

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 in Advent, December 12, 2021

Prelude:

"Two Settings of 'Of the Father's Love Begotten" (W. Held; G. Near)

The Opening Hymn:

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

(AMB1)

(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)



The Call to Worship

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

Congregation (C): Amen

The Confession of Sin (SBH, p. 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

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).

"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: 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. 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.

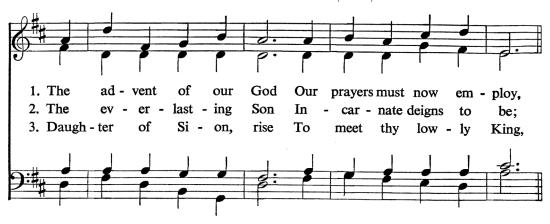
C: Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Hymn of Praise:

"The Advent of Our God" (SBH3)





And we must meet him on his road With hymns of ho - ly joy.

Him - self a ser-vant's form puts on To set his peo - ple free.

Nor let thy faith-less heart de - spise The peace he comes to bring. A-men.



- 4 As Judge, on clouds of light,
 He soon will come again,
 And all his scattered saints unite
 With him in heaven to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone;
 The old man all be put away,
 The new man all put on.

6 All glory to the Son,Who comes to set us free,With Father, Spirit, ever One,Through all eternity. Amen.

Charles Coffin, 1676–1749 Tr. John Chandler, 1806–76 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NASB)

¹⁴ Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you will fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: "Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. 18 I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts—they came from you, O Zion; The reproach of exile is a burden on them. ¹⁹"Behold, I am going to deal at that time with all your oppressors, I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will turn their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, even at the time when I gather you together; indeed, I will give you renown and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

The Psalm: Psalm 85 (NASB, Read Responsively)

P: O Lord, You showed favor to Your land; You restored the captivity of Jacob.

C: You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin. You withdrew all Your fury; You turned away from Your burning anger.

P: Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your indignation toward us to cease.

C: Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

P: Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

C: Show us Your lovingkindness, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

P: I will hear what God the Lord will say; for He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones; but let them not turn back to folly.

C: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

P: Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. Indeed, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.

C: Righteousness will go before Him and will make His footsteps into a way.

The Epistle Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7 (NASB)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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: Luke 7:18-28 (NASB)

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

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported to him about all these things. ¹⁹ Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?" 20 When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, 'Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?" ²¹ At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. 22 And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them. ²³ Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me." 24 When the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces! ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.' ²⁸ I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is areater than he."

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 guick and the dead.

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

The Special Music

8:30 Senior and Children's Choirs (Children's Choir soloists are Asher and Isaiah Manzo, Lillian McMinn, and Olivia Blackston)— *"Hosanna Now Through Advent"* (Moschetti)

Hosanna Now Through Advent

Hosanna now through Advent, With loving heart we sing; For Jesus Christ is coming, To be His children's King. Hosanna! Blessed Jesu, Come in our hearts to dwell; And let our lives and voices, Thy praise and glory tell.

Come, Jesus holy Child, Come closer, come closer to me; With joy and love I wait for Thee, I wait for Thee. Come to my heart, stay close to me, Through all my days; And after death, In heaven let me sing Thy praise.

For we who sing Hosanna, Must like our Saviour be, In gentleness and meekness, In love and purity. Hosanna! Let this welcome, Ring out from every heart; Draw nigh to us, O Jesus, And never more depart.

So When we see Thee coming, With angels in the sky, Hosanna! laud Hosanna, Shall be Thy children's cry. Hosanna now through Advent, With loving heart we sing; For Jesus Christ is coming, To be His children's King.

11:00 Women's Quartet (Peggy Cox, Peggy Glasser, Jill Kurtz, & Mettelise Ziegler)—"The Infant Jesus" (Yon)

The Infant Jesus

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows, Upon a winter night Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced And at His blessed birth the stars, Their exultation voiced.

The Special Music (cont'd)

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows, To greet the holy night That gave the word its Christmas Rose, Its King of Love and Light Let every voice acclaim His name, The grateful chorus swell From paradise to earth He came, That we with Him might dwell.

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

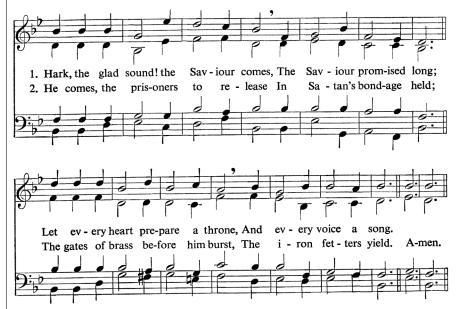
The Reading of the Prophecy: Isaiah 11:2
The Reading of the Fulfillment: Luke 4:18, 19

The Announcements (Please be seated)

The Children's Object Lesson

The Sermon Hymn:

"Hark the Glad Sound" (SBH6)



- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,The bleeding soul to cure,And with the treasures of his graceTo 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 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:

"He Comes Saving! Will You Gather?" | Zephaniah 3:14-20

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:

"Joy to the World" (AMB18)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"Chorale Prelude on 'From Heaven on High'"

(J. S. Bach)



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

ANTIOCH CM

Announcements

<u>The altar flowers</u> are presented by Joyce, Joe, and Brian McClune in loving memory of their parents and grandparents, Lois and Don Funk.

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

<u>Pastor's Fund:</u> Given by Lori Deremer, Beth Furdak, and Scott Herrle in loving memory of their mother, Barbara Herrle. We miss you!

<u>Prayers for recovery:</u> Pat Lutz is recovering at home after knee surgery. Please support her with your prayers and cards.

<u>Prayer request:</u> John Coldsmith is having some heart problems and anticipates a valve replacement surgery coming up in the near future. Please pray for John and Dee and for the medical personnel who are treating John.

Known to be Hospitalized: Nancy McCloskey spent time at Jefferson Hospital this week and is expected to be released to a rehab facility by the weekend. Please support Nancy and Gene with your prayers and cards.

2021 Contributions: Financial contributions to be recorded in the year 2021 must be postmarked by Friday, December 31, 2021. Contributions postmarked after December 31st will be recorded in 2022.

<u>The 2022 Flower Chart</u> is now available for your Sunday reservations for altar flowers. It is located by the water fountain in the Patterson Road hallway. Please sign-up if you are able, especially for the January slots.

<u>Thank You:</u> I would like to say thank you for the numerous birthday cards I received from Ruthfred friends. It is a blessing to belong to such a caring congregation. *Alma Vogel*

Thank you for the Adopt A Family Gift cards!!! Last Monday evening I dropped off 90 gift cards totaling just over \$3,300 to Adopt A Family/South Hills. Please know that these gift cards will make a world of difference to so many struggling local families this Christmas. Your generosity continues to amaze me! An added thank you to everyone who provided a gift receipt or wrote the gift card amount on their envelope. It was a huge help with the sorting &

organizing! Thank you, Carol Ward

Poinsettia Orders: TODAY IS THE DEADLINE for ordering poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones for the Christmas services. Please use a small brown envelope from the pew racks. Write your name, the dedication you wish to have printed in the bulletin, and your color preference (red or white) on the outside of the envelope and place it in the offering plate. The cost is \$12.50 per plant. Thank you!

Sunday School on December 26th: No formal Children's Sunday School will be held on the 26th (to give our teachers a Christmas break). Adult Sunday School **will** be held that day. Instead of the study of Romans that day, Pastor Carlson will be leading the singing of favorite Christmas carols and providing the stories behind some of them. If parents wish to attend the adult class, there will be places for children to go: the Nursery will be staffed for ages 3 and under; a Christian movie will be shown and supervised in the Fellowship Hall for grades Pre-K to 5; youth

in grades 6 to 8 may attend the high school class, the movie, or the adult class.

Announcements (cont'd)

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES: are now by the elevators near the Sanctuary. Please pick your envelopes up this morning if you have not already done so!

<u>New Members Class</u>: Thank you for your patience with this! We will be holding our next New Members Class beginning during the second week of January. Please contact the office or one of the Pastors if you are interested.

<u>The 2022 Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet</u> is now posted on the wall near the kitchen and Fireside Lounge.

<u>Live Stream and Social Media Assistant</u>: We are currently hiring for this part-time position. Please contact Brian Schmidt if you are interested.



Adult SS Class Today In Large Classroom

Pastor Carlson is teaching the Adult Sunday School Class on the book of Romans. This book contains the most complete and comprehensive explanations of the teachings of the Christian faith. Each week we will be doing a chapter overview while also doing a deep dive to discover particular gems. Whether you have never read the book, or have it memorized, this will be a great opportunity for you to grow in your understanding of your Christian faith! Today we are studying Chapter 10.

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## **Today in the Upper Room**

Forgiving What You Can't Forget—Join us for a continuing 6-week Bible study in which author Lysa TerKeurst shares her personal journey with forgiveness and what the Bible has to say about letting go of resentment and finding peace. In each individual session, we will explore a step-by-step plan to free ourselves from hurt, disempower triggers that hijack our emotions, deal with difficult relationships, and discover the life-giving freedom that our souls desperately need. All are welcome to join—drop in on any one of the sessions!!!



# **YOUTH NEWS**

# **SWAP** (6-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)

SWAP Christmas Party tonight at the Church, 6-10 p.m.

# TNT (9-12<sup>th</sup> Grades)

TNT will meet at Ruthfred on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

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Ouestions/concerns?

Contact: Regan Johnson at ReganJohnson@ruthfred.org, or
(c) (218)-230-5800

Prayer Requests This Week At Ruthfred Today (12/12) Third Sunday of Advent Please use this space to let the 8:30 a.m.— Worship Service pastors, elders and/or church 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School know of your prayer needs. 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service 2:00 p.m.—Women's Ministry Christmas Luncheon Monday (12/13) 9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew (Crafters only) 6:30 p.m.—Elders' Meeting & Prayer Time 7:30 p.m.—Council Meeting Tuesday (12/14) 6:00 p.m.—Gideons Christmas Party 7:00 p.m.—Worship Team **Wednesday (12/15)** 5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir 6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir 6:45 p.m.—Confirmation; JTTW; Kids' Time 7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir Thursday (12/16) 11:00 a.m.—Preschool Program (3-year-olds) 2:00 p.m.—Ruth Friday (12/17) 7:00 a.m.—Men's Prayer Group (Fireside Lounge) 11:00 a.m.—Preschool Program (4-year-olds) Saturday (12/18) 5:00 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

The prophet Zephaniah declares: "Rejoice and exult with all your heart.... The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst" (3:14-15). Welcome to worship!

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...309 Sunday School...108 8:30 Live Stream...39 JTTW (a.m.)...48 JTTW (p.m.)...17 Kids' Time...30 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:
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

■ Ways To Share My Gifts

■ Ruthfred's Ministries or Groups

Ruthfred Staff

Rev. Steven P. Carlson | Senior Pastor (412) 835-7140 (ext. 229) PastorCarlson@ruthfred.org

Rev. Bryce C. McMinn | Associate Pastor (412) 835-7140 (ext. 226) PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org

Sally Ondrejko | Office Manager (412) 835-7140 (ext. 222) SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org

Ron Thorhauer | Business Manager (412) 835-7140 (ext. 224) RonThorhauer@ruthfred.org

Regan Johnson | Director of Youth Ministry (412) 835-7140 (ext. 240) Regan Johnson@ruthfred.org

Brian Lyskava | Custodian

Andrew Vogel | Multi-Media Coordinator (412) 568-3215 AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org

Robert Vogel Senior & Bell Choirs

Frederick Schell Organist

Melissa Manzo Children's Choir

Denise Stutzman | Preschool Head Teacher (412) 835-7140 (ext. 234) | DeniseStutzman@ruthfred.org

Lauren Compel & Denise Stutzman Kid's Time Leaders

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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www.ruthfred.org