

# Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

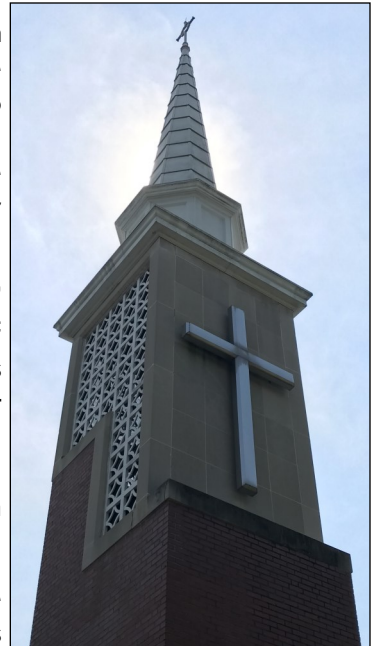
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations ([www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org))

**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 an offering basket at the rear of the sanctuary.

## 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 *scherschnitte*, created specially for our church by local artist Kathryn Carr. The artwork will reflect liturgical and Ruthfred-specific themes that occur throughout the year.

# The Divine Service of the Word

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 27, 2023

## Prelude:

### **"Sonata"**

(G. P. Telemann)

### **"Meditation"**

(H. Smith)

### **"Duet for Trombones"**

(XX)

Robert Schmalz  
and Edward  
Kocher, trombones

## The Opening

### Hymn:

### **"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"**

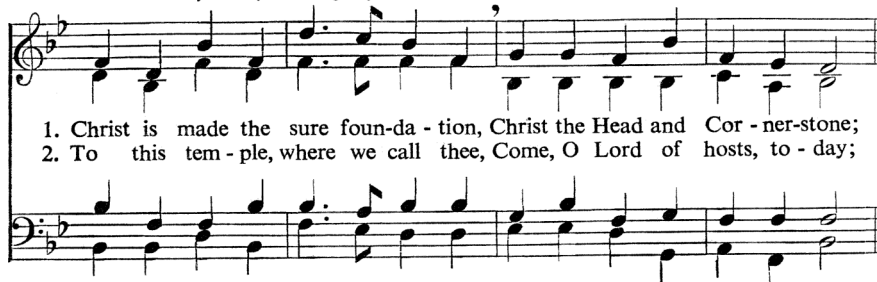
(SBH #242)

(Please stand as we  
join our hearts in  
song)

REGENT SQUARE. 8 7, 8 7, 8 7.

HENRY SMART, 1813-79

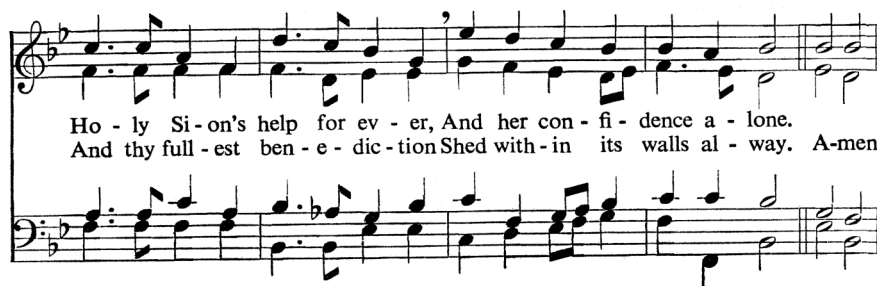
*Moderately slow, with dignity*



1. Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the Head and Cor - ner-stone;  
2. To this tem - ple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day;



Cho - sen of the Lord, and pre-cious, Bind-ing all the Church in one;  
With thy wont - ed lov - ing-kind-ness Hear thy serv - ants as they pray,



Ho - ly Si - on's help for ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
And thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way. A-men.

3 Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
What they ask of thee to gain;  
What they gain from thee for ever  
With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in thy glory  
Evermore with thee to reign.

4 Laud and honor to the Father,  
Laud and honor to the Son,  
Laud and honor to the Spirit,  
Ever Three and ever One,  
One in might, and One in glory,  
While unending ages run. Amen.

*Latin Hymn, cir. VII cent.  
Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66 a.*

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 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 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 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 Absolution**

P: The Almighty and merciful God grant unto you, being penitent, pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of His Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **The Introit** (Read Responsively; Please stand) (SBH p. 99)

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

P: Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul.

**C: Let them be turned backward, and put to confusion.**

(Psalm 70:1-2)

### **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.**

**The Hymn of Praise:**

**"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

(SBH #428)

CARL GOTTHILF GLÄSER, 1784–1829

Arr. by LOWELL MASON, 1792–1872

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,  
2. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, As-sist me to pro-claim,

The glo-ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of his grace!  
To spread through all the earth a-broad The hon-ors of thy Name. A-men.

3 Jesus! the Name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His Blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.

5 He speaks, and, listening to his voice,  
New life the dead receive,

The mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
The humble poor believe.

6 Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come;  
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

7 Glory to God, and praise, and love  
Be ever, ever given  
By saints below and saints above,  
The Church in earth and heaven. Amen.

*Charles Wesley, 1707–88*

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

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

## **The Collect**

P: The Lord be with you:

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Almighty and merciful God, of whose only gift it comes that Your faithful people do to You true and laudable service, grant, we beseech You, that we may so faithfully serve You in this life, that we fail not finally to attain Your heavenly promises. 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 51:1-6** (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; when *he was but* one I called him, then I blessed him and multiplied him.” <sup>3</sup> Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places. And her wilderness He will make like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and sound of a melody. <sup>4</sup> “Pay attention to Me, O My people, and give ear to Me, O My nation; for a law will go forth from Me, and I will set My justice for a light of the peoples. <sup>5</sup> My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands will wait for Me, and for My arm they will wait expectantly. <sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the sky, then look to the earth beneath; for the sky will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not wane.”

## **The Psalm: Psalm 138** (NASB)

P: I will give You thanks with all my heart; I will sing praises to You before the gods.

**C: I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.**

P: On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.

**C: All the kings of the earth will give thanks to You, O LORD, when they have heard the words of Your mouth.**

P: And they will sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

**C: For though the LORD is exalted, yet He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar .**

(continued on next page)

### **The Psalm: Psalm 138** (NASB) (cont'd)

P: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me.

**C: The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting; do not forsake the works of Your hands.**

### **The Epistle Lesson: Romans 11:33-12:8** (NASB)

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! <sup>34</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? <sup>35</sup> Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? <sup>36</sup> For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which* is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup> For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup> For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

### **The Gradual**

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the lord. The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Alleluia, alleluia. Sing aloud to God our Strength. Make a joyful noise to the God of Jacob. (Psalm 34:1-2; 81:1)

### **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 16:13-20** (NASB)

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

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

<sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

<sup>20</sup> Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

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

## **The Confession of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed (Confessed in Unison) (p. 54)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth

And In Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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

## **The Special Music**

8:30 & 11:00: *Hymns for Two Trombones*

Robert Schmalz & Edward Kocher, trombones

## **The Announcements**

## **Children's Object Lesson**

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of Christian belief used since the early Church. It's not specific to any one Christian denomination, but used by the Church as a whole. We choose to confess it together as a unified reminder of what we believe to be true about God, and His caring service to us.

**The Sermon Hymn: "Thou, Whose Almighty Word" (SBH #309)**

MOSCOW (ITALIAN HYMN). 6 6 4, 6 6 6 4.

FELICE DE GIARDINI, 1716-96

*Joyfully*

1. Thou, whose al - might - y word Cha - os and dark - ness heard,  
2. Thou, who didst come to bring On thy re - deem - ing wing

And took their flight; Hear us, we hum - bly pray, And where the  
Heal - ing and sight, Health to the sick in mind, Sight to the

gos - pel - day Sheds not its glo - rious ray, Let there be light!  
in - ly blind, O now to all man - kind Let there be light! A - men.

3 Spirit of truth and love,  
Life-giving, holy Dove,  
Speed forth thy flight!  
Move on the waters' face  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light!

4 Holy and blessèd Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
Boundless as ocean's tide,  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the world, far and wide,  
Let there be light! Amen.

*John Marriott, 1780-1825*  
*Revised, Thomas Raffles, 1788-1863*

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:** "This Is Temporary. Salvation Is Forever." | Isaiah 51:1-6

**Sermon Notes:**

**The Offertory Response** (Sung in Unison; Please Stand)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.** (Psalm 51:10-12)

**The 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: "O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling" (SBH #314)

1. O Zi - on, haste, thy mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,  
 2. Pro - claim to ev - ery peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion

To tell to all the world that God is light; That he who  
 That God, in whom they live and move, is love: Tell how he

made all na - tions is not will - ing One soul should per - ish,  
 stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion, And died on earth that

*Refrain*

lost in shades of night. Pub - lish glad ti - dings, ti - dings of  
 man might live a - bove.

peace; Ti - dings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease.

3 Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious,  
 Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way,  
 Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious,  
 And haste the coming of the glorious day.

4 He comes again; O Zion, ere thou meet him,  
 Make known to every heart his saving grace;  
 Let none whom he hath ransomed fail to greet him,  
 Through thy neglect, unfit to see his face.

*Mary Ann Thomson, 1834–1923*

## The Silent Prayer & Chimes

## The Postlude: Festival March (G. G. Handel)

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by Alan and Ruth Hinkelman in recognition and thankfulness for God's blessings in bringing us together at Camp Lutherlyn in 1963 and continuing to guide us through 55 wonderful years of marriage.

**The chancel rail flowers** are presented by Steve, Mike, and John Kovac in honor and thanksgiving for our parents', Sue and Andy, 74th wedding anniversary.

**Special thanks** to Eric Wente and Kurt Ziegler. They are reading Scriptures at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., respectively.

**Substitute Organist:** Please welcome Sibyl Mose as our substitute organist this morning. We are grateful to her for sharing her talent in this way and for traveling from New York State!

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

**Known to be hospitalized:** None known.

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Michelle Hopkins and her family as she continues to battle another illness. Dot Corbett—Room 294R at Concordia. Jodie Riley—breast cancer. Dan Gill—broken hip. Dee Coldsmith—Providence Point. Gene Hershberger—treatment for lung cancer. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Virginia DiSalvo. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

**Current Fund:** Given by Cindy Wehrum and JoAnn Sayre in loving memory of our sister and best friend Donna (Cuthbert) Neil. Given by Marguerite Neil in memory of Donna Neil.

**Pastor's Fund:** Given by Becky and Steve Evans in memory of Jim Segerdahl, Sr. and Donna Neil.

**Sincere Thank You** to my church family for the many beautiful birthday cards. They were greatly appreciated, and I enjoyed the little notes.—Eleanor Dymond

**Thank You** from the family of Larry L. Sheatsley. We would like to thank the Pastor and congregation of Ruthfred Lutheran Church for their prayers, cards, and for the beautiful peace lily. We'd also like to thank Eric Wente for visiting our dad prior to his passing as Pastor was not in town that day. Also, thank you to those that attended the service at the funeral home chapel. We appreciate all the support given to us during this time. May God continue blessing Ruthfred Lutheran church, the congregation, and Pastor.—Mark and Edda Sheatsley

**Bell Choir and Senior Choir:** Martin Luther said, "Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful. Next to theology, I give music the highest place and the greatest honor." Both the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choir stand ready to welcome new members from ninth grade through retirement age. If you have basic music reading skills, consider trying the Handbell Choir, and if you have a pleasant singing voice, the Senior Choir may be a possibility for you. Please pray about attending a rehearsal to see if participation in Ruthfred's music ministry is right for you. Senior Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, August 30, at 7:30 p.m., and Handbell Choir rehearsals restart on Wednesday, September 6, at 6:30 p.m.

**Kids' Time Volunteers Needed:** Do you enjoy games and teaching kids about the Word of God? If so, we need you for **Wednesday** night **Kids' Time** starting September 13 to help spread the love of Jesus. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Mason Mitchell at [MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org](mailto:MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org). Thank you!

# Announcements (cont'd)

## **Employment Opportunity at Ruthfred:**

**Nursery Attendant:** Do you have a heart for the youngest in our Church family? We have a need for nursery workers. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help.

**Volunteer Guidelines:** Please note that **all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances** in order to serve with children and youth at VBS, Sunday School, and youth events. Clearances are good for 5 years. Contact Felicia Rieck in the church office for more information.

**2023-2024 Preschool Registration** is now open online at [ruthfred.org](http://ruthfred.org). Contact AnnieBuzon @ruthfred.org with any questions or to schedule a tour. Spaces are available.

**Leaders of Youth Today Email (LYTE) Sign-Up:** This group is a monthly email chain for anyone who wants to stay up-to-date with current events in the lives of youth and youth culture, including the health and events of Ruthfred youth. LYTE will serve as a training and equipping resource for those who serve the youth of our church, both within the walls and outside the walls. If you have a desire for the youth in our congregation to know and love Jesus within the culture where they live, this group is for you. Please contact our Youth Director, Coltin Cox, if you would like to be added to the list: ColtinCox@ruthfred.org.

**"Souper" September:** We are again going to hold our annual "Souper" September soup drive in memory of Pastor Dennis. It's hard to believe that it has been 15 years since he was called to his heavenly home! This year's donations will benefit S.H.I.M. (South Hills Interfaith Movement) located in Bethel Park, and also City Mission in Washington, PA. Any type of soup will be accepted, but they are especially in need of low-sodium soups. The container where you may place your donations will be in the Fireside Lounge beginning Sunday, 9/3, and the last day to drop off will be Sunday, 9/24. For questions please contact Carol Ward at (412) 559-2592 or wardmailbox1@gmail.com. Thank you!

**Wednesday morning Journey Through the Word:** It's time to look forward to the fall! We're excited to be studying the book of Ecclesiastes for the first seven weeks, starting September 13. Ecclesiastes has much to teach us about wisdom from the wisest person who ever lived, King Solomon. The Bible frequently contrasts the wise and the foolish. This book will help us understand how to live our lives in and with God's wisdom. Starting on November first, we'll finish this session with a four-week study of Ruth. Everyone is welcome! We have study groups for both women and men and an online discussion group. Please fill out a registration form and put it in the basket outside the sanctuary across from the elevator. Or check the church website ([www.ruthfred.org](http://www.ruthfred.org)) to register online.

**Ruthfred 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Request:** Next April, Ruthfred will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its incorporation. Planning has begun for celebrating this milestone. If you would like to join the planning committee, please contact Becky Evans. In the meantime, please be thinking about your happiest memories of Ruthfred. If you are willing to share a memory or memories, there is a collection box on the table near the elevator on the lower level. Or, feel free to send an email to [ruthfred@ruthfred.org](mailto:ruthfred@ruthfred.org). Thank you for blessing us with your memories!

**Lutherans for Life Quote:** "In Jesus there is healing; there is forgiveness. You, dear brother and sister in Christ, need not fear His wrath. For you, the words 'Christ is risen' are good words, they are the best words. They are words so good they should not be contained but shared with the world. They are pure Gospel."—Rev. Dr. Jason Broge, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"

# Announcements (cont'd)

**Confirmation 2023-2024:** This year the junior (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and senior (8<sup>th</sup> grade) confirmands will meet together, starting on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have a student starting 7<sup>th</sup> grade, or an older student who has not been confirmed and would like to be, please call the church office and speak with Felicia or Sally. Letters have been sent to members of last year's junior class and their parents regarding the start of classes for their second (senior) year.

**Save the Date!** Fall Family Sunday School Rally Day will be Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. Please join us for food, fellowship, and a meet-and-greet with the Sunday School teachers. This is for ALL families, from nursery through 12th grade.

**Service Opportunity:** Please consider donating breakfast goodies for our Fall Family Sunday School Rally Day on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets are located by the sanctuary and at the bottom of the stairs near the Fellowship Hall. Contact Coltin Cox with any questions: coltincox@ruthfred.org.

**Save the Date for the Fall Festival/Harvest Party at the Cox Farm:** Get ready for some fall fun with your Ruthfred family on Saturday, October 21, from 3—8 p.m. We are going to have a chili/mac and cheese cook-off, as well as a bonfire and hayrides. Stay tuned for updates!



## YOUTH NEWS

### **SWAP (6-8 Grade)**

There is a **SWAP** meeting tonight at Ruthfred 6-7:30 p.m.

### **TNT (9-12 Grade)**

**TNT** will meet on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> 7-9:30 p.m. at Ruthfred for a video scavenger hunt.

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### **Questions/concerns?**

**Contact: Coltin Cox at [ColtinCox@ruthfred.org](mailto:ColtinCox@ruthfred.org), or  
(c) (724)-825-9790**



## **Adult Sunday School Class Today In Large Classroom**

Why is Ruthfred part of a national church body called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)? What's the AFLC, what's a congregation, and why does that matter to me? Pastor McMin and others will guide the adult Sunday School class through a series called "*The Gospel in The Congregation*," written in part by Pastor James Molstre, a former pastor at Ruthfred. Join us for this series, which includes great videos and a short, helpful workbook. Don't assume you already understand the Biblical role of a congregation and your part in it. Come and see for yourself what it's all about.

This Sunday we will finish **Lesson 6—Spiritual Gifts in the Congregation**.

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## **Adult Sunday School Class In the Upper Room**

**Add to your calendar:** We are pleased to announce that the Upper Room Sunday School Class looks forward to kicking off on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> for all adults, as well as young adults who have recently graduated. The initial series information will be shared in the upcoming weeks, with the opportunity to grow in our faith with a small group video- and discussion-based format. We look forward to seeing you all on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

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## **Summer Sunday School for Kids**

Miss Bunny (Barger) and Miss Susan (Wholey) will continue their wonderful Sunday School class for 4- & 5-year-olds through the summer. Jason Weighley & Friends will offer a special Sunday School series for kids ages 6—5<sup>th</sup> grade featuring the Torchlighters' animated films about heroes of the Faith. Students in grade 6 and up will join Mason for youth Sunday School classes. If you can help with the nursery this summer, please contact Shane Cox.



# Kids' Time

**Did you love VBS? Then come and join us Wednesday nights for some fun, friends, and fellowship—all while learning more about God's Love.**

**WHEN:** Wednesday nights, Sept 20, 2023 - Feb 21, 2024

**TIME:** 6:45-8:00 p.m.

**WHO:** All kids in grades Kindergarten-5th

**Register here:**

**<https://vbspro.events/p/events/ruthfredlutherankids-time2023>**

**NO Registration Fee**

Please contact Mason Mitchell with any questions: [masonmitchell@ruthfred.org](mailto:masonmitchell@ruthfred.org).

## This Week At Ruthfred

## Today (8/27)

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

## Monday (8/28)

## Herald Deadline

## Tuesday (8/29) Beheading of St. John the Baptist

6:00 p.m.—Preschool Orientation

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

## Wednesday (8/30)

7:30 p.m.—Senior Choir Rehearsal

## Friday (9/1)

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

## Sunday (9/3)

8:30 a.m.— Holy Communion Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Holy Communion Service

6:00 p.m.—Holy Communion Service

Welcome to worship and a time of fellowship as the family of Christ! We invite you to greet those around you in the peace of the Lord.

Attendance for Last Week:  
Worship...233 Sunday School...65  
8:30 Live Stream...32

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request private (for the pastor only).

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

# Visiting with us?

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

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

Date:

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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

**Rev. Bryce C. McMinn** | Pastor  
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[PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org](mailto:PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org)

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**Coltin Cox** | Director of Youth Ministry  
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[ColtinCox@ruthfred.org](mailto:ColtinCox@ruthfred.org)

**Felicia Rieck** | Administrative Assistant  
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**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

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

**Essi Efthimiou**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Mason Mitchell** | Kids' Time Director  
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**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
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# Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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