

*We
have come
to worship Him*

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 one of the offering baskets.

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

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, February 12, 2023

Sexagesima Sunday

Prelude:

"Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen"

(J. G. Walther)

The Opening

Hymn:

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

(SBH #397)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful

2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing spir - it In - to ev - ery
Let us all in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy

earth come down!
mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
trou - bled breast;
prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;

Pure un - bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as

thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty. A - men.

3 Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy precious love.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen.

Charles Wesley, 1707–88

This hymn may also be sung to BEECHER (No. 312)

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 I 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. 41)

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 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 Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Awake, why do You sleep, O Lord. Arise, cast us not off for ever.

C: Why do You hide Your face and forget our affliction?

P: Our soul is bowed down to the dust. Arise for our help and redeem us.

C: We have heard with our ears, O God. Our fathers have told us what work You did in their days.

(Psalm 44:1, 23-26)

The Gloria Patri (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 41)

**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. 48)

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: Christ, have mercy upon us.

C: Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Hymn of Praise: "O Christ, Our Hope" (SBH #400 v. 1, 2, 4, 6)

Joyfully

1. O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, Re - demp - tion's
 2. How vast the mer - cy and the love Which laid our

on - ly spring; Cre - a - tor of the world art thou, Its
 sins on thee, And led thee to a cru - el death To

Sav - iour and its King, Its Sav - iour and its King.
 set thy peo - ple free, To set thy peo - ple free. A-men.

4 O may thy mighty love prevail
 Our sinful souls to spare,
 O may we come before thy throne
 And find acceptance there!

6 All praise to thee, ascended Lord;
 All glory ever be
 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
 Through all eternity! Amen.

*Latin hymn, cir. VIII cent.
 Tr. John Chandler, 1806-76 a.*

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: O Lord God, who sees that we put not our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

C: Amen

The Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (NASB)

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; ¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong *your* days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, ²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

The Psalm: Psalm 119:1-8 (NASB, Read Responsively)

P: How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

C: How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all *their* heart.

P: They also do no unrighteousness; they walk in His ways.

C: You have ordained Your precepts, that we should keep *them* diligently.

P: Oh that my ways may be established to keep Your statutes!

C: Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Your commandments.

P: I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments.

C: I shall keep Your statutes; do not forsake me utterly!

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (NASB)

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men? ⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

The Gradual

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.

Let men know that You, whose Name alone is Jehovah, are the most High over all the earth. O my God, make them like a wheel as the stubble before the wind. You have given a banner to them that fear You that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 83:13, 18; 60:4)

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

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:21-48 (NASB)

The Congregation rises and sings, "Glory be to Thee, O Lord."

²¹ "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'
²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be *guilty enough to go* into the fiery hell. ²³ Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. ²⁵ Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent. ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; ²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman

(continued on next page)

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:21-48 (NASB)

The Congregation rises and sings, **“Glory be to Thee, O Lord.”**

with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹ It was said, ‘WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE’; ³² but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³ Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.’ ³⁴ But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. ³⁶ Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil. ³⁸ You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. ⁴¹ Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

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 Anthems

8:30 Senior Choir—"My God and I" (I. B. Sergei)

My God and I, go in the field together,
we walk and talk as good friends should and do,
we clasp our hands, our voices ring with laughter,
My God and I, walk through the meadow's hue.

He tells me of the years that went before me,
When heavenly plans were made for me to be,
When all was but a dream of dim conception
To come to life, earth's verdant glory see.

My God and I, will go for aye together,
We'll walk and talk as good friends ever do.
This earth will pass and with it common trifles,
But God and I, will go unendingly.

11:00 Children's Choir—"Fear Not for Tomorrow" (Natalie Sleeth)

The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn: "More Love to Thee" (SBH #392)

1. More love to thee, O Christ, More love to thee!
 2. Once earth - ly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest;

Hear thou the prayer I make On bend - ed knee;
 Now thee a - lone I seek, Give what is best:

This is my ear - nest plea, More love, O Christ, to thee,
 This all my prayer shall be, More love, O Christ, to thee,

More love to thee, More love to thee.
 More love to thee, More love to thee. A - men.

3 Then shall my latest breath
 Whisper thy praise;
 This be the parting cry
 My heart shall raise;
 This still its prayer shall be,
 More love, O Christ, to thee,
 More love to thee. Amen.

Elizabeth Prentiss, 1818-78

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:

"Counter-Cultural Living in the Love of Christ" | Matthew 5:21-48

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.

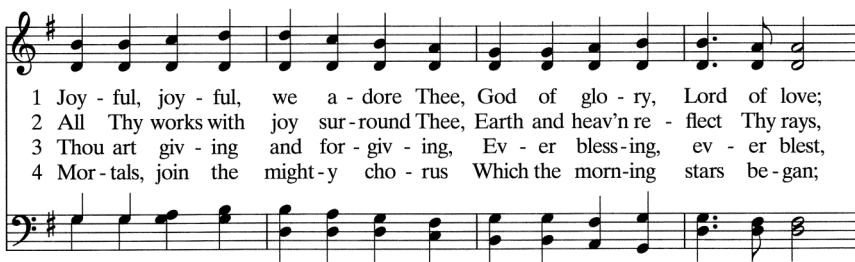
May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

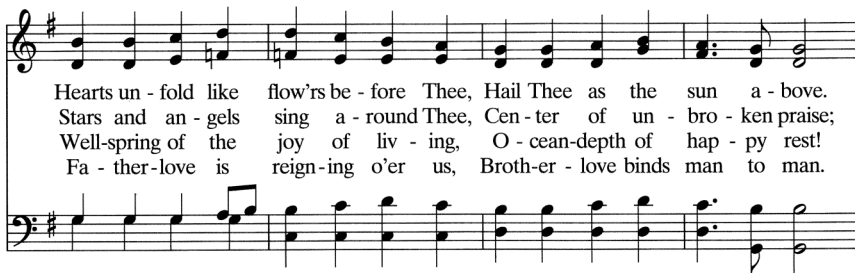
(Numbers 6:24-26)

C: Amen.

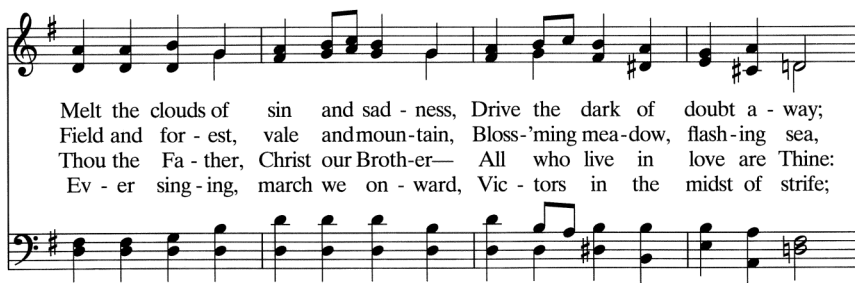
The Closing Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (AMB #197)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
 4 Mor - tals, join the might-y cho - rus Which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Hail Thee as the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise;
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!
 Fa - ther-love is reign-ing o'er us, Broth-er - love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Bloss-'ming mea-dow, flash-ing sea,
 Thou the Fa - ther, Christ our Broth-er— All who live in love are Thine:
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day!
 Chant-ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine.
 Joy - ful mu - sic lifts us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1933

Tune: melody from Ninth Symphony, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827

HYMN TO JOY
 87 87 D

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude: "Voluntary on 'Hymn to Joy'" (M. Burkhardt)

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by John Morden in thankful remembrance of his baptism on Sunday, February 12, 1961.

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

Known to be hospitalized: Fred Schell—Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Sewickley. Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Please support him with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Becky Lindner. Joanne Salvetti, who had surgery February 9th. Lundy Castro, who is at the Carlson's home. Dee Coldsmith, who is home after a brief hospital stay. Also, please keep in your prayers all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Current Fund: Given by Frank and Betty King in memory of Jim Agnew.

Stained Glass Panel: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."—Joshua 24:15

This window was purchased by the children of Alan and Ruth Hinkelman (Jeff, Christy, and Tom) in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary in 2018. The verse, both as goal and admonition, speaks to their respect for God's word and their gratitude for the many blessings He has given them over the course of their lives.

Location: Facing the Altar: left side set of windows; 5th window back; 2nd row down from the top, the left of the two panels.

Family Easter Festival Informational and Volunteer Recruitment Meeting: Please join us Sunday, February 26th during the Sunday School hour in the Fireside Lounge if you can help. This fun fellowship event for young families will be held on Sunday, April 2, from 4-6 p.m. and MANY helpers are needed. It's been said the volunteers have just as much fun as the kids! To see how you can serve, please attend the meeting or contact Barb Harrold, brharrold@comcast.net.

A New Member Class continues. Meetings are in the Conference Room during Sunday School.

Preschool Registration is now open for the 2023-2024 school year. Register online at Ruthfred.org. Contact: preschool@ruthfred.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.

Attention all XYZers: The sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board outside the Library for the next meeting, which will be Friday, February 24th. Come enjoy a musical program provided by Kurt Radke! Peggy Cox will once again prepare a not-to-be-missed lunch.

Journey Through the Word: Morning JTTW began a new study in January—Nancy Guthrie's The Promised One (Jesus in Genesis). Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about this study: 412-708-3535 or writngcygnet@gmail.com. The evening group has concluded for this school year. They will resume next fall on Wednesday, October 11th. Mark your calendars!

Lutheran Ambassador: The February issue is now available on the tables near all church entrances. Pick one up today!

Preschool Registration is now open for the 2023-2024 school year. Register online at Ruthfred.org. Contact: preschool@ruthfred.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.

Announcements (cont'd)

Support Life: During January and February, we have been collecting items needed by the two pregnancy centers we support: Health for Her in Bethel Park and New Life Options in Monongahela. Bins are in the Fireside Lounge through TODAY, February 12th for your donations. There is a box in the church office for gift cards. Thank you for supporting these ministries! Please contact Jill Kurtz with any questions. The following items are especially needed: baby wash, baby lotion, bathtubs, crib sheets for **mini** cribs, video baby monitors, diaper bags (backpack style), girls' sleepers 9 months to 2T, girls' outfits 12-18 months, boys' sleepers 9-18 months, boys' outfits 9 months to 4T, and gift cards for Walmart, Target, Amazon, Kohls, etc. (Clothing, mini crib sheets, and diaper bags can be gently used.)

Bible Reading 2023: Please join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2023. We are using the YouVersion Bible app, which provides a reading guide for each day (including a daily Psalm), over 150 videos to engage readers throughout the year, and a talk-it-over feature. The daily reading schedule will also be available on the Ruthfred website, as well as being printed in each month's Herald. The theme for 2023 will be "One Story That Leads to JESUS." For questions, or to sign up, please email Don Roose at donroose@yahoo.com.

Craft & Sew Thanks You!: Thank you so much for all of the dish and hand towels you donated for us to make adult clothing protectors. The residents of various nursing homes love these. We are thankful for your generosity, which will allow us to provide these items to local nursing homes! If you or anyone you know could use a clothing protector (adult bib) please let me know. We will gladly give you as many as you need. Arlene Ball: 412-977-8013 or Arlene1952@gmail.com.

Craft & Sew Candy Collection: As of February, the women at Craft & Sew have sent nearly 2000 favors to local nursing homes since September. Because of this, our candy supply is almost depleted. Please help to refill our supply with snack-size Milky Way bars, M & M's, Hershey's Kisses, KitKats, or Twix bars. These candy favors put smiles on many faces. Thank you so much for doing your part! There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall.



Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom*

Pastor Carlson continues teaching a series on the book of I Thessalonians for the Adult Sunday School Class. The little book of I Thessalonians is perhaps the earliest canonical writing of St.

Paul. It's focus is **"The Life of the Christian Congregation."** It is a gem of a book, filled with "an unmingled sweetness" of Christian love. In it we will be learning about sharing our faith, serving one another, living godly lives, understanding the end times, and how to live out the Gospel in the community of the congregation. You are invited!!! It will be wonderful to study and discuss this book together.

***Audio recordings of the class are available on the Ruthfred website.**



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is NOT a **SWAP** meeting tonight because of the Super Bowl.

Save the dates:

7 p.m. February 24 to 2 p.m. February 25: 30-Hour Famine: Youth in Grades 6-12 are invited to join us for this annual, nationwide event. The kids go without food to better understand the lives of kids who this even was created to help—those who face hunger on a daily basis. In addition to learning about world hunger and what they can do to help, the youth will be participating in themed games and volunteering at the World Vision Center. Forms and sign-up sheets are available outside the Youth Office. Contact Kris Wentz or Jill Huwe with questions.

Friday, March 17: Parents' Night Out Dinner. Youth in Grades 6-12 will help prepare and serve a delicious meal for their parents!

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on February 14th, 7-9 p.m.

Save the date:

March 24-26: Seneca Hills Retreat for Grades 9-12.

Questions/concerns?

Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee

This Week At Ruthfred

Today (2/12) SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service

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

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

Monday (2/13)

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders' Meeting

7:00 p.m.—Elders' Prayer Time

7:30 p.m.—Council Meeting

Tuesday (2/14) St. Valentine's Day

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team



Wednesday (2/15)

9:15 a.m.—JTTW

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

6:45 p.m.—Confirmation

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

Thursday (2/16)

2:00 p.m.—Ruth

Friday (2/17)

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

Saturday (2/18) Martin Luther d. 1546

6:00 p.m.—Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service

Sunday (2/19) TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

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

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

St. Paul tells us, "We are co-workers in God's service" (*1 Corinthians 3:9*). So we gather to be fed for a new week of ministry. Welcome!

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...309 Sunday School...N/A

8:30 Live Stream...40

JTTW (morning)...48 Online...4

JTTW (evening)...48

Kids' Time...22

Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request Private (to be kept amongst the pastors only).

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

Visiting with us?

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

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

Date:

Name:

Children:

Address:

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

Email:

I am a/an:

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

I would like to learn more about:

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

Ruthfred Staff

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Organist

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Interim Organist

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