

# RUTHFREDHERALD

November 2020

Volume 30, No. 11



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

**Dear Future Me,**

**From: October 30<sup>th</sup> Me**

Dear November 2020...and Beyond...Me:

"I can't wait until this election is over." "I can't wait until Covid 19 has passed." "I can't wait until we don't have to wear masks." "I can't wait until...blah, blah, blah...whatever."

While it's tempting to have these thoughts and say these things, don't be fooled, future me. The moment any of the things that currently irritate you, make you anxious, and otherwise distract you are gone, your spiritual foe WILL provide new replacement things, events, or looming "disasters" to distract you from God, His blessings, and all things of eternal value.

Why do we have to go over this again and again? When will you ever just trust God and stop being so easily distracted by everything the enemy uses to take your eyes off Jesus? I guess it's true, what Paul says in Philip-pians 3:12-14, that we haven't already attained to perfection in this life, and must press on. He also says in Gal-atians 5:17, our flesh "wars against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh." A spiritual battle is raging, not just around you, but within you. The sinner in you (your fallen nature) always rebels against the Holy Spirit; against trust in God.

Future me, please remember that you're saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and not by any work you do to be better in this life. Jesus told you in John 16:33 that in this life you WILL have troubles. He knew you'd struggle, and need to be saved. He knew you'd never be "good enough" to earn it. That's why He went to the cross FOR YOU.

By the way, future me, remember that great study in Journey Through the Word this week in Daniel 2! Read it again. It is, in part, a reminder from God that earthly kingdoms and leaders will rise and fall, but through it all, God is always sovereign. He's always the One in control. He's not pacing anxiously in heaven over any of the things that worry you.

No matter who wins the election, how long Covid lasts, or what things come to replace all the things that currently distract you, Lord willing, you're STILL a disciple of Jesus Christ with critical discipling and ministry to do. You're still husband to Erin, and Dad to Noah, Elliot, Caleb, Lillian, and Joshua, still a pastor at Ruthfred Luth-

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## Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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Wwww.Ruthfred.org

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eran Church, still son to Jim and Stephanie, and you still have other critical roles to fill, relationships to maintain, neighbors and enemies to love and for whom to pray, friends and family members with cancer who need prayers and healing, lonely and suffering people in your life and around your community and world who need help, you still know people facing scary surgeries and others who need comfort because of horrible things that have happened to them. You'll still need to continue on in and through all that by God's grace and to His glory.

Fact is, future me, no matter which politicians EVER win, how long ANY viruses or plagues last, or WHATEVER new insanities or crippling troubles come along to replace or add to the current lot, you'll STILL have more than you can handle just doing all the above things well without messing them up. You'll STILL need God to do it all through you, because you STILL won't be able to do any of it well in your own power. And God will STILL BE, "God of gods, Lord of kings...and Revealer of mysteries..." (Daniel 2:47).

He'll STILL be in control, and "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND," and "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," will STILL be the greatest commandments, as Jesus Himself said. You'll STILL have more than you can handle just living that out faithfully. You'll often fail, and therefore STILL need God's grace on November 4, 2020 and for the rest of your life as much as you need it now.

So, future me, regardless of your circumstances, listen to the Psalmist in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." You have plenty to do. Fill your life with the critical heavenly business God's people are SUPPOSED to be doing, which Jesus spells out for you in Matthew 28:19-20, and you'll find yourself less distracted and overwhelmed by everything else in the world around you. Satan and his demons want to use your circumstances to distract you from that heavenly business. Are they succeeding, or, by God's grace, are you pressing on toward the goal?

Press on, future me! To God be the glory!

Sincerely,

October 30, 2020 Me

(aka Pastor McMinn)



## **90+ Birthday Club**

Evelyn Meyer Nov. 7th 93

Ray Feller Nov. 18th 91

Jim MacManus Nov. 20th 92

Lorraine Graham Nov. 21st 93

Ralph Thompson Nov. 21st 91

Alma Vogel Nov. 28th 91

## **Happy Birthday !!**

*"Even to your old age I am He, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save." ~ God*

*Isaiah 46:4*

## Member Profile: Melissa Bostaph

by Mettelise Ziegler

Melissa Bostaph can define herself in many different ways. She is a single mother; a former Roman Catholic; a long-time resident of Ruthfred Acres; a voracious student of the Bible and a special friend to our vicars and their wives. She is all these and more.

When Melissa was a child, she lived on Thornwood behind the ballfield at our church. Some of her fondest memories were of sliding down the red hot metal slide and swinging on the old style swings. Melissa married, eventually moving into a home on Turngate, not all that far from her childhood home.



Melissa is a single mother of seven. Her oldest, Emily, is 20. Anna Marie follows at 19. Michael is 17. Caitlyn is 15. Samuel is 13, followed by Lily who is 11 and Gabriel who just turned 9.

At some future time, Melissa may put the business degrees she earned at Duquesne and Robert Morris Universities to use outside the home. For now, Melissa is understandably busy with family.

Growing up in the neighborhood as she did, Melissa knew about Pastor Dennis. Back in the day, pastors often walked neighborhoods knocking on doors. Being a Roman Catholic, she never thought to visit. However, Melissa had a deep desire to read and study the Bible, something she was not encouraged to do at her church.

Melissa visited Ruthfred when her daughter Anna joined a theater group. Although Melissa found the church “lovely” she was not inspired to participate in any way until a van driven by Vicar Josh Skogerboe pulled up in front of her home with his sons enthusiastically delivering invitations to Vacation Bible School. “Why not?” she thought.

On the last day of Vacation Bible School that year, some of the women from Journey through the Word (JTTW) invited Melissa to attend on Wednesday mornings. At last, a chance to study the Bible!

Melissa has forged a strong friendship with many of the women. She regularly discusses JTTW lessons with Marcia Pavesi when her part time job at Ben Franklin Elementary School gets in the way of attending. Virginia DiSalvo invited Melissa to the first service she attended at Ruthfred. It was Good Friday, and the vulnerable way that men like Kurt Ziegler shared their messages moved her to tears. That day, Melissa found her church home.

Melissa has been a member of Ruthfred since November of 2016. She typically attends the 11:00 am service. She just started teaching Sunday School this year. Her personal ministry is to extend hospitality to our vicars so they feel at home in Bethel Park. She has stayed in weekly contact with every vicar’s wife since the Skogerboe’s. Melissa is godmother to Aaron and Michelle Olson’s son Olen.

One Bible verse has extra special meaning to Melissa. “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9). This is certainly an appropriate verse for a woman who wears many hats in her daily walk with God.



## Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

### *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Lyrics by Henry Alford

Music by George J. Elvey

In C.S. Lewis' "The Magician's Nephew", there is a scene in which a Cabby (as in driver of a horse-drawn cab) and his passengers suddenly find themselves in what seems a dark, inhospitable place. With his Cockney accent the Cabby proceeds to say "If you ask me, I think the best thing we could do to pass the time would be to sing a 'ymn." The passage continues as follows: "And he did. He struck up at once a harvest thanksgiving hymn, all about crops being 'safely gathered in.' It was not very suitable to a place which felt as if nothing had ever grown there since the beginning of time, but it was the one he could remember best. He had a fine voice and the children joined in; it was very cheering. Uncle Andrew and the Witch did not join in."

Probably most of us are like the Cabby in that we are at least familiar with "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come". It may in fact be the most popular Thanksgiving hymn we have in our tradition. For that we are thankful to Henry Alford and George Elvey. Alford was an Anglican cleric in a long line of clergymen. "He was a versatile man: an artist, an organist and singer, composer of verses and a very talented speaker. His literary ability was climaxed with the completion of The Greek Testament, a commentary of four volumes, which required 20 years of hard labor." (staugustine.com) Elvey was also a very talented and accomplished man. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London, he became organist and chorus master at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. From that platform he gained considerable popularity with both the English people and its royalty, and was often selected to provide music for royal occasions. Today he is best known for two of his hymn tunes: "Come, Ye Thankful" and "Crown Him With Many Crowns".

*Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home;  
All is safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;  
God our Maker doth provide For our wants to be supplied:  
Come, to God's own temple come, Raise the song of harvest home.*

This first verse deals with a literal harvest. We city dwellers easily lose a palpable connection to the experience and importance of agriculture and harvesting. As someone who struggles to grow grass and an occasional flower, I truly marvel at the miracle of growth that comes from God and the talents that he gives those who labor to keep our grocery stores and restaurants stocked. All it takes is a drive out into the country, as Peggy and I did this past month, to be reminded of our dependence on the land and those who work it.

If you're not paying close attention, you might miss the fact that the remaining three verses of this hymn shift gears and speak about a spiritual harvest. Alluding to Jesus' parable of the wheat and tares, these

*Continued on next page...*

verses pray that we might be "wholesome grain" and "fruitful ears", and that we will some day be gathered into the eternal harvest-home of God's presence. The final verse actually provides an excellent segue to the eschatological themes of the imminent season of Advent.

*Even so, Lord, quickly come To thy final harvest-home;  
Gather thou thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin.*

Returning to the first verse again, we see it starts with the invitation for thankful people to "Come". Come where? To "God's own temple". If you are physically able, and comfortable enough with the Covid risks, join us this Thanksgiving, and every Sunday, to "raise the song" with your fellow Christian pilgrims!

On Nov. 1st we celebrated All Saints' Day. Pastor Carlson, Vicar Westerbur, and Pastor McMinn have officiated at the following funerals in the past year. Those with an asterisk (\*) were members of this church. We think of these dear ones who have gone on before us. Please keep their loved ones in your prayers.

* Thomas J. Allsopp	November 15, 2019
* Shirley Smith	December 6, 2019
* Leonard Thomas Hanion	December 14, 2019
* Shirley Ann Sheatsley	January 27, 2020
* Jean Cook	May 18, 2020
* Harry Fjaere	June 26, 2020
Lorinda Kanagy Dabney	July 24, 2020
Pearl M. Weifenbach	August 29, 2020
* Robert Bexendell	September 16, 2020
Helen M. Carnett	October 5, 2020
* Johanne "Timmie" Langkamp	October 14, 2020
* Judith M. Boyd	October 17, 2020
* M. Robert Thomas	October 21, 2020



The first **Contemporary Liturgical Service** here at Ruthfred was held on Saturday Oct. 17th. It was attended by approximately 50 people and the feedback was very positive. Moving forward the worship team and our pastors will continue to tweak the service to improve it and make it as enjoyable a worship experience as possible.

The next service is **Nov. 21st at 5:00 PM** in the church sanctuary. The music will feature a thanksgiving theme. If you enjoy contemporary Christian music, please consider attending this new alternative worship service.



The **Fall Festival at the Cox Farm** on Oct. 24th was a huge success! Approximately 200 people attended and it was a great opportunity for fellowship with members of our congregation and other guests. Activities included a craft table, face painting, hay rides, pumpkin carving, jousting on hay bales, horse feeding, outdoor movie, apple pie contest, and, of course, great food.

Thanks to the Cox family, Brandon Fouks, and the Youth for all of their generosity and hard work that went into making this a wonderful day for all who were able to be there!







**MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR OUR WOMEN'S  
SPECIAL EVENT**

***CHRISTMAS MAGIC***

**December 6, 2020**

**1:30 -4:00 p.m.**

**\$12.00 per person Italian Menu**

**Special Feature: Everyone is asked to bring an ornament to share**

**Entertainment by Shepherd's Voice**

**Sign Up Sheets will be available at the coffee table outside the Adult Sunday  
School Room**

**November 8, 15, and 22 after 8:30 service and before 11:00**

**Public Reading of The Revelation of Jesus Christ:** Please join us as Ruthfred hosts a public reading of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, Friday November 6th at 6 PM in the sanctuary. In chapter one, verse three, a blessing is there for those who read and a blessing is there for those who hear and take to heart what is written. This will be a great opportunity to invite people to come and hear God's Word.

**Craft "n" Sew** will be in need of Bite Size Kit-Kats, Trix, plus Hershey Kisses and M & M packets this year. Any donations will be put to good use and greatly appreciated. The drop-off bin will be in the kitchen. Last year we sent 2,560 tray favors to Concordia in Cabot, PA, and the Baptist Home, with each having a sweet treat attached to it. Candies are needed from now thru May 2021. Thanks once again.

## Council Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2020

President Joe Roman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Kurt Ziegler gave the devotions on self-control, referencing Titus 2 and Colossians 3:1-17. He then followed with an opening prayer.

Pastor Carlson thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the 2021 budget. On November 15<sup>th</sup> the congregation will be presented with the budget, have any questions answered and have an opportunity to vote on approval of the budget.

Pastor Carlson advised that this was the first time an AFLC church hosted the Lutherans for Life Conference and he thanked Will Charlton for working to make the conference such a success. If you were unable to attend, the conference can be seen on live stream.

A letter will be sent to all members urging everyone to make an effort to return to church and participate in a Holy Communion Worship service in the next two months. Although some concerns are still lingering, our hope is that these fears can be overcome together. Our guidelines will be revisited to assure everything possible is in place for safe worship.

The Shepherd Program has lost some leaders and in dire need of new shepherds. This ministry can be a real blessing. If you can give your time to serve a small group of members, please contact Patricia Lutz.

Our Sunday School Nursery is looking for volunteers that can help Bekah Fouks with the young children. Please contact Barb Harrold at [brharrold@comcast.net](mailto:brharrold@comcast.net) if you can help.

We will be holding a new Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The Worship Team has been working very diligently on this new service. The service will have a sermon and our worship liturgy with new contemporary songs. The goal is to extend the reach of our church to those who are not presently attending a worship service, as well as, giving us all a new perspective on worship.

We thank the following members for agreeing to serve on the Nominating Committee: Chuck Morrison, Gary Fischer, Peggy Cox, Chris Wente, Josh Libell and Monica Gesk.

Our church Elders will be having a reading of the book of Revelations in the sanctuary on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. God states that we should read Scripture publicly and both the reader and those hearing His Word will receive a blessing. Volunteers are needed to help in this endeavor. If you are willing to be a reader, please contact Don Roose at [donroose@yahoo.com](mailto:donroose@yahoo.com).

Pastor McMinn closed the evening with a prayer. Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Evans  
Secretary



# November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1 All Saints Day</b> <b>Int'l Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church</b>  Communion 8:30 am Sunday Sch. 9:45 am Communion 11:00 am Communion 6:00 pm	<b>2</b> JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 am  Craft & Sew 9:30 am  Elders' Mtg 7:00 pm	<b>3</b> Sr. Conf. Class 4:00 pm  Worship Team 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> JTTW 9:45 am Ch. Choir 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm JTTW/Kids 6:45 pm Conf. Classes 6:45 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>5</b> New Members Class 5:30 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Poinsettia Sale Begins  Worship 8:30 am Sunday Sch. 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	<b>9</b> JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 am  Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 pm  Council Mtg 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Sr. Conf. Class 4:00 pm  Worship Team 7:00 pm	<b>11</b> JTTW 9:45 am Ch. Choir 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm JTTW/Kids 6:45 pm Conf. Classes 6:45 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> Knit Wits 10:00 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Mary Bible Study 9:30 am
<b>15</b> Worship 8:30 am Sunday Sch. 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am  Congregational Mtg after 8:30 & 11:00 services	<b>16</b> JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 am  Craft & Sew 9:30 am	<b>17</b> Sr. Conf. Class 4:00 pm Worship Team 7:00 pm Women's Ministry Mtg 7:00 p.m	<b>18</b> JTTW 9:45 am Ch. Choir 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm JTTW/Kids 6:45 pm Conf. Classes 6:45 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>19</b> Ruth Bible Study 2:00 pm  Men's Night 7:00 pm	<b>20</b> XYZ 12:00 pm	<b>21</b> Contemporary Liturgical Worship Svc 5:00 pm
<b>22</b> Worship 8:30 am Sunday Sch. 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Sr. Conf. Class 4:00 pm  Worship Team 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> Ch. Choir 5:45 pm  <b>No Conf. Classes</b>  Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>26</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Service 10:00 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Advent Begins</b>  Worship 8:30 am Sunday Sch. 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	<b>30</b> JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 am					



# NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	2	3 TNT 7-9:00 pm @ Church	4	5	6	7
8 SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	9	10 TNT 7-9:00 pm @ Church	11	12	13 Board Game Bonanza 4-10:00 pm	14
15 SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	16	17 TNT 7-9:00 pm @ Church	18	19	20	21
22 SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	23	24 TNT 7-9:00 pm @ Church	25	26	27	28
29 NO SWAP	30					

## Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar

## Reading Through the Bible 2020



### Schedule for November

1st	Luke 21-22	16th	Acts 11-12
2nd	Luke 23-24	17th	Acts 13-15
3rd	John 1-2	18th	Acts 16-17
4th	John 3-4	19th	Acts 18-20
5th	John 5-6	20th	Acts 21-23
6th	John 7-8	21st	Acts 24-26
7th	John 9-10	22nd	Acts 27-28
8th	John 11-12	23rd	Romans 1-4
9th	John 13-15	24th	Romans 5-7
10th	John 16-18	25th	Romans 8-10
11th	John 19-21	26th	Romans 11-13
12th	Acts 1-3	27th	Romans 14-16
13th	Acts 4-6	28th	I Corinthians 1-4
14th	Acts 7-8	29th	I Corinthians 5-8
15th	Acts 9-10	30th	I Corinthians 9-11

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The reading schedule is also printed each week in the bulletin, as well as on our [Ruthfred.org](http://Ruthfred.org) page. If you want to join the Bible App reading group (with the extra devotional features which are awesome!), please send an email to Don Roose and he will connect you. [donroose@yahoo.com](mailto:donroose@yahoo.com)

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**A joyful heart is good medicine.**

**Proverbs 17:22a**

**Some Thanksgiving riddles:**

1. Why did the pilgrims' pants keep falling down?
2. What's the difference between roast turkey and pea soup?



Answers to riddles:

1. They wore their buckles on their hats.
2. Anyone can roast turkey.

**I found  
this  
humerus**

