

*We
have come
to worship Him*

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 the offering plate as it passes before you.

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 the Epiphany, January 15, 2023

Prelude:

"Be Thou My Vision" (H. Hopson)

"Variations on Salzburg" (J. Pachelbel)

The Opening Hymn:

"Be Thou My Vision"
(AMB #607)

(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)

1 Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all
2 Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word; I ev - er
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, Thou mine in -
4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, May I reach

else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best thought, by
with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Fa - ther,
her - i - tance, now and al - ways; Thou and Thou on - ly,
heav-en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -

day or by night, Wak-ing or sleep-ing, Thy pres-ence my light.
I Thy true son, Thou in me dwell-ing, and I with Thee one.
first in my heart, High King of heav-en, my Treas-ure Thou art.
ev - er be - fall, Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Ancient Irish hymn, tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935
Tune: Irish melody; arr. Norman Johnson, b. 1928

SLANE
10 10 10 10

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. 15)

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.

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: All the earth shall worship You, and shall sing unto You.

C: They shall sing to Your Name, O You most High.

P: Make a joyful noise unto God, all you lands.

C: Sing forth the honor of His Name, make His praise glorious. (Psalm 66:1, 2, 4)

The Gloria Patri (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 17)

**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. 18)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace that is from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for them that in faith, piety, and fear of God offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, pity and defend us, O God, by Thy grace.

C: Amen.

“Kyrie” is Latin 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:**

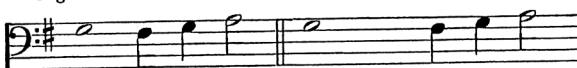
"Gloria in Excelsis"
(SBH p. 19)

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

¶ *The Minister shall sing or say:*

Organ

Minister



Glory be to God on high!

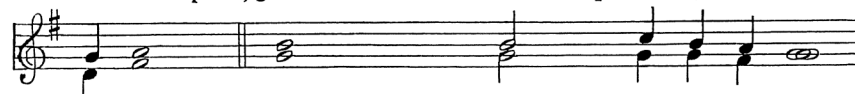
Congregation

Old Scottish Chant

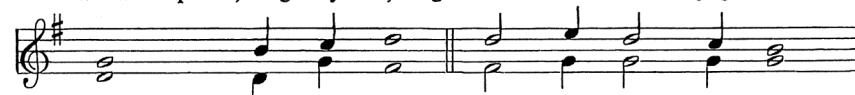


And on earth peace, good - will toward men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,



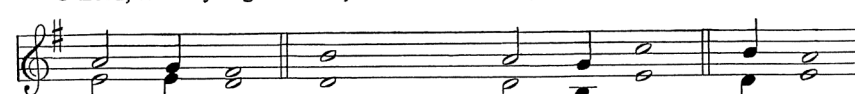
we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,



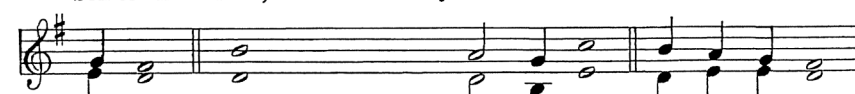
O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,



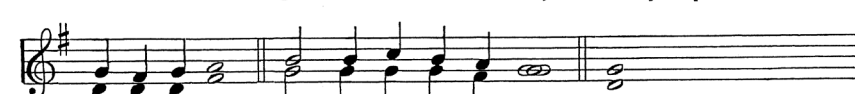
Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy



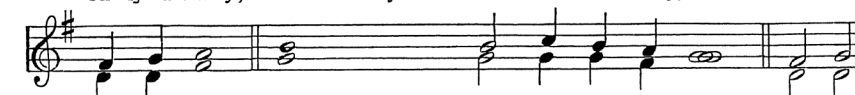
up - on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on us. For thou



on - ly art holy; thou on - ly art the Lord: thou only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. 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.

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 Collect:

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and earth. Mercifully hear the prayers of Your people, and grant us Your peace all the days of our life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

C: Amen

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-13, 26b (NASB)

¹ Listen to Me, O islands, and pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named Me. ² He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; and He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver. ³ He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel, in Whom I will show My glory." ⁴ But I said, "I have toiled in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely the justice *due* to Me is with the Lord, and My reward with My God." ⁵ And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and My God is My strength), ⁶ He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." ⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel *and* its Holy One, to the despised One, to the One abhorred by the nation, to the Servant of rulers, "kings will see and arise, princes will also bow down, because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You." ⁸ Thus says the LORD, "In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You; and I will keep You and give You for a covenant of the people, to restore the land, to make *them* inherit the desolate heritages; ⁹ Saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,' to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Along the roads they will feed, and their pasture *will be* on all bare heights. ¹⁰ "They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them and will guide them to springs of water. ¹¹ "I will make all My mountains a road, and My highways will be raised up. ¹² "Behold, these will come from afar; and lo, these *will come* from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Sinim." ¹³ Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people and will have compassion on His afflicted.

^{26b} "... and all flesh will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

The Psalm: Psalm 40:1-4, 8, 11 (NASB)

P: I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me and heard my cry.

C: He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.

P: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD.

C: How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.

P: I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.

C: You, O LORD, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me.

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (NASB)

¹ Paul, called *as* an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, ² To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Gradual:

He sent His Word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions. O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men. Alleluia, alleluia. Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him, all His hosts. Alleluia.

(Psalm 107:20-21; 148: 2)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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: John 1:29-37 (NASB)

The Congregation shall rise and sing, **“Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” ³⁰ This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ ³¹ I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” ³² John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’” ³⁴ I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵ Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

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 Anthems

8:30 Children's Choir—*Count Your Blessings* (J. Oatman)

11:00 Senior Choir—*Like a Shepherd* (C. Nygard)

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
And He shall gather the lambs in His arms,
and carry them in His bosom;
and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto Him all ye that labor,
All ye that are heavy laden and He will give you rest.
And you shall find rest.
Ye shall find rest unto you souls.

He shall gather the lambs, He shall gently lead, Like a shepherd.

The Announcements (Please be seated)


The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon

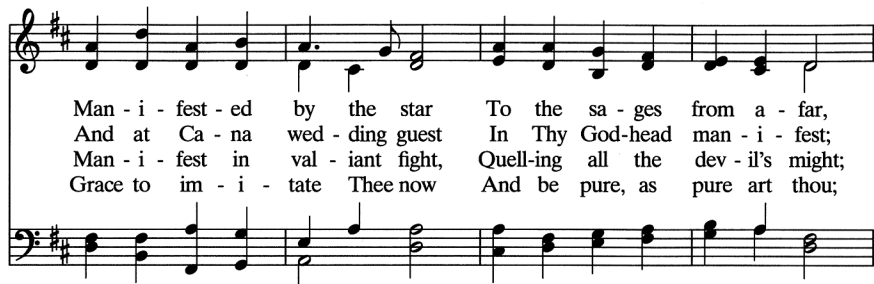
Hymn:

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

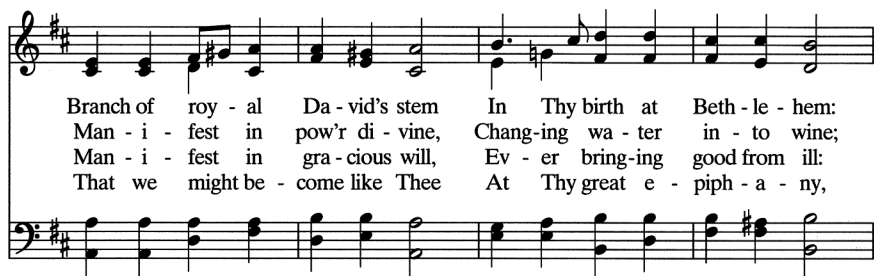
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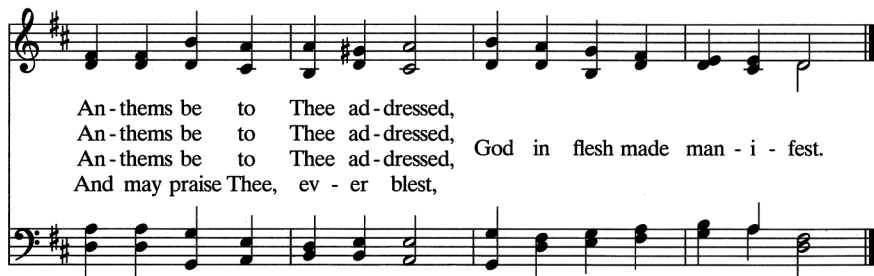
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord to Thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word;



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny,



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed,
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed,
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885
Tune: Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702, adapt.

SALZBURG
77 77 D

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: "The Servant's Salvation Song" | Isaiah 49:1-13

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)

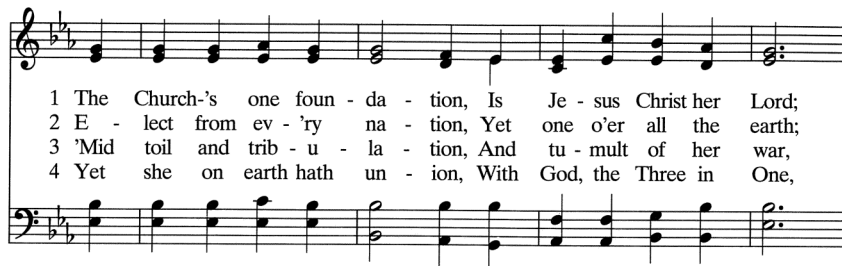
C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn:

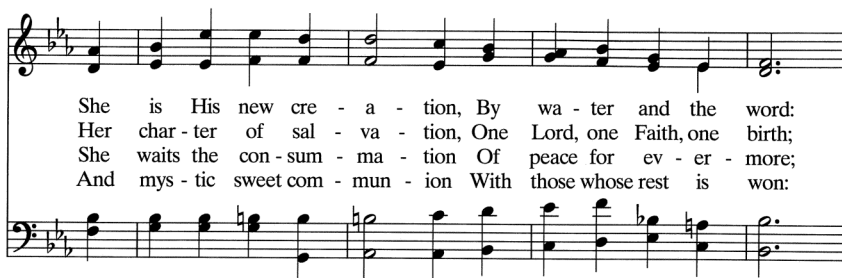
"The Church's One Foundation"

(AMB #292)

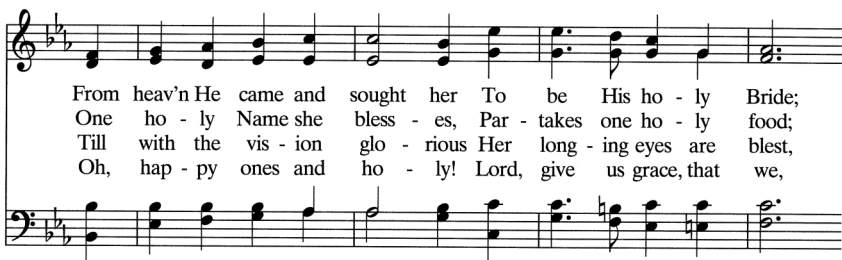
The Silent Prayer & Chimes



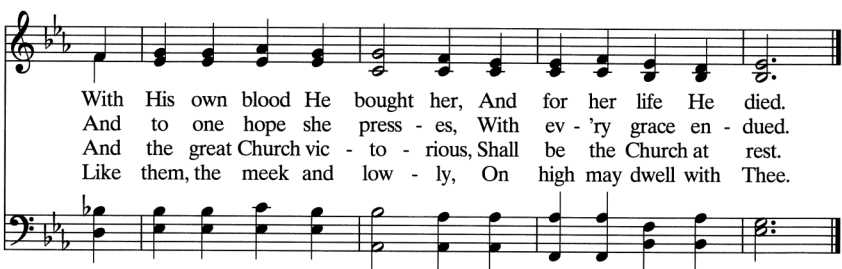
1 The Church-'s one foun - da - tion, Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
4 Yet she on earth hath un - ion, With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion, By wa - ter and the word:
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion, One Lord, one Faith, one birth;
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for ev - er - more;
And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won:



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly Bride;
One ho - ly Name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food;
Till with the vis - ion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace, that we,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And the great Church vic - to - rious, Shall be the Church at rest.
Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with Thee.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1901
Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

AURELIA
76 76 D

**PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR PEW FOR THE
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING BOTH SERVICES**

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Norma and Bob Vogel in loving memory of their dear sister, Linda J. Vogel, on the anniversary of her birthday, January 13th.

Nursery Today: 8:30 and Sunday School—Jenna Schwartz; 11:00—no attendant.

Known to be hospitalized: Fred Schell—Select Specialty Hospital (McKeesport). Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Lundy Castro—St. Clair Hospital. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Fritz Motzer is home after a brief hospital stay. Please keep in your prayers all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Prayer Request: Please be in prayer for our member Becky Lindner. Her husband, Rich, is one of our church elders.

Official Act: At 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn officiated at the funeral of James Albert (Jim) Agnew in the Ruthfred sanctuary. Burial followed at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time!

Benevolence Fund: Given by Mary Lou and Joe McKenna in memory of Terry Alwine.

Craft and Sew Fund: Given by Bill and Susan Rotz in memory of Jim Agnew.

Current Fund: Given by Barbara Flock in memory of Cornell Ghise. Given by a Friend in Christ in memory of Jim Agnew. Given by Sue Hughes in memory of Jim Agnew. Given by Joanne Salvetti in memory of James Agnew.

Music Fund: Given by Joyce Bock in memory of Terry Alwine.

Pastor's Fund: Given by Mary Habovick in memory of Jim Agnew and in honor of his faithful wife, Judy. Given by Barb Thomas in memory of Terry Alwine and James Agnew. Given by Bob and Gladys Reith in memory of Jim Agnew. Given by Mick and Marlene Nowicki in memory of Jim Agnew. Given by Carolyn Carr in memory of Jim Agnew and in loving sympathy for Judy Agnew.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Your attendance is requested at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held immediately following the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services TODAY, Sunday, January 15, 2023. The agenda includes the presentation of 2022 financial reports and the election of members of Church Council.

Thank You for the flowers in honor of our dad/husband! We also appreciate the beautiful service and all the support you provided to our family. — Janet, Janelle, and Eric Ghise

Bible Reading 2023: Please join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2023, starting on January 1, 2023. We will be using the YouVersion Bible app, which provides a reading guide for each day (including a daily Psalm), over 150 videos to engage readers throughout the year, and a talk-it-over feature. The daily reading schedule will also be available on the Ruthfred website, as well as being printed in each month's Herald. The theme for 2023 will be "One Story That Leads to JESUS." For questions, or to sign up, please email Don Roose at DonRoose@ruthfred.org.

New Member Class: We are still gathering names for a new member class to be offered starting Sunday, January 22, 2023. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let Melissa Bostaph, our Parish Assistant, know. Email: melissabostaph@ruthfred.org.

Support Life: During January and February, we will be collecting items needed by the two pregnancy centers we support, Health for Her in Bethel Park and New Life Options in Monongahela. Bins will be in the Fireside Lounge through February 12th for your donations. There will be a box in the church office for gift cards. Thank you for supporting these ministries! Please contact Jill Kurtz with any questions. The following items are especially needed: baby wash, baby lotion, bathtubs, crib sheets for **mini** cribs, video baby monitors, diaper bags (backpack style), girls' sleepers 9 months to 2T, girls' outfits 12-18 months, boys' sleepers 9-18 months, boys' outfits 9 months to 4T, and gift cards for Walmart, Target, Amazon, Kohls, etc. (Clothing, mini crib sheets, and diaper bags can be gently used.)

Journey Through the Word: Morning JTTW begins a new study on January 18, 2023—Nancy Guthrie's The Promised One (Jesus in Genesis). Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about this study: 412-708-3535 or writingcygnet@gmail.com. The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah's The Book of Signs. This week's topic will be "Persecution: The Increase of Intolerance" (Acts). Each lesson stands alone; there are plenty of books. Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

Portals of Prayer for January—March 2023: The new copies are now available at each of the church and sanctuary entrances, both in regular and large print.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES have been moved to the Library.

The 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet is now posted on the wall near the kitchen and Fireside Lounge. The months of March—July are still open.

XYZ Resumes Friday, January 27: Start your New Year off right by joining us for an informative presentation given by Jody Garlick, Registered and Licensed Dietitian. Jody will be speaking about the importance of a healthy, aging microbiome (healthy gut) and giving a live cooking demonstration. You won't want to miss this important and informative event, or the lunch catered by Peggy Cox. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the Library.

Life Week: Blessed for Life! - Lutherans for Life is offering online zoom meetings each evening, January 15-18 at 7 p.m., leading up to Life Sunday on January 22. This is an opportunity to hear Gospel-motivated presentations from different speakers on different life issues each night. Go to their website and click on "Resources" and find "Life Week" to see a list of topics - including developmental disabilities, infertility, snowflake/embryo adoption, human trafficking, and much more. The meeting ID is 848 3529 5744; passcode is 864870. Fact sheets and activity sheets are also available. Questions? Contact Jill Kurtz.

Craft & Sew is calling: We are in need of new or gently used dish or hand towels, no microfiber towels please. These are used to make adult clothing protectors. The residents of various nursing homes love these. Please put your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. If you or anyone you know could use a clothing protector (adult bib) please let me know. We will gladly give you as many as you need. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. Arlene Ball: 412-977-8013 or Arlene1952@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Today, January 15, 2023, the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services. The agenda includes the presentation of 2022 financial reports and the election of members to Church Council. The members who have agreed to be put on the ballot as nominees are detailed below.

<u>Recording Secretary:</u>	Barb Harrold
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Bill Ward*
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Rich Kleiser*
<u>Sunday School Superintendent</u>	Shane Cox*
<u>Elders:</u> (elect 3)	Eric Wente* Al Macugoski Pete Huwe Steve Cox
<u>8:30 Deacons:</u>	Chris Clark* Paul Mikulan
<u>11:00 Deacons</u>	Nathan Donolo
<u>Trustees:</u>	Jonathan Stutzman* Josh Cox*
*Indicates Incumbent	

2023 Nominating Committee Members: Lynn Vogel, Sue Hughes, Megan Huwe, Frank Fife, and Rich Rostausher. Thank you to all!

Ex Officio: Pastor Carlson, Pastor McMinn, and Melissa Bostaph



Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom*

Pastor Carlson is teaching a series on the book of I Thessalonians for the Adult Sunday School Class. The little book of I Thessalonians is perhaps the earliest canonical writing of St. Paul. It's focus is **"The Life of the Christian Congregation."** It is a gem of a book, filled with "an unmingled sweetness" of Christian love. In it we will be learning about sharing our faith, serving one another, living godly lives, understanding the end times, and how to live out the Gospel in the community of the congregation. You are invited!!! It will be wonderful to study and discuss this book together.

***Audio recordings of the class are available on the Ruthfred website.**



MOVIE NIGHT

On Sunday, January 29, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., we will host a viewing of the faith-based documentary *"Ends of the Earth."* Learn about Mission Aviation Fellowship pilots going to "hard-to-reach villages, willing to risk it all for the sake of sharing Christ's love." The documentary explores stories of faith, calling, and adventure by weaving together the true stories of MAF pilots, past and present, who strive along with other missionaries, churches, and organizations to take the gospel to the most isolated and inaccessible places on earth." MAF was added to our benevolence budget this year. Come see how your monetary gifts are being used. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Kurtz.



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is a **SWAP** meeting tonight at the church, 6-7:30.

All 7th-12th grade students: Registration for the AFLC Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Convention, slated to be July 3-8, 2023, at the YMCA in Estes Park, Colorado, opened on October 20th. This biennial convention brings approximately 2,000 AFLC youth from across the nation together for an unparalleled opportunity for spiritual, emotional, and relational growth! The theme will be "Restored," based on **Rev. 21:5-7**. Contact Jill Huwe or Kris Wentz for more information. You can review information at <https://www.flyconvention.org>. An informational letter was sent to your homes!

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on January 17th, 7-9 p.m.

Questions/concerns?

Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee (Pete & Jill Huwe; Eric & Kris Wentz; Jon & Denise Stutzman; or Shane & Kate Cox)

Congregational Report For 2022

Pastor Steven P. Carlson

Pastor Bryce C. McMinn

Baptized Members	918
Communing Members	800

Gains in Communing Membership:

Confirmation of Children	5
Adults Received (confirmation or affirmation of faith)	10
Adults Received (letter of transfer from Lutheran churches)	0
Return to Active Status	<u>5</u>
Total	20

Losses in Communing Membership:

By Death	16
Removed from church membership	31
Transferred to Other Churches	<u>7</u>
Total	54

Average Attendance—Sunday Church	261
Average 8:30 Live Stream—Sunday Church	45
Average Attendance—Contemporary Worship	45
Average 5:00 Live Stream—Contemporary Worship	7
Thanksgiving Day—Church..165 Live Stream..20	
Christmas Eve—Church..560 7:00 Live Stream N/A	
Christmas Day (Sunday)—Church..85	
Average Attendance—Sunday School	87

Official Acts:

Baptisms	9
Weddings	1
Funerals (includes 17 members)	22
Confirmation of Children & Adults	15
(Children have a 2 year program and adults have a 6-week program.)	

Pastor Carlson's Visits, Counseling Sessions – 2022	974
Pastor McMinn's Visits, Counseling Sessions – 2022	939

This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (1/15) 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
AFTER BOTH SERVICES**

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Monday (1/16) Martin Luther King Jr. Day

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders Meeting

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew

Tuesday (1/17)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

HAPPY 92nd BIRTHDAY PRISCILLA TARR

Wednesday (1/18)

9:15 a.m.—JTTW

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:00 p.m.—Forkless Dinner

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

6:45 p.m.—Confirmation; JTTW; Kids' Time

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

Thursday (1/19)

2:00 p.m.—Ruth

Friday (1/20)

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

Saturday (1/21)

6:00 p.m.—Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service

Sunday (1/22) Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & New Member Class

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service (Vos baptism)

6:30 p.m.—GIFT Bible Study (Glassers' House)

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

"God is faithful; by Him [we] were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 *Corinthians 1:9*). Welcome to worship!

Attendance for Last Week:

Church...293 Sunday School...79

8:30 Live Stream...45

JTTW (a.m.)...49 JTTW (p.m.)...55


Kids' Time...25

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 (to be kept amongst the pastors 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
Organist

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

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Denise Stutzman
Kids' Time Leader

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