

## **“Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid.”**

(Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-51; John 6:15-21)

By Pastor Carlson

The disciples of Jesus are in the boat on the Sea of Galilee. A violent storm has whipped up suddenly that they had not anticipated, and it is in the “dead of night.” They fear that they are too far from the shore to go back and also too far from the opposite shore to make it across. They are probably dead center in the middle of the sea as they battle the storm hoping to survive. You can imagine their increased fear when they see “a ghost” walking on the water toward them! Undoubtedly they thought this was the “death ghost” coming to usher their souls into the realms of death. It would have seemed like death was literally reaching out to seize them and they had nowhere to go to escape its grasp. The fright alone would have been enough to scare the life out of them!

I think we might feel that way right now at different times. We are certainly in the midst of a storm that whipped up suddenly and has threatened to engulf our individual lives and our entire world. We did not see it coming! Many see a demonic force behind the storm on the Sea of Galilee. It would certainly be safe to say that there is a dark force of evil behind the storm of Covid-19 today as well. In the dark of night, we might feel the “death ghost” coming for us! There are times when it seems to get close, like when we hear of someone who has the virus, or watch too much news or social media. We might feel like we are out too far on this and in over our heads as we try to make our way across the sea of life. For many, the storm is not the virus but rather the winds of controversy that have been whipped up on the waves of the virus. It is hard to see clearly in the dark of night. What is coming on the water? What does the future hold? Is one to be filled with fear or with faith in regards to this figure walking on the water. The disciples are terrified.

In the midst of this storm, it is Jesus who comes walking on the water. Jesus, by walking on the water, shows that He, as Creator of the world, has power over everything. With this miracle Jesus is also “re-enacting” the Old Testament miracle of the parting of the waters of the Red Sea so that God’s people could walk through on dry ground and escape from slavery in Egypt. God has always been at work miraculously delivering His people from bondage.

Jesus calls out, “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.” What incredible words to hear in the dead of night and in the darkness of the storm! “Do not be afraid” is a command that we hear repeatedly throughout the Bible. God knows that we are so prone to be afraid; therefore, He is constantly reminding us that He is in control and we do not need to fear. He does not always calm the physical storm around us, but He always speaks a calming peace to our soul.

Continued on Page 3 . . .

**Ruthfred Lutheran Church**

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is **Saturday, September 19, 2020.**

The email publication date is **Thursday, October 1, 2020.**

**In This Issue**

- 3 Pastor's Article**  
Continued from Front Page
- 4 Official Acts; Letter from the Editor**
- 5 Song of the Month**  
"My Lighthouse"
- 6 Council Highlights**  
August 2020
- 7-8 Announcements**

## Continued from Front Page . . .

Peter immediately wants to go to Jesus. I love Peter's courage! Jesus calls him to step out on the water and to come to Him. Peter does so, but then his fears get the best of him as he looks at the dark, deep, stormy waters. He starts to doubt. He wishes he had played it safe and stayed in the boat. He starts to sink like a rock. He cries out, "Lord, save me!" (shortest prayer in the Bible!) "Immediately, Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, saying 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'" Peter doubted when he had taken his eyes off of Jesus. To be fair, the other disciples had not even dared to get out of the boat! At least Peter stepped out in faith!

This fall, although we are still out on the water in the storm of Covid-19 and all the extra debris that has been wrapped around it like a hurricane, obscuring the ability to even see clearly at times, yet in this season, Jesus comes to us. Jesus reminds us that He is in control and He walks on these chaotic waters. He reminds us that He has come to us. He reminds us to "not be afraid." And, He calls us to get out of the boat, keep our eyes on Him, and to come walk with Him. These past six months we have been "walking on water" with Jesus. It has been a "real trip" in many ways! Sometimes we may have felt less confident than at other times. Sometimes we feel bold and invincible like Peter. Other times we might feel the waters getting deeper and wonder "why did I get out of the boat?!" Every week brings new challenges, but Jesus has been there all the time! As we continue to walk forward we will certainly have some ups and downs, but let us remember that Jesus is with us, He is in control, He answers our prayers, and His hand is faithfully holding us up all the way!

