

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

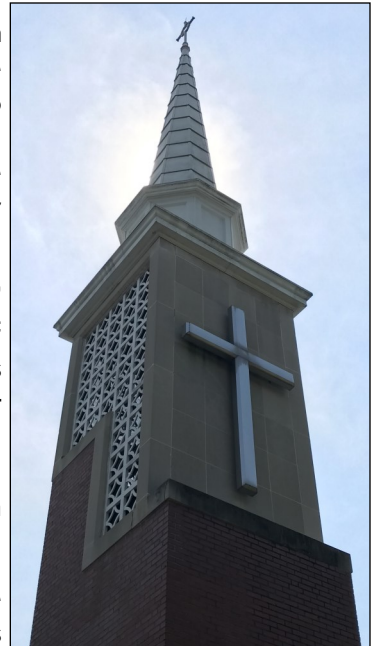
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

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 at the rear of the sanctuary.

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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 2023

Prelude:

"O Christ Who Art the Light & Day"

(W. Fr. Bach)

"Prelude & Fugue in B Flat Major"

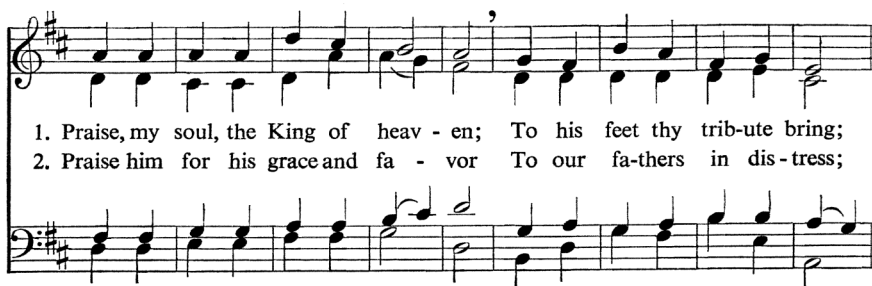
(J. S. Bach)

The Opening Hymn:

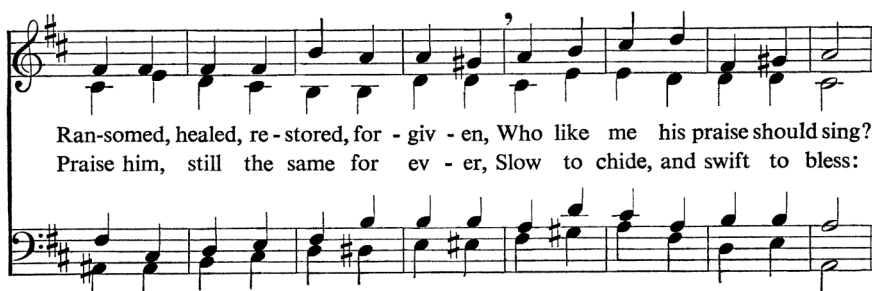
"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

(SBH #160, 1st tune)

(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To his feet thy trib-ute bring;
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa-thers in dis-tress;



Ran-somed, healed, re-stored, for - giv - en, Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, still the same for ev - er, Slow to chide, and swift to bless:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.

3 Father-like he tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely as his mercy flows.

4 Angels, help us to adore him,
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
Dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847
Based on Psalm 103*

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 Sin (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 (SBH, p. 16)

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) (SBH, p. 100)

P: Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me.

C: O You, my God, save Your servant that trusts in You.

P: Be merciful unto me, O Lord;

C: For I cry unto You daily.

P: Rejoice the soul of Your servant;

C: For unto You, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

(Psalm 86: 1-4)

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

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

The Kyrie (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 18)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

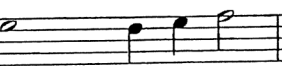
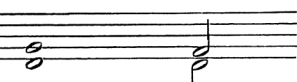
C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

The Hymn of Praise:

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

<p><i>Organ</i></p> 	<p><i>Minister</i></p> 	
<p>Glory be to God on high!</p>		
<p><i>Congregation</i></p> 	<p><i>Old Scottish Chant</i></p> 	
<p>And on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee,</p>		
<p>we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,</p>		
<p>O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.</p>		
<p>O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,</p>		
<p>Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy</p>		
<p>up - on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.</p>		
<p>Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on us. For thou</p>		
<p>on - ly art holy; thou on - ly art the Lord: thou only, O Christ, with the</p>		
<p>Ho - ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.</p>		

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 (SBH p. 100)

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And with thy spirit.

P: O Lord, we beseech You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without Your succor, preserve it evermore by Your help and goodness; 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: Genesis 50:15-21 (NASB)

¹⁵ When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!” ¹⁶ So they sent *a message* to Joseph, saying, “Your father charged before he died, saying, ¹⁷ ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, “Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. ²¹ So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

The Psalm: Psalm 103:1-12 (NASB)

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.

C: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;

P: Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;

C: Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;

P: Who satisfies your years with good things, *so that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.

C: The LORD performs righteous deeds and judgments for all who are oppressed.

P: He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.

C: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

P: He will not always strive *with us*, nor will He keep *His anger* forever.

(continued on next page)

The Psalm: Psalm 103:1-12 (NASB) (cont'd)

C: He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

P: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

C: As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 14:1-12 (NASB)

¹ Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose* of passing judgment on his opinions. ² One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. ³ The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; ⁸ for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰ But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME,
AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.”

¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

The Gradual (SBH p. 101)

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Your Name, O most High. To show forth Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness every night. Alleluia. Alleluia. O God, my heart is fixed. I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Alleluia. (Psalm 92:1-2; 57:7)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison) (SBH p. 24)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

“Alleluia” is Hebrew for “Praise the Lord.”

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35 (NASB)

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

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' ²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' ³⁰ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. ³¹ So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. ³² Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. ³⁵ My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

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

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 Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Confessed in Unison) (SBH p. 5)

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

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

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

The Anthems

8:30: Bell Choir—"All Things Bright and Beautiful" (arr. R. Siebert)

11:00: Senior Choir—"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (arr. C. Courtney)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon

Hymn:

“Softly and Tenderly” (SBH #578)

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,

Call - ing for you and for me; Pa - tient - ly Je - sus is
Plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and

wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me,
heed not his mer - cies, Mer - cies for you and for me?

Refrain
Come home, come home, Ye who are wea - ry, come
Come home, Come home,

home; Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus

is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

3 O, for the wonderful love he has promised,
Promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me.

Will Lamartine Thompson, 1847-1909

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: "How Godly Forgiveness Actually Works " | Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon Notes:

The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand) (SBH p. 27)

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 Consecration of the 2023-2024 Sunday School, Confirmation, and Pre-School Staff and the JTTW and Kids' Time Leaders (8:30 and 11:00)

The Closing & Silent Prayer (Please bow or kneel in prayer) (SBH p. 28)

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison) (SBH p. 12)

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 (SBH p. 28)

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:

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

(SBH #493, 2nd tune)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

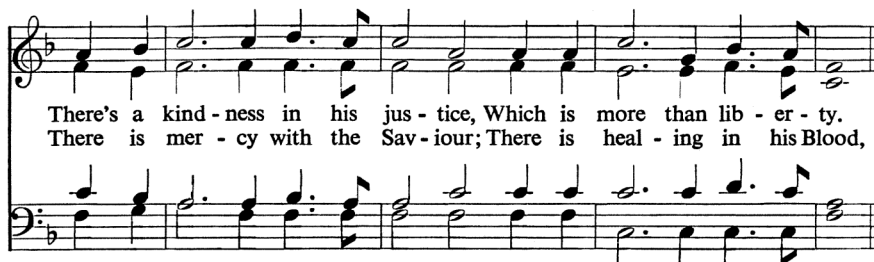
The Postlude:

"Andantino"

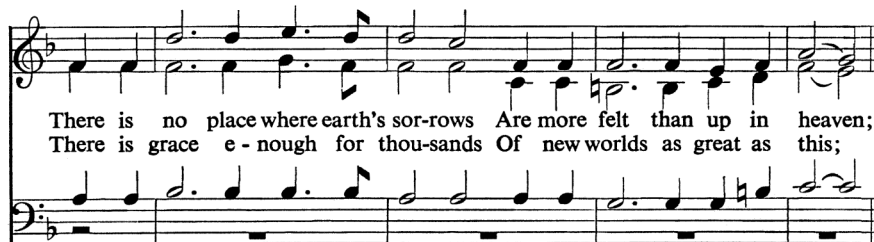
(S. Wesley)



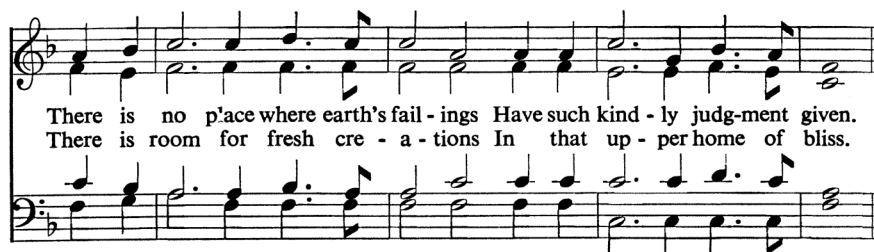
1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, Like the wide - ness of the sea;
2. There is wel - come for the sin - ner, And more grac - es for the good;



There's a kind - ness in his jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
There is mer - cy with the Sav - iour; There is heal - ing in his Blood,



There is no place where earth's sor - rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands Of new worlds as great as this;



There is no p'ace where earth's fail - ings Have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
There is room for fresh cre - a - tions In that up - per home of bliss.

3 For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
There is plentiful redemption
In the Blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
It is something more than all;
Greater good because of evil,
Larger mercy through the fall.
If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at his word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

Frederick William Faber, 1814-63

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Elaine Widich in appreciation of the faithful and generous Ruthfred servants who have volunteered their time and talents to serve on the Direction Committee. Please keep them in your prayers!

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

Scripture Readers Today: Many thanks to Al Macugoski and Rory Smith who are reading Scriptures today at 8:30 and 11:00, respectively.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Michelle Hopkins and her family as she continues to battle another illness. Dot Corbett. Dan Gill—broken hip. Dan is now back at Country Meadows, in Building 1, Room 141. Dee Coldsmith—Providence Point. Gene Hershberger—treatment for lung cancer. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Gladys Constant—Concordia. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Condolences: Our pastor and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Sharon Snyder and her family on the passing of her brother, Roger Graff, on September 12, 2023. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Pastor's Fund: Given by Linda Schweitzer in loving memory of her husband, Wil.

Sincere thanks from the planning committee to all those who helped to make the Family Sunday School Rally Day a success on September 10th!

"Souper" September: We are again going to hold our annual "Souper" September soup drive in memory of Pastor Dennis. It's hard to believe that it has been 15 years since he was called to his heavenly home! This year's donations will benefit S.H.I.M. (South Hills Interfaith Movement) located in Bethel Park, and also City Mission in Washington, PA. Any type of soup will be accepted, but they are especially in need of low-sodium soups. The containers where you may place your donations are near the South Park entrance, near the double-oak doors, and in the Fireside Lounge. The last day to drop off will be Sunday, 9/24. For questions please contact Carol Ward at (412) 559-2592 or wardmailbox1@gmail.com. Thank you!

Direction Committee Invitation: All RLC members are invited to join the Committee at a meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, September 21, 7—9 p.m. This is an opportunity for you to share your ideas on how RLC can grow and continue to thrive as a beacon for God's word in the South Hills. The Committee has already presented some ideas to church Council based on input from fellow members. We look forward to listening to additional thoughts you might have to foster future growth at RLC. Please join us!

2024 Budget Congregational Input Meeting: Each year during the church budget planning a meeting is open for members of the congregation to attend to ask questions or provide their input for the forthcoming budget year. The Congregational Budget Input Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. Church members are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Ward or John Morden.

Kids' Time Volunteers Needed: Do you enjoy games and teaching kids about the Word of God? If so, we need you for **Wednesday** night **Kids' Time** starting September 20 to help spread the love of Jesus. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Mason Mitchell at MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org. Thank you!

Consecration of 2023-2024 Teachers/Leaders: Please note that at both services today we will be consecrating Sunday School, Confirmation, and Preschool teachers, Kids' Time leaders, and JTTW leaders.

Announcements (cont'd)

Confirmation 2023-2024: This year the junior (7th grade) and senior (8th grade) confirmands will meet together, starting on Wednesday, September 20th. If you have a student starting 7th grade, or an older student who has not been confirmed and would like to be, please call the church office and speak with Felicia or Sally. Letters have been sent to members of last year's junior class and their parents regarding the start of classes for their second (senior) year.

Save the Date for the Fall Festival/Harvest Party at the Cox Farm: Get ready for some fall fun with your Ruthfred family on Saturday, October 21, from 3—8 p.m. We are going to have a chili/mac and cheese cook-off, as well as a bonfire and hayrides. Stay tuned for updates!

Portals of Prayer for October thru December: The new edition is available near all entrances. Pick yours up today!

Benevolence Committee: We will meet Monday, September 18, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge to continue our discussion of the 2024 budget. We welcome any member of the congregation to join us.

Wednesday morning Journey Through the Word: It's time to look forward to the fall! We're excited to be studying the book of Ecclesiastes for the first seven weeks, starting September 13. Ecclesiastes has much to teach us about wisdom from the wisest person who ever lived, King Solomon. The Bible frequently contrasts the wise and the foolish. This book will help us understand how to live our lives in and with God's wisdom. Starting on November 1st, we'll finish this session with a four-week study of Ruth. Everyone is welcome! We have study groups for both women and men and an online discussion group. Please fill out a registration form and put it in the basket outside the sanctuary across from the elevator. Or check the church website (www.ruthfred.org) to register online.

Service Opportunity: Morning JTTW would like to offer babysitting services during their meetings so that parents with very young children can attend the meetings. If you would be able to volunteer for about 2 1/2 hours on Wednesday mornings to care for these youngsters, please contact Sally or Felicia in the church office.

Volunteer Guidelines: Please note that **all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances** in order to serve with children and youth at VBS, Sunday School, and youth events. Clearances are good for 5 years. Contact Felicia Rieck in the church office for more information.

Attention all XYZers: We will have our first meeting this Friday at noon. The sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board outside the Library. Andy Amhrein from Evey Hardware will share about favorite products and tips for the home. Please be sure to sign up to hear the program and also to experience a great lunch, lovingly prepared by our own Peggy Cox.

Knit Wits: The KNIT WITS knitting and crochet group, which meets monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Lounge, resumed on September 14. Please join us! For further information, please contact Pat Lutz at patricialutz@comcast.net.

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.

Announcements

Kids' Time 2023-2024: All kids in grades kindergarten through 5th are invited to join us starting this Wednesday night for fun, friends, and fellowship, 6:45—8:00 p.m. Register at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/ruthfredlutherankids-time2023>. Please contact Mason Mitchell if you have questions: masonmitchell@ruthfred.org.

Leaders of Youth Today Email (LYTE) Sign-Up: This group is a monthly email chain for anyone who wants to stay up-to-date with current events in the lives of youth and youth culture, including the health and events of Ruthfred youth. LYTE will serve as a training and equipping resource for those who serve the youth of our church, both within the walls and outside the walls. If you have a desire for the youth in our congregation to know and love Jesus within the culture where they live, this group is for you. Please contact our Youth Director, Coltin Cox, if you would like to be added to the list: ColtinCox@ruthfred.org.

PA March for Life: This event will be Monday, October 16, at the State Capitol in Harrisburg. Events begin at 10 a.m. A one-mile march around the Capitol starts at noon. "This is an excellent opportunity for anyone to learn about the principles of effective lobbying, the specific and current issues PA is facing, and what you can do right now to champion pro-life policies to your PA elevated representatives. This rally and march are suited for all levels of experience and comfort with advocacy." For more information, visit: <https://marchforlife.org/pennsylvania-march-for-life/>.

Lutherans for Life National Conference: This annual event will be at the Holiday Inn, Cincinnati Airport in Erlanger, KY, October 11th-13th. For more information, visit: <https://lutheransforlife.org/conference>.

Calling Those with a Heart to Serve: It is time to start the nomination process for open Council positions. The nominating committee is asking you to pray for our current Council and for our future leadership. Think about the spiritual gifts and participation of members in our fellowship. Consider nominating someone who you believe would be a good Council member.

This year has been difficult for Ruthfred, but we believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to move us forward. Perhaps you are here at Ruthfred because the Lord put you here for "such at time as this" (Esther 4:14). If you hear the Lord calling you as Isaiah did, please consider responding "here I am Lord, send me" (Isaiah 6:8). Being on Council requires more than just attending a meeting once a month. But, being on Council also offers an opportunity to grow spiritually, serve our Lord, and, hopefully, form lasting relationships for prayer and fellowship.

Open council positions we are seeking to fill: President, Vice President, three Elders, one 11:00 Deacon, two Trustees, and Secretary. It is the goal of the nominating committee to have at least two names on the ballot for each open position. Job descriptions for positions are available to help you consider your participation or someone else's.

Please contact anyone on the nominating committee if you have any questions or you wish to nominate someone.

Chris Stout, chairperson
Gary Fischer
Alan Hinkelman
Sue Hughes
Paula Mikulan
Mick Nowicki
Jeanine Szalinski

chaunschild@me.com
gfpantner@aol.com
alanhinkelman@msn.com
sue32hughe@gmail.com
paulamikulan53@gmail.com
wicksters@comcast.net
JeanineSz@aol.com

YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is **SWAP** tonight for the middle school students! 6-7:30pm at the Church.

Save the date: SWAP Retreat at Seneca Hills, October 13-15. More information coming!

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on September 19th, 7-9 p.m.

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### Questions/concerns?

**Contact: Coltin Cox at [ColtinCox@ruthfred.org](mailto:ColtinCox@ruthfred.org), or  
(c) (724)-825-9790**

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## Adult Sunday School Class In the Large Classroom

Why is Ruthfred part of a national church body called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)? What's the AFLC, what's a congregation, and why does that matter to me? Pastor McMinn and others will guide the adult Sunday School class through a series called "*The Gospel in The Congregation*," written in part by Pastor James Molstre, a former pastor at Ruthfred. Join us for this series, which includes great videos and a short, helpful workbook. Don't assume you already understand the Biblical role of a congregation and your part in it. Come and see for yourself what it's all about.

This Sunday we will complete **Lesson 8—Domination by church body or free cooperation?**



## Adult Sunday School Class In the Upper Room

**Add to your calendar:** We are looking forward to kicking off our upstairs Sunday School series, entitled "**Relate(able)**," today, led by one of our Elders, Eric Wentz.

From the moment we are born, relationships shape who we are and how we engage with the world around us. Beginning with how we see ourselves, we develop a view of God and others that impacts the way we relate to our parents, navigate friendships, dating relationships, and marriage. Because God has gone to extraordinary lengths to relate to us, we have the potential to build incredible relationships with one another. Embracing God's love and receiving His grace changes the way we relate to Him, our family, our friends, and ourselves.

In this six-session video Bible study, Louie Giglio explores—from a pastoral and biblical perspective—the fundamental question of what makes us *relatable* to others. All are welcome to join us. Each session is stand-alone, so feel free to join at any time!

## 2023-2024 Evening Journey Through the Word (JTTW)

Join us and grow in knowledge and comprehension of Scripture through Dr. David Jeremiah's The Book of Signs, "31 Undeniable Prophecies of the Apocalypse." Evening Journey Through the Word (JTTW) will study the heavenly and tribulation signs and their significance to end-time events. As you study with Evening JTTW you'll see not only how God's Word offers insights into the future, but also how Scripture builds faith through the events of the past and encouragement in the uncertainty of the present. Discover more of what Scripture reveals about the signs of the times and the signs of God's plan for the future. We may be in the end times, but as Christians, our future is secure. Indeed, we live in a chaotic world, but we can have peace because God is the author of history, and the return of the Prince of Peace may be closer than we think.



