

We
have come
to worship Him

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

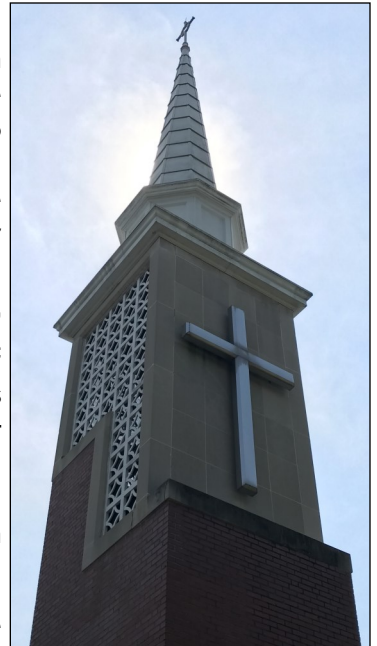
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

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 the offering plate as it passes before you.

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

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 23, 2023

Prelude:

"How Brightly Beams the Morning Star"

(J. Rinck)

"Forest Green"


(G. Lachenauer)

The Opening Hymn:

"Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior"

(SBH #461)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)



1. Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - iour, Hear my hum - ble cry;
2. Let me at thy throne of mer - cy Find a sweet re - lief;

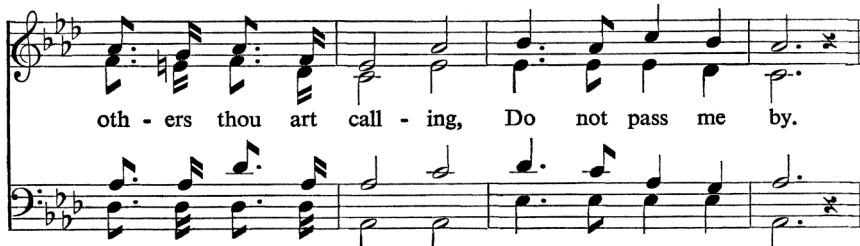


While on oth - ers thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.
Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, Help my un - be - lief.

Refrain



Sav - iour, Sav - iour, hear my hum - ble cry, While on



oth - ers thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.

3 Trusting only in thy merit,
Would I seek thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,
Save me by thy grace.

4 Thou the spring of all my comfort,
More than life to me;
Whom have I on earth beside thee,
Whom in heaven but thee?

Fanny Jane Crosby, 1820–1915

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. 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 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: Worship Him, all you His angels. Zion heard and was glad.

C: The daughters of Judah rejoiced because of Your judgments, O Lord.

P: The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice.

C: Let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

(Psalm 97:1, 7, 8)

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.

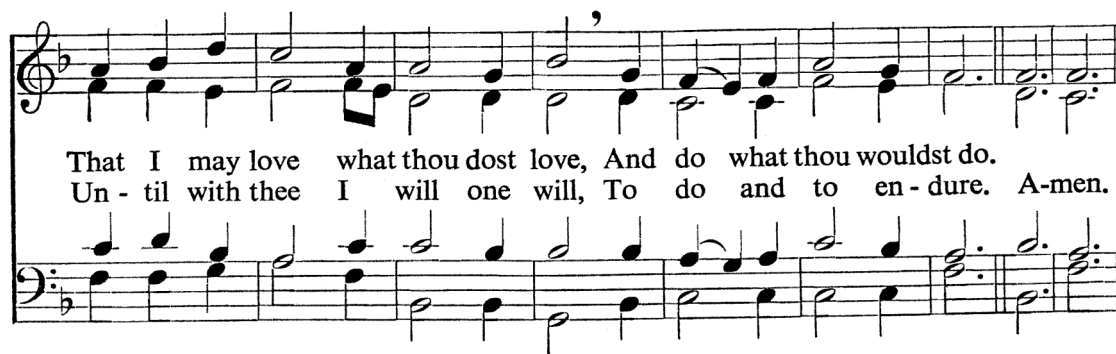
P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Hymn of Praise: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (SBH #470)



1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,



That I may love what thou dost love, And do what thou wouldst do.
 Un - til with thee I will one will, To do and to en - dure. A-men.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
 Unite my soul with thine,
 Until this earthly part of me
 Glows with thy fire divine.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
 So shall I never die,
 But live with thee the perfect life
 Of thine eternity. Amen.

Edwin Hatch, 1835-89

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

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

The Collect

P: The Lord be with you:

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of your Majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

C: Amen

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4 (NASB)

¹ But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. ³ You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

The Psalm: Psalm 27:1-9 (NASB, Read Responsively)

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?

C: When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

P: Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in *spite of* this I shall be confident.

C: One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple.

P: For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.

C: And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

P: I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

C: Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me.

P: *When You said, “Seek My face,”* my heart said to You, “Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.”

C: Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation!

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (NASB)

¹⁰ Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

¹¹ For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

¹⁵ so that no one would say you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. ¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Gradual

So the heathen shall fear the Name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth Your glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory. Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice. Let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Alleluia.

(Psalm 102: 15, 16; 97: 1)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:12-25(NASB)

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

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

¹⁵ "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES—¹⁶ "THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ¹⁸ Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

(continued on next page)

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: Luke 4:16-30(NASB) (cont'd)

²¹ Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. ²³ Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. ²⁴ The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and *the* Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and *from* beyond the Jordan.

The Congregation shall sing, “Praise be to Thee, O Christ.”

The Baptismal Hymn: (11:00) “Children of the Heavenly Father”

(SBH #572)

Today we are privileged to witness the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We believe that Baptism is God’s work. It is not merely a symbolic application of water, but water used according to God’s command and in connection with His Word (see Matt. 28:19-20). In Baptism God causes us to be born again through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (see Titus 3:5 and 1 Peter 3:21). For little Autumn Lorelai, Baptism marks the beginning of a new life in Christ that is nourished through a lifetime of continually hearing and learning God’s Word.

1. Chil-dren of the heav-en-ly Fa-ther Safe-ly in his bos-om gath-er;
2. God his own doth tend and nour-ish, In his ho-ly courts they flour-ish.

Nest-ling bird nor star in heav-en Such a ref-uge e'er was giv-en.
From all e-vil things he spares them, In his might-y arms he bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth,
And their sorrows all he knoweth.

4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh,
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

*Caroline V. Sandell Berg, 1832-1903
Tr. Ernest William Olson, 1870-*

The Baptism of Autumn Lorelai Vos (11:00 a.m.)

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 Anthem (8:30)

Senior Choir—*The New 23rd* (R. Carmichael)

Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything that I need.
He lets me rest in meadows green And leads me beside the quiet stream;
He keeps on giving life to me And helps me to do what honors Him the
most.

Even when walking thru the dark valley of death,
I will never be afraid, For He is close beside me,
Guarding, guiding all the way, He spreads a feast before me
In the presence of my enemies, He welcomes me as His special guest
with blessing over flowing, His goodness and unfailing kindness
shall be with me all of my life, And afterwards I will live with Him.
Forever in His home.

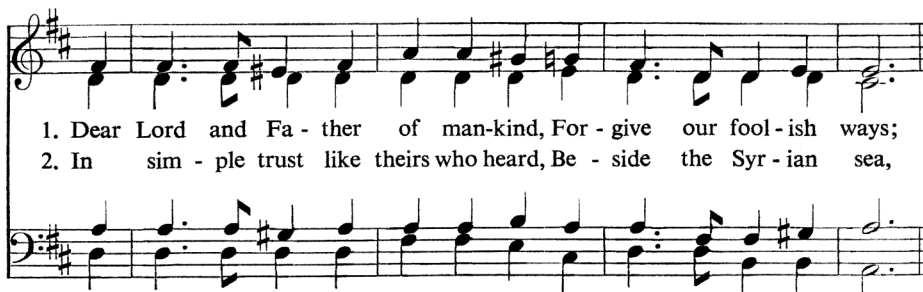
The Special Music (11:00)

Peggy Arelt (piano)—*Mary's Elegy* (B. Logan)

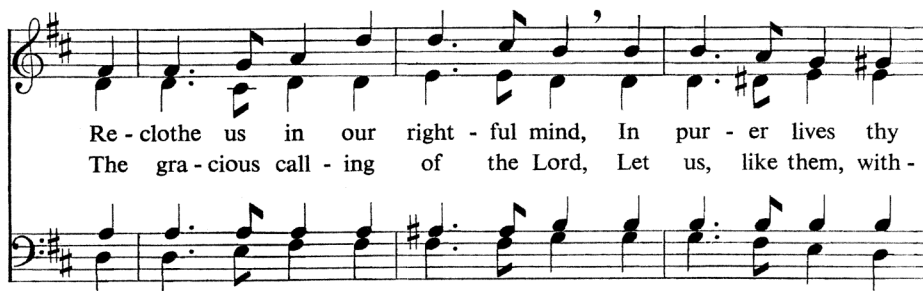
The Announcements

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn: "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" (SBH #467)



1. Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man-kind, For - give our fool - ish ways;
2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the Syr - ian sea,



Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, In pur - er lives thy
The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let us, like them, with -



ser - vice find, In deep - er rev - erence praise.
out a word Rise up and fol - low thee. A - men.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above;
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

5 Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm! Amen.

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-92

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: "From Hopelessness to Joy" | Isaiah 9:1-4

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 Installation of Church Council Members (both services)

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: "On Our Way Rejoicing" (SBH #195)




1. On our way re - joic - ing Glad - ly let us go; Con-quered
2. If with hon - est - heart - ed Love for God and man, Day by


hath our Lead - er, Van-quished is the foe. Christ with - out, our
day thou find us Do - ing what we can, Thou who giv'st the


safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy; Who, if we be faith - ful,
seed - time Wilt give large in - crease, Crown the head with bless - ings,



Refrain



Can our hope de - stroy? On our way re - joic - ing As we
Fill the heart with peace.



(continued on next page)

The Closing Hymn: "On Our Way Rejoicing" (SBH #195) (cont'd)

for-ward move, Hearn to our prais - es, O thou God of love! A-men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "for-ward move, Hearn to our prais - es, O thou God of love! A-men." The word "Hearn" is likely a typo for "Hearken".

3 Unto God the Father
Joyful songs we sing,
Unto God the Saviour
Thankful hearts we bring,
Unto God the Spirit
Bow we and adore,
On our way rejoicing
Now and evermore. Amen.

John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude: "Jubilate Deo" (J. Aiblinger)

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by Dan and Leslie Gill to the glory of God in thankfulness for His mercy and faithfulness.

Nursery Today: 8:30 & Sunday School—Jenna Schwartz; 11:00—No attendant.

Guest Organists: Essi Efthimiou continues as our long-term substitute during Fred's recovery.

Known to be hospitalized: Fred Schell—Select Specialty Hospital (McKeesport). Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Lundy Castro—Canonsburg Hospital. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Please keep in your prayers all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

Prayer Request: Please be in prayer for our member Becky Lindner. Her husband, Rich, is one of our church elders.

Official Act: At 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2023, Pastor McMinn officiated at the funeral of Ruth Anne Wilkinson at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Current Fund: Given by Marian Meyer in memory and honor of Carol Mueller.

Pastor's Fund: Given by Lou and Arlene Ball in memory of Terry Alwine.

Gifts to the Church in Memory of Jim Agnew: Given to the Benevolence Fund by Dorothy and Steve Kratz. Given to the Current Fund by Mary Lou & Joe McKenna, by Marilyn Schuster, and by Lou, Susan, & Bethany Slutterback. Given to the Pastor's Fund by Joan & Cliff Morton, by Lou & Arlene Ball, and by Fred & Sandy Pellegrino.

Support Life: During January and February, we will be collecting items needed by the two pregnancy centers we support, Health for Her in Bethel Park and New Life Options in Monongahela. Bins will be in the Fireside Lounge through February 12th for your donations. There will be 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.)

Installation of New/Re-elected Council Members: The installation of new and re-elected council members will be held TODAY, Sunday, January 22, 2023, at both services.

Bible Reading 2023: Please join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2023, starting on January 1, 2023. We will be 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.

Thank you dear Ruthfred family for all the kind words, cards, and offers of “Is there anything we can do,” at Jim’s passing. Thank you also for the peace plant, the luncheon, and to Pastor Carlson and Pastor McMinn for the personal and Christ-centered funeral service. What a blessing and treasure you all are to me and my family. **Judy Agnew and family**

New Member Class: A new member class starts today, **Sunday, January 22, 2023**. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let Melissa Bostaph, our Parish Assistant, know. Email: melissabostaph@ruthfred.org.

Lutheran Ambassador January Issue: Please pick up your copy at one of the church entrances.

Journey Through the Word: Morning JTTW began a new study on January 18, 2023—Nancy Guthrie’s The Promised One (Jesus in Genesis). Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about this study: 412-708-3535 or writingcygnet@gmail.com. The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah’s The Book of Signs. This week’s topic will be “Spiritual Warfare: When Christians Wouldn’t Know They Were in a War.” Each lesson stands alone; there are plenty of books. Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

XYZ Resumes Friday, January 27: Start your New Year off right by joining us for an informative presentation given by Jody Garlick, Registered and Licensed Dietitian. Jody will be speaking about the importance of a healthy, aging microbiome (healthy gut) and giving a live cooking demonstration. You won’t want to miss this important and informative event, or the lunch catered by Peggy Cox. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the Library.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES have been moved to the Library.

Craft & Sew is calling: We are in need of new or gently used dish or hand towels (no microfiber towels please). These are used to make adult clothing protectors. The residents of various nursing homes love these. Please put your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. 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. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. Arlene Ball: 412-977-8013 or Arlene1952@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life: *“When an abortion is performed, we proclaim that we know better than God. We disregard His wisdom, for He taught us that we should never kill innocent human beings. We proclaim that we do not want or need a gift from God. And in doing so, we seek to make ourselves more powerful than God. We seek to make ourselves God.”*
– **Archbishop Samuel Aquila**

COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The following church members were newly elected, or re-elected for a second term, at the Congregational Meeting held last Sunday, January 15, 2023:

<u>Recording Secretary:</u>	Barb Harrold
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Bill Ward*
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Rich Kleiser*
<u>Sunday School Superintendent</u>	Shane Cox*
<u>Elders:</u>	Eric Wente* Al Macugoski Steve Cox
<u>8:30 Deacons:</u>	Chris Clark* Paul Mikulan
<u>11:00 Deacons</u>	Nathan Donolo
<u>Trustees:</u>	Jonathan Stutzman* Josh Cox*
*Indicates Incumbent	

Many thanks to those who have finished their terms and to those who graciously submitted their names for nomination.



Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom*

Pastor Carlson is 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.**



MOVIE NIGHT

On Sunday, January 29, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., we will host a viewing of the faith-based documentary "*Ends of the Earth.*" Learn about Mission Aviation Fellowship pilots going to "hard-to-reach villages, willing to risk it all for the sake of sharing Christ's love." The documentary explores stories of faith, calling, and adventure by weaving together the true stories of MAF pilots, past and present, who strive along with other missionaries, churches, and organizations to take the gospel to the most isolated and inaccessible places on earth." MAF was added to our benevolence budget this year. Come see how your monetary gifts are being used. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Kurtz.



YOUTH NEWS

SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is a **SWAP** meeting tonight at the church, 6-7:30.

TNT and SWAP: Meet us at the Rink! Friday January 27th at the South Park Ice Rink for the 7:30-9:30 p.m. skating session. Purchase your own ticket and rentals (\$5 Admission/\$2 skate Rental). No transportation will be provided, but youth chaperones will be there!

TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on January 24th, 7-9 p.m.

Questions/concerns?

Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee

This Week At Ruthfred

Today (1/22) SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service

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

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service (Vos Baptism)

6:30 p.m.—GIFT Bible Study @ Glassers'

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

Monday (1/23)

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders Meeting

Tuesday (1/24)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

HAPPY 92nd BIRTHDAY ELSE RESOSKY

Wednesday (1/25)

9:15 a.m.—Journey Through the Word (JTTW)

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:00 p.m.—Forkless Dinner

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

6:45 p.m.—Confirmation; JTTW; Kids' Time

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir

HERALD DEADLINE

Thursday (1/26)

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits

Friday (1/27) Lydia, Dorcas, & Phoebe

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

Noon—XYZ

Sunday (1/29) 4th Sunday after Epiphany

830 a.m.—Worship Service

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

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

6:30 p.m.—Movie night: *"Ends of the Earth"*

Family of God, welcome to worship, Christian education, and fellowship at Ruthfred Lutheran Church! Please extend a word of friendship to those sitting near you.

Attendance for Last Week:

Church...290 Sunday School...102

8:30 Live Stream...38

JTTW (morning)...61 Online...2

JTTW (evening)...51

Kids' Time...23

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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