Growing Together in our Faith as the Family of God,

Pastor Carlson

## Official Acts

(\*indicates member)

### Baptisms

\*Allen Donald Hobaugh – August 2, 2020

### Funerals

Lorinda Kanagy Dabney (memorial service) – July 24, 2020

### Transfers

Chuck & Virginia DiSalvo transferred to Bible Lutheran Church, Rincon, Georgia – June 30, 2020

### Weddings

\*Athena Cardiges and \*Andrew Valentine – July 25, 2020

## From the Editor

My wife and I were blessed to welcome our daughter into the world on August 21, 2020. We are beyond excited to introduce Anastasia Juliet Rothermel.



Because of the time commitment involved with raising a child, this will be my last issue as Editor of the Ruthfred Herald. The plan is to have Tom Glasser take over next month after Church Council approves him as Editor. Tom has written the beautiful Song of the Month articles for several years now. He also sings in the choir and has been an elder on Church Council. I am fortunate to have gotten to know Tom personally the last few years, and I am confident that the Herald is being transferred into very capable hands.

Thank you all for the chance to serve as Editor for the last five years. It has been a great honor, and an experience I will never forget.

God bless,

Steven Rothermel

## Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

# My Lighthouse

Music and lyrics by Gareth Gilkeson and Chris Llewellyn of Rend Collective

“Papa, can you play a VBS CD for us?” This is what I almost invariably hear from my grandchildren when transporting them in my car. Vacation Bible School at Ruthfred, as well as at innumerable churches everywhere, is a wonderful educational and outreach experience for children. Part of that experience usually involves a batch of lively songs assembled to support the selected theme. One of those songs that has achieved extra staying power here at RLC is “My Lighthouse.” Our worship team has adopted it into its repertoire and does a great job of performing it. If you’ve participated in VBS, attended Prayer & Praise nights, or attended our church picnic last month, you’ve probably sung it. The lyrics of the song consist of a believer addressing God metaphorically as a lighthouse.

**My Lighthouse, My Lighthouse,  
Shining in the darkness, I will follow you.  
My Lighthouse, My Lighthouse,  
I will trust the promise You will carry me  
Safe to shore!**

To the best of my knowledge lighthouses are never mentioned in the Bible. We know that the Israelites of Biblical times were not a seafaring people. They typically viewed the sea as symbolic of chaos and danger. With a brief bit of research on the Internet I found that the oldest known lighthouses were likely in Egypt and present-day Turkey. Lighthouses have since been used throughout the world to “mark dangerous coastlines, hazardous shoals, reefs, rocks, and safe entries to harbors.” [Wikipedia.] So while you won’t find “Lighthouse” among the many names and titles given to Jesus in the Bible, it is easy to see why it could be a meaningful addition. Although the Jews were not seafaring, as mentioned above, they did fish the Sea of Galilee (which is more like a large lake than what we typically think of as a sea). Pastor McMinn recently preached an excellent sermon based on Matthew 14:22-33, which tells the story of Jesus walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee toward his disciples who were being tossed about in a wind- and wave-battered boat. Pastor’s sermon reassured us of how Jesus will always be there for us as we deal with the “waves of chaos” that challenge us in our lives.

“My Lighthouse” was composed and performed by a group called Rend Collective. More specifically, the actual composers’ names are Gareth Gilkeson and Chris Llewellyn. On their Facebook page Rend Collective describe themselves as an “eclectic collective of multi-instrumentalists from Ireland who through songs, music, and stories want to lead people closer to Jesus.” Given the exuberant, fun-to-sing, folk-rock style of “My Lighthouse,” it’s easy to gloss over the seriousness of the lyrics. Who among us does not face “troubled seas” in our lives and need a divine Lighthouse to get us “safe to shore”?

**In my wrestling and in my doubts  
In my failures You won’t walk out.  
Your great love will lead me through;  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.**

## Church Council Highlights

August 10, 2020

The August council meeting was brought to order by President Joe Roman at 7:30 PM. The prayer and Bible study were given by Will Charlton.

Dave Compel was present to give an update on the newly-installed cameras in the sanctuary. The cameras were well under budget, but there is a need for some new microphones and lavalier microphones and cabling. A motion to approve the additional equipment was made by Tom Sanders and seconded by Don Roose. The motion passed.

July council minutes were approved in a motion by John Welsh and seconded by Gary Fisher.

Pastor McMinn advised that a Children's Education meeting will take place to discuss the educational path for our children moving forward.

