

RUTHFRED HERALD

June 2019

Volume 29, No. 6

“For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare [good] and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

God’s ancient words of promise continue to give us reassuring confidence even today as we look into the future of our lives. These are wonderful words for our high school graduates as they prepare for the next season of life. They are wonderful words for our graduating college students as well. These words also speak to our new vicar and his wife (Brian & Allie Westebur) as they begin a new chapter of life here in our midst. They also speak to Pastor and Courtney Osier (and children Jacobi & Kaia) as they move to Minnesota. This verse speaks to those who are entering new arenas of employment, to others who are facing new challenges of health, to others who have experienced the passing of a loved one, and to others who are awaiting the birth of a child. These wonderful words of the Lord also speak to our Ruthfred congregation as God, who sees the future and knows all things, continues His good work among us and leads us into a new season of ministry!

These words were originally spoken by Jeremiah the prophet as a word of encouragement from the Lord God Almighty in 597 B.C. to the people of Israel (southern kingdom of Judah) who were in exile in Babylon. God was reminding them that even though they were going through times of extreme change, and were now in situations outside of their control, in the midst of everything God was still in control!

Not only was God sovereignly in control of all things, but He had great love for them and was orchestrating things for their good, according to His time and in His way. They were not to be discouraged, nor to be fearful, nor to drift away from the Lord but were instructed to press in closely to the Lord, pray, and listen to God’s word. They were not to withdraw from engaging their new community with the Good News, nor to simply lament what “used to be” but were to readily engage in living out their faith in their new context with all its challenges and opportunities. They were not to isolate or diminish but rather to reach forth and grow.

God was excited for them and what this new chapter in life was going to give birth to, and bring forth in His time, according to His plan. As the old saying goes, “We don’t know the future, but we know Who holds the future.” This passage includes God’s promise of blessing to all those who “call upon Him,” for He will “be found by them.” Through this season God was going to bring a refining and a refocusing as He further prepared His people for the First Coming of the Savior. Today, God continues to work through His church to engage our communities with the Good News of salvation as we prepare for the Second Coming of the Savior. God’s good plans for us are part of His good plans for all the world.

Pastor Carlson

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May 2019 Issue

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is
Saturday, June 15, 2019.

The publication date is **Wednesday, June 26,**
2019.

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Member Profile

By Mettelise Ziegler

Brian and Allie Westerbur



It is changing-of-the-guard time at Ruthfred. Some of us have just mastered the spelling of Vicar Czymbor's last name and he is gone already, being replaced by Brian Westerbur.

When assignments were being made, Brian and Allison (Allie) Westerbur were hoping to be sent to Ruthfred for Brian's year of vicarage. Possessing spirits of adventure, the Midwestern couple looks forward to living in the eastern United States while growing in faith and ministry.

Our new vicar, Brian, comes from the tiny town of Ihlen, Minnesota. Boasting just sixty people, it is hardly a dot on the map. Look for it near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Allie is from a larger town: Appleton, Wisconsin. They met while attending Bible study at Gustavus Adolphus College, a school with a Swedish Lutheran heritage.

Brian was called to serve Allie's home congregation as youth ministry coordinator after they were married. He felt God's call into pastoral ministry. When he shared this with his wife, Allie expressed no surprise at all. She had full conviction that Brian should serve God's people as an ordained minister.

The couple prayed for guidance about which seminary Brian should attend. They checked into many, finally settling on the Association of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. Brian was raised in the AFLC, so this was not unexpected. In the year ahead, the Westerburs hope to be able to enjoy some of their interests in addition to church duties. Allie likes to cook, read, and participate in sports. Brian loves camping, hiking, and music. He plays the euphonium and has fond memories of travelling to Eastern Europe on tour. The couple's sense of adventure has taken them to Italy and Costa Rica in the past.

Sadly, Brian's father passed away about a year ago from brain cancer. His father's love and esteem for God's Word has left an indelible mark upon Brian. He saw the strength and peace his father drew from the Bible. Brian yearns for the Word and trusts it for situations that are mundane as well as those that are difficult.

Allie prays throughout her day. She says it is a constant, unceasing habit that anchors her, bringing peace and joy. Welcome Brian and Allie Westerbur! May their vicarage year at Ruthfred be full of adventure and may their adventures strengthen their faith and ministry.

Official Acts

April 15 – May 19, 2019

Baptisms

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Fife – April 16, 2019

*Donald Timothy Shilatz – April 28, 2019

*Theodore James Battaglia – May 12, 2019

Funerals

Ellen M. Sharp – May 4, 2019

*Ruth Shea – May 13, 2019

*Indicates Members

Council Highlights

April 8, 2019

- Dr. Don Bierle of Faith Search will be presenting at adult Sunday school, as well as an early afternoon group, both on June 9th.
- The May 13th council meeting will convene at 8:15 PM, after the Confirmation Public Exam.
- Council approved the transfer of \$6,000 from the Current Fund to the Benevolence Fund.
- Pete Huwe gave a presentation of information that the trustees had accumulated from five different companies for surveillance cameras for Ruthfred's property. Discussion produced several questions for the trustees to pursue.
- Nine members have agreed to serve on the call committee: Gary Ausefski, Ken Crowley, Logan Huwe, Dan Groves, Mark Killinger, Kerry Macugoski, Rich Rostauscher, Jennifer Hewitt, and Whitney Angelo.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie D. Gill, Secretary

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

Lyrics: Michael Schirmer

Music: Philipp Nicolai

After Jesus' resurrection, He instructed His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until such time as they would be "baptized with the Holy Spirit." That time came about fifty days later, on the day of the Feast of Pentecost, originally known by the Old Testament Jews as the Feast of Weeks. This was a feast that celebrated the wheat harvest and, according to some rabbinical scholars, also commemorated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. Acts 2 tells us that there were Jews from "every nation under heaven" dwelling in Jerusalem.

Many of them were likely gathered together for the feast when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples and they began to preach in all of the various languages represented there. About 600 years later, Michael Schirmer composed a poem praying for the indwelling of that same Holy Spirit.



**O Holy Spirit, enter in,
Among these hearts thy work begin,
Thy temple deign to make us;
Sun of the soul, thou light divine,
Around and in us brightly shine,
To strength and gladness wake us.**

Since that remarkable Pentecost experience, Christians have come to recognize and acknowledge that it is by the work of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, that we are awakened to faith, enabled to receive the Gospel message, and empowered to believe that our redemption was accomplished for us by Jesus' death and resurrection. Scripture describes him as the Sanctifier, Comforter, and Paraclete (Greek word for advocate, intercessor, or encourager).

In the course of writing these articles, it has seemed to me that more often than not the great hymns we know and love came out of sorrow, tribulations, or suffering. And so it was with "O Holy Spirit." Born in Leipzig in 1606, Schirmer went on to enroll at the University of Leipzig and then become subrector and conrector of the Greyfriars Gymnasium at Berlin. Berlin at this time was in great distress due to the Thirty Years War. His wife and two of his children predeceased him. He was passed over several times when the Gymnasium needed a rector. So it is no surprise that he suffered prolonged periods of melancholy. Even the melody for his poem apparently was born in similar circumstances. "Wie Schon Leuchtet" was a hymn written by Philipp Nicolai in 1597 during a great pestilence. The tune for that hymn is what we now also sing for Schirmer's lyrics. Let us be encouraged by their faith and endurance when we experience our trials.

**Heal thou gently
Hearts now broken, give some token
Thou art near us,
Whom we trust to light and cheer us.**

A Message from our Church Treasurer

Thrivent Members:

Among the benefits available to Thrivent members is a program called Thrivent Choice. Thrivent Choice provides a platform for members to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about. More than 40,000 churches and nonprofits are enrolled in the program including Ruthfred Lutheran Church. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars to the organization of their choice. The Church has received the following amounts over the last four years as a result of Thrivent members designating Ruthfred Lutheran Church in the Thrivent Choice Dollars program:

2015 \$3,847
2016 \$3,231
2017 \$718
2018 \$1,271

The link here: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/> provides more information on the program and instructions for members to designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars organization.

Submitted by Chuck Morrison

June 2019 Mission News

This month's Voice of the Martyrs focuses on persecution of Christians in India. To learn about Voice of the Martyrs, go to www.vom.org. For subscription to the free newsletter, call 800-747-0085.

City Mission, formerly Washington City Mission, is offering guided tours of its campus. Also on August 3, City Mission has a walk and run at Peterswood Park. See the Mission Bulletin Board or www.citymission.org.

A thank you from Pastor David Breidenbach, Director of the Eastern European Missions Network:

“You are helping . . . our global family in the former Soviet bloc nations to encounter the grace, love, and mercy of God in Christ Jesus.”

Remember that you can access monthly newsletters of AFLC missionaries at www.aflc.org.

Vacation Bible School is July 22-26!

Looking for Volunteers!

WE NEED YOU!

Let's make it great for the kids!

Please look at how you can get involved!



*We really need YOU to help make VBS awesome—we are looking for **lots of volunteers!** Look how you can help!

Go to the following website to sign up:

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/68ad8a>

Visit the table at the bottom of the stairs on the first floor for more information!

Questions?

Contact Lauren Compel by email at

VBS_laurencompel@yahoo.com

Dr. Bierle's Visit

We are happy to announce that Dr. Don Bierle will be with us on Sunday, June 9 and will be speaking to us during the Sunday School hour and also after the 11:00 service in the fellowship hall. The Sunday School class will include Dr. Don's testimony and his journey, and the topic "Revealing the Fingerprints of God." Here he will explore with us if the existence of a personal Creator God is merely imagination or wishful thinking? In this presentation Dr. Bierle says, "No!" and detects three lines of evidence (fingerprints) that point clearly to the reality of God. You won't want to miss this opportunity to grow in faith.

After the 11:00 service we will retire to the fellowship hall for a light lunch and the opportunity to hear Dr. Bierle again as he brings us a discussion of "Thinking like Jesus: Living A Biblical Worldview." External evidence, biblical teaching, and personal experiences establish the truth that Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God to earth. The manifestation of His life in history and the Bible, then, are the basis for establishing a Christian worldview, which is the framework for acting like Jesus 24 hours a day. The result of thinking like Jesus—about God, mankind, the world, and history—is a transforming faith that expresses itself in wholesome living, confident witness to a world with its bankrupt ideas and confused values, and the assurance of life after death. We need to hear that you will be attending. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board outside Pat Lutz's office. The time is short, sign up today.

Submitted by Pat Lutz

2019 Confirmation Class

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Caleb Joshua Cox | 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 |
| Andrew Jason Dolence | Joshua 1:9 |
| Emma Elizabeth Hardy | 1 John 3:1 |
| Matthew Garrett Russell | Psalms 37:4 |
| Vivian Louise Russell | Philippians 1:6 |
| Zachary Andrew Taylor | Jeremiah 29:11 |

2019 High School Graduates

Coltin Cox
Lyndsey Fisher
Ryan Ghise
Hallie Hewitt
Rebecca Libell
Emma Patrick
Daniel Pollock

Congratulations Class of 2019!

JUNE 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
|  <p>2 Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 First Holy Communion For Sr. Confirmands 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00</p> | <p>3 Elders' Meeting 7:00</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5 10:00 Bible Study</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's</p> | <p>8 Mary 9:30</p> |
| <p>9 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Dr. Blerie (FalthSearch) Presentation 12:45-2:00</p> | <p>10 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council 7:30</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Esther</p> | <p>13 Wedding Rehearsal 5:30 Rehearsal Dinner- Fellowship Hall</p> | <p>14 FLAG DAY Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's Camplon/Burkholder Wedding 3:00</p> | <p>15 HERALD ARTICLE DEADLINE Evening of Prayer & Praise 6:00</p> |
| <p>AFLC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 6/11 – 6/14</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>16 <i>I  Dad</i> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Pastor Osler's Farewell Reception 12:00</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18 Men's Night 7:00</p> | <p>19 10:00 Bible Study</p> | <p>20 2:00 Ruth</p> | <p>21 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25 Anniversary of The Presentation of the Augsburg Confession (1530)</p> | <p>26 HERALD MAILING 10:00 Bible Study</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28 Men's Prayer Group 6:30 a.m. @ Panera's</p> | <p>29 </p> |
| <p>30 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00</p> | | | | | | |

June 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|--|-----------|----------|--------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 Summer Kickoff 5-9pm @ Church |
| 2 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church | 3 | 4 TNT 7-9pm @ Church | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Sunday School 9:45am SWAP 6-7:30pm @ Church | 10 | 11 TNT 7-9pm @ Underwood's | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Sunday School 9:45am <u>Father's Day</u> No SWAP | 17 | 18 TNT 7-9pm @ Roose's | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 TNT Escape The Room |
| 23 Sunday School SWAP 6-7:30pm Brunch | 24 | 25 TNT 7-9pm @ Carlson's | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Sunday School SWAP 6-7:30pm | | | | | | |

Ruthfred Youth Ministry Calendar