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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 in Advent, December 4, 2022

Prelude:

"Es ist ein
Ros" (arr. Sobaje)

"Picardy" (arr.
Johnson)

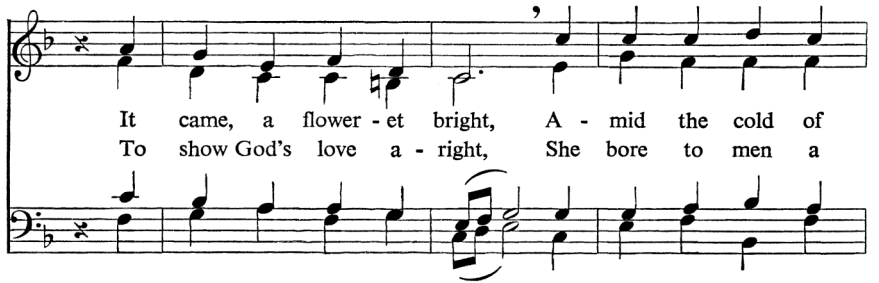
The Opening Hymn:

"Lo, How a Rose"
(SBH #38)

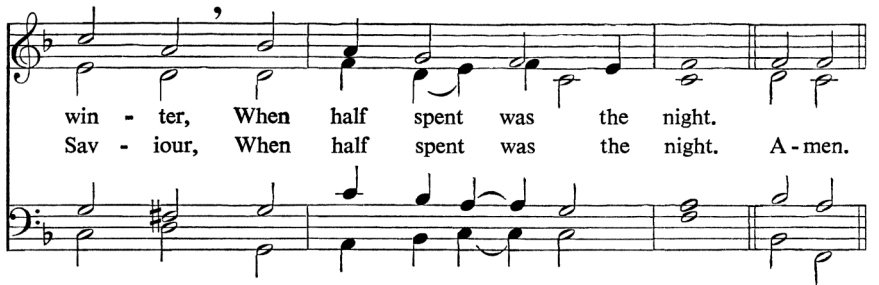
(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have sung.
2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind,
With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er kind.



It came, a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a



win - ter, When half spent was the night.
Sav - iour, When half spent was the night. A - men.

3 This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God,
From sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.

4 O Saviour, Child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day. Amen.

XVI cent.
Tr. St. 1, 2, Theodore Baker, 1851-1934
St. 3, Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925
St. 4, John Caspar Mattes, 1876-1948

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 Order for Public Confession (SBH, p. 247)

Unison: (U): Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord, Amen.

P: Let us humbly kneel, and make confession unto God, imploring His forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

U: O God, our heavenly Father, I confess unto Thee that I have grievously sinned against Thee in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known unto Thee. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my offenses, and I beseech Thee of Thy great goodness to have mercy upon me, and for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to forgive my sins, and graciously to help my infirmities. Amen.

The Absolution, Admonition & Blessing:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgiveth us all our sins. As a Minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you who do truly repent and believe in Him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

P: On the other hand, by the same authority, I declare unto the impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as they continue in their impenitence, God hath not forgiven their sins, and will assuredly visit their iniquities upon them, if they turn not from their evil ways, and come to true repentance and faith in Christ, ere the day of grace be ended.

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you 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.

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 “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.

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Daughter of Zion. Behold your salvation comes.

C: The Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard.

P: And you shall have gladness of heart. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel.

C: You that leads Joseph like a flock.

(Isaiah 62:11, 30:29, 30; Psalm 80:1)

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 Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 4:2-3; 11:1-10 (NASB)

² In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *will be* the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. ³ It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem.

¹ Then a shoot will spring from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; ⁴ But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist. ⁶ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. ⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious.

The Gradual:

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shined; our God shall come. Gather my saints together with me, those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. Alleluia, alleluia. I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within Your gates O Jerusalem. Alleluia.

(Psalm 50:2, 3, 5; 122:1-2)

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

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12 (NASB)

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

¹ Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'" ⁴ Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; ⁶ and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹ and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

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

During the Service of Holy Communion, we confess our faith using the Words of the Nicene Creed. Though officially adopted a few hundred years after Christ's earthly ministry, the Creed emphasizes the truths that had been taught since the time of the Apostles, namely, that Christ is both fully God and fully man. As such, we are assured that in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself became like us in every way, yet perfect and without sin; and shed His own Blood and gave His own Body in death so that we could find in Him forgiveness of sin and life eternal.

This creed has been used in worship across denominational lines.

The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

The Anthem

11:00 Senior Choir—*A Voice Cries Out, "Prepare the Way of the Lord"*
(Larson)

A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain made low.
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; All people shall see it together.
The mouth of the Lord has spoken it.
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed!"

Comfort, comfort my people; Proclaim the promise of the Lord:
His name shall be called Emanuel! The glory of the Lord shall be
revealed.


The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

The Reading of the Prophecy: Malachi 4:2



The Reading of the Fulfillment: Luke 1:76-79

The Announcements



The Sermon Hymn: "Now Jesus at the Door Is Knocking" (AMB #14)





1 Now Je - sus at the door is knock-ing! Hark, how He pleads our
 2 Be - hold, He at the door is call - ing, O heed, my soul, what
 3 Come Thou who spread-est joy and glad - ness, For - ev - er bide with


soul to win! Who hears His voice, the door un - lock - ing,
 He doth say; De - ny Him not, O thought ap - pall - ing,
 me and mine, And bring to those who sit in sad - ness

To sup with him He en - ters in! How blest the
 And turn Him not from thee a - way. My soul gives
 And gloom of death Thy light di - vine; A voice comes

day, my soul, how blest! When Je - sus comes to be thy guest!
 an - swer deep with - in: Thou bless - ed of the Lord, come in!
 from my soul with - in: Thou bless - ed of the Lord, come in!



Text: Magnus Brostrup Landstad, 1802–1880; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929;
 Carl K. Solberg, 1872–1954; and Carl Doving, 1867–1937
 Tune: German, 1690

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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.

On the first Sunday of each month, as well as on other special occasions, we have the privilege of receiving Holy Communion together. We do not require membership to participate in this. However, we do ask that those coming to receive Communion would be baptized believers in the saving work of Jesus Christ, who are of confirmation age (completed 8th grade), and who are in agreement with the biblical teaching of Christ concerning it.

We believe and teach that Holy Communion is a Sacrament in which we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine, that it was instituted by Christ himself, and that it is given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

The Sermon: "The Tree of Christmas" | Isaiah 4:2-3 and 11:1-10

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 Service for Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy Spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God: Who didst comfort Thy people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom Thou wilt also make all things new in the day when He shall come again to judge the world in righteousness. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; ever more praising Thee, and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of thy glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We believe and teach that the benefit for Christians receiving Communion is expressed in the words "given" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" (See Matthew 26:26-29). As described by Martin Luther in his *Small Catechism*, these words show us that "forgiveness of sin, life and salvation" are given to us in Communion.

Luther formulated a list of 20 questions with appropriate responses to guide the believer to prepare their hearts for Communion. We include a selection of those questions on the following page for the purpose of aiding you in the same way.

The Words of Institution:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he brake it and gave it to his disciples, saying, take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you; This do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also, he took the cup, when he had supped, and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison)

P: 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;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And with thy Spirit.

The Agnus Dei:

C: O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.

Are you sorry for your sins?

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

Do you desire to be saved?

Yes, such is my desire.

In Whom do you trust?

In my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.

What has Christ done for you that you trust in him?

He died for me and shed his blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Do you believe that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

Yes, I believe it.

What induces you to believe this?

The Word of Christ, "Take, eat this is My body; This is My blood, drink of it all of you."

Why ought we to remember and proclaim His death?

That we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins but Christ, true God and man; and that we may learn to look with terror at our sins, and to regard them as great indeed, and to find joy and comfort in Him alone, and thus be saved through such faith.

Finally, why do you wish to go to receive Holy Communion?

That I may learn to believe that Christ died for my sin out of great love, as before said; and that I may also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

The Distribution (During Communion): "Let All Mortal Flesh" (AMB #163) and "Of the Father's Love" (SBH #17, 1st tune)

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, And with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; Cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way, As the Light of light de - scend - eth
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the Bod - y and the Blood He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, That the powers of hell may
As with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav - en - ly food.
van - ish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord, most high!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885
Tune: French folk tune, 17th c.

PICARDY
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The Distribution (*cont'd*): "Of the Father's Love" (SBH #17, 1st tune)

Unison, in moderate time

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. O that birth for ev - er bless - èd, When the Vir - gin, full of grace,

The first system of the musical score features a vocal melody in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the piano accompaniment uses a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes with some chords.

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the end - ing he,
By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bare the Sav - iour of our race;

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The piano part includes some sustained chords in the bass line. The vocal line remains in the treble clef.

Of the things that are, that have been, And that
And the Babe, the world's Re - deem - - - er, First re -

The third system concludes the piece. The piano accompaniment features a final sustained chord in the bass line. The vocal melody ends with a half note.

fu - ture years shall see, Ev - er-more and ev - er - more.
vealed his sa - cred face, Ev - er-more and ev - er - more. A - men.

3 This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord;
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore.

4 O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413
Tr. St. 1–4, John Mason Neale, 1818–66
Tr. St. 5, Henry Williams Baker, 1821–77

The Nunc Dimittis:

U: Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel. 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 Prayer

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: And His mercy endureth forever

The Closing Prayer *(after which the congregation shall sing "Amen.")*

P: The Lord be with you.

C. And with thy spirit

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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: "O
How Shall I Receive
Thee" (AMB #3)**

**The Silent Prayer &
Chimes**

**The Postlude:
"Postlude on St.
Theodolph"**

(Albrecht)

1 O how shall I re - ceive Thee, How greet Thee, Lord, a - right?
 2 Thy Zi - on palms is strew - ing, And branch - es fresh and fair;
 3 Love caused Thine in - car - na - tion, Love brought Thee down to me;
 4 Re - joice then, ye sad - heart - ed, Who sit in deep - est gloom,

All na - tions long to see Thee, My Hope, my heart's de - light!
 My heart, its powers re - new - ing, An an - them shall pre - pare.
 Thy thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed And trem - ble at your doom,

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Thy lamp with - in my breast,
 My soul puts off her sad - ness Thy glo - ries to pro - claim;
 O love be - yond all tell - ing That led Thee to em - brace,
 He who a - lone can cheer you Is stand - ing at the door;

To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please Thee best.
 With all her strength and glad - ness She fain would serve thy Name.
 In love all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fal - len race.
 He brings his pit - y near you, And bids you weep no more.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite
 Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635

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Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Sue Hughes in memory of Lee Hughes and in gratitude for God's Grace and Jesus's Redemption of our lives by His death.

Nursery Today: 8:30—Jenna Schwartz & Sadie Carlson; Sunday School—Jenna Schwartz; 11:00—Claudia Patalong.

Substitute Organist: Please note that Essi Efthimiou is our long-term substitute organist during Fred's absence. Thank you, Essi!

On Hospice Care: Marie Wilmer continues under hospice care. Please support her with your prayers and cards.

Known to be hospitalized: Fred Schell (broken ribs and now a cancer diagnosis)—UPMC Shadyside Hillman Hospital. (Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.) Please keep him in your prayers and support him with cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's dad) is battling Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma. His mailing address is: 49196 N. Grosse Pointe Shores Rd., Hancock, MI 49930. Derrick Fouks (father of Brandon) was in a car accident on October 9th and sustained serious injuries, but he is now home and having in-home physical therapy. (Address: 2463 County Rd. H, Deer Park, WI 54007.) Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of 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. Becky has been on dialysis and is in need of a kidney transplant. She is now on the National Kidney Registry. Additional information can be found at: www.NKR.ORG/JGM887. Please pray that a matching kidney donor can be found for Becky and that God would give her sustaining strength and health while she waits.

Birth Announcement: Congratulations to Steven & Svetlana Rothermel on the birth of Casper Ivan, born on November 23rd! Congratulations also to grandparents Matt & Barb Rothermel!

Music Fund: Given by Joann Mals in loving memory of Shirley Watson.

Pastor's Fund: Given by Chris and Marcia Clark in honor of Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn.

Heartfelt Thanks: Thank you for walking this journey with us. Your prayers have upheld us. Cards, visits, and your gifts given in Shirley's memory have touched our hearts. Your presence is with us in the beautiful Peace Lily. You have been a comfort to us in Shirley's service and luncheon. Thank you for sharing with us the blessing of mom and gram's life. **Vic, Cheryl, & Sarah Massack.**

Christmas Giving Tree: A tree outside the elevator is decorated with small red & green envelopes to benefit the Adopt-A-Family program. This program benefits local families who cannot provide meals, or gifts, for their family at Christmas. If you can possibly donate a gift card to Giant Eagle, Shop N Save, Walmart, Aldi's, Eat 'N Park, or Target, it would help provide food, and possibly a small gift, this Christmas. Please include the gift card receipt, or write the dollar amount on the envelope, and then either place it in the weekly offering basket or take it to the office where there is a decorated collection bin. All gift cards must be turned in by **TODAY**. I will deliver them tomorrow. Thank you! **Carol Ward (412) 559-2592**

Benevolence Committee Meeting: We will meet tomorrow, December 5th, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room to discuss our guidelines, charter, and missionary updates. All are welcome!

Announcements (cont'd)

Additional Christmas Giving Tree: This year we will be collecting items for the January opening of a new emergency shelter for female survivors of sex trafficking and/or sexual violence/exploitation—Refuge for Women, a faith-based ministry. They will provide temporary housing, crisis intervention, and support services. The shelter will have 10 bedrooms. They are in need of hair dryers, sweatshirts, and sweatpants. (Any size and any color for the clothing.) Tags are available on the tree in the Fireside Lounge. Please return your donations, unwrapped, to the lounge by December 18th. Contact Jill Kurtz with any questions.

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.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES: are now on a table in the hall near the elevator on the Sanctuary level. Please pick your envelopes up this morning if you have not already done so!

2023 Flower Chart is now available on the bulletin board by the water fountain in the Patterson hallway. Please sign up for helping to provide the blessing of altar flowers next year. Please note that the cost of altar flowers has increased from \$40 to \$50 for next year.

Poinsettia Orders: It's that time of year! You are able to purchase a poinsettia plant in memory of or in honor of loved ones to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Christmas. Envelopes are in the pew racks. The cost is \$12.50 per plant. There are new, larger envelopes this year. Be sure to place your dedication on the envelope. Remember to write your name & color preference (red or white) on the envelope as well. Please place your cash/check in the envelope and drop it in the collection basket or in the box in the Church Office. The deadline is next Sunday, December 11.

Operation Christmas Child: Once again, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for their continued generosity. A week ago Monday night I dropped off 136 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes at the South Hills Bible Chapel, which means that 136 children from around the world will have a gift to open at Christmas! Last year's total was 111, so this was a significant increase. Thank you so very much! **Carol Ward**

Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets: Pastor Carlson's stewardship letter, along with pledge cards and time and talent sheets, has been mailed. Please prayerfully complete your pledge cards and time and talent sheets and return them by next Sunday. Your faithfulness is a blessing!

Kane Regional Center Angel Tree: Since the Baptist Home has closed, we are collecting gifts for the 25 residents of Kane. These are people who have no one else to bring them joy at Christmas. All of the tags have been taken, so please be sure to return your gifts by December 18th. If you have any questions, please call Jan Ruzicka at 724-941-3572. Thank you for your generosity!