Will Charlton advised that Ruthfred will be hosting the Lutherans for Life Regional Conference on September 26, 2020, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. A boxed lunch will be catered by the Coxes. There will be four speakers throughout the day and the Children's Choir will perform. This is the first time the group will be held by Ruthfred and the hope is that we will have a good turnout for the conference.

Sunday School Superintendent, Barb Harrold, stated that Sunday School is hoping to begin on September 13th. There is a need for a couple more Sunday School teachers. Please contact Barb if you can help.

A motion was made by Roger Kurtz to accept the bid from RK Painting to clean, scrape, caulk and paint the parsonage. The motion was seconded by Barb Harrold. The motion passed.

For the Treasurer's Report, Chuck Morrison stated that we are in great financial shape but will remain watchful through the end of the year. Chuck has organized the Financial Committee for 2020-2021 to start meeting this month. The committee consists of Chuck Morrison, Dave Battiste, Peggy Glasser, Steve Cox, Nathan Donolo, Pete Huwe, Connie Munn, and Becky Evans. The meeting that will be slated for November will be open for the congregation to attend. A motion was made by Chuck Morrison to approve the 2020-2021 Finance Committee; motion seconded by John Welsh. The motion passed.

Denise Stutzman accepted the position of Head Teacher for the Ruthfred Preschool and Kristin Crothers accepted the position of Assistant Teacher. Both Mettelise Ziegler and Peggy Glasser were instrumental in interviewing candidates to help grow our Preschool. They also suggested that the purchase of an IBM/Chromebook would greatly aid the Preschool function. A motion was made by Joe Roman to make an IBM purchase; seconded by Pete Huwe. The motion passed.

Pastor Carlson made a request for a Bible College Scholarship to be given to Colton and Rebecca Cox for the fall semester. A motion was made by Don Roose to approve the request and seconded by John Welsh. The motion passed.

Pastor McMinn offered the closing prayer. Joe Roman adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Evans, Acting secretary

## Announcements

### Fall Ministry Schedule

We are carefully and prayerfully entering the fall season with many of our ministries resuming, although some will wait to start until later in the fall. Following is the schedule for each:

- Confirmation (Jr. & Sr.) classes will start on Sept. 8th & 9th (Tue/Wed).
- Preschool (4 yr. old class) starts on Sept. 9th (Wed).
- Children's Sunday School will start on Sept. 13th (Sun).
- Adult Sunday School will continue with a combined class on Sept. 13th (Sun).
- Morning JTTW Bible Study will start on Sept. 16th (Wed).
- Our Choirs (Sr., Children's & Bell) will also be starting this month.
- KidsTime & Evening JTTW will start on Oct. 7th (Wed).
- Please see the church calendar for the continuation of other ministries such as Men's Group and Women's Circle groups.

We praise God for the opportunity for all these ministries to go forward. Please be in prayer for each of them, and look to see what ones you might be comfortable joining at this time!

### Lutherans for Life

Lutherans for Life is the finest Christian organization that I know in regards to life issues. Ruthfred has been part of this ministry for a number of years and we are so thankful for its solid Biblical commitment to life in all aspects. "Lutherans for Life" supports and celebrates all life from preborn all the way through to end-of-life issues at the time of natural death. Today in our world, life is increasingly vulnerable at all stages, and the value of life is often tied to productivity rather than given its proper sacredness, which comes simply from the position of being created in the image of God. Even though many lives might be "invisible" in our society, they are "indispensable" to God!

Lutherans for Life" has never had a Regional Conference in Pittsburgh before, but one is being held next month, and we are hosting it!

- Theme: "From Invisible to Indispensable."
- Theme Verse: "On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable . . ." (I Cor. 12:22)
- Place: Ruthfred Lutheran Church
- Date: Sept. 26th (Saturday)
- Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
- Registration: please go online at [lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://lutheransforlife.org/conference)
- Cost: \$50.00 (We are working on a 50% discount for Ruthfred members!)
- Lunch is included.
- Speakers: Rev. Michael Salemink (Director of Lutherans for Life), Rev. Dr. Wade Mobley (President of AFLC Seminary and Bible College), Rev. Scott Licht, and Kristi Hofferber.

