

*THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT*  
*MARCH 3, 2024*  
*9:00 AM*



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

**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 it 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. **Children's** active presence is welcomed in our worship. There are special kids bulletins available in the narthex and at the side entrance.

**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.



**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.

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.

**Website** – Be sure and check our website [www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org) regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month

---

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

---

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

HIS GLORY, HIS GRACE

ARR. LINDA LAMB

Handbell Choir

*congregational responses are in bold type.*

*stand*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.  
We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.  
We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

ELW 723

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

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Sit

**ANTHEM** HOW GREAT THOU ART  
Handbell Choir

ARR. MICHAEL HELMAN

---

## WORD

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

---

FIRST READING EXODUS 20:1-17

*After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.*

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your

neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

PSALM 19

*intoned*



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

The heavens declare the glo-<sup>1</sup>ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its<sup>1</sup> maker's handiwork.  
<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale<sup>1</sup> to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge<sup>1</sup> to another.**  
<sup>3</sup>Although they have no<sup>1</sup> words or language,  
and their voices<sup>1</sup> are not heard,  
<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends<sup>1</sup> of  
the world,  
where God has pitched a tent<sup>1</sup> for the sun.**  
<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out<sup>1</sup> of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to<sup>1</sup> run its course.  
<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the  
end of<sup>1</sup> it again;  
nothing is hidden from its<sup>1</sup> burning heat.**  
<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-<sup>1</sup>vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to<sup>1</sup> the simple.  
<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-<sup>1</sup>joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light<sup>1</sup> to the eyes.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this

age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.



## HOLY GOSPEL **John 2:13-22**

The Holy Gospel according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.*

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

*Sit*

SERMON

CHILDREN’S SERMON

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Sam Reimert, Kenneth Reimert, and Lauren Sauder come to our congregation desiring to become members.



## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brother in Christ,

do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*Those being welcomed respond.*

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.*

Let us welcome these sisters and brother in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*Stand*

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** O GOD, MY FAITHFUL GOD

A. FRITZSCH

**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.*

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

ELW 186

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Create in Me a Clean Heart". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it." The music ends with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.**

**We pray this in your name.**

**Amen.**

## 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

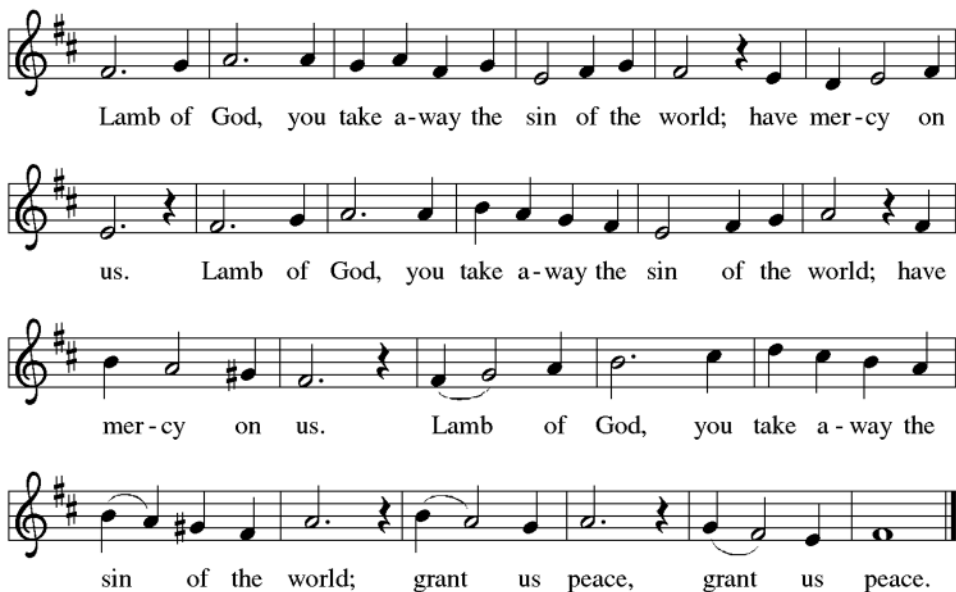
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

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)

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

ELW 321

*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.

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
**Amen.**

---

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

---

### BLESSING

Beloved,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**    O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways        ELW 772

### DISMISSAL

Go in Peace. Share Your Bread.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Psalm 19

B. Marcello

## 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, Earl Myers, Elizabeth Sherman, Katie Krater, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer, Betty Kramer, Tyler Leed, family of Shirley Hoppman

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by Mr and Mrs. John Chmielewski.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** is given in memory of her parents, Clair and Minerva Showalter by Joyce and Ron Stoner.

**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 the 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. Several opportunities for candles are available.

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



To our **knitters and crocheters**, please focus on prayer shawls. When you finish, please bring it to church and leave it in the library. *THANK YOU for supporting this church ministry.*

**NEW MEMBERS** - Today we welcome Sam and Ken Reimert and Lauren Sauder into membership at Swamp Lutheran. Welcome to our church family, Sam, Ken, and Lauren!



**GIFT CARDS FOR EASTER** -Gift cards are available for purchase and the list of available gift cards is in the Narthex on the table. Deadline for ordering is March 17, 2024, and the cards will be delivered in time for Easter. If there is a specific place that you are interested in and do not find it on the list, please speak to Missy Ragan to check availability. (717) 314-5658

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

**ATTENTION THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS.** The Thrivent “Action Teams” program is an opportunity for Thrivent members to lead projects that provide service and outreach to the community. Thrivent Financial will provide funds of \$250 for each project to get started and pay for associated expenses. You may request two grants per year. Swamp Lutheran has many needs that qualify under this program. If you wish to direct your grant request to help with Swamp Lutheran’s activities, please reach out to Lori Gockley who will assist you with the process. Email: [lgockley2@gmail.com](mailto:lgockley2@gmail.com) or call 717-203-8551



**Gently Used Sneakers Needed.** Cub Pack 95 is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at [pack95reinholds@gmail.com](mailto:pack95reinholds@gmail.com)

**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.

## 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!**

**PACK 95** is looking for more **Cubs** and a **Cubmaster** and **Treasurer**. To learn more, talk to Pastor Scott or Cubmaster Travis Leed: 717-381-1608 or email at [pack95reinholds@gmail.com](mailto:pack95reinholds@gmail.com)



**REMINDER**

**MARCH 10**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**

# 2024 Pick Six Lenten Offering

This year, Swamp Lutheran will again offer a special giving opportunity for Lent: **Pick Six**. For the six weeks of Lent, we are encouraging you to give a special, weekly offering in addition to your regular giving. The benevolence giving options listed below are opportunities to give to ministries operating in or through our church.

Envelopes with these options listed on them are available on the table in the narthex. Please grab a pack of six envelopes (one for each week of Lent). Call the office if you need them mailed to you. Giving via online option too. Giving to multiple options each week is encouraged.



Contributions help cover the cost to send Swamp Youth and Advisors to the **2024 Youth Gathering** in New Orleans, LA.



**Swamp Lutheran Property Fund:** Help with needed property improvements such as paying off the new sound system, replacing windows in sacristy and robing rooms, sealing and painting the parking lot, among many other needs.



**Syrian Family Fund:** Help the Syrian family we are co-sponsoring to get a firm start on their new life in the US.



**Community Meal:** Contributions to this ministry support the purchase of food and supplies for the monthly community meal Swamp supports in the community.



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Help bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the US and around the world.



**EPHRAATA AREA SOCIAL SERVICES**  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Contributions help provide services to people in our community in the areas of food, clothing, fuel, transportation, and meals on wheels.



**Swamp Food Pantry:** Contributions support Swamp's ministry of food to those challenged by food insecurity.



**ELCA World Hunger**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Contributions to this ministry support the work to eradicate hunger in the US and throughout the world.



**Jan's Circle of Friends**

**Jan's Circle of Friends:** Contributions to this organization fund efforts to assist children coping with domestic violence and parental loss.

HOMES



Contributions support the Cocalico Area Homes of Hope transitional housing home in Adamstown and provides housing, mentoring, and budget coaching to participants.

LIFT UP YOUR VOICES  
SOUND SYSTEM CAMPAIGN  
\$20,000 GOAL



## SANCTUARY SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE

### *LIFT UP YOUR VOICES PLEDGE*

We continue to stretch towards our goal of \$20,000. Pledge Cards are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary. A one-time gift or a weekly, monthly, quarterly pledge is welcome. Feel free to call or email the office if you want a pledge card mailed to you.

Give via QR code now



## LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN

We need volunteers to learn and share in the livestreaming and sound control for Sunday worship. We need additional helpers so that we can create a rotation schedule. If interested or to learn more, contact Pastor Scott.

## 2024 CLUSTER LENTEN SERVICES – 7PM

Date	Location	Preacher
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

***This Week in the Parish ( March 4- March 10 )***

March 5	6PM	Zoom Bible Study
March 5	7PM	Choir
	7PM	Welcome Committee
March 6	7PM	Lenten Worship Service
		Muddy Creek
March 10		Daylight Savings
March 10	8AM & 9AM	Worship
	10:15AM	Sunday School
March 10	12:00PM	Family Gametime

**DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

*Monday, March 4* Psalm 841 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

*Tuesday, March 5* Psalm 842 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19 Hebrews 9:23-28

*Wednesday, March 6* Psalm 84 Ezra 6:1-16 Mark 11:15-19

*Thursday, March 7* Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Genesis 9:8-17 Ephesians 1:3-6

*Friday, March 8* Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Daniel 12:5-13 Ephesians 1:7-14

*Saturday, March 9* Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Numbers 20:22-29 John 3:1-13

**UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024*

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**March 3, 2024**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**God's Zeal Makes Us Clean**

In this penitential season, we hear the words of God's law revealed on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17). The law was given to guide Israel, newly rescued from slavery in Egypt, to become a community reflecting God's love and holiness. However, this law, no matter how full of love it is, will always carry the sting of accusation for us because our hearts have strayed from God's gracious purpose. We aren't capable of fully following the law because we are still captive to the powers of sin and death, so the commandments will always reveal our trespasses. We should not be surprised that God's word convicts even those who have been called into the community of faith. After all, Jesus cleansed even the temple, reacting against sin within the very heart of religious life.

These scenes on Mount Sinai and in the temple don't just concern people of times long past. They draw us in as well. In the mysteries of holy baptism and holy communion, we become the house of the Lord. Joined to Christ by grace, we are, together, the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is zealous for the holiness of his body, desiring that those who have been united to him would walk in love and truth.

Our great assurance, though, is that the living Word of Jesus is greater even than the revelation on Sinai. Where the law can only convict, Jesus forgives. Where the law reveals our bondage to fear and pride, Jesus brings joyful freedom. In Christ, his body the church dies to sin and then, by grace, rises to new life, made clean and holy.

Let us not fear the one who calls us into holiness and cleanses the temple with zeal. The law reveals where sin has brought death to our souls. But Jesus has passed through death into a glorious resurrection to make us into a living temple, where God's mercy can be found in abundance for us and for the world.

## Why Camp?

### A place for Faith Formation and Vocational Discernment

The heart of faith formation is essentially deepening the relationship between us and God, and also between us and our siblings in Christ. Camp is a place where faith formation comes to life! Scripture and living the way Jesus teaches us becomes real. Rather than stories and poems written about and for ancient people, scripture is revealed to us as a story we enter into and are part of!



Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop James Dunlop, who continues to attend Family Camp with his wife and grandchildren, has often reflected that his time at camp was central in his own vocational discernment, leading him to enter seminary and seek ordination. Deep conversations and time for personal devotion and prayer helped him listen closely to the Holy Spirit – and his experience was not unique!

“Camp is where I first really felt God speaking to me,” is a common refrain we hear from campers year after year – and not just from kids. We hear this from people of all ages, people in public ministry roles, and people who live out their faith in the secular world.

Maybe it’s time we rethink the value of the summer church camp experience. It’s not just a “once and done” opportunity; it’s a valuable and unmatched opportunity for lifelong faith formation and vocational discernment.



Register Now for Summer Camp at  
[LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)

**The Lutheran Camping Corporation of  
Central Pennsylvania**  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel  
Farm [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)

*Insert #1*



**Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church**

717-336-2849

[www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org)

[secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@swamplutheran.org)

Terri Renninger, 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**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006925