Please join us **October 11, 2023**, as we begin a twelve-week study of Dr. Jeremiah's The Book of Signs. Our Wednesday evening gatherings will begin with a Forkless Dinner offered for all registered families from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Following this fellowship time, Evening JTTW Bible study will run from 6:45-8:00 p.m. in parallel with a Kids' Time program is offered for children and Confirmation Class. For more information on programs and to register for Evening JTTW, visit the Ruthfred Lutheran Church website at [www.ruthfred.org](http://www.ruthfred.org). There is also an article in the current issue of the Herald.

If you have any questions, please contact Jodie or Mark Riley, 412-401-9137.

*To obtain your study guide, please register for the 2023-2024 Evening Journey Through the Word session by October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.*

**Life Quote from Lutherans for Life:** "The science is conclusive: Human life starts at fertilization. The Bible is conclusive: Life is from God, it begins at fertilization, and God's commandment of 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13) certainly applies to the slaying of an innocent child in the womb. Because that little baby in the womb IS a human being." Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan

## This Week At Ruthfred

### Today (9/17)

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
6:30 p.m.—Young Adult Bible Study @ A.&C. Vogels’

### Monday, (9/18)

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders  
9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew  
7:00 p.m.—Benevolence Committee (Fireside Lounge)

### Tuesday (9/19)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

### Wednesday (9/20)

9:15 a.m.—JTTW  
5:45 p.m.—Children’s Choir  
6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir  
6:45 p.m.—Confirmation; Kids’ Time  
7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

### Thursday (9/21) St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist

2:00 p.m.—Ruth  
7:00 p.m.—Direction Committee All-Church Meeting

### Friday (9/22)

7:00 a.m.—Men’s Prayer Group (Fireside Lounge)  
Noon—XYZ

### Saturday (9/23) First Day of Autumn Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Cliff Morton!

### Sunday (9/24)

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

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In the words of the Israelites: “The Lord is ... the reason  
for [our] song, because He has saved [us]” (Exodus 15:2).  
Welcome to worship!

Attendance for Last Week:  
Sunday Worship...260 Sunday School...95  
8:30 Live Stream...44  
JTTW morning...50  
SWAP...14 TNT...18

## Prayer Requests

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

☐ 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

**Rev. Bryce C. McMinn** | Pastor  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 226)  
[PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org](mailto:PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org)

**Melissa Bostaph** | Parish Assistant  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 225)  
[MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org](mailto:MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org)

**Sally Ondrejko** | Office Manager  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 222)  
[SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org](mailto:SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org)

**John Morden** | Accounting Manager  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 224)  
[JohnMorden@ruthfred.org](mailto:JohnMorden@ruthfred.org)

**Coltin Cox** | Director of Youth Ministry  
(724) 825-9790  
[ColtinCox@ruthfred.org](mailto:ColtinCox@ruthfred.org)

**Felicia Rieck** | Administrative Assistant  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 221)  
[FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org](mailto:FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org)

**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

**Andrew Vogel** | Multi-Media Coordinator  
(412) 568-3215  
[AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org](mailto:AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org)

**John Sperandio** | Live Stream & Social Media Asst.  
[JohnSperandio@ruthfred.org](mailto:JohnSperandio@ruthfred.org)

**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Essi Efthimiou** | Organist  
[EssiEfthimiou@ruthfred.org](mailto:EssiEfthimiou@ruthfred.org)

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Mason Mitchell** | Kids' Time Director  
(412) 926-8698  
[MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org](mailto:MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org)

**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 234)  
[AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org](mailto:AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org)

**Ruthfred Lutheran Church**  
3401 South Park Road  
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102  
Phone: (412) 835-7140  
Email: [ruthfred@ruthfred.org](mailto:ruthfred@ruthfred.org)  
[www.ruthfred.org](http://www.ruthfred.org)