Life is the most foundational of all God-given rights. We want to do all we can to love, support, and speak up for life as we live in the midst of a culture of death in this world. The mission of Lutherans for Life is to "equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for life." Please plan now to attend this conference!

Fall Ministry Schedule and Lutherans for Life Submitted by Pastor Carlson

## **Announcements, Continued**

### **VBS Donations (and ministry)**

This year the mission project for Vacation Bible School was to Samaritan's Purse. The donations have now reached \$2,346.50. This is far beyond any previous amount given to the VBS mission project! Thank you, and praise the Lord for the generosity of His people! Through this mission, many people will be given goats and chickens in order to raise food for their families. At the same time, they will be fed the spiritual food of God's Word as Scripture is shared with them through the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Also of note is the fact that since our VBS was posted online, over an additional new 100 families have watched it! God's Word continues to go forth!

Submitted by Pastor Carlson

### **Craft and Sew**

It's September and time for the Craft and Sew members to get back to starting their new normal life! The sewers will start the Fall season on the 21st, at 9:30 AM. A light lunch will be served at 12:30. You may stay for as long as you like. If you like to sew, iron or cut fabric, please plan on joining us in the Fellowship Hall so you can help us replenish our inventory of bibs, walker bags, and pillow cases. All supplies will be provided. Please let us know if you hear or know of someone that would like to have one of these items.

Delivery update:

Kathy Rostauscher delivered the following to Concordia at Cabot on August 31st:

15 Adult Bibs  
9 Walker Bags  
42 Face Masks  
5 Crochet Afghans

If you have questions or comments, I can be reached at [arlene1952@gmail.com](mailto:arlene1952@gmail.com) or (412) 977-8013.

Submitted by Arlene Ball

### **Crafter Ladies**

As a result of the Covid outbreak, I am on "Richie Fred" detail with his schedule varying day-to-day. Also, we sit close to one another at the tables in an assembly line environment. Maybe someone has an idea as to how to get the crafters together while social distancing, and then someone could fill in as coordinator. Any volunteers?

Submitted by Kathy Rostauscher



# SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Worship Team 7:00pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Congregational Budget Input Meeting 7:00pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Holy Communion 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00  Holy Communion 6:00	<b>7</b> LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	<b>8</b> Preschool Parent Meeting 7:00pm Fellowship Hall  Worship Team 7:00pm	<b>9</b> First Day of Preschool 9:00 Children's Choir 5:45pm Parent/Student Orientation Meeting (Confirmation) 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30 Senlor Choir 7:30pm	<b>10</b> Knit Wits: 10:00am  Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mary Bible Study 9:30am
<b>13</b> Worship Service 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am PROMOTION SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF Worship Service 11:00am	<b>14</b> JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30 Elders' Meeting & Prayer Time 6:30 Council Meeting 7:30	<b>15</b> Worship Team 7:00pm  Women's Ministry Meeting 7:00pm	<b>16</b> JTTW 9:30am Children's Choir 5:45pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:45pm Senlor Choir 7:30pm	<b>17</b> Ruth 2:00pm  Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> HAPPY 92nd BIRTHDAY MARGIE JACOBSON Worship Service 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service 11:00am	<b>21</b> JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30	<b>22</b> Worship Team 7:00pm	<b>23</b> JTTW 9:30am Children's Choir 5:45pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:45pm Senlor Choir 7:30pm	<b>24</b> Knit Wits: 10:00am  Benevolence Mtg. 7:15	<b>25</b> XYZ-start up -noon	<b>26</b> Lutherans for Life Regional Conference @ Ruthfred 9:00-3:00
<b>27</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	<b>28</b> JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:30  GrlefShare 7:00pm	<b>29</b> Worship Team 7:00 pm	<b>30</b> JTTW 9:30am Children's Choir 5:45pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation Classes 6:45pm Senlor Choir 7:30pm			

# September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <u>Video Scav. Hunt</u> <u>@ Church</u> <u>6-9:30pm</u>	2	3	4	5
6 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	7	8 TNT @ Church 7-9pm	9	10	11	12
13 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	14	15 TNT @ Church 7-9pm	16	17	18 <u>Smash Bros Party</u> <u>5-10pm</u> <u>@ Church</u>	19
20 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	21	22 TNT @ Church 7-9pm	23	24	25	26
27 SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	28	29 TNT @ Church 7-9pm	30			

## Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar