

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 21, 2024
9:00 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Face masks are **optional** inside Church building. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so.

Offering plates are passed. Additionally, there is an offering drop box in the narthex. Online giving via cell phone is easy and secure. Just use this QR code from your phone's camera app.



Visitors are welcome and invited to make themselves at home. If you're interested in learning more about Swamp Lutheran, have questions, or are looking for a church home, speak with Pastor Scott or church members. Please complete a visitor card and place in an offering drop box or sign guest register in narthex.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (lobby) by the coat rack.

The worship service is printed in this bulletin. **Hymns** are found in the red hymnal Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church—gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God's constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, connects us through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

Children's active presence is welcomed in our worship. There are special kids bulletins available in the narthex.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. We believe "Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink." (Small Catechism, Martin Luther) Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE CLOSER TO THE HEART OF GOD

PAUL JACKSON

congregational responses are in bold type.

stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit

**dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

ELW 661

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sit

ANTHEM THERE IS A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

ROBERT LAU

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING **Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 62:5-12

read responsively

⁵For God alone I | wait in silence;
truly, my hope | is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance | and my honor;
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one | is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- | not be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

**¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

**¹¹God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,
that power be- | longs to God.**

**¹²Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,
for you repay all according | to their deeds.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL **MARK 1:14-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Stand

CREED

We confess the faith of the church, the faith into which we were baptized:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition:
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*You may share the peace safely. A simple nod to those next to you, with the words
“peace be with you” exchanged is always sufficient.*

Sit

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON THY HEART WILLIAM JACOBSON

OFFERING *In addition to the plate, online giving via cell phone is safe and secure. See QR code on the inside cover of this bulletin.*

As the offering is brought to the table, the congregation stands and sings.

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Father, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD *remain standing*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Following the direction of the ushers, approach by the center aisle and return to your pew by the side aisles. Please get a cup from the stack by the first pew before receiving bread.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION (CONGREGATION ENCOURAGED TO SING)

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810

After all have communed, stand

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go to the World!



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THE LORD REIGNS MAGNIFICENT

J.S. BACH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, John Wesner, Michael Wargo, Jan Lorah, Sandi Clemens, Nettie Kriener, Clair Sweigart, Faith Moyer, Michael A. Crowther, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Ray Fox, Gene Miller, Kelly Martin, Jean Wolf, Bruce Wagner, Honey Notobartolo, Charles Moyer, Anna Habecker, Bobby Hershey, Anna Hershey, Marilyn Gelsinger, Edith Snyder, Jackson Sensenig, Sharon Levan, JJ Johnson, Robert Bachman, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich. Janey Malafarina-West, Brandon Bailey, Earl Myers, Shirley Hoppman, Elizabeth Sherman, Katie Krater, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer, family of J. Edwin Harting.

ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of his mother, Nancy W. Frantz, by John Frantz.

ORGAN FLOWERS are in memory of her husband, Tom, by Pat Wenzel.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of his mother, Nancy W. Frantz, by John Frantz.

ALTAR FLOWERS – A 2024 altar flower calendar is in the Narthex. Flower & Candle costs remain at \$40.00 & \$5.00, respectively. Standing orders remain on calendar from year to year. Please support the church by signing up for the weeks that do not have sponsors. Sue Kreitz, 717-283-9444 and John Frantz, 717-606-8994 are now taking care of the flower and candle sign-up if you have questions or want to schedule.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you give via the online option, let us know by email (secretary@swamplutheran.org) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2023.

MOST CURRENT INFORMATION – Be sure and check our website regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

ACTION FUND – Donations are sought for Swamp Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write “Action Fund” in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.

FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. Currently, there is an *urgent shortage* of paper towels. There is always a need for canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, canned meat and tuna, pasta, rice, mac & cheese, cereal, and toilet paper. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month. Please check for a current expiration date.



Orders are being taken for **Easter Lilies and White Tulips** for Easter. Price is not yet known and the deadline for ordering is February 25. Please give the following information to the church office or to Jodi Showalter (717)413-7149.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Lily 3-4 blooms _____ Tulips _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!!

What: The *Souper Bowl of Caring* is a national movement across the nation working together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

When: Until Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024

Where: Bring canned soup and other nonperishable food items and place them beneath the goal post in the Narthex.

Who: Benefits Swamp Food Pantry



To our **knitters and crocheters**, our prayer shawls are completely gone. We need Prayer Shawls! We have generously shared with many different organizations, and we have several Nursing Homes waiting for them. The VA Hospital has advised that they have no storage available for any more lap robes now. Any that have not yet been brought to the church will be distributed when we receive them. Please switch your focus to prayer shawls. When you finish, please bring it to church and leave in library. *THANK YOU!*

This Week in the Parish (January 22 – January 28)

January 22	7:00PM	Handbell Choir
January 23	6:00PM 7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study Homes of Hope
January 24	7:00PM	Choir
January 28	8AM & 9AM 10:15AM 11:15AM-3:00PM	Worship Sunday School SLY Laser Tag

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday, January 22 Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Tuesday, January 23 Psalm 46; Genesis 45:25—46:7; Acts 5:33-42

Wednesday, January 24 Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a

Thursday, January 25 Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18

Friday, January 26 Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17

Saturday, January 27 Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28—9:1

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KIT PROJECT

We are currently accepting donations for the LWR Personal Care Kit Project. We will be collecting items through the end of April. Donations may be given to **Jane Leshner, Denise Null, Connie Taylor and Debbie Carvell**. Questions to Debbie at 717-336-5638.

We appreciate everyone following the guidelines below, as Lutheran World Relief will not send anything that does not adhere to their specified guidelines. Each kit will contain:

- One bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27") dark color recommended.
- Two bath-size (4 or 5 oz) of soap, in it's original wrapping.
- One adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging.
- One sturdy comb, (wide tooth preferred), remove packaging.
- One metal nail clipper, remove packaging.

Wrap all items in the towel and tie with ribbon or yarn. Please do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. **If you don't feel comfortable wrapping an entire kit, we will accept donations of any of the items, and gladly assemble the kits!** *Hint: Last year we bought these exact towels at Big Lots for \$4.00 each!* As always, thank you for making this project a success!

2024 CLUSTER LENTEN SERVICES

7PM

Date	Location	Preacher
Wed. Feb 21	Faith United, Denver	Rev. Scott Brubaker
Wed. Feb 28	Bergstrasse, Ephrata	Rev. Marissa Becklin
Wed. March 6	Muddy Creek, Denver	Rev. Jim Goodyear
Wed. March 13	Mellingers, Schoeneck	Rev. Sandy Gideon
Wed. March 20	St. John Center, East Earl	Rev. Peter Schwabe-Fry
Thurs. May 9 Ascension Day	Swamp, Reinholds	Rev. Tim Craven

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 21, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Each Call Unique

Aside from the proclamation that “the kingdom of God has come near,” Mark records no introduction on Jesus’ part about who he is or what he is about. He simply invites people, “Follow me.” Simon and Andrew, James and John make it look so easy: they just follow—no questions asked! If this is what true discipleship looks like, how can we ever measure up? But that’s not the point.

Jesus calls people in countless ways. Even these four fishers were likely not all moved by the same things. Perhaps Simon was frustrated by Roman dominance over his country, and the news of a new kingdom caught his ear; maybe Andrew was itching to do something different and inspiring. Did James and John sense a call other than inheriting their father’s business? Jesus would go on to invite dozens of others to join him—surely each discerning the call in a unique way. Their responses were also likely not as fast and easy as it appears from the outside. The four fishers might have been wrestling with matters of spirituality for months before Jesus showed up. Others who joined Jesus may have long prayed for solutions to injustice in society. The Gospel of Mark gives a summary, a tightened-up version, of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Many details are lost to time; others were only ever known by an individual and the one they came to call Messiah.

What we learn from these brief call narratives—and others in scripture—is that God reaches out in as many ways as there are people. God may get your attention in worship on a Sunday morning, at your work on a weekday, or in the night as you comfort a child in your care. Or—one never knows—God might just call from the shore when you are out in a fishing boat. Jesus’ “Follow me” might lead you somewhere you’ve never been, maybe away from friends and family and the career you planned. Or his invitation might nudge you right back home, taking up familiar routines in a new way, seeing loved ones with fresh vision.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

717-336-2849

www.swamplutheran.org

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: pastor@swamplutheran.org

Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

Jonathan Gyorke, Sexton – 717-435-3091

Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272

Grady Daub, Assistant Organist – 717-917-2430

Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798

Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00AM & 9:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM