

CONFIRMATION



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 *scherenschnitte*, created specially for our church by our very own Kathryn Carr. The artwork will reflect liturgical and Ruthfred-specific themes that occur throughout the year.

The Divine Service of the Word

Confirmation Sunday

Sixth Sunday after Easter, May 21, 2023

Prelude:

"Strong in Christ"

(W. Held)

"Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor"

(G. Lachenauer)

"Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"

(W. Held)

The Opening

Hymn:

"Golden Harps Are Sounding"

(SBH #115)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

Brightly

1. Gold - en harps are sound - ing, An - gel voic - es ring, Pearl - y

gates are o - pened, O - pened for the King. Christ, the King of

Glo - ry, Je - sus, King of Love, Is gone up in tri - umph

Refrain

To his throne a - bove. 'All his work is end - ed,' Joy - ful -

ly we sing, 'Je - sus hath as - cend - ed, Glo - ry to our King.'

2 He who came to save us,
He who bled and died,
Now is crowned with glory
At his Father's side.
Never more to suffer,
Never more to die,
Jesus, King of Glory,
Has gone up on high.

3 Praying for his children
In that blessed place,
Calling them to glory,
Sending them his grace;
His bright home preparing,
Faithful ones, for you,
Jesus ever liveth,
Ever loveth, too.

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-79

The "invocation" is Latin for "call upon." In the Invocation we remember our baptism and acknowledge God as our Father. We are reminded that through Christ's name we have access to the Father's throne by the Holy Spirit. Because we are children of God, we have the privilege to invite (invoke) God's presence and blessing upon this service of "divine liturgy" in which we receive the Work of God through His Word and Spirit, and also in which we offer up to God our praise as an act of worship. *Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:15; Ephesians 2:18*

We confess our sins at the beginning of each service, because we are coming into the presence of a holy God. Though we are sinners who daily struggle with sin, we are invited to come to Him to receive the forgiveness of sin earned for us by Jesus. Through this forgiveness, we are given a right standing before a holy God.

Because sin is both corporate and personal, we confess our sins together, and privately in the silence of our hearts.

The Absolution is based upon God's instruction in Luke 24:47 that repentance and the forgiveness of sins should be widely proclaimed in the name of Jesus. (See also 1 John. 1:9).

The Call to Worship and Invocation

Pastor (P): We open this service in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen

The Confession of Sins (SBH, p. 15)

Pastor (P): Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord

Congregation (C): Who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

P: I said, "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

P: Let us bow or kneel for the confession of our sin.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Silent Prayer of Personal Confession)

Together:

O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only-begotten son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives the power to become children of God, and bestows upon them His Holy Spirit. The one who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this O Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen

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

“Kyrie” is from the Greek word 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 Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Christ is Risen.

C: He is Risen indeed and is coming again.

P: Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, alleluia.

C: When You said, seek my face, my heart said to You, Your face, Lord, will I seek.

P: Hide not Your face from me. Alleluia, alleluia.

C: The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?

(Psalm 27: 1, 7, 8)

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.

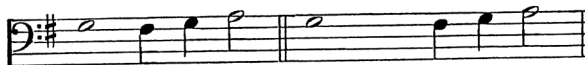
C: Amen.

The Hymn of Praise: "Gloria in Excelsis" (SBH p. 19-21)

¶ *The Minister shall sing or say:*

Organ

Minister



Glory be to God on high!

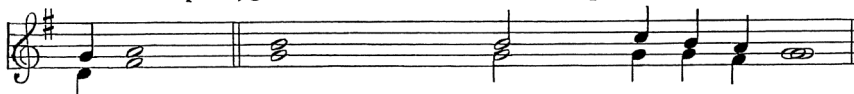
Congregation

Old Scottish Chant

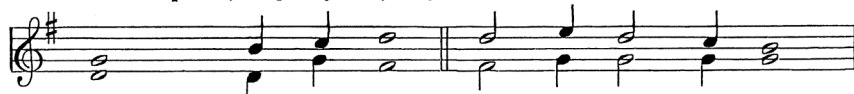


And on earth peace, good - will toward men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,



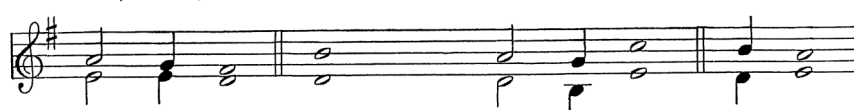
we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,



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



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



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



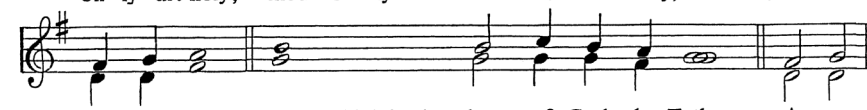
up - on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



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



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



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

The “collect” is a prayer of the day for each day in the liturgical calendar. It is meant to “collect” the prayers of God’s people.

God’s chief means of extending His grace to His children is through His Word. Hearing it and learning it are central to His proper worship.

The Collect:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Almighty, everlasting God, make us to have always a devout will towards You, and to serve Your Majesty with a pure heart; 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 First Lesson: Acts 1:12-26 (NASB)

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered *the city*, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas *the son* of James. ¹⁴ These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the women*, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

¹⁵ At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, ¹⁶ “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ “For it is written in the book of Psalms,

‘LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE,
AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT’;

and,

‘LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.’

²¹ Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—

²² beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these *must* become a witness with us of His resurrection.” ²³ So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10 (NASB)

P: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee before Him.

C: As smoke is driven away, *so drive them away*; as wax melts before the fire, *so let the wicked perish before God*.

P: But let the righteous be glad; let them exult before God; yes, let them rejoice with gladness.

C: Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up *a song* for Him who rides through the deserts, *Whose name is the Lord*, and exult before Him.

P: A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.

C: God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity, only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

P: O God, when You went forth before Your people, when You marched through the wilderness, *Selah*.

C: The earth quaked; the heavens also dropped *rain* at the presence of God; Sinai itself *quaked* at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

P: You shed abroad a plentiful rain, O God; You confirmed Your inheritance when it was parched.

C: Your creatures settled in it; You provided in Your goodness for the poor, O God.

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11 (NASB)

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶ but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. ¹⁷ For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? ¹⁹ Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

(continued on next page)

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11 (NASB) (cont'd)

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. ¹⁰ After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. ¹¹ To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Gradual

Alleluia, alleluia. God reigns over the heathen. God sits upon the throne of His holiness. Alleluia. I will not leave you comfortless. I go, and I will come again to you, and your heart shall rejoice. Alleluia.

(Psalm 47:8; John 14:28)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: John 17:1-11 (NASB)

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

¹ Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³ This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. ⁶ I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸ for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. ⁹ I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰ and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ I am no longer in the world; and *yet* they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, *the name* which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We *are*."

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

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 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)

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: Peggy Arelt—*God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It* (arr. Mark Knickelbein; hymn tune Bachofen)

The Anthem

11:00: Senior Choir—*Thy Way, Not Mine, O Lord* (C. Courtney)

Thy way, not mine, O Lord, However dark it be;
Lead me by Thine own hand; Choose out the path for me;
Smooth let it be or rough, It will be still the best;
Winding or straight, it leads Right onward to Thy rest.

I dare not choose my lot; I would not if I might:
Choose Thou for me, my God, So I shall walk aright.
Take Thou my cup, and it With joy or sorrow fill,
As best to Thee may seem, Choose Thou my good and ill.

Choose Thou for me my friends, My sickness or my health;
Choose Thou my cares for me, My poverty or wealth.
Not mine the choice In things both great and small;
Be Thou my guide, my strength, My wisdom, and my all.

The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" (SBH #515, 1st tune)

1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel thee near me, The world is ev - er near;

Be thou for ev - er near me, My mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt - ing sounds I hear;

I shall not fear the bat - tle If thou art by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;

Nor wan - der from the path - way If thou wilt be my guide.
 But, Je - sus, draw thou near - er, And shield my soul from sin. A-men.

3 O let me hear thee speaking
 In accents clear and still,
 Above the storms of passion,
 The murmurs of self-will;
 O speak to reassure me,
 To hasten or control;
 O speak, and make me listen,
 Thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised
 To all who follow thee,
 That where thou art in glory
 There shall thy servant be;
 And, Jesus, I have promised
 To serve thee to the end;
 O give me grace to follow,
 My master and my friend. Amen.

John Ernest Bode, 1816-74

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:

"Suffering Isn't Surprising. Rejoice in Christ!" | 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11

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 Solemn Rite of Confirmation (11:00)

The Confirmation Hymn (11:00)

Oh, Take My Hand (SBH #292)

Oh, take my hand, dear Father, and lead Thou me,
Till at my journey's ending I dwell with Thee.

Alone I dare not journey one single day
So do Thou guide my footsteps on life's rough way.

Oh, cover with Thy mercy my failing heart,
Lest I in joy, or sorrow, from Thee depart.
Permit Thy child to linger here at Thy feet,
Thy goodness firmly trusting with faith complete.

The Choral Prayer for Confirmands (11:00)

Senior Choir—*Come, O Jesus, Holy One* (R. Newton)

Come, O Jesus, Holy One, present with each morning sun.
Live within our hearts each day, Hear us softly pray.
Make us pure with steadfast love as You dwell in heaven above.
Lead us ever in Your way, Hear us softly pray.
Teach us how to do Your will. Make our troubled hearts to still.
Drive our sin and doubt away. Hear us softly pray.

