

www.swamplutheran.org

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, PA 17569

717-336-2849

STAFF

MINISTERS:

Congregation

PASTOR:

Rev. Scott V. Brubaker

ADMIN ASST:

Brenda Johnston

SEXTON

Jonathan Gyorke

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Susan Kreitz

ASSISTANT ORGANIST

Grady Daub

BELL CHOIR

Doug Kulp

IN PERSON WORSHIP

8:00AM

9:00AM

Sunday School 10:15AM

**TWO OPTIONS
AVAILABLE**

1. Watch live stream video on YouTube
2. Join us inside for in person worship



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2023

From Pastor Scott

What are your best hopes for this Advent season of waiting? For me, I wait expectantly for my daughter, Abigail, to return home on December 20 from her semester studying at King's College London. Maybe you too are waiting to see a family member again. Maybe you are eager for all that our culture's secular Christmas season offers—the non-stop Christmas songs on the radio, the lights and decorations, the parties, the gifts, and the feasts.

For the Church, we wait expectantly for the coming of Christ during the season of Advent. It begins on Sunday, December 3 and culminates on Sunday, December 24 on the eve of the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas Day which marks the start of the twelve days of the Christmas season.

At the heart of Christmas is the simple truth that God comes to meet us in Jesus Christ, and in coming into our lives, saves us from sin and death by reconciling us to God. At the heart of Advent is the expectation of Jesus' coming and our watchful, hopeful, waiting for his appearing.

So, as you use your imagination to reflect on this season from the yet unwritten future story of your life, consider how God is preparing you now to meet Jesus in the days and weeks ahead. Expect to meet Jesus. Keep awake and alert for signs of God's kingdom. Keep faith in God's presence in all situations. Keep hope that God brings good out of evil. At the same time, though, expect to be surprised by the unexpectedness of Jesus' presence.

At Swamp, much is planned for Advent: worship, Sunday School, activities, music, studies, and more.

Dec 3: 8 & 9 am worship. 10:15 am Hanging of the Greens; SLY Hospitality Baskets; Sunday School

Dec 5: Welcome Committee Christmas Shopping for needy children

Dec 9: 2 pm Handbell Concert at the Reinholds Chapel

Dec 10: 8:30 am one service followed by our Congregational meeting
7 pm Night of Music

Dec 16: Noon – Wreaths Across America placing wreaths at Fairview Cemetery, Denver

Dec 17: 10:15AM Sunday School Christmas program

7 pm Handbell Concert, Coleman Chapel, Brickerville

Dec 24: 8:30 am 4th Sunday in Advent Eucharistic worship

4:00PM Christmas Eve Eucharistic Worship

7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharistic worship

Dec 31: 8:30 am Lessons & Carols Eucharistic worship

I pray that God uses each item on our calendar to strengthen your faith and deepen your love for God. Invite your friends to join you. After all, you never know how God might work through your kindness and compassion to answer your neighbors' prayers, fulfilling their best hopes for Advent and Christmas. See you in worship.

Pastor Scott



December 3	10:15AM	Hanging of the Greens
	10:15AM	SLY Hospitality Baskets
December 5	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
	6:30PM	EASS Christmas Shopping
	7:00PM	Welcome Committee
December 9	2:00PM	Handbell Concert, Reinholds Chapel
December 10	8:30AM	One Service
	9:30AM	Congregational Meeting
	7:00 PM	Night of Music
December 12	6:00 PM	Zoom Bible Study
December 13	1:00 PM-4:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
December 14	6:30 PM	Learning Committee
December 16	12:00PM	Wreaths Across America
		Fairview Cemetery, Denver
December 17	10:15AM	Sunday School Christmas Program
	7:00PM	Handbell Concert, Coleman Chapel
December 19	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
December 24	8:30AM	ONE SERVICE ONLY
	4:00PM	Christmas Eve Service
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 31	8:30AM	ONE SERVICE ONLY

Next Council Meeting

DECEMBER 20, 2023
7:00PM

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



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.

Church Office Requests



Please call the church office at 717-336-2849 when:

- You are in the hospital or prior to going to the hospital** (or have a relative call for you). In an emergency, call Pastor Brubaker at 717-598-4663.
- You are confined to your home for an extended period of time** because of illness or accident.

- You are going to a rehab center or a nursing home.**
- There is a change in your family status** (birth, death, marriage, or divorce).
- You move to a new home, move out of the area, or go away to college or graduate school.**

Important for keeping data base current.
 You schedule a meeting or an event of a group or committee. To be open and communicative with everyone, we would like to include all scheduling on the Church Calendar and in the Weekly Bulletin.

Katie Houck
Hunter Leisey
Susan Levan
Clair Sweigart
Michael Wargo
Jan Lorah
Jean Wolf
John Frantz
Ray Fox
Honey Notobartolo
Sandy Clemens
Shirley Hoppman
Pastor Denny Trout
Family of Edgar Gress

Ed Miller
Nettie Kriener
Grace Ranck
Reba Ranck
Faith Moyer
Gene Miller
John Wesner
Kelly Martin
Jackson Sensenig
John Elser
Edie Snyder
Michael A. Crowther
Joan Long
Josh Garrison

Shirley Achey
Russ Herbein
Marilyn Gelsinger
Doreen McGonnell
Bobby Hershey
Anna Hershey
Anna Habecker
J.J. Johnson
Charles Moyer
Sharon Levan
Lucille Lorah
Robert Bachman
Earl Myers

Teresa Sweigart
Mel & Troy Ulrich
Janey Malafarina-West
Brandon Bailey
Elmer Gockley



Swamp Food Pantry & Ephrata Area Social Services continue on a monthly cycle to partner with food distribution. Monthly on the second Wednesday we distribute food boxes on behalf of EASS. We are so grateful to the congregation for their continued support of this outreach. Currently, there is an urgent need of canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat & chicken, noodles, pasta, canned pasta, soups, cereal and toilet paper. Our shelves are empty. Thank you!



ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar Flowers
Ministry Opportunity

Grumbine Flowers, is providing our weekly altar flowers and candle. The flower price is \$40.00 and the candle price is \$5.00. The flower calendar is posted on the Narthex bulletin board or call Joyce at 717-336-7077.

Flowers are available on December 3, 2023.
Candle is available the entire month except December 24, 2023

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Kitchen Krew: Our Food Bank provided food for 28 families in November.
Pig stomach dinner—sold 117 whole cooked stomachs, proceeds going to help the Syrian family.
Glenn Allen's disaster trip breakfast served 83 folks. Raised approx. \$3000.
51 folks were served at Edgar Gress's funeral luncheon
Polka mass breakfast served 67 folks

Welcome: Filled 10 Blessing bags for Veterans with clothing and a waterproof blanket

Will be shopping for Christmas gifts for the EASS families on December 5th at 6:30pm at Wal-mart. Anyone interested in helping, meet at Wal-mart.

Scouts: Scouting for food was a success. 687 lbs of food was collected.

Upcoming events:

December 11—Event at the Works

December 15-17—Christmas campout in Hamburg

Chace Smith requested approval for his Eagle Scout project. He is proposing to replace 6 picnic tables and (4) 4 foot benches for the teams to sit on. His request was approved pending Property Committee review.

Next Council Meeting

January 17, 2024

Youth Ministry: Fall fest was successful with 11 youth and 8 adults attending. Youth and adults from Bergstrasse joined in the event.

Upcoming events:

November 19—Thanksgiving meal

December 3—Hospitality baskets will be assembled

December 16—Wreaths across America

January 28—Lasar Tag event

Youth Gathering:

Had planning meeting on November 6 with Faith United—combining groups and traveling together. 5 students and 4 adults will participate.

Learning: Harvest Home will be collecting canned goods until November 29. This will benefit our food bank.

November 19—Hospitality basket items due

December 17—Sunday School Christmas program

December 24—Regular Sunday School

December 31—Combined Sunday School

Worship Study Committee: The committee consists of: Chairman, Dave Sauder, Chaplain, Lowell Haws, Randy Krater, Scott Zook, Connie Taylor and Abbey Rineer.

Held their first meeting and will be interviewing congregation in person regarding their thoughts on worship at Swamp.

They plan to interview members who are currently attending and those that are not attending. Would like to contact as many members as possible.

Syrian Family update: We continue to navigate through communication breakdowns with Bethany Christian services.

Jihad started a new job with an Amish company

House is not ready yet—needs new kitchen and bathroom. Hope to be done and in the house by January.

A car has been purchased, but during inspection discovered it needs major work.

The committee has been collecting furniture, appliances and household goods for when the house is ready to occupy.

Ruth Kramer has been tutoring the family in English.

Other items discussed:

A tree will be planted in memory of Barry Weitzel by Ray Weitzel and his boys. Property committee will determine the location.

After a discussion, the 2024 spending guideline was approved and will be ready for vote at the December 10 Congregational meeting. On that day, there will be one service at 8:30am.

Our new sexton, Jonathan Gyorke started November 4th.

Glenn Allen's next Disaster trip will occur the week of April 28, 2024. He is looking at Kentucky or Fort Myers, FL.

Christmas Eve service in the morning will be one service at 8:30 followed by Sunday School.

Evening Christmas Eve services will be at 4:00 and 7:00pm.

Tom Showalter and Deb Kohl will be retiring from Council this year. Pam Leisey and Denise Kidwell have been nominated by Council to fill their positions.

86 days until Pitchers and Catchers report for Spring Training. While 2023 didn't end the way we thought it would, I feel 2024 is the year they win the World Series.

But, for now, we will cheer for the Eagles. Fly Eagles Fly!

Council Finance Report

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church					
Treasurer's Report					
Oct 01, 2023 through Oct 31, 2023					
Account	Budgets October 2023	October Actual	Remaining	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Income	\$ 26,679.25	\$ 25,644.87	\$ 1,034.38	\$ 320,151.00	\$ 256,844.87
INCOME	\$ 26,679.25	\$ 25,644.87	\$ 1,034.38	\$ 320,151.00	\$ 256,622.87
Expense	\$ 25,896.55	\$ 32,932.98	\$ (7,036.43)	\$ 320,151.00	\$ 293,536.10
OPERATIONS	\$ 3,745.82	\$ 5,585.89	\$ (1,840.07)	\$ 44,950.00	\$ 35,495.87
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,641.64	\$ 1,858.30	\$ (216.66)	\$ 21,250.00	\$ 22,393.24
BENEFITS	\$ 2,590.40	\$ 4,999.80	\$ (2,409.40)	\$ 31,085.00	\$ 27,177.20
THROUGH STAFF	\$ 9,125.50	\$ 8,852.83	\$ 272.67	\$ 109,506.00	\$ 90,304.66
REIMBURSED EXP.	\$ -	\$ 506.00	\$ (506.00)	\$ -	\$ 4,921.25
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ 66.66	\$ 800.00	\$ (733.34)	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
PROPERTY	\$ 5,026.63	\$ 5,868.53	\$ (841.90)	\$ 61,220.00	\$ 55,792.34
WORSHIP	\$ 562.48	\$ 567.87	\$ (5.39)	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 4,568.21
SERVICE	\$ 83.32	\$ 300.00	\$ (216.68)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,398.91
COMMUNICATIONS (16-03-01-01)	\$ 16.66	\$ -	\$ 16.66	\$ 200.00	\$ -
GENEROSITY	\$ 41.66	\$ -	\$ 41.66	\$ 500.00	\$ 35.49
WELCOME	\$ 466.64	\$ 182.85	\$ 283.79	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 2,648.51
LEARNING	\$ 437.48	\$ 592.57	\$ (155.09)	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 3,622.06
BENEVOLENCES	\$ 2,091.66	\$ 2,818.34	\$ (726.68)	\$ 31,840.00	\$ 43,378.36
Income less Expense	\$ 782.70	\$ (7,288.11)	\$ 8,070.81	\$ -	\$ (36,691.23)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

JAMES R. WAGNER 12/2
35 WOODLYN ESTATES
MILLSBORO, DE 19966-9018

PAULINE WASSMER 12/5
585 N. RIDGE ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

EARL MYERS 12/6
1845 FURNACE HILLS ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

HAROLD CRILLS 12/9
EPHRATA MANOR, APT. 119
250 PARKVIEW HEIGHTS
EPHRATA, PA 17522

ALICE FASNACHT 12/11
1050 S. COCALICO ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

SYLVIA FETTER 12/14
360 SANDY HILL ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

HELEN WERNER 12/19
250 PARKVIEW HEIGHTS RD #109
EPHRATA, PA 17522

PASTOR BONNIE OPLINGER 12/21
327 E WALNUT STREET
SHILLINGTON, PA 19607

INGRID TATE 12/31
1016 GENERAL SUTTER AVE
LITITZ, PA 17543-2501

PASTOR DENNIS TROUT 12/31
430 BLUE LAKE ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517



- Lanette Miller 02
- Mason Strunk 02
- Andy Weitzel 03
- Madison Walmer 04
- Cindy Chynoweth 06
- David Klingensmith 06
- Tony Malafarina 06
- Earl Myers 06
- Harold Crills 09
- Steve Young 10
- Madison Nye 11
- Phil Higgins 12
- Sylvia Fetter 14
- Janet Krater 17
- Bert Nye 17
- Sue Knauer 18
- Sunnie Young 18
- John Chmielewski 19
- Jessica Davey 19
- Sue Templin 19
- Helen Werner 19
- Larry Maier 20
- Rev. Bonnie Oplinger 21
- Jeff Sauder 21
- Caroline Kittler 22
- Lori Hagy 23
- Emily Wagner 23
- Michael A. Crowther 24
- Sandy Eberly 24
- Scott Kramer 24
- Lisa Keppley 25
- Larue Chubb 26
- Susie Shirk 29
- Sharon Frantz 29
- Ingrid Tate 31
- Rev. Dennis Trout 31
- Mike Witmer 31



Swamp Lutheran Bell Choir Concert

Sunday, December 17

7 PM

Coleman Memorial Chapel—Brickerville

1980 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543

NIGHT OF MUSIC

Swamp's Night of Music will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 PM. **Donations of cookies for refreshments after the program are always appreciated. Thank you!**



Please put these changes in your pictorial directory.

Please let us know if you have change of address, email or phone number.



- Clyde Showalter
- Mary Ann Weitzel
- Michael A. Crowther
- Clarice Haws
- Charles Moyer
- Leona Showalter
- Anna Adams
- Eddie Snyder
- John Elser



Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at pack95reinholds@gmail.com



December 11

Bowling

December 15

Christmas Camp Out



Sunday, December 10

ONE SERVICE

8:30AM

Congregational Meeting 9:30AM

Agenda: Approval of 2024 Spending Guidelines

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 sneakers will be purchased from the Cubs by an organization that resells or recycles them, saving landfill space and natural resources while helping the Scouts raise money to fund their activities. The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slippers, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at



OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Lori Gockley, President,
David Sauder, Vice President,
Danielle Kauffman, Secretary
Deb Kohl, Financial Secretary
Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer
Sue Knauer, Co-Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Danielle Kauffman - Communications
Sue Ellen Knauer - Constitution;
Personnel
Lee Showalter –Disaster Response
Guy Templin - Finance
Deb Sweigert –Love, Inc.
Randy Krater - Property
Tom Showalter-Safety & Security
Pastor Scott Brubaker - Scouts
Deb Kohl– Service
Fritz Fichtner – Generosity
Jen Weitzel - Welcome; Learning
Alan Worley –Youth Ministry



Have you updated your will and remembered the ministry of Christ at Swamp Lutheran?

Swamp Lutheran Church can be named a beneficiary in your will and/or in your life insurance policy.

.....
Give a gift that celebrates your life and commitment to Christ!



KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS NEEDED

The VA Hospital has advised the church that they can not accommodate any more lap robes at the moment. In the meantime, we have been advised by a number of nursing homes that the need of prayer shawls continues. So we are asking that our knitters and crocheters will change their focus once again to go back to making Prayer Shawls. Your donations can be left in the library. Thank you to all who continue to work on this outreach.

LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION FALL EVENTS

Go to Lutherancamping.org to register and for more information/events or call 717-677-8211.

ADVENT DAY APART DECEMBER 9/THE WITTEL FARM

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

We don't like to wait for anything, especially Christmas. With all its secular attraction, this holiday is often a focus on over-indulgence, and too often neglected is the best gift of all...one worth our waiting. You are invited to The Wittel Farm for a day apart from the busyness of life for prayer and contemplation as we journey toward the celebration of Christmas.

The registration fee of \$15 includes lunch.



*Please join us for a free
Afternoon Concert in the Chapel
The Swamp Lutheran Church
Handbell Choir*



*Under the direction of Mr. Doug Kulp
Saturday, December 9, 2023
2:00 P.M.*



**Reinholds Station
Trinity Chapel
114 E. Main St.
Reinholds, PA 17569
717 336-6846**



**SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, PA 17569

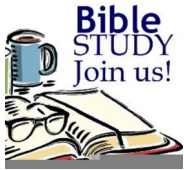
717-336-2849
secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours:8:30-12Noon



What does it mean to sponsor a wreath? It means you'll honor an American hero at one of more than 2,800 locations nationwide this year on Wreaths Across America Day. It's a day that's been set aside to lay wreaths at the places where we remember, honor and

teach about our veterans: cemeteries, monuments, parks... Anywhere we can pay tribute to their sacrifices. We can't do that without your support, though. Your sponsorship will ensure that a wreath is hand-crafted of all-American balsam and hand-tied with a red velvet bow here in Columbia Falls, Maine. It will then be sent to one of our participating locations, where a volunteer will place it on the marker of a fallen hero. That volunteer will then "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten. **Please join the Swamp Lutheran Youth Group at noon on Saturday, December 16, 2023, to lay a wreath at Fairview Cemetery in Denver.** Any questions, please contact Ryan Ranck.



Pastor Scott is leading a ZOOM Bible Study weekly on Tuesdays at 6:00PM. Our study this year focuses on the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday. Look for a weekly email with the Zoom Link.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



Service committee would like to help EASS stock their shelves this upcoming holiday season by doing a reverse advent calendar.

Start with an empty basket, box, or bag and every day between Friday, December 1 and Sunday, December 24 add a non-expired, non-perishable item to the container. Ideas are canned meats, fruits or vegetables, cereal, rice, pasta, hamburger helper, mac and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, etc.

On Sunday, December 24 bring the filled container to the church and we will donate the items to EASS or place in our food pantry which supports EASS. We can all help to make someone else's Christmas brighter. Thank you!

By reading a chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day during Advent we can read the entire book of Luke. A way to stay connected with God's story for us on a daily basis.

Another opportunity is through ELCA.org/good gifts or phone 1-800-638-3522. Many ways exist to assist the ministry of ELCA throughout the world. These gifts grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives.

If you have any questions please contact Jodi Showalter at 717-413-7149.

Generosity Minute

'It's the thought that counts'

Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you." -Luke 6:38

Why is it so hard to find that all-too-elusive "perfect gift" for the loved ones in your life? For many of us, it's because they already have everything they need and most of what they want.

It sometimes feels impossible to find a gift that won't be banished to that closet for unwanted, unneeded, and unused presents -- alongside the loud ties, the strong perfumes, the unread books, and the garish sweaters.

When it comes to gift-giving, it's often said, "It's the thought that counts." If that's true, why do we still put so much emphasis on the gift?

This year, focus on the thoughts behind your Christmas gifts. Thoughts in keeping with the season. Thoughts of meeting real needs and giving where it will be much appreciated. With so many disadvantaged people in the world, at least some of our Christmas budget would be well spent helping our needy neighbors.

If you are buying for a loved one who has everything, consider instead giving a monetary donation in their honor to a worthy charity that helps the poor. Some charities, such as Heifer International and ELCA Good Gifts, let you buy a specific item -- such as a goat or pig for a family, or a water well for a village -- to help people in the developing world.

Make the gift in your loved one's name or honor, and then describe it in a card attached to a low-cost "token" gift, such as a small box of chocolates or a bottle of wine. The better part of your gift will go to someone who truly needs it, and your loved one will share the joy of loving and helping your neighbors in need.

Just remember, 'It's the thought that counts!'

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.

Donations to the Action Fund or Syrian Family Fund are a great way to help our neighbors in need.

SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, PA 17569

717-336-2849
secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: 8:30-12 Noon

KID'S PAGE

Word Search for Mary's Story

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L I S I F A V O R A F B C I D
U N T B L I Q U A T U E A I T
L O R E L S E C T E M D I B O
N U L L A E L I Z A B E T H Y
N O N S E Q S I S C I L L A N
J O S E P H E S E M O T H E R
L A A R E M O L E R S I T E R
S U N I N E N D R D T A T V E
I T G I M E S S I A H S M O D
T I E N S E E U G A B R I E L
J A L Q U A T N O N S E C T E
E U H U M B L E E D E L I Q U
S R I T E U F E U G A I T V U
U A O Z E C H A R I A H T E R
S U M I N E N D R E T A T V E

ANGEL
BABY
BLESSED

ELIZABETH
FAVOR
GABRIEL

HUMBLE
JESUS
JOSEPH

MESSIAH
MOTHER
ZECHARIAH



Is Prayer your Steering Wheel
Or
Your Spare Tire?



**BUS TRIP TO SEAFARERS
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
NEW YORK CITY (NYC)
NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

Our group of 23 was greeted by Pastor Marsh Luther Drege, Executive Director of Seafarers International House (SIH), NYC, and Lucas Mietlowski, Director of Operations. They have two locations, and we met at their location in the Salvation Army building.

“Seafarers International House is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants. SIH offers pastoral/spiritual care, hospitality, social work assistance, and advocacy to a multi-national and multi-faith community in four ports currently (Albany, Baltimore, New Haven, New York and New Jersey), and in NYC. In 2022 SIH served 19,943 people. This includes boarding 1,368 vessels, visiting 15,135 seafarers and delivering 2,915 Christmas-at-Sea satchels assembled by volunteers. SIH also provided 2,301 lodging nights in Manhattan for seafarers and asylum seekers. SIH provides its services to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, or family/parental status.” *(Port Call Fall 2023)*

SIH was founded in 1873 by the Augustana Lutheran Church initially as a mission to Swedish seafarers and immigrants in the Port of New York. It is now an affiliated mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Our group filled almost 400 Christmas-at-Sea satchels in one hour. (Each satchel contains a bath towel, T-shirts, sweatshirt, 3 pairs of socks, snack pack, coordinated knitted hat and scarf, & Christmas card). We were hosted by Pastor Drege for a delicious lunch provided by the Salvation Army cafeteria. This included New York cheese cake! The Salvation Army provides lunches every day outside their facility to feed people who are homeless in the city.

Our first tour stop led by Pastor Drege was St. Paul’s Chapel, a block away from Ground Zero. This Episcopal church was the place where George Washington prayed after being inaugurated as the first president of the United States. Built in 1766, it is home to an active worshipping community. St. Paul’s hosts a wide variety of neighborhood and arts events, and welcomes more than one million visitors every year. St. Paul’s Chapel has long served as a house of prayer for all people.

“

**SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, PA 17569

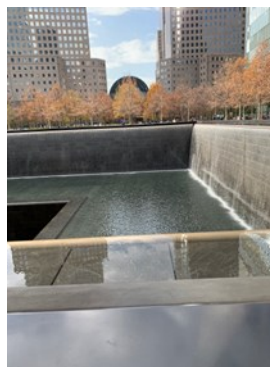
717-336-2849
secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours:8:30-12Noon

After September 11, 2001, St. Paul's became the site of an extraordinary, round-the-clock relief ministry to rescue and recovery workers for nine months. Though the World Trade Center buildings collapsed just across the street, there was no damage to St. Paul's, earning it the nickname "the little chapel that stood".

(St. Paul's website)

A block from St. Paul's is the sacred site of the 9/11 Memorial Gardens and Fountains. Pastor Drege read Psalm 46 in preparation for our experiencing this sobering memorial. He also asked us what we believe the waterfalls meant as they cascade providing the footprints for the two Twin Towers that collapsed that day martyring 3,000 people.



Reflecting on the innocents perishing that day, whose names grace the border around the two fountains, Amos 5:24 came to mind: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

An interesting aspect to the positioning of the rebuilt towers in the World Trade Center is that at 8:45 am, on September 11th, of any given year, the sun can clearly be seen in the site of this most traumatic event. None of the buildings obscure the sun.

Directly across from the 9/11 Memorial is the Oculus Building. This unique complex, designed by the architect Santiago Calatrava, is a transportation hub, as well as an expansive mall. The ultra-modern design has unique features including an inside view of the first rebuilt tower through its window. The brilliant blue through the window is not the sky, but the sky reflected off the glass of the rebuilt tower building



Thank you to Pastor Marsh Drege and his staff for their generosity to us all day. Additional thanks to Brenda Fetter of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Rothsville, who organized the trip. Pastor Scott, Sally Hagy, and Connie Taylor joined the trip with members from Jerusalem and Brickerville Lutheran C

OUTREACH NEED

Jihad Hamid Alahmad and his wife, Snaa Mohammad Ali, escaped the turmoil in Syria 13 years ago. They traveled to Jordan where they lived 13 years in a refugee camp before they traveled to the US in July of this year. Jihad and Snaa are the proud parents of eight children, 5 girls and 3 boys, aged 16 to 3.

We as a church are helping to support physically, emotionally, and spiritually this family. They will be moving soon into an apartment in Lancaster and of course will have to furnish it. Following you will find a list of needs. Please contact Ray or Jenny Weitzel with any questions at 717-405-5587.

www.swamplutheran.org

APARTMENT NEEDS

Bedrooms:

8 – dressers
Armoires
Mirrors
Drapes / mini blinds
Sheets
Blankets

Bathroom:

Shower Curtain & Rod 27” w
Mini Blind

Living Room:

Lamps
End tables
Curtains
Pictures
Throw rugs
TV wall mount

Kitchen:

Benches or chairs
Microwave
Electric griddle
Curtains/mini blinds
Mixer
Glasses
Silverware
Cooky Sheets
Cake Pans
Cooking Utensils **some**
Pots and Pans **2 pans**
Mixing bowls **set of small**
bowls
Broom
Dust pan & brush

Basement:

Washer
Dryer
Shelving

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17522