

“Unity & Harmony; Truth & Love; Grace & Growth”

While in college ministry, every year I would utilize a teambuilding exercise in which six students would stand on a pair of cross-country skis and try to ski together in unison. You can probably imagine how this was nearly impossible! Seldom could a team get every member to pick up their left foot and push off with their right foot at the same time. Usually everyone fell on their face with the first step as some were trying to move and others were standing still or moving the wrong foot! I only saw one team succeed and that was because every member loved each other and was willing to submit their individual energies to the goal of winning as a team. Also, the main leader had been in the military and he called out a cadence that everyone followed.

These past two months have been a delight to observe (and serve) our congregation in action as a team. At the AFLC Annual Conference, we had members who spoke at services, taught Bible study sessions, directed the youth events, and served in so many different ways. Individual gifts and energies were submitted to Jesus for the sake of advancing God’s kingdom work!

When many of our youth went to the Free Lutheran Youth Convention in Colorado, it was a personal blessing to me to see how our adult youth leaders loved and shepherded our youth throughout the week. This was an intense week, and it stretched and challenged us as adults as well. Our youth also demonstrated their love in caring for each other in so many different ways, as they prayed, played, laughed, and cried with each other throughout the week. This continues on even now.

Just the last week, our congregation joined together in the ministry of Vacation Bible School. There was such a wonderful spirit in our midst as God was mightily at work. The love of Jesus flowed forth as the truth of the Good News of salvation was told to the children with joy. Again our church came together, offering up our many diverse gifts and talents to Jesus to be utilized in reaching the children of our communities with the Gospel. Everyone was in step with the Spirit as we “skied” forward under His cadence in and submission to His mission.

The letter to the Ephesian Christians is called the Apostle Paul’s “loftiest” letter as he holds high a vision of what it looks like to truly be the Church, the Body of Christ. He writes that we are to be United in Christ, and that the many gifts which we have been given are to all be submitted to serving others in the name of Christ. When we are under the call, the control, and the cadence of the Holy Spirit, we will live and serve in harmony together. Paul also notes that we are to be careful with our tongues and our attitudes. As mature Christians, we are to speak truth and to do so with love. The result of this is that we will experience and walk (or ski) in the grace of God and that we will grow and mature in our faith in Christ.

“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

Ephesians 4:15, 16

Growing in our faith together,
Pastor Carlson

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is
Saturday, August 17, 2019.

The publication date is **Wednesday, August 28, 2019.**

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Important Dates Coming Up!

August 11—Church Picnic (Ballfield next to Ruthfred)
September 1—Beginning of Fall Sunday School season
September 4 (Wed.)—Beginning of Confirmation Class
September 11 (Wed.)—Beginning of Kids’ Time,
Children’s Choir, and Evening
Journey Through the Word

Herald Mailing Update

If you signed up for the Herald by email recently and are wondering why you are still receiving a paper copy, please note that we are still working to remove members from the postal mailing list. We’ve had quite a few members who are switching to email, which is fantastic. Thank you for your patience!

Member Profile

By Mettelise Ziegler

Mark and Peggy Arelt



Many of us know Mark and Peggy Arelt as longtime members of Ruthfred. Peggy participates in both the bell and adult choirs. She plays the organ when requested. Until this past January, Peggy was the organist for Peace Lutheran in Peters. Mark plays guitar for the worship team and teaches adult Sunday School, often leading the opening. He is currently serving as a trustee. Their stories have shaped their service to the church in ways unique to them.

As older teens, Peggy and Mark Arelt worked for Murphy Mart in Bethel Park and spent a little time together as friends but did not have a clue they would marry twenty years later. Mark moved to Bethel Park when he was confirmation age and joined Ruthfred. His family had attended Bethlehem Lutheran in the Allentown neighborhood of Pittsburgh previously. His mother served as Ruthfred's parish worker for about five years. Mark remembers the youth group hanging out at his family's home quite a bit. He graduated from Bethel Park High School, worked a year or two, then began pre-ministerial studies at Geneva College. He attended an Evangelical Free Church there.

Peggy was raised in Bethel Park and attended Bethany Lutheran Church, which was an ALC congregation at the time. Interestingly, she and one other student were the first two from Pennsylvania to attend the Association's Bible School, although they did not come from AFLC congregations.

Peggy married, had two daughters and attended a Presbyterian church. When the marriage became abusive, she and her girls had to escape. Looking for a new church home, they found their way to Ruthfred where Peggy and Mark eventually became reacquainted. They will be celebrating 27 years of marriage this fall. Peggy and Mark have a daughter together named Miranda. She currently lives near her sister Diana, who married a Bethel Park native, Mark—now an ordained AFLC pastor serving churches in Eagle Butte and Faith, South Dakota. The third daughter, Becky, also lives in the Midwest. She is a married Math teacher. Both Diana and Becky have given Peggy and Mark grandchildren while Miranda helps to raise horses after her education at North Dakota State University.

Mark had worked in retail for decades, a career he is glad to have replaced with wood-working and furniture repair. You might see Mark riding his bicycle to work each day. He also enjoys astronomy and science fiction films. Peggy retired from a long career at Highmark but is still doing contract work for the company as a Senior Business Analyst. She enjoys reading, playing the piano, and all sorts of games.

Mark and Peggy are not just church attenders. They walk in faith daily. Their scholarship of the Bible is constant and life-giving. It is something they share. It has made their marriage strong.

Official Acts

June 17–July 21, 2019

Baptisms

*Ashley June Swartz – June 29, 2019

Funerals

Elsie J. Hoffmann – July 2, 2019

Margaret Kristoff – July 2, 2019

*DeWayne Kanagy – July 12, 2019

New Members

June 30, 2019

Brian and Allison Westerbur

Robert and Linda Baxendell

*Indicates Members

Council Highlights

June 10, 2019

- Roger Kurtz announced that he will shortly be resigning from coordinating Sunday morning bus rides and driving the bus. A replacement must be found in short order. Also, Bob Boyd will be a bus driver only until October 31st. Since this results in only one driver remaining, it is imperative that others step up if the Sunday pick-ups are to continue.
- Chuck Morrison reported that while offerings received in April and May have increased, they continue to be below the amount required to fully fund the budget.
- Council approved holding a blood drive to help address the severe shortage in the Pittsburgh area.
- Council approved the transfer of \$6,000 from the Current Fund to the Benevolence Fund.

July 8, 2019

- The trend of lower offering totals and lower-than-budgeted expenses continues.
- Council approved the transfer of \$6,000 from the Current Fund to the Benevolence Fund.
- Council approved an increase of \$655.02 in the IntegraOne Wi-Fi upgrade quote approved in April, necessary to cover sales tax not included in the original quote.
- As suggested by the Audit Committee, all funds other than Current, Benevolence, and Building have been designated either Donor-Designated Funds or Council-Designated Funds.
- Charm Builders has been contracted to replace the roof on the 2001 Addition.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie D. Gill, Secretary

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

Lyrics: Timothy Dwight

Music: Aaron Williams

In 1763, a Welsh teacher, composer, and music- compiler named Aaron Williams published a volume titled “Universal Psalmist.” Included in that publication was a tune titled “St. Thomas.” Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic lived an eleven-year-old boy by the name of Timothy Dwight. Timothy was the grandson of Calvinist preacher Jonathan Edwards and a precocious young man in his own right. He graduated from Yale at age 17 and then went on to become a grammar school teacher, Yale tutor, chaplain for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, Congregational minister, farmer, representative in the Connecticut state legislature, and finally president of Yale.

Dwight’s literary accomplishments were also many. “He may be best known today for his 1797 revision of Isaac Watts’ 1719 “Psalms of David,” to which he added 33 of his own texts.” (Discipleship Ministries). “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” is the only surviving text from that collection. At some point it became paired with Williams’ “St. Thomas” tune and is the familiar hymn we have today. One is tempted to wonder how the political views of Dwight and Williams may have contrasted leading up to the American revolt against King George. But I think we can be safe in saying that both men owed their ultimate allegiance to King Jesus! (Williams passed in 1776.)

I love thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of thine abode;
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With his own precious blood.

A couple of centuries later I had my introduction to the Church. My earliest memory goes back to when I was about 3 or 4 years old. I was nervously clinging to my mother’s hand as she led me into a room where a Sunday School opening session was being held, and not wanting to let her out of my sight. Fortunately, my juvenile apprehensions did not last long. As I grew, I think I subconsciously came to love being in church—the architecture, the beauty of the altar and stained-glass windows, the music and singing, the Bibles, hymnals, and other books, and all the general feelings that are embodied in the word “sanctuary.”

Beyond my highest joy,
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Ever since God crafted Eve as a mate for Adam, it is apparent that we were created to be social creatures. We all feel a deep need for relationship and belonging. We generally prize our families. We join garden clubs, bowling leagues, political parties, service organizations, etc. For the most part, these are all good, innocent ways to serve or to satisfy our longing to belong. But how much greater and more blessed to belong to the organization that God has established for us. I’m referring, of course, to His Church. In addition to the amenities I listed above, there’s the fellowship, caring, concern, and almost limitless opportunities to serve no matter what our talents might be. And all of this in the context of teaching, preaching, and study that addresses life’s big questions. In the Church, we have God’s Word and Sacraments that hold out the promises of forgiveness and fullness of life in this world, not to mention eternal “membership” in His heavenly kingdom.

AFLC Conference

Editor's Note:

The AFLC Conference was held on June 11-14. Several of Ruthfred's attendees submitted articles about their experiences at the Conference. Due to the number of articles, each will be published separately in the upcoming issues of the Herald. Here is the first:

The AFLC Conference is a meld of praise, worship, Biblical teaching, fellowship, learning about various AFLC ministries, and business voting. This year's conference was hosted by Eastern District churches. The majority of the work was accomplished by Living Faith Lutheran located in Boyertown, PA. They provided 35 vibrant, friendly, efficient volunteers. Pastor David Johnson, whose articles have been in The Ambassador magazine, was the main guy. The conference was well done!

Ruthfred, however, helped out in some key spots. Sandy Newman was the main teacher for the Women's Missionary Federation all-day meeting, teaching on Deuteronomy 6. Brandon Fouks provided the youth activity for 20 teens all week, including two days of rain. Mett Ziegler provided childcare for several shifts both evening and daytime. Kurt Ziegler gave a wonderful message at the Layman's Worship service one evening. Joanne Salvetti and Sue Hughes served on separate resolution committees. Joanne also worked the registration table, and Sue worked one refreshment break.

The Tuesday night Ordination Service ended with a powerful time in which all the ordained Pastors gathered around the four newly ordained Pastors, including our former vicar Kevin Czymbor, laying on hands and praying. There were 99 pastors registered at the conference, so imagine the sight.

Another wonder was Pastor Osier being introduced as the new Dean of the Bible School, now renamed College. He made a brief and powerful statement.

Pastor Molstre gave a useful workshop on ministering to people when they are in grief.

Of course, there were dear friends to greet and visit. How great to visit with Pastor Rich Carr and Brenda and their five children. There was Pastor Nathan Olson with Emily and now two more children. Ever smiling Pastor Matt Quanbeck.

Pastor Micah Hjermsstad on the stage as the Secretary of the AFLC and doing a great job. Pastor Brent Olson, also ever smiling and telling fond stories of Ruthfred. A highlight for me (Sue) was Pastor Brent's dad, Pastor Roger Olson. He is a thunderously good piano player and song leader. He would give both a concert and lead in worship. What fun to sing "Now Let's Have A Little Talk With Jesus" along with wonderful hymns.

In business, Chris Stout was elected to the AFLC Budget Advisory Committee and Sue Hughes was elected nominating person for our Eastern District.

The theme this year was Joshua 24:15—"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." May this be so, Lord, please.

Sue Hughes

Vacation Bible School

For those of you who were not able to volunteer or be with us Friday for our closing VBS program, here is a little recap of the week's events.

Our earthly theme was roar with wild animals and Africa. The spiritual theme was "God is good." Monday, "When life is unfair, God is good." Taking us back with the Israelites who were enslaved by Pharaoh in Egypt. Tuesday, "When life is scary, God is good." We talked about the plagues God sent trying to get Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Wednesday, "When life changes, God is good." The troubles the Israelites faced in the wilderness. Thursday, "When life is sad, God is good." Jesus dies and comes back to life. This is always a very special day every year when the children feel the real presence of Jesus. Friday, "When life is good, God is good." And what a wonderful week it was.



Our awesome leader, Lauren Compel, has led us for seven years and did a super job. She honored her best friend, Stacie Klick, who passed away one year ago this week. Stacie gave so freely to our youth for many years. And thanks to Denise Stutzman who was Lauren's right hand.



Hats off to our teens and even some college students who did a fantastic job supporting the adult volunteers. The teens were an absolute joy to work with and oh what a barrel of fun.

To see these wonderful children's bright faces every morning and to listen to some of their reactions to the songs, lessons, and discussions through the day was heartwarming. God is surely good, and He was with us all week.

Submitted by Joanne Salvetti

Announcements

XYZ

Our September XYZ Luncheon and program will take place on Friday, September 27th at noon. Our Speaker is Andy from Evey Hardware who will bring us a program about gardening and preparing our plants and shrubs for fall and winter. Come and enjoy a beautiful lunch by Peggy Cox of Cox's Market and please invite your friends. We want this to be a wonderful time of fellowship for all. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of Patricia Lutz' office.

Church Library

The Library has come a long way in the past several months. We have a new system for finding a book and a very simple process for checking one out. Put your name and the date on the card and place it in the metal box on the table next to the printer.

We have had a lot of new materials donated to the Library. You will find them on the Family Life Center, the island in the middle of the room marked "New Arrivals." Lots of different kinds of materials have been donated. That said, we welcome relatively new books for the library. If you have books that you would like to donate, please leave them in the library during the hours it is open or you can bring them to Pat Lutz Monday through Thursday from 8:30–12:00 AM. Help us build up the library with new materials. We welcome your donations.

We will be hosting a Library Open House on Sunday, August 25th after both services. Stop in for a cup of coffee, hear about the new system, and get acquainted with just how easy it is to find what you are looking for in the library.

AUGUST 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 College & Career Group 7:00	2 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	3
4 Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00	5 Elders' Meeting 7:00	6	7	8 College & Career Group 7:00	9 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	10 Mary 9:30
11 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Church Picnic 2:00 – 7:00 Dinner 5:00 Devotions 6:00	12 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council 7:30	13	14 12:00 Esther	15 2:00 Ruth College & Career Group Fall Send-Off 7:00 (@ parsonage)	16 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's Wedding Rehearsal 4:00 p.m.	17 HERALD ARTICLE DEADLINE *Feller/Kolker Wedding 1:00p.m.
18 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Evening of Prayer & Praise 6:00	19 HAPPY 92 nd BIRTHDAY BILL STEWART	20 Men's Night 7:00	21	22 6:30 Sunday School Teacher's Workshop	23 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	24
25 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 GIFT Bible Study 6:30	26	27	28 HERALD MAILING	29	30 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	31 *Rudolph/Fyalkowski Wedding

August 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 SWAP Late Night 6-10pm @ Church
4 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	5	6 TNT 7-9pm @ Hunter's	7	8	9	10 TNT Canoe Trip
11 Church Picnic No SWAP	12	13 TNT 7-9pm @ Wholey's	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	19	20 TNT 7-9pm @ Fouks'	21	22	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church	26	27 TNT 7-9pm @ Miss Bunny's	28	29	30	31 Video Scavenger Hunt @ Church

Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar