

Hallelujah



RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

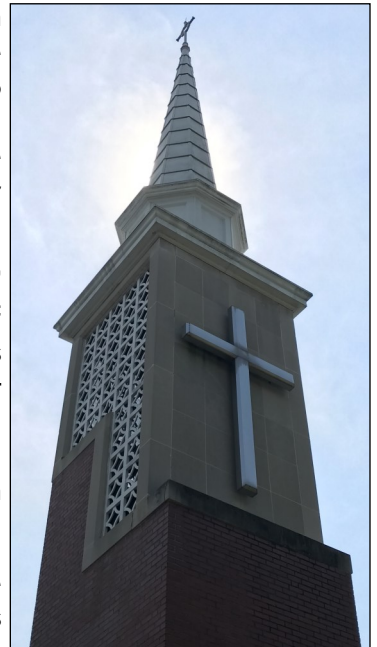
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

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

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

About Us:

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



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

The Divine Service of the Word

The Second Sunday after Easter, April 23, 2023

Prelude:

"Temple Prelude"

(V. Petrali)

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing"

(arr. G. Krapf)

"Prayer"

(F. Asper)

The Opening Hymn:

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

(SBH #408)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gen - tly sus -

a - tion;
va - tion: All ye who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw
reign - eth,
tain - eth: Hast thou not seen? All that is need - ful hath

near; Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
been Grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth. A - men.

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with his love he befriend thee!

4 Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him;
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the Amen
Sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him. Amen.

*Joachim Neander, 1650–80
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–78
Based on Psalms 103 and 150*

By permission of the Oxford University Press

The "invocation" is Latin for "call upon." In the Invocation we remember our baptism and acknowledge God as our Father. We are reminded that through Christ's name we have access to the Father's throne by the Holy Spirit. Because we are children of God, we have the privilege to invite (invoke) God's presence and blessing upon this service of "divine liturgy" in which we receive the Work of God through His Word and Spirit, and also in which we offer up to God our praise as an act of worship.

*Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:15;
Ephesians 2:18*

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

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

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

The Call to Worship and Invocation

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

Congregation (C): Amen

The Confession of Sins (SBH, p. 41)

Pastor (P): Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Congregation (C): Who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

P: Let us bow or kneel for the confession of our sin.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Silent Prayer of Personal Confession)

Together:

O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only-begotten son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives the power to become children of God, and bestows upon them His Holy Spirit. The one who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this O Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen

"Introit" means "to enter into," and is a responsive reading meant to lead God's forgiven children into the worship of Him. The words are from Scripture, and relate to the theme of the day in the liturgical calendar.

"Kyrie" is from the Greek word for *Lord*, which is the first word of the prayer. Distinct from the confession of sin, it is a prayer for God to grant His mercy in every aspect of our lives and to supply us with all our needs, personally, corporately and for the whole world.

The Hymn of Praise:

"The Gloria" (SBH p. 49-51)

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Christ is Risen.

C: He is Risen indeed and is coming again.

P: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord, alleluia:

C: By the word of the Lord were the heavens made. Alleluia, alleluia.

P: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

C: For praise is comely for the upright. (Psalm 33: 1, 5-6)

The Gloria Patri (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 43)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 48)

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: Christ, have mercy upon us.

C: Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Minister



Glo - - ry be to God on high!

Congregation, Unison



And on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, we glo-ri-fy thee,



we give thanks to thee for thy great glo-ry, O Lord God,



heaven-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al-might-y.



O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God.
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that tak - est a - way the
sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. Thou that tak - est a -
way the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer. Thou that sit - test at the
right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.
For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord;
thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most
high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A-men.

The “collect” is a prayer of the day for each day in the liturgical calendar. It is meant to “collect” the prayers of God’s people.

The Collect

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray: God, who, by the humiliation of Your Son, did raise up the fallen world: Grant to Your faithful ones perpetual gladness, and those who You have delivered from the danger of everlasting death, You make partakers of eternal joys. Through the same, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

C: Amen.

God's chief means of extending His grace to His children is through His Word. Hearing it and learning it are central to His proper worship.

The First Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 (NASB)

¹⁴ But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them:

³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

The Psalm: Psalm 116:1-14 (NASB, Read Responsively)

P: I love the LORD, because He hears my voice *and* my supplications.

C: Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.

P: The cords of death encompassed me and the terrors of Sheol came upon me; I found distress and sorrow.

C: Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I beseech You, save my life!"

P: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is compassionate.

C: The LORD preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.

P: Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

C: For You have rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

P: I shall walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I believed when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

C: I said in my alarm, "All men are liars." What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?

P: I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.

C: I shall pay my vows to the LORD, oh *may it be* in the presence of all His people.

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-25 (NASB)

¹⁷ If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*, ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ. ²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, ²³ for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, ²⁵ BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

The Gradual

Alleluia, alleluia. Then was the Lord Jesus known by the disciples in the breaking of bread. Alleluia. I am the Good Shepherd and know my sheep, and am known by mine. Alleluia. (John 10:11-16)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13-35 (NASB)

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

¹³ And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ One of *them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. ²² But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the

The "Gradual" (Latin for *step*) is a liturgical reading bridging the readings of the epistle and the Gospel. It is comprised of Scripture, mostly the Psalms.

"Alleluia" is Hebrew for "Praise the Lord."

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13-35 (NASB) (cont'd)

morning,²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.”²⁵ And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther.²⁹ But they urged Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them.³⁰ When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.³² They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”³³ And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them,³⁴ saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.”³⁵ They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

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

The Confession of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth.

And In Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Anthem

8:30 Senior Choir—*Alleluia, Praise!* (Cherubini/D. Wagner)

Alleluia, Alleluia,
O praise the Lord, in songs that echo the joy we have this day,
O celebrate the joy;
With music ringing, ever singing now, O praise the Lord.
Alleluia, O praise the Lord!

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

The Special Music

11:00 Will Charlton, piano—*Nocturne in F Minor Op. 55 No. 1 (F. Chopin)*

The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn:

**"Come Ye Faithful,
Raise the
Strain"** (SBH #106,
1st tune)

1. Come, ye faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri-um-phant glad-ness;
2. Now the queen of sea-sons, bright With the day of splen-dor,

God hath brought his Is-ra-el In-to joy from sad-ness;
With the roy-al feast of feasts, Comes its joy to ren-der;

'Tis the spring of souls to-day: Christ hath burst his pris-on,
Comes to glad-den Chris-tian men, Who with true af-fec-tion

And from three days' sleep in death, As a sun hath ris-en.
Wel-come in un-wea-ried strains Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion.

3 All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
From his light, to whom we give
Laud and praise undying.
Neither might the gates of death,
Nor the tomb's dark portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal,
Hold thee as a mortal;

4 But today amidst the Twelve
Thou didst stand, bestowing
That thy peace, which evermore
Passeth human knowing.
Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel
Into joy from sadness.

*St. John of Damascus, VIII cent.
Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66*

The Sermon is the central component of our Worship. In it, we hear God's Word taught and explained. We hear His Law, convicting of sin and guiding the believer. We also hear the promises of His Gospel, the Good News of Christ's work for us—His redemption, forgiveness and provision of life eternal.

The Sermon: "Best Bible Study EVER!" | Luke 24:13-35

Sermon Notes:

The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand)

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. (Psalm 51:10-12)

The Closing & Silent Prayer (Please bow or kneel in prayer)

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison)

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: "Now Let the Vault of Heaven Resound" (SBH #103) (2 pages)

1. Now let the vault of heaven re - sound In praise of Love that
2. E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, Where - fore our heart with

doth a - bound, 'Christ hath tri - umphed, Al - le - lu - ia,'
rap - ture sings, 'Christ hath tri - umphed, Je - sus liv - eth!'

Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear, Re - peat their song
Now doth he come and give us life, Now doth his pres -

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff for the voice and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The tempo is marked 'Andante'. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the final two lines. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, providing a harmonic support for the vocal melody.

of glo - ry here, 'Christ hath tri-umphed, Christ hath tri-umphed!
ence still all strife Through his tri - umph; Je - sus reign - eth!

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. A-men.

3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through thy triumph,
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our life we ever say,
'Christ hath triumphed, and he liveth!'
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

4 Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heavenly blessèd sing,
'Christ hath triumphed, Alleluia!'
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
Thine the glory never ending!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

Paul Zeller Strodach, 1876–1947

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude: "Thine Is the Glory" (arr. D. Johns)

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Al and Kerry Macugoski in thanks to God for the blessing of marriage and in celebration of the wedding of their son Eli to Marissa Sanchez.

Nursery Today: 8:30 & Sunday School—TBD; 11:00—Claudia Patalong.

Special thanks to Eric Wentz and Rich Rostauser. They are reading Scripture today at the 8:30 and 11:00 services, respectively.

Guest Organist: Please welcome Sibyl Mose as our guest organist today! Thank you, Sibyl!

Known to be hospitalized: Joanne Salvetti—Magee Women's Hospital. Caryl Hansen—now at Paramount Senior Living, Room 328. Bob Bohaski (surgery)—St. Clair Hospital. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

On Hospice Care: Fred Schell and Marie Wilmer. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Linda Donolo (broken leg & hip replacement). Linda is currently in Florida. Send cards to: 307 Reynolds Ct., Naples, FL 34112. Pat Lutz—recent surgery. Greg Saul—back surgery. Sylvia Fitzgerald—broken leg. Amy Taylor—upcoming rotator cuff surgery. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Carol McDowell—knee replacement. Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's father)—his cancer continues to spread. Jen Carlson—gall bladder surgery. Erna Jochum—Concordia Health Center Room 283. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Live Stream Fund: Given by Lois Montgomery with thanksgiving for the blessing of the Easter Week services and gratitude for the Live Stream services every Sunday.

A Sincere Thank You to the Ruthfred congregation for all of your prayers, cards, the beautiful plant arrangement, and comforting words received since the passing of my dad, George Kopac, on March 15. We are very appreciative of our church family's love and support. Thank you!—*Lynn and Robert Vogel*

Craft & Sew Thank You: Your candy donations have filled our supply closet. Thank you very much for your generosity! This candy will be used to bless local nursing home residents with favors on upcoming holidays.

Youth Bible Camperships: \$100 Bible Camperships are available to our youth attending a Christian camp. All camperships must be approved by Church Council. Deadline to submit an application is Sunday, May 7, 2023, for approval at the May Council meeting. Please place applications in the Council Secretary mail slot in the Conference Room. Please contact the church office if you need a copy of the application.

Young Adult Bible Study: This group will meet TONIGHT at 6:30 p.m. at Andrew and Cassie Vogel's house. All young adults are welcome to join. For questions or further information, please contact Andrew at andrewvogel@ruthfred.org.

Meals on Wheels Collection: Our neighbors at Meals on Wheels, located at Grace Lutheran Church in South Park, need bottled salad dressings. Donations will be accepted until June 4th. Their preferred purchase places are Aldi's or The Dollar Store. Please place these items in the appropriate bin outside the kitchen. They are grateful for any donation! If you have any questions, please contact Carol Ward. Thank you!

Announcements (cont'd)

GIFT Bible Study: Our April study will be TONIGHT at the Arelts' house at 6:30 p.m.

Open Church Council Position: The position of Secretary is currently open. The primary duty is to record minutes from the monthly meetings. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please contact Mark Riley, Council President, at markriley@ruthfred.org.

XYZers: The next meeting will be Friday, April 28th. The program will be presented by Susan Kimmel Wright, author and Ruthfred member. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the Library. Please join us for a wonderful lunch catered by Peggy Cox and a thought-provoking program! This will be the last meeting until September.

VBS 2023: Dates are July 24-28. The theme this year will be "Twists and Turns." Come and learn how following Jesus will help you through life's twists and turns. Registration is open at: <https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>. This link allows parents to register their children for this fun event and also allows volunteers to sign up to help make VBS a success!

VBS Decorating 2023: This year decorating will be an in-house project. We meet each Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. These meetings will continue until the decorations are completed. Please consider supporting this important ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Jason or Donna Weighley.

Preschool Registration is now open for the 2023-2024 school year. Register online at Ruthfred.org. Contact: preschool@ruthfred.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.

Employment Opportunity at Ruthfred: Do you have a heart for the youngest in our Church family? We have a need for a nursery worker during the 8:30 a.m. service and Sunday School. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help: coxfarrierservice@gmail.com.

Ruthfred Reflections Newsletter: This new publication will be a weekly email. If you subscribed to Two on Tuesday, you should have received an issue in your inbox on Wednesday. If you did not receive a copy and would like to, please call or send an email to the church office to have your email address added. If you would like to be removed from the list, please call or email to let the church office know that. If you have items to be added to the newsletter, please send them either to Melissa Bostaph, Parish Assistant, or Sally Ondrejko, Office Manager. Contact information for both is on the back of this bulletin.

National Day of Prayer: Please join us on Thursday, May 4th, at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. in the Adult Sunday School Room to pray for America. We will have a guided, informal time of prayer in a group (or groups) for approximately 45-60 minutes. Come and lift up your prayers vocally or silently.

College Graduates: It is that time of year when we want to recognize our graduates. Please let us know (via email to sallyondrejko@ruthfred.org) of any college or graduate school students who will be graduating this Spring. Please include name of student, name of college, date of graduation, and degree. We will be highlighting these students in future bulletins.

High School Graduates: Ruthfred will celebrate our high school graduates on Sunday, June 11th. We hope you are able to join us that day to receive a blessing from the church as well as a special, personalized gift.

Announcements (cont'd)

Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting has been requested and will occur on May 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The agenda will consist of an executive briefing by our attorney that will provide additional context to the January 15, 2023, congregational letter, an elder-led discussion addressing congregational concerns submitted to the council by the members who requested the meeting, and a discussion of council actions and plans to improve and strengthen our child protection policies and procedures. A letter of meeting notification and agenda will also be mailed to all members of the congregation.

Thanksgiving for the Craft and Sew Ministry: Thank you so much for the delightful holiday and seasonal table favors we receive each month! We also greatly appreciate the colorful and practical clothing protectors and walker caddies. — *Dot Corbett and fellow Halcyon Senior Living residents*

Easter Basket Thank You: It was another cheerful Easter for me...with the delivery of the pail filled with all the goodies and items that could be packed in. Thank you for the fun you brought to me and for all the volunteers who took the time to donate items and fill these pails for the shut-ins. Thank you for the cheerful faces of the family who delivered the pail along with the Easter wishes conveyed. This is truly what the Ruthfred family is all about. Easter Blessings to all! Ruthfred members, you made my day! — *Joan Reagan*

Save the Date—Parents' Date Night: Mark June 16th in your calendars for this event! This is a babysitting event and parents get to go out and have fun!!! We play games, sing songs, have a Bible lesson, feed the kiddos dinner, and have a snack while watching a movie. There will be a short planning meeting following the 11:00 service on May 7th for those interested in helping.

Lutherans for Life Quote: *"Our true identity turns us back toward our Creator, the one who not only made us but also defines us in His Word. So, permit me to remind you of that truth once more: You are a created child of God. You are handmade by Him, loved by Him, redeemed by Him, and sustained by Him. The gifts you possess are gifts He's given you; all that is good comes from Him. Your identity and your value are, always were, and always will be, found in Him."* — Michelle Bauman, Y4Life



Adult Sunday School Class Today In Large Classroom

Mark Arelt will conclude his series today—"Bible Questions Answered." Anyone who reads the Bible seriously is bound to run across certain passages that leave them thinking, "Hmm. Why is that in there?" or "How does that make sense?" or "What does that really mean?" Join us as we discuss some of the questions YOU have asked about The Bible.

Next week, Pastor McMinn will offer a class focused on The Absolution, using Bryan Wolfmuehler's The Absolution: an Anthology as a resource.

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YOUTH NEWS:

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is NO **SWAP** tonight.

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on April 25th 7-9 p.m.

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**Questions/concerns?**

**Contact: Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee**

## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (4/23) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

6:30 p.m.—GIFT Bible Study @ the Arelts'

6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Bible Study @ A&C Vogels'

## Tuesday (4/25) St. Mark, Evangelist

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

7:00-9:00 p.m.—VBS Decorating Meeting

### Wednesday (4/26)

6:00-8:00 p.m.—Confirmation Fun Night

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir (final rehearsal until Fall)

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

### Thursday (4/27)

10:00—Knit Wits

### Friday (4/28)

7:00 a.m.—Men's Prayer Group (Fireside Lounge)

Noon—XYZ

**Sunday (4/30) 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Recognition of Confirmation Students at both

## Worship Services

## Church Anniversary Sunday

Welcome to worship, Christian education, and fellowship! May God bless and strengthen you here today.

Attendance for Last Week:

Contemporary Worship...37

Sunday Worship...218    Sunday School...77

8:30 Live Stream...45

JTTW Brunch...61

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request Private (for our pastor only).

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

# Visiting with us?

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

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

Date:

Name:

Children:

Address:

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

Email:

I am a/an:

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

I would like to learn more about:

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

# Ruthfred Staff

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**Frederick Schell**  
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**Essi Efthimiou**  
Interim Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
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