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:

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

(SBH #150)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"How Firm a Foundation"

(T. Ameigh)



1. A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
Our help-er he a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing:
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide Our striv-ing would be los-ing;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-ing.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sa-ba-oth his



great, And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
Name, From age to age the same, And he must win the bat-tle.



- 3 And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.
- 4 That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

*Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-90
Based on Psalm 46*

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by the Cimarolli and Tarrant families in honor of Josh Cimarolli and Jonathan Tarrant who are being confirmed today. May God bless them on their faith journeys!

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

Known to be hospitalized: Joanne Salvetti—Concordia South Hills Room 279. Dan Gill—Genesis HealthCare (Bridgeville) for rehab. Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's father)—hospice care. Erna Jochum—hospice care. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Susan Boehme—ankle surgery. Gene Hershberger—beginning treatment for lung cancer. Sue Dawson—knee replacement surgery on May 24. Sylvia Fitzgerald—broken leg. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Virginia DiSalvo is now at a rehab facility recovering her strength. Heather Weighley—medical tests. Mark Pugh—received heart monitor. Caryl Hansen is now home. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

On Hospice Care: John Coldsmith. Please pray for comfort for John and his family.

Official Act: On Monday, May 15, 2023, Pastor McMinn officiated at a memorial service for Mary Ann Scott at Ruthfred. Mary Ann passed away November 14, 2022, and was buried on November 17, but in keeping with her wishes, her family planned a memorial service to take place at Ruthfred, the church home so dear to her heart.

Official Act: On Saturday, May 20, 2023, Pastor McMinn officiated at a memorial service for Fred Schell, our long-time and beloved organist. Please continue to be in prayer for Fred's widow, Margery, in this time of loss.

Current Fund: Given by Karen Alwine Whipkey in memory of her dad, Terry Alwine, on the anniversary of his May birthday.

Current Fund: Given by Amy and Todd Chontos (friends of Marie's brother Ed and his wife Linda) in memory of Marie Wilmer.

Music Fund: Given by Andrea Groves Havener in memory of Fred Schell for being a fantastic organist to work with for Special Music. Given by Barb Thomas in memory of Fred Schell and Mary Ann Scott.

Pastor's Fund: Given by John and Jan Ruzicka in loving memory of Marie Wilmer and Fred Schell.

A Sincere Thank You from Lorraine Graham to Ruthfred members and Pastor McMinn for the cards and get well wishes!

The Senior Confirmation will be held TODAY at the 11:00 a.m. service. All members are invited to attend the cake reception to honor the confirmands after the 11:00 a.m. service. Please pray for the students and their parents as they take this important step in their spiritual development.

2023 CONFIRMATION CLASS

After baptism, years of Sunday School, home training, two concentrated years of Confirmation study in the Word of God and in the Catechism of Luther, the following young people are to confirm their baptismal vows, and to vow allegiance to Jesus Christ and to His church.

Joshua Cimarolli
Jonathan Tarrant

Jeremiah 29:11
Psalm 37:4, 5

Announcements (cont'd)

On June 4th the Senior Confirmation Class will receive their First Holy Communion at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Meals on Wheels Collection: Our neighbors at Meals on Wheels, located at Grace Lutheran Church in South Park, need bottled salad dressings. Donations will be accepted until June 4th. Their preferred purchase places are Aldi's or The Dollar Store. Please place these items in the appropriate bin outside the kitchen. They are grateful for any donation! If you have any questions, please contact Carol Ward. Thank you!

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.

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/>. This link allows parents to register their children for this fun event and also allows volunteers to sign up to help make VBS a success! Volunteer sign-up sheets are also available on the interior window outside the Fellowship Hall entrance.

VBS Decorating 2023: This year decorating will be an in-house project. We meet each Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. These meetings will continue until the decorations are completed. Please consider supporting this important ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Jason or Donna Weighley.

College Graduates: It is that time of year when we want to recognize our graduates. Please let us know (via email to sallyondrejko@ruthfred.org) of any college or graduate school students who will be graduating this Spring. Please include name of student, name of college, date of graduation, and degree. We will be highlighting these students in future bulletins.

High School Graduates: Ruthfred will celebrate our high school graduates on Sunday, June 11th. We hope you are able to join us that day to receive a blessing from the church as well as a special, personalized gift.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) Annual Conference: Our church body, the AFLC, will hold its Annual Conference June 14th—17th at the Best Western Inn & Ramkota Conference Center in Sioux Falls, SD. Ruthfred Church Council has agreed to cover airfare, meals, and hotel expenses for up to 6 Ruthfred members to attend. Visit aflc.org/about-us/conferences/ for more information. Contact John Morden if you plan to attend. Register ASAP.

Save the Date—Parents' Date Night: Mark June 16th, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., in your calendars! This is a babysitting event, so parents are able to go out and have fun!!! We play games, sing songs, have a Bible lesson, feed the kiddos dinner, and have a snack while watching a movie. Register online at: <https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredParentsDateNight>. Volunteers are needed for the event, and they can register on the same website.

Young Adult Bible Study: This group will meet TODAY at 6:30 p.m. at Andrew and Cassie Vogels' house. All young adults are welcome to join. For questions or further information, please contact Andrew at andrewvogel@ruthfred.org.

Open Church Council Position: The position of Secretary is currently open. The primary duty is to record minutes from the monthly meetings. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please contact Mark Riley, Council President, at markriley@ruthfred.org.

Announcements (cont'd)

2023-2024 Preschool Registration is now open online at ruthfred.org. Contact preschool@ruthfred.org with any questions or to schedule a tour. Preschool Director Annie Buzon welcomes your questions and comments!

Employment Opportunity at Ruthfred: Do you have a heart for the youngest in our Church family? We have a need for a nursery worker during Sunday School. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help: coxfarrierservice@gmail.com.

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!

Donations for Allegheny County Jail: From now until June 11, we will be collecting the following items for the Allegheny County Jail: jigsaw puzzles (new and used), shampoo, conditioner, body wash, 2-in-1 shampoo/body wash, 3-in-1 shampoo/condition/body wash, deodorant (men's and women's), bar soap, and toothpaste. Please note that these items should be regular size only, with no pump bottles or travel sizes. Items can be placed in the marked bin in the Fireside Lounge. Thank you for your support! Please contact Jill Kurtz if you have questions.

New Member Class: Many people have expressed interest in joining Ruthfred lately, so we'd like to schedule another New Member class to begin soon. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Ruthfred or in attending a New Member class (current members are allowed, and even encouraged, to do so), please contact Melissa Bostaph (contact information on back of bulletin) to let her know.

Parents of Sunday School Students: The school year is winding down, and our last day of Sunday School for kids will be May 28th. Please know that during the summer we will be doing a video series for 1st through 5th graders. Younger kids will be able to go to the nursery. Middle school kids will join the high school group.

Thank you to all those who have given of their time and talents over this past year to teach our Sunday School classes! We have amazing teachers who pour their hearts and souls into sharing with Ruthfred's youth (and adults) about Jesus.

Journey Through the Word: "The Great Journey Through the Word Summer Film Festival" will take place Wednesday mornings, June 14 through August 9, at 10 a.m. 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 May issue of *The Herald*. (There will be no movie July 26 because of VBS.) Come for one; come for all! No registration is necessary, and **all** are welcome!

Adult Sunday School Class In 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? Starting Sunday, May 14th 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 brand new 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.

YOUTH NEWS:

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is **SWAP** tonight, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Church.

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet on Tuesday, May 23rd, at the Church, 7-9 p.m.

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### **Questions/concerns?**

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



**Lutherans for Life Quote:** "This, dear friends, is why Christ's ascension is a good goodbye. Jesus leaves you with everything! He has done it all. The grave is empty. Death is defeated. Life is yours. So, people of God, 'Why do you stand here looking into the sky?' You have an ascension victory to celebrate and an ascended Savior to proclaim!"—**Rev. Peter Sulzle**, *St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN.*

## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (5/21) CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

## Noon-ish—Confirmation Reception

6:30 p.m.—GIFT Bible Study @ Sauls'

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

### Monday (5/22)

10:45 a.m.—Preschool School Closing Program  
in the Sanctuary (4-year-olds)

## Tuesday (5/23)

Last day of Preschool (3-year-olds)

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew (sewers only)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

7:00-9:00 p.m.—VBS Decorating

### Wednesday (5/24)

Last day of Preschool (4-year-olds)

6:45 p.m.—Senior Confirmation class

### Thursday (5/25)

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits (at Carol McDowell's house)

### Friday (5/26)

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

**Sunday (5/28) PENTECOST and MEMORIAL DAY  
SUNDAY**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

In **John 17**, Jesus prays that His Father will protect and unify His followers. In confidence that God binds us together as Christ's family, let us join in worship.

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...307   Sunday School...84


8:30 Live Stream...43

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request private (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  
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**Mason Mitchell** | Interim Director of Youth Ministry  
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**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

**Andrew Vogel** | Multi-Media Coordinator  
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**John Sperandio** | Live Stream & Social Media Asst.  
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**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Essi Efthimiou**  
Interim Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
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## Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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