**