Journey Through the Word: Both morning and evening sessions are up and running, but you can still join one of these Wednesday studies. The morning group is studying *1 Corinthians*, using N. T. Wright's study guide. Contact Sue Swan if you would like more information: 412-708-3535 or writing cygnet@gmail.com. The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah's *The Book of Signs*. Each lesson stands alone, and there are plenty of books. The lesson for December 7th will be "Materialism: Financial Signs of the End Times (NT Readings)". Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

Announcements (cont'd)

Attention All Parents: Our Christmas program has been on hiatus, but this year it is back! It will be on Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to have all involved, from the littlest to the biggest, so all children from preschool through high school are invited to participate. Remaining rehearsal times for children in grades one and up will be: 12:30—2:30 p.m. today and during Sunday School on Sunday, December 11th. Lunch will be provided today. If you have questions, please contact Kerry Macugoski, Donna Weighley, or Erin McMinn.



Please join us

Children's Christmas Program

"The Son Has Come"

Sunday, December 11th
4 pm in the Sanctuary

Congregational potluck dinner to follow
Please sign up at the bottom of the stairs by the
Fellowship Hall by December 4th.
Meat, rolls, and drinks will be provided.

Please bring the following:
Last names A-K: salads
Last names L-S: sides (not salads)
Last names T-Z: desserts



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!



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is **SWAP** tonight at Ruthfred, 6—7:30.

Save the date: **SWAP** Christmas Party on December 18th, 5-8 p.m.

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 Wentte 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 December 6th, 7-9 p.m.

Save the date: TNT Christmas Party on December 17th, 7-10 p.m.

Questions/concerns?

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



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
3110 EAST MEDICINE LAKE BLVD
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55441-3008
(763) 545-5631 Fax: (763) 545-0079
Home Page: www.aflc.org

*"... where the spirit
of the Lord is,
there is freedom."
2 Cor. 3:17*

Nominating Committee

What a blessing it is to belong to a fellowship that holds onto the inerrancy of God's Word and the truth of our Lutheran confessions. May God continue to bless our Association.

**The 2023 annual conference will be held in Sioux Falls S.D.
The 2024 conference will be held at AFLC Schools, Plymouth MN.**

The AFLC is founded on the principle that the local congregation is the right form of God's Kingdom on earth, and no power but God's Word and Spirit may dictate to it. The AFLC is not an incorporated synod, but an association. Each local congregation is a separate corporation, and several additional corporations are sponsored by them to direct our common endeavors.

These endeavors are dependent upon the participation and free-will contributions of members.

Will you pray about volunteering to serve in the positions and tasks listed on the back?

Please forward any nominations and phone numbers to:

VICKI JOHNSON
Congregation/Dist. Rep.



610-207-0132
Phone

For these positions, there should be 2 nominees:

Board of Trustees: (Lay – 5 year term)

Must be on the Schools Corporation

Board of Trustees: (Pastor – 5 year term)

Must be on the Schools Corporation

World Missions Board: (Lay – 5 year term)

Must be on the World Missions Corporation

World Missions Board: (Pastor – 5 year term)

Must be on the World Missions Corporation

Home Missions Board: (Lay – 2 year term)

Must be on the Home Missions Corporation

Home Missions Board: (Pastor – 2 year term)

Must be on the Home Missions Corporation

Bay Broadcasting Board: (Lay – 3 year term)

Must be on the Home Missions Corporation

FLAPS Board: (Lay – 5 year term)

Must be on the Home Missions Corporation

ARC Board: (Lay – 5 year term)

Must be on the ARC Corporation

Coordinating Committee: (Pastor – 5 year term)

Youth Board: (Lay – 5 year term)

Board of PUB & PE: (Lay – 5 year term)

Benefits Board: (Lay – 5 year term)

Evang. & Discipleship. Board..... (Lay – 5 year term)

Budget Analysis Committee.....(Lay – 3 year term)

Budget Analysis Committee.....(Lay – 3 year term)

Home Missions Corporation (20 nominees)

World Missions Corporation (20 nominees)

Schools Corporation (20 nominees)

ARC Corporation (20 nominees)

Conference Committees serve at the ~~2024~~**Annual Conference**, and present resolutions for the Conference to consider. Each Committee has five members, with a majority of laity.

Committee #1 (Administration)

Committee #2 (Schools)

Committee #3 (Home Missions and World Missions, Lay only)

Committee #4 (Publication, Parish Education, and Youth)

Committee #5 (Evangelism and Benefits)

For The Month of December

Acolytes: 8:30 a.m. (12/4, 12/11, 12/18) Isaiah Compel

11:00 a.m. (12/4, 12/11, 12/18) Josh Cimarolli

Christmas Eve.	5:00 p.m.	Asher Manzo
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7:00 p.m. Elliot McMinn

9:00 p.m. Josh Cimarolli

Christmas Day	10:00 a.m.	Elliot McMinn
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Crucifers: 8:30 a.m. (12/11) Morgan Dolence

11:00 a.m. (12/4) Morgan Dolence

11:00 a.m. (12/18) Courtney Felicetti

Christmas Eve.	5:00 p.m.	Courtney Felicetti
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7:00 p.m. Morgan Dolence

9:00 p.m. Holly Miller

Altar Guild: Mari Donlin

Counters: 8:30 a.m. Neil Wagner, Chris Clark

11:00 a.m. Kurt Ziegler, Eric Wente

Ushers: 8:30 a.m. Bernard Paterra, John Ruzicka


11:00 a.m. Pete Huwe

Nathan Donolo (12/4, 12/11), Logan Huwe (12/18, 12/26)

Coffee Hour: _____ Glasses

[illegible]

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE: Today, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Today, by means of bread and wine, Jesus Christ gives Himself to each communicant. This is His Word and promise. We accept His Lutheran church, we ask you to speak meaning of Holy Communion and a come to the altar.. we must come with return.. we always bow or kneel in what Jesus Christ has given unto us. children who are not instructed and encouraged to come to the altar rail for a family blessing.



Word. If you are not a member of a to our pastors at any time about the person's desire to receive it. When we believing and repentant hearts. As we prayer in thanksgiving to God for We do not practice the communion of confirmed, but the children are



This Week At Ruthfred

Today (12/4) 2nd Sunday in Advent; City Mission

Food Sunday

8:30 a.m.— Communion Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Communion Service

6:00 p.m.—Communion Service

Monday (12/5)

9:30 a.m.—Journey Through the Word Leaders

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew (Crafters only)

7:00 p.m.—Benevolence Meeting & Elders' Meeting

Tuesday (12/6)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

Wednesday (12/7)

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 (12/8)

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits

Friday (12/9)

HAPPY 97th BIRTHDAY JOYCE ALDERSON

7:30 a.m.—Men's Prayer Group (Fireside Lounge)

Saturday (12/10)

HAPPY 92nd BIRTHDAY GARNETT WASSON

9:30 a.m.—Mary Bible Study (Fireside Lounge)

Sunday (12/11) 3rd Sunday in Advent

LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

4:00 p.m.—Children's Christmas Program & Potluck

Welcome to the promise of Advent: Amid barren trees, Isaiah announces spring growth—a “shoot” representing new life in Jesus (11:1).

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...258 Sunday School...91

8:30 Live Stream...43

JTTW (a.m.)...44; JTTW (p.m.)...51; Kids' Time...21

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

Rev. Steven P. Carlson | Senior Pastor
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 229)
PastorCarlson@ruthfred.org

Rev. Bryce C. McMinn | Associate Pastor
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 226)
PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org

Melissa Bostaph | Parish Assistant
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 225)
MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org

Sally Ondrejko | Office Manager
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 222)
SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org

John Morden | Accounting Manager
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 224)
JohnMorden@ruthfred.org

Felicia Rieck | Administrative Assistant
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 221)
FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org

Brian Lyskava | Custodian

Andrew Vogel | Multi-Media Coordinator
(412) 568-3215
AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org

A. J. Dolence | Live Stream & Social Media Assistant
AJDolence@ruthfred.org

Robert Vogel
Senior & Bell Choirs

Frederick Schell
Organist

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

Denise Stutzman | Preschool Head Teacher
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 234)
DeniseStutzman@ruthfred.org

Lauren Compel & Denise Stutzman
Kids' Time Leaders

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102
Phone: (412) 835-7140
Email: ruthfred@ruthfred.org
www.ruthfred.org