

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 14, 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 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 gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE

BOUMAN

congregational responses are in bold type.

stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN THE DAY OF RESURRECTION ELW 361

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. ☐ Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



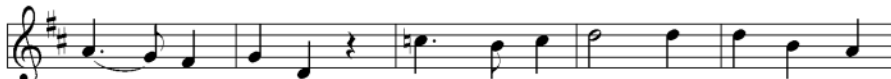
☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of



all cre - a - tion: ☐ Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

might to God and the Lamb for- ev - er. A - men

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I
II For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

ANTHEM

COME SHARE THE LORD

LEECH/ARR. LARSON

WORD

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

FIRST READING: **ACTS 3:12-19**

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: **Psalm 4**

read responsively

The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my
prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me | when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and | do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed | sacrifices,
and put your trust | in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us | any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness | in my heart,
more than when grain and | wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure.**

SECOND READING: **1 John 3:1-7**

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Stand

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.

**that is, the true, universal Christian church of all times and places*

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.

Please share the peace.

Sit

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY

HYMN OF PROMISE

ARR. JEREMY J. BANKSON

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.

1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,

dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;

for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,

stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

FIRST COMMUNION

Today, Makenna Rose Blatt, Ryelee Jade Martin, Kenzie Olivia Stopper, and Maeve Elizabeth Van Zant will receive their first communion.

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. Grape juice and gluten free options available—tell the usher.

COMMUNION HYMNS (Congregation Encouraged to Sing)

TOUCH THAT SOOTHES AND HEALS

ACS 939 (CHOIR)

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

ELW 373

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN THE STRIFE IS O'ER, THE BATTLE DONE ELW 366

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE WITH HIGH DELIGHT LET US UNITE CHARLES CALLAHAN

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 Gelsing, Edith Snyder, 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, Henry, Dennis Troutman, Larry Knauer, Robyn Reihner, David Metzger, Ray Weitzel Linda Mohn, Pauline Wassmer, Beaty Gress, family of Jackson Senseinig.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of their wedding anniversary, April 26, by Pastor Scott and Jen Brubaker.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

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) 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.*

FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. There is an urgent need for paper towels, toilet paper and there is always a need for canned vegetables (except corn) canned fruit, canned soup, canned meat and tuna, pasta, rice and mac & cheese. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd 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 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

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!

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.

Week in the Parish (April 15 - 21)

April 15	7:00PM	Handbell Choir
April 16	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
April 17	7:00PM	Choir
	7:00PM	Church Council
April 21	8:00AM & 9:00AM	Worship
	10:15AM	Sunday School
	5:00PM- 8:00PM	SLY First Responder Baskets

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25	11:30AM	Widows & Widowers Luncheon at Udder Choice
May 9	7PM	Ascension Day Service
May 11	2:00PM	Handbell Concert-Reinholds Chapel
May 19	11:00AM	Spring Fest

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday April 15</i>	Psalm 150 Jeremiah 30:1-11a 1 John 3:10-16
<i>Tuesday April 16</i>	Psalm 150 Hosea 5:15—6:6 2 John 1-6
<i>Wednesday April 17</i>	Psalm 150 Proverbs 9:1-6 Mark 16:9-18
<i>Thursday April 18</i>	Psalm 23 Genesis 30:25-43 Acts 3:17-26
<i>Friday April 19</i>	Psalm 23 Genesis 46:28—47:6 Acts 4:1-4
<i>Saturday April 20</i>	Psalm 23 Genesis 48:8-19 Mark 6:30-34

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21
Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18



**Lancaster
County**

The Project

The **Service Committee** would like to sponsor the following local service opportunity over the summer. This is being organized by Love Inc.

How does The Project work?

It all begins when churches want to do a “missions trip” in their community. Talented and handy people are willing to serve neighbors who cannot afford repairs and are experiencing financial hardships due to fixed income constraints.

A church gathers those who are good with simple carpentry, electric, plumbing, painting, outdoor yard work, or cleaning (just to name a few). This Summer, as suits your church team’s schedule, Christ-followers go build relationships and help their neighbors. Whether individuals have a knack for being handy or just a heart to serve, your church family can make a kingdom impact with the gifts God has given you!

If you are interested in helping with this new service project, please let a committee member know or Jodi Showalter, Chair, at 717-413-7149.

Geraniums. Orders are being taken for **red geraniums for Pentecost**, Sunday May 19th, 2024. Price is not yet known and the deadline for ordering is Sunday April 21st. Please give the following information to the church office or to Jodi Showalter (717) 413-7149.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

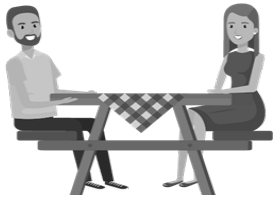
Red Geraniums _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

CHACE SMITH EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Your help is Needed! Lifetime Swamp member Chace Smith is pursuing his Eagle Scout award as a Scout with BSA Reamstown Troop 60. To accomplish this goal, an Eagle project benefiting a local nonprofit is required. Chace thought of his church. Consequently, the Church Council has approved Chace's proposal



to build six 8-foot picnic tables and four 4-foot benches placed near the ball field to replace those in disrepair there now.

Chace will lead a team of Scouts, friends, and family to complete this project that will improve the area, providing tables for church events such as picnics or youth activities, as well as giving families and spectators of baseball games a place to safely sit and relax while watching the games. Chace expects to begin the project soon. Although he has asked area businesses to donate supplies, **Chace needs monetary support to help cover the estimated cost of \$3,000. Monetary donations can be given to Swamp Lutheran Church, memo: C. Smith Eagle Project.** Let's all pitch in to help Chace help us.





April 21, 2024

5 – 8 PM

Ages: 6th to 12th grade

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd., Reinholds

Dinner | Baking Cookies | Chocolate Pretzels

Basket- Packing | Devotion

Swamp Lutheran Youth (SLY) invites you to join us in making gift baskets for local first responders. Dinner will be provided. We will be making cookies and chocolate covered pretzels (and eating some!). Devotional time too.

We are asking kids to bring a box of single-serving, individually packaged snack items (e.g., Goldfish, crackers, nuts, fruit snacks) to include in the baskets.

Bring a Friend!

RSVP: Kristin Gockley 717-330-0628 or



SPRING FEST

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ALL AGES

May 19 @ 11AM

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, PA 17569

**The Swing Fever Band, Free Food, Games
for Kids & Auction Benefiting Reinholds
VFW Stocking for Soldiers Program**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT THE CHURCH AT 717.336.2849**

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
Thurs. May 9 Ascension Day	Swamp, Reinholds	Rev. Tim Craven

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

Summer Camp Open House



Summer Camp
Open House at
Kirchenwald &
Nawakwa

Come join us!!!

- Meet some of the Summer Camp Staff
- Take a tour of camp
- \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper!!

Sunday, April 14

2:00 - 4:30 pm



Kirchenwald is located on 340 acres of undeveloped timberland, adjacent to 4000 acres of State Game Lands, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Nawakwa is located on 336 acres outside of Arendtsville, in Adams County, Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.





Luthercare's 75th Anniversary

Clay Classic

May 24 | 8:30AM-2PM

Central Penn Sporting Clays, Wellsville, PA

Register: <https://www.luthercare.org/clay-classic/>



Cocalico Education Foundation

Yard Sale

Saturday, April 20, 2024

7 a.m. – Noon

Denver Elementary Parking Lot

Support students of Cocalico School District by renting stand space today.

Food by Swamp Church's Kitchen Krew and Farm Show Milkshakes available!

Applications available in Cocalico school offices or at www.cocalicoeducationfoundation.org.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 14, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

From Fear to Faith

Fight, flight, or freeze: that's how our bodies tend to react when we perceive danger. Our heart rate increases, our breathing speeds up, and even our vision changes to take in our surroundings quickly so we can protect ourselves. When Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of his resurrection, they seemed to be in the middle of a fight, flight, or freeze response. Their Lord had been crucified. They didn't know what to do next. When Jesus suddenly stood among them, they froze in shock and fear. Jesus overcame the disciples' fright by showing his hands and feet and by eating a piece of fish. As they looked at the scars and watched him eat, the truth of his resurrection dawned on them. The disciples' inclination to fight, flee, or freeze melted away.

Once Jesus had brought the disciples back to a calm resting state, he opened their minds to understand how he had accomplished God's plan to save the world. Jesus told the disciples that now that he was risen, it was their turn to tell his story in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. Joy started to flicker in the disciples' hearts as Jesus freed them from fear. He gave them a purpose: to be his witnesses. They were to free others by sharing the good news that Jesus had died and risen again to forgive their sins and give the gift of eternal life to all who believe.

In our world today, many voices spread fear. It's easy to focus on those voices, feel overwhelmed, and freeze. But Jesus came to free us *from* fear and to free us *for* faith. Receiving the bread and wine of his supper reminds us that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for our salvation. We don't have to be afraid of anything. Holy communion strengthens us to be his witnesses and to do his work in the world so others can be set free by the good news of Jesus' love.

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

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

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