

2020: The Year of the Bible

This coming year has been designated “The Year of the Bible” in which Christians are encouraged to read through the entire Bible in the course of the year. Our church council is taking the challenge and encouraging all the members of our congregation to do so as well! We want to read through it together as a church family and will be providing a number of different ways to do so, as well as opportunities to have discussions about the readings. The Bible can be read straight through in about 70 hours, but we are going to take the next 12 months to do it. The Bible has 1,189 chapters so if one reads 3.25 chapters per day it can be done in a year.

There are so many reasons to read the Bible. Here are ten that come to mind:

1. “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)
2. “Blessed is the one who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy.” (Revelation 1:3)
3. “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (II Timothy 3:16,17)
4. “The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)
5. “So shall My Word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire.” (Isaiah 55:11)
6. “Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11)
7. “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105)
8. “Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.” (Joshua 21:45)
9. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)
10. “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)

This will be a great opportunity to encourage each other in reading God’s Word and to grow in our faith together throughout this coming year! Our entire congregation will be blessed and strengthened together as a church family by spending this committed time in Scripture.

Pastor Carlson

(Check out Don Roose’s article for more details of how to get connected.)

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102
www.Ruthfred.org

Pastor Steven P. Carlson
Vicar Brian Westerbur

Office Manager Paula Mikulan
Administrative Assistant Pat Lutz
Youth Director Brandon Fouks
Council President Gary Ausefski

Herald Staff

Editorial Team	Steven Rothermel Marybeth Dietz
Staff Writers	Mettelise Ziegler Tom Glasser
Proofreading	Ruth and Alan Hinkelman
Mailing Labels	Lauren Daugherty
Printing	Paula Mikulan
Assembly Leader	Joyce Bock

The submission deadline for the next Herald is **Saturday, January 18, 2020.**

The publication date is **Wednesday, January 29, 2020.**

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2020 Offering Envelopes

The remaining 2020 offering envelopes have been moved to the church library which is located between the adult large Sunday school classroom and Pat’s office. Please pick yours up! Shepherds may deliver those remaining after Christmas to their flock members. (Not all members have Shepherds.)

Member Profile

By Mettelise Ziegler

Patty Condre

Patty Condre is a prime example of what happens when a child grows to adulthood at Ruthfred. Her faith in God has been built brick by brick on a solid Biblical foundation for fifty-five years.



Patty's parents, Patricia Jean and Charles, were married in the Ruthfred chapel in 1959. Because Pastor Dennis was ill for the big day, the pastor from Bethany Lutheran filled in. The Condres built a sturdy stone house on Brightwood Road in Bethel Park, but sadly, Patricia Jean passed away when Patty was just nine, leaving her and her father alone in the home. He passed when she was twenty-seven.

Three years ago, Patty sold the house and moved to a townhome in South Fayette where she lives with her dog, Daisy. She holds a degree in Medical Technology from California University of Pennsylvania. Patty works for Quest Diagnostics in Greentree, running tests for various things including drugs and lead.

About two years ago, Patty joined a group on Facebook for weight loss. One thing led to another, and she ended up joining a running club through the Fleet Feet store in Upper St. Clair. She highly recommends their approach.

She says they take you from couch to competition with deliberate strategies she has found to be fun and beneficial. Patty runs three times per week on her own and has competed in races up to 10 K.

When Patty isn't running, she likes to ride her bicycle on the Montour Trail. Unfortunately, she isn't doing either activity right now as she had a tumble on the North Shore during a recent run and needs time to heal.

Patty is a very loyal member of the church. Back in high school, she was one of the first youth in TNT. As an adult, she worked with TNT for about ten years. She has sung in the Senior Choir and is a regular attendee in the adult Sunday School class. Patty also serves on the Benevolence Committee at Ruthfred.

Personal devotions include *Portals of Prayer* and *Jesus Calling*, a book by Sarah Young. Patty loves our old hymnal, finding meaning and depth in the lyrics. She likes how the book is divided into themes and church seasons. Patty has memorized scripture by singing the hymns over the years.

God has been at work through Ruthfred Lutheran Church all of Patty's life. Patty says every one of the pastors has been exceptional. Members have been faithful friends. Currently she is enjoying the classes that explore the Old Testament and is learning how it connects to the books of the New Testament. She says that the more she learns from the Bible, the better she appreciates that "God put His touch on everything."

Official Acts

November 11, 2019 – December 8, 2019

Funerals

*Thomas J. Allsopp – November 15, 2019

*Shirley Smith – December 6, 2019

*Indicates Members

New Members – December 8, 2019

John Archer

William Dawson

Eyan Kile

Jeffrey and Patti Lardin

Becky Lewicki

Sarah Long

Mason Mitchell

Steve Petitt

H. Jane Stivason

Garnett Wasson

Barbara Watt

Council Highlights

Congregational Budget meeting

November 17, 2019

The members present at the congregational budget meetings (after both the 8:30 and 11 AM services) of November 17, 2019 approved the 2020 Budget as submitted, as well as the proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.

Church Council Meeting

November 21, 2019

- The Benevolence Committee report noted that Ben Jore has accepted a salaried position and was no longer in need of support from Ruthfred. The Committee therefore added those monies to the Special Benevolence budget.
- Thanksgiving Day offerings will be divided between Voice of the Martyrs and City Mission.
- Council approved the transfer of \$5,500 from the Current Fund to the Benevolence Fund to cover budgeted benevolences.

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

Mary, Did You Know?

Lyrics: Mark Lowry

Music: Buddy Greene

Mary, did you know . . . that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?

Over the years Christians have been intrigued with speculating about what it was like to be Jesus' parents. To what extent did the young teen-mother Mary and her husband Joseph truly comprehend what was happening that first Christmas? They surely had some understanding that there was something very special about their Son, what with the visits from the angels, the virgin conception, the words of Mary's relative Elizabeth, the visit from the shepherds, and the fact that Herod wanted their son dead. However, "knowing" things as a teenager is not the same as "knowing" those same things through the lens of decades of experience and hindsight. With all that being said, one of my favorite Christmas verses is Luke 2:19: "But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."

Mary, did you know . . . when you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God?

Then there's the curiosity about what it was like to raise the Son of God from infancy, through childhood, to adulthood. The Bible gives us precious little narrative about this. Did Jesus go through a terrible two's stage? Did Mary ever have to put him in time-out? What was it like to teach him Bible stories, like creation, the exodus, the prophecies of Isaiah? What kind of student was Jesus in school? These are all questions we may never know the answers to, however interesting they may be to think about.

Mary, did you know . . . that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?

Mark Lowry, an American singer, comedian, and songwriter, had these kinds of questions on his mind back in the 1980's when he was developing a Christmas program for his church. "I just tried to put into words the unfathomable. I started thinking of the questions I would have for her if I were to sit down and have coffee with Mary. You know, 'What was it like raising God?' 'What did you know?' 'What didn't you know?'" (Wikipedia) Script from this program evolved into the lyrics we know today and was set to music in 1991 by Buddy Greene, a musician perhaps most famous for his legendary harmonica playing.

In Lowry's lyrics the name "Mary" appears some 15 times. The name "Jesus" does not appear even once. The irony, of course, is that his song is not really about Mary at all. It is about her son, God's Son. Ultimately it is not what we know about Mary that is important. What is crucial is that we know the One who walked on water, calmed a storm with His hand, gave sight to a blind man, healed the deaf and dumb, raised the dead, is Lord of all creation, and saves us and makes us new!

Mary, did you know . . . that sleeping child you're holding is the great I Am?

Note: Check out a YouTube performance of this song by the a cappella group Pentatonix.



The Year of the Bible in 2020

Join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2020. We will be using the YouVersion Bible app for iOS and Android to keep track of progress, learn more about the passages, and discuss the passages with discussion questions. A calendar of each day's readings will also be available on the website and in print for those who choose not to use the app.

Please send questions and sign up by emailing Don Roose at DonRoose@ruthfred.org.

January 2020 Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Genesis 1-3	2 Genesis 4-7	3 Genesis 8-11	4 Genesis 12-15
5 Genesis 16-18	6 Genesis 19-21	7 Genesis 22-24	8 Genesis 25-26	9 Genesis 27-29	10 Genesis 30-31	11 Genesis 32-34
12 Genesis 35-37	13 Genesis 38-40	14 Genesis 41-42	15 Genesis 43-45	16 Genesis 46-47	17 Genesis 48-50	18 Exodus 1-3
19 Exodus 4-6	20 Exodus 7-9	21 Exodus 10-12	22 Exodus 13-15	23 Exodus 16-18	24 Exodus 19-21	25 Exodus 22-24
26 Exodus 25-27	27 Exodus 28-29	28 Exodus 30-32	29 Exodus 33-35	30 Exodus 36-38	31 Exodus 39-40	

The schedule for the year can be found on the website at www.ruthfred.org. Go to Events & Media at the top of the page, then click on Calendar. The readings through February are up so far.

Announcements

New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve, we will be celebrating the coming New Year together as a church family! We will begin with a short service in the Sanctuary at 5:00 PM and then join together in the Fellowship Hall for a meal around 5:45 PM. Brandon and Bekah Fouks are making their wonderful lasagna again this year! You are invited to bring a side dish to share. The evening will continue with games, fellowship, and a movie. It will be a casual time together and you are invited to stay for as long (or short) as you are able. At midnight, we will be welcoming in the New Year with prayer together in the Sanctuary.

Church Council Ballot

The Nominating Committee has done a tremendous service to our congregation as they have been meeting together, fielding suggestions, and contacting individuals of the congregation for different council positions. The Church Council approved the following nominations at the December meeting (a couple more may yet be added):

President: Joe Roman

Vice
President: Brian Schmidt

Elders: Steve Cox
Tom Sanders
Kurt Ziegler

Deacons: Nathan Donolo
(11:00 AM Service)

Trustees: Mark Arelt
Taylor Hall
Pete Huwe

February 2020 Herald Dates

Please note that the calendar attached to the Herald this month does not include the dates for the February 2020 Issue of the Herald.

The submission deadline for the next Herald is **Saturday, January 18, 2020.**

The assembly and mailing date is **Wednesday, January 29, 2020.**



Call Committee

The call committee is in the process of networking through the AFLC contacts, asking for recommendations for a person that might fit our needs and Ruthfred Lutheran Church in general. The committee would like to find a pastor with some experience and whose skill and passion is with younger families. The committee also understands the importance of finding someone sooner rather than later. The ultimate goal, however, is to find the right pastor. We will continue to update the congregation as to the progress.

Call Committee Members

Gary Ausefski	Kerry Macugoski
Kenny Crowley	Paula Mikulan
Dan Groves	Rich Rostauscher
Logan Huwe	Barbara Rothermel
Mark Killinger	

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 	3 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	4
5 EPIPHANY SUNDAY Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00 	6 JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:15 Craft & Sew 9:30	7 7:00 Worship Team	8 HAPPY 93rd BIRTHDAY JOHN BENDER 9:15 JTTW 12:00 Esther 5:45 Children's Choir 6:45 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:45 JTTW/KidsClub 7:30 Senior Choir 	9 HAPPY 93rd BIRTHDAY TO OLLIE WEIFENBACH Knit Wits 10:00 	10 HAPPY 93rd BIRTHDAY JEAN COOK Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's 	11 Mary Bible Study 9:30 
12 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	13 JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:15 Craft & Sew 9:30 Elders' Prayer Time 6:30 Council 7:30	14 7:00 Worship Team	15 9:15 JTTW 5:45 Children's Choir 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:45 JTTW/KidsClub 7:30 Senior Choir	16 Ruth 2:00 Men's Night 7:00	17 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	18
19 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday HERALD ARTICLE DEADLINE Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER BOTH SERVICES Evening of Prayer & Praise 6:00	20 JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:15	21 7:00 Worship Team	22 9:15 JTTW 5:45 Children's Choir 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:45 JTTW/KidsClub 7:30 Senior Choir	23 Knit Wits 10:00 Benevolence Meeting 7:15	24 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's	25 
26 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 GIFT Bible Study 6:30	27 JTTW Leaders Meeting 9:15	28 7:00 Worship Team	29 9:15 JTTW 5:45 Children's Choir 6:30 Bell Choir 6:45 Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes 6:45 JTTW/KidsClub 7:30 Senior Choir	30	31 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's XYZ noon	

January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm <u>@ Church</u>	6	7 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm <u>@ Church</u>	13	14 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	15	16	17 Movie Night 7-10pm	18
19 Brunch Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm <u>@ Church</u>	20	21 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	22	23	24	25 Snow Tubing <i>(Weather Permitting)</i>
26 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm <u>@ Church</u>	27	28 TNT 7-9pm @ Church	29	30	31	

Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar