

*FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*  
*DECEMBER 21, 2025*  
*8:30 AM*



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Guests** 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 the offering plate 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.

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## GATHERING

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

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Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE      GORDON YOUNG

*congregational responses are in bold type.*

*Stand*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL  
(vs. 1,4,6,7,8)

ELW 257

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**Fourth Week of Advent**

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

**let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel,  
comes to be with us. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

JOEL RANEY

LORI GOCKLEY & JEN WEITZEL, BELLS

*Children leave for Children's Church*

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## WORD

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

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### Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup> Restore | us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> **O LORD | God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?**
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the | bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**
- <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn a- | way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- <sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

### READING: Romans 1:1-7

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the

obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 1:18-25**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

SERMON

*CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Stand*

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.**

*Please share the peace.*

*Sit*

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#### MEAL

***God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ***

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**OFFERTORY** CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT      ROBERT C. LAU

**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.*





## OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God,  
**you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**  
**Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,**  
**that we may rejoice and be for the world**  
**signs of your kingdom come.**  
**Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
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 whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, 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

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

**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. Grape Juice and gluten free options are available.*

**COMMUNION HYMN** WE ARE WAITING FOR JESUS (CHANCEL CHOIR)

*After all have communed, stand*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

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## SENDING

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

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## BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** JOY TO THE WORLD

ELW