

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

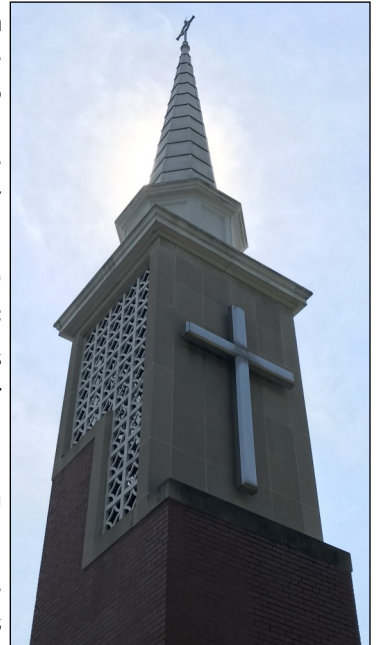
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

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

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

About Us:

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



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

The Divine Service of the Word

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 16, 2023

Prelude:

"Be Glad My Soul"

(J. Pachelbel)

The Opening

Hymn:

**"O God of Light,
Your Word"**

(SBH #250)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

STRENGTH AND STAY. 11 10, 11 10.

JOHN BACCHUS DYKES, 1823-76

With dignity

1. O God of Light, thy word, a lamp un - fail - ing, Shines through the
2. From days of old, through swift-ly roll - ing a - ges, Thou hast re -

dark - ness of our earth - ly way, O'er fear and doubt, o'er black de -
vealed thy will to mor - tal men, Speak - ing to saints, to proph-ets,

spair pre - vail - ing, Guid - ing our steps to thine e - ter - nal day.
kings and sag - es, Who wrote the mes - sage with im - mor - tal pen.

3 Undimmed by time, the word is still revealing
To sinful men thy justice and thy grace;
And questing hearts that long for peace and healing
See thy compassion in the Saviour's face.

4 To all the world the message thou art sending,
To every land, to every race and clan;
And myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
Acclaim with joy thy wondrous gift to man.

Sarah E. Taylor, 1883-1954

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 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 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).

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

"Kyrie" is 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 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

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: The Lord is the strength of His people.

C: He is the saving strength of His anointed. Save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.

P: Feed them also, and lift them up forever. Unto You will I cry, O Lord, my rock; be not silent to me.

C: Lest if You be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit. (Psalm 28:1, 8-9)

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.

The Hymn of Praise:

"The Gloria" (SBH p. 19-21)

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 continue to pray: Lord of all power and might, who is the author and giver of all good things. Graft in our hearts the love of Your Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; 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 55:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it. ¹² “For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap *their* hands. ¹³ “Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, and instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, and it will be a memorial to the LORD, for an everlasting sign which will not be cut off.”

The Psalm: Psalm 65:9-13 (NASB)

P: You visit the earth and cause it to overflow; You greatly enrich it; the stream of God is full of water; You prepare their grain, for thus You prepare the earth.

C: You water its furrows abundantly, You settle its ridges, You soften it with showers, You bless its growth.

P: You have crowned the year with Your bounty, and Your paths drip *with* fatness. The pastures of the wilderness drip, and the hills gird themselves with rejoicing.

C: The meadows are clothed with flocks and the valleys are covered with grain; they shout for joy, yes, they sing.

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:12-17 (NASB)

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

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 Gradual:

Do return, O Lord; how long will it be? And be sorry for Your servants. Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Alleluia, alleluia. O clap your hands, all you people. Shout unto God with the voice of triumph. Alleluia. (Psalm 90:1, 13; Psalm 47:1)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NASB)

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

¹ That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. ² And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. ³ And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; ⁴ and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away ⁷ Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. ⁸ And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. ²⁰ The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² And the one on

(continued on next page)

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

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NASB) (cont'd)

whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. ²³ And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

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 Special Music

8:30 & 11:00: Peggy Arelt—*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (arr. C. Callahan)

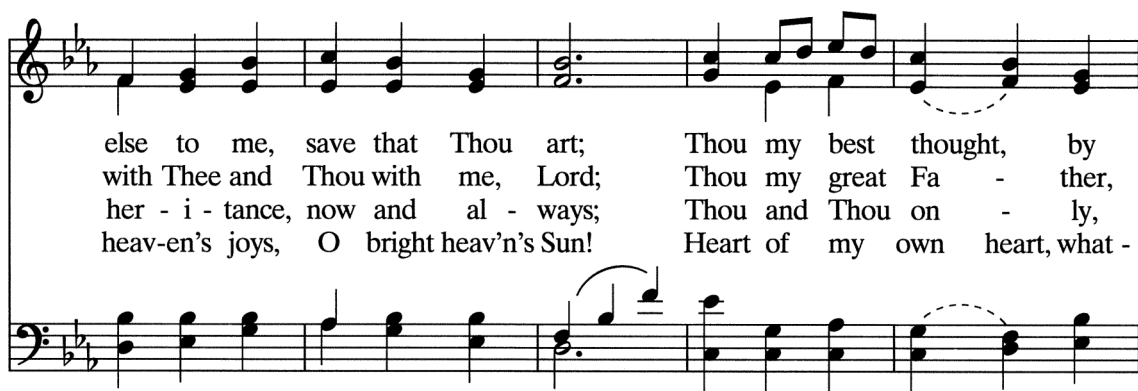
The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" (AMB #607)



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 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: "God's Word Gives Joy & Peace" | Isaiah 55:10-13

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:

"How Great Thou Art" (AMB #510)

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der ____
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, ____
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, ____
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, ____

Con - sid - er all the works Thy hand hath made, ____
I hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; ____
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in, ____
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! ____

I see the stars, I hear the might - y thun - der, ____
When I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur ____
That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing ____
Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion ____

Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played; ____
And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze; ____
He bled and died to take a - way my sin; ____
And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!" ____

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The Closing Hymn:

"How Great Thou Art" (AMB #510)
(cont'd)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"Lord God, To Thee Be Praise"
(J. Pachelbel)

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, ___

How great Thou art! ___ How great Thou art! ___

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

Thee, ___ How great Thou art! ___ How great Thou art!

Text: Carl Boberg, 1850-1940 (Swedish); Stuart K Hine, b. 1899 (English)

Tune: Swedish folk tune; arr. Stuart K. Hine, b. 1899

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O STORE GUD
11 10 11 10 w/refrain

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Debbie Skundrich in loving memory of my husband, Ray, on our 53rd wedding anniversary.

Nursery Today: 8:30—Donna Weighley; 11:00—Claudia Patalong.

Special Thanks to Eric Wentz and Rich Rostauser, who are reading Scriptures at 8:30 and 11:00, respectively.

Known to Be Hospitalized: Kay Wyrwas—Washington Hospital, Room 683 (broken hip and stroke).

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Susan Barrett—medical tests and upcoming surgery. Jodie Riley—breast cancer. Bill VanKirk—skin cancer. Karl Munn. Dee Coldsmith—Providence Point Rehab. Marian Meyer—back fracture. Ken Meyer (Marian's son)—stage 4 prostate cancer. Gene Hershberger—treatment for lung cancer. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Virginia DiSalvo. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Official Act: On Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 11 a.m. Pastor McMinn officiated at the funeral for Joanne Salvetti in the Ruthfred sanctuary. Please continue to be in prayer for Joanne's family and friends as they grieve this loss.

Current Fund: Given by John and Donna Erisman in memory of Erna Jochum. Given by the Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home in memory of longtime member Claudie Goldsmith, with whose family it was their pleasure to work to create a beautiful tribute for her.

Pastor's Fund: Given by the Michael family (Nancy, Joe, Alan, Molly, and Gene) to honor the memory of Claudie Goldsmith, our friend and neighbor, who was a shining example of all things good, and we were blessed to have known her.

Youth Fund: Given by Arlene Fees in memory of Joanne Salvetti. Given by Joyce Bock in memory of Joanne Salvetti. Given by Sue Hughes in memory of Joanne Salvetti. Given by Mary Habovick in loving memory of Joanne Salvetti.

Address Update: Virginia DiSalvo, c/o Karl DiSalvo, 205 Coldbrook Ct., Rincon, GA 31326. Her cell phone number will be her phone number: 412-334-7050. She has moved to a care facility.

VBS 2023: Dates are July 24-28. The theme this year will be "**Twists and Turns.**" Come and learn how following Jesus will help you through life's twists and turns. Registration is open at: <https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>.

VBS 2023 Volunteers Needed: Please prayerfully consider being a **Crew Leader** volunteer for VBS. This is the most important position for VBS, as Crew Leaders guide the kids from class to class and help to ensure the success of VBS. No advanced training is needed—just a willingness to help children learn God's Word. You can sign up online at the registration link (<https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>) or on the sheets on the interior window outside the Fellowship Hall entrance. We also need **snack and craft volunteers**. Please note that all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances. If you can't volunteer during VBS, please consider helping with set-up/decorating at 10 a.m. on July 22nd or noon on July 23rd.

Staff News: Please welcome Essi Efthimiou as our official organist! Essi has been serving as our substitute and then interim organist since last October, when Fred Schell fell ill. At its July meeting, Council approved her hiring as organist. We are blessed to have someone who already knows Ruthfred so well.

Announcements (cont'd)

Benevolence Committee Meeting: We will meet Monday, July 31, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Fire-side Lounge to begin preliminary discussion of the 2024 budget. We welcome any member of the congregation.

Employment Opportunities at Ruthfred: Nursery Attendant: Do you have a heart for the youngest in our Church family? We have a need for nursery workers. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help.

2023-2024 Preschool Registration is now open online at ruthfred.org. Contact Annie Buzon (AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org) with any questions or to schedule a tour. Spaces are available.

Ruthfred 75th Anniversary Committee Request: Next April, Ruthfred will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its incorporation. Planning has begun for celebrating this milestone. If you would like to join the planning committee, please contact Becky Evans. In the meantime, please be thinking about your happiest memories of Ruthfred. If you are willing to share a memory or memories, there is a collection box on the table near the elevator on the lower level. Or, feel free to send an email to ruthfred@ruthfred.org. Thank you for blessing us with your memories!

Calling All Picnic Planners: We need YOU! Our annual Church Picnic is a wonderful way for us to enjoy food, fellowship, games, and entertainment on our beautiful church grounds. We need people with a heart for planning fun and engaging events. Our date is Sunday, August 20th. Many hands make light work! If you'd like to participate in the planning, have questions, or have ideas and suggestions you'd like to share, please reach out to Felicia Rieck (FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org) or Erin McMinn (ErinMcMinn@hotmail.com) as soon as possible.

VBS 2023 Donations List: Please consider donating a snack item for VBS. Alternatively, please consider donating gifts cards for Walmart, Target, or Aldi, which would be used to purchase any snack items not donated. A donation bin is in the Fellowship Hall for snacks, while a box for gift cards is in the church office. Thank you for all the donations so far! The items still needed are:

Pretzel rods (22 bags)	Red fruit roll-ups (4 boxes)	Swedish Fish (15 large bags)
Pretzel sticks (18 bags)	Apples (25 bags)	Juice boxes (9 packages)
Fig Newtons (12 packages)	White icing (1 tube)	Frozen mini pancakes (25 boxes)
Regular-size marshmallows (18 bags)		

Journey Through the Word Summer Film Festival: Many excellent Christian movies have been released through the years. A variety of old and new, fiction and documentary, will be shown for your viewing pleasure! See the complete list of movies and brief summaries in the July issue of *The Herald*. Come for one; come for all! No registration is necessary, and **all** are welcome! Movies are shown at 10:00a.m. on Wednesdays (except July 26th) through August 9th. This week's movie will be "**Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister.**" This documentary tells the dramatic story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the young German theologian and Lutheran pastor who became part of a plot to kill Adolf Hitler.

Upcoming Guest Preachers: We're blessed and excited to announce that Ruthfred will welcome several guest preachers in the coming months on Sundays when Pastor McMinn and his family will be away. On Sunday, July 30th, the AFLC's Presidential Ministry Associate, Pastor Jason Holt, will preach. On Sunday, August 6th, the AFLC's Vice President, Pastor Gary Jorgenson, will preach and serve Holy Communion. On Sunday, October 29th (Reformation Sunday) the Dean of the AFLC's seminary and beloved Ruthfred pastor of 17 years (1996-2013), Pastor James Molstre, will preach here once again! We look forward to welcoming these dear pastors, and hearing them preach God's Word.

Announcements (cont'd)

Support Life: Human Coalition/Health for Her in Bethel Park has contacted Ruthfred with some urgent needs. If you would like to make a donation, please place your items in the marked bin in the Fireside Lounge by August 13. If a group would like to go in on an item, they are in need of NEW (still in the box) Pack 'N Plays, travel systems, and infant car seats. Other needs include shampoo, lotion, diaper cream, wipes; NEW receiving blankets, baby blankets, and mini crib sheets; NEW or GENTLY USED **newborn** short & long sleeve onesies; **newborn** girls' sleepers; **newborn to 6 months** girls' and boys' spring/summer clothes; **newborn to 12 months** girls' fall/winter clothing; and **newborn** boys' fall/winter clothing. Thank you for your help. Please contact Jill Kurtz with any questions.

August 6 Holy Communion: Please note that there will NOT be a 6:00 p.m. service on this day.

SHIM Back-to-School Drive: Check out SHIM's website (shimcares.org) for needed back to school items. They are collecting donations at their 5301 Park Ave., Bethel Park site (also accessible from South Park Rd.) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. til 4 p.m. through August 2. Some of the supplies they need are: 70-count spiral notebooks, pencil cases, index cards, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, folders and glue. Additional supplies are listed on the website.



VBS is almost here!

VBS 2023 will be July 24th-28th, 9 a.m. to noon



Questions?

Contact Jason Weighley by email at
Jason.Weighley@gmail.com

Adult Sunday School Class Today In Large Classroom

Today we welcome Symphorien Rabe, who resides in the Cote d'Ivoire and represents the Gideons. He joined the Gideons in August of 2007 and quickly became the Camp Secretary. By 2009 he and his family had moved, and he became a member of the Yopougon West Camp and served as their secretary from 2009 - 2012. Then he was Vice President for a year, and finally he served as President from 2014 - 2016. In 2016 he was promoted to Field Representative through 2020. Symphorien is married to Adeline Rabe. They have four children between the ages of one and twelve.

He has been traveling around western PA all week speaking every day, and he will be going from here to Louisville, KY, for the Gideon International Convention which starts on Tuesday.

We are very fortunate to have him here this morning to share about his ministry with the Gideons in Africa.

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## **Summer Sunday School for Kids**

Miss Bunny (Barger) and Miss Susan (Wholey) will continue their wonderful Sunday School class for 4- & 5-year-olds through the summer. Jason Weighley & Friends will offer a special Sunday School series for kids ages 6—5<sup>th</sup> grade featuring the Torchlighters' animated films about heroes of the Faith. Students in grade 6 and up will join Mason for youth Sunday School classes. If you can help with the nursery this summer, please contact Shane Cox.

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YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is a **SWAP** meeting tonight at Ruthfred, 6-7:30 p.m.

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet on Tuesday, July 18th, 7-9 p.m., at the Griffith's house (431 Coleman Rd., McDonald, PA).

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### **Questions/concerns?**

**Contact: Mason Mitchell at [MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org](mailto:MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org), or  
(c) (412)-926-8698**

**Save the Date!**

# **RUTHFRED CHURCH PICNIC**

**GAMES | FUN | MUSIC**



Get ready for Ruthfred's annual church picnic! We'll be cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs, you bring a side or dessert. Last names A-K please bring a salad, L-S please bring a side (not salad), and T-Z please bring a dessert.

..... **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH** .....  
**RUTHFRED BALLFIELD**

**3 PM - 7 PM**

## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (7/16) 7th Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

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

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

HAPPY 91<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY, HELEN MCNALL!

## Tuesday (7/18)

1:30 p.m.—Ruth (note date and time change)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

7:00 p.m.—75th Anniversary Committee Meeting

HAPPY 91<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY, ESTHER COX!

### Wednesday (7/19)

10:00 a.m.—JTTW Summer Films ("Bonhoeffer")

### Friday (7/21)

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

### Saturday (7/22) St. Mary Magdalene

10:00 a.m.—VBS Set-up and Decorating

HAPPY 95<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, ANDY KOVAC!

**Sunday (7/23) 8th Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

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

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

## Noon-ish—VBS Set-up and Decorating

The psalmist proclaims that God's Word is a lamp for our feet (*Psalms 119:105*). May you experience the light of God's guidance on your path today. Welcome!

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...246    Sunday School...58

8:30 Live Stream...35


JTTW...15

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request private (for the pastor only).

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

# Visiting with us?

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

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

Date:

Name:

Children:

Address:

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

Email:

I am a/an:

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

I would like to learn more about:

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

# Ruthfred Staff

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Senior & Bell Choirs

**Essi Efthimiou**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
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