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RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

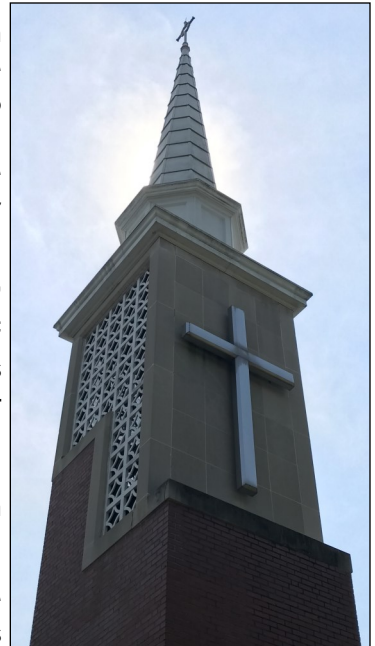
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations ([www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org))

**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 in Advent, December 11, 2022

## Prelude:

### **"Andante"**

(arr. Willard Nevins)

### **Three Chorales on Familiar Hymn**

#### **Tunes:**

### **"Chesterfield"**

(arr. C. S. Lang)

### **"Jefferson"**

(arr. R. Powell)

### **"Franconia"**

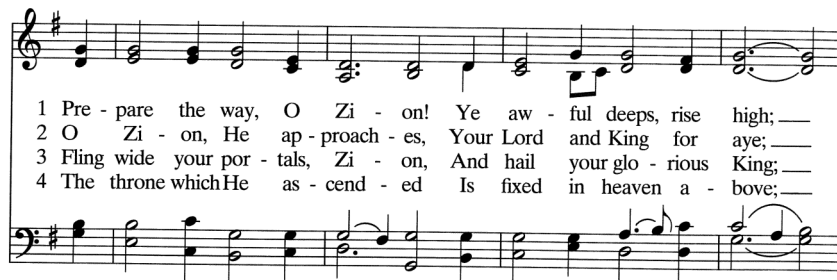
(arr. C. S. Lang)

## The Opening Hymn:

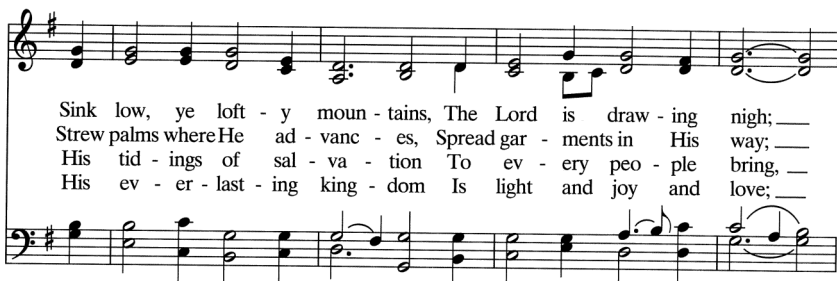
### **"Prepare the Way, O Zion!"**

(AMB #13)

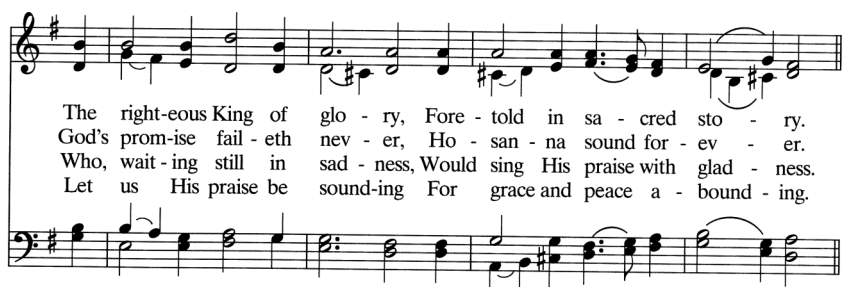
(Please stand as we  
join our hearts in  
song)



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on! Ye aw - ful deeps, rise high; —  
2 O Zi - on, He ap - proach - es, Your Lord and King for aye; —  
3 Fling wide your por - tals, Zi - on, And hail your glo - rious King; —  
4 The throne which He as - cend - ed Is fixed in heaven a - bove; —



Sink low, ye loft - y moun - tains, The Lord is draw - ing nigh; —  
Strew palms where He ad - vanc - es, Spread gar - ments in His way; —  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion To ev - ery peo - ple bring, —  
His ev - er - last - ing king - dom Is light and joy and love; —



The right - eous King of glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
God's prom - ise fail - eth nev - er, Ho - san - na sound for - ev - er.  
Who, wait - ing still in sad - ness, Would sing His praise with glad - ness.  
Let us His praise be sound - ing For grace and peace a - bound - ing.

### *Refrain*



O blest is He that came In God the Fa - ther's Name! —

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Augustus Nelson, 1863–1949  
Tune: Swedish melody, 17th c.

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
76 76 77 66

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.

**The Introit** (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say, Rejoice. Let your gentle spirit be known unto all men.

**C: The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing.**

P: But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Lord, you have been favorable unto Your land.

**C: You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.**

(Philippians 4:4-6; Psalm 85:1)

**The Gloria Patri** (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 43)

**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.**

“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 Hymn of Praise: "Hark, the Glad Sound!" (SBH #6)



1. Hark, the glad sound! the Sav - iour comes, The Sav - iour prom-ised long;  
2. He comes, the pris-oners to re - lease In Sa - tan's bond-age held;



Let ev - ery heart pre-pare a throne, And ev - ery voice a song.  
The gates of brass be-fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield. A-men.



- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim;  
And heaven's eternal arches ring  
With thy belovèd Name. Amen.

*Philip Doddridge, 1702-51*

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: Lord, we beseech You, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**C: Amen**

### **The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35** (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it will blossom profusely and rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. they will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. <sup>4</sup> Say to those with anxious heart, “Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you.” <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. <sup>7</sup> The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass *becomes* reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it *will* be for him who walks *that* way, and fools will not wander *on it*. <sup>9</sup> No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will *walk there*, <sup>10</sup> and the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.



**The Psalm: Psalm 146** (NASB, Read Responsively)

P: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**C: I will praise the LORD while I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

P: Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation.

**C: His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.**

P: How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**C: Who made heaven and earth the sea and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

P: Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free.

**C: The LORD opens *the eyes of* the blind; the LORD raises up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous;**

P: The LORD protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow, but He thwarts the way of the wicked.

**C: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**The Epistle Lesson: James 5:7-11** (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. <sup>8</sup> You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

**The Gradual:**

You that dwell between the Cherubim, shine forth, stir up Your strength and come. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You that leads Joseph like a flock. Alleluia, alleluia. Stir up Your strength and come to save us. Alleluia. (Psalm 80:1,2)

**The Alleluia** (Sung in Unison)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

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



**The Holy Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-15** (NASB)

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

<sup>2</sup> Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.* <sup>6</sup> And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.” <sup>7</sup> As these men were going *away*, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ palaces! <sup>9</sup> But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’ <sup>11</sup> Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. <sup>13</sup> For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to accept *it*, John himself is Elijah who was to come. <sup>15</sup> He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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 Anthem**

8:30 Senior Choir *"An Advent Lullaby"* (G. Young)

Lullaby, O lullaby.  
Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King;  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**Special Music**

11:00 Kurt Radke *"There's a Light"* (Beth Nielsen)

**The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle**

**The Reading of the Prophecy:** Isaiah 11:2

**The Reading of the Fulfillment:** Luke 4:18, 19

**The Announcements** (Please be seated)

**The Children's Object Lesson**

**The Sermon Hymn: "Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" (SBH #1)**

1. Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; 'Christ is the  
2. Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the

nigh,' it seems to say, 'Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, her sun, all

works of dark-ness, O ye chil - dren of the day.'  
ill dis - pell - ing, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies. A - men.

3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heaven;  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all to be forgiven;

4 So when next he comes in glory,  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
With his mercy may he shield us,  
And with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing  
Be to God: the Father, Son,  
And the everlasting Spirit,  
While eternal ages run. Amen.

*Latin hymn, V cent.  
Tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78 a.*

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:** "Be Patient. He Is Close." | James 5:7-11

**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: "Come Thou, Almighty King" (SBH #136)

*Joyfully*

1. Come, thou al - might - y King, Help us thy Name to sing,  
2. Come, thou In - car - nate Word, Gird on thy might - y sword;

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Help us to praise! Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic -  
Our prayer at - tend; Come and thy peo - ple bless, And give thy

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

to - ri - ous, Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
word suc - cess; And let thy right - eous - ness To us de - scend. A - men.

The third system concludes the hymn with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the staves.

3 Come, Holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour:  
Thou who almighty art,  
Now rule in every heart,  
And ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of power.

4 To thee, great One in Three,  
Eternal praises be,  
Hence, evermore!  
Thy sovereign majesty  
May we in glory see,  
And to eternity  
Love and adore. Amen.

*Authorship uncertain  
Whitefield's Collection, 1757 a.*

## The Silent Prayer & Chimes

## The Postlude: "Lift Up Your Heads" (arr. David Johnson)

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by Barbara Valentine and Linda Cooley in celebration of their mum's birthday.

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

**Substitute Organist:** Please note that our substitute organist this week is Sibyl Mose. Thank you, Sibyl!

**Pastor's Fund:** Given by Lynne Magulick in honor of my friendships with Chris & Ron Stout and Evelyn Meyer and in memory of Darryl Roussel.

**Official Act:** On Saturday, December 10, 2022, Pastor McMinn officiated at a funeral for Jesse Raymond Moore, father of Glenn (Heather) Moore at Green County Memorial Park in Waynesburg, PA.

**Known to be hospitalized:** Fred Schell (broken ribs and now a cancer diagnosis)—UPMC Shadyside Hillman Hospital. (Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.) Please keep him in your prayers and support him with cards.

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's dad) is battling Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma. His mailing address is: 49196 N. Grosse Pointe Shores Rd., Hancock, MI 49930. Derrick Fouks (father of Brandon) was in a car accident on October 9th and sustained serious injuries, but he is now home and having in-home physical therapy. (Address: 2463 County Rd. H, Deer Park, WI 54007.) Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of 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. Becky has been on dialysis and is in need of a kidney transplant. She is now on the National Kidney Registry. Additional information can be found at: [www.NKR.ORG/JGM887](http://www.NKR.ORG/JGM887). Please pray that a matching kidney donor can be found for Becky and that God would give her sustaining strength and health while she waits.

**Condolences:** Our pastors and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Glenn (Heather) Moore and family upon the death of Glenn's father, Jesse R. Moore, on Saturday, December 3, 2022. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**2023 Flower Chart** is now available on the bulletin board by the water fountain in the Patterson hallway. Please sign up for helping to provide the blessing of altar flowers next year. Only one January Sunday has been claimed, so we are in particular need of January flowers. Please note that the cost of altar flowers has increased from \$40 to \$50 for next year.

**Poinsettia Orders:** TODAY IS THE DEADLINE for ordering poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones for the Christmas services. Please use an envelope from the pew racks and fill in all of the requested information. Place it in the offering plate or in the box in the church office. The cost is \$12.50 per plant. Thank you!

**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@ruthfred.org](mailto:DonRoose@ruthfred.org).



# Announcements (cont'd)

**Stage Set-Up Help Needed TODAY:** If you have a little time after the 11:00 a.m. service today, your help would be greatly appreciated with setting up the stage in the sanctuary for the Children's Christmas Program. Thank you!

**Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup>:** Because Christmas falls on a Sunday, there will be no Sunday School that day.

**2022 Contributions:** Financial contributions to be recorded in the year 2022 must be postmarked by Saturday, December 31, 2022. Contributions postmarked after December 31st will be recorded in 2023.

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** are now by the elevators near the Sanctuary. Please pick your envelopes up this morning if you have not already done so!

**New Member Class:** We are still gathering names for a new member class to be offered starting **Sunday, January 22, 2023**. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let Melissa Bostaph, our Parish Assistant, know. Email: [melissabostaph@ruthfred.org](mailto:melissabostaph@ruthfred.org).

**The 2023 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet** is now posted on the wall near the kitchen and Fireside Lounge.

**Additional Christmas Giving Tree:** This year we are collecting items for the January opening of a new emergency shelter for female survivors of sex trafficking and/or sexual violence/exploitation—Refuge for Women, a faith-based ministry. They will provide temporary housing, crisis intervention, and support services. The shelter will have 10 bedrooms. They are in need of any size sweatshirts and sweatpants. Tags are available on the tree in the Fireside Lounge. Please return your donations, unwrapped, to the lounge by December 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jill Kurtz with any questions.

**Kane Regional Center Angel Tree:** Since the Baptist Home has closed, we are collecting gifts for the 25 residents of Kane. These are people who have no one else to bring them joy at Christmas. All of the tags have been taken, so please be sure to return your gifts by December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Jan Ruzicka at 724-941-3572. Thank you for your generosity.

**Journey Through the Word:** Morning JTTW will take a break until after the holidays. Contact Sue Swan if you would like information about their study starting in January: 412-708-3535 or [writingcygnet@gmail.com](mailto:writingcygnet@gmail.com). The evening group is studying Dr. David Jeremiah's The Book of Signs. Each lesson stands alone, and there are plenty of books. The lesson for December 14<sup>th</sup> will be "Immorality: The Age of Anything Goes (Romans)". Please contact Jodie or Mark Riley if you need more information: 412-401-9137.

**Lost and Found:** Two hip-length, black, wool women's coats have apparently been switched. If you own a Kenneth Cole (16P) coat of this description, and you realize that you may have taken a similar coat at a recent church event, please call the office. We have the Kenneth Cole coat and would like to return it to its rightful owner, while also returning the similar coat to its owner.

**Please join us**

Children's Christmas Program

**"The Son Has Come"**

Sunday, December 11th

4 pm in the Sanctuary

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Congregational potluck dinner to follow.

Meat, rolls, and drinks will be provided.

Please bring the following:

Last names A-K: salads

Last names L-S: sides (not salads)

Last names T-Z: desserts



## 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.



## YOUTH NEWS

### SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is NO **SWAP** tonight at Ruthfred.

Save the date: **SWAP** Christmas Party on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 5-8 p.m.

**All 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students:** Registration for the AFLC Free Lutheran Youth ( FLY) Convention, slated to be July 3-8, 2023, at the YMCA in Estes Park, Colorado, opened on October 20<sup>th</sup>. This biennial convention brings approximately 2,000 AFLC youth from across the nation together for an unparalleled opportunity for spiritual, emotional, and relational growth! The theme will be "Restored," based on **Rev. 21:5-7**. Contact Jill Huwe or Kris Wentte for more information. You can review information at <https://www.flyconvention.org>. An informational letter was sent to your homes!

### TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

Save the date: TNT Christmas Party on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7-10 p.m.

### **Questions/concerns?**

**Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee** (Pete & Jill Huwe; Eric & Kris Wentte; Jon & Denise Stutzman; or Shane & Kate Cox)

## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (12/11) Third Sunday of Advent**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service  
4:00 p.m.—Children's Christmas Program & Potluck  
Deadline for Christmas poinsettia orders

## Monday (12/12)

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew  
7:00 p.m.—Elders' Prayer Time  
7:30 p.m.—Council Meeting

## Tuesday (12/13)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

### Wednesday (12/14)

Noon—Esther  
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  
7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir



## Thursday (12/15)

2:00 p.m.—Ruth

### Friday (12/16)

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

### Saturday (12/17)

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

**Sunday (12/19) Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service (D'Alessandro baptism)

The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says the apostle Paul (*Philippians 4:4*). With gladness, we welcome you to worship!

**Attendance for Last Week:**

Sunday Worship...353 Sunday School...87  
8:30 Live Stream...40  
JTTW (a.m.)...45 JTTW (p.m.)...57 Kids' Time...21

## 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 and vicar 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:

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Name:

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Children:

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Address:

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Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

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Email:

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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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**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Frederick Schell**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Denise Stutzman** | Preschool Head Teacher  
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**Denise Stutzman**  
Kids' Time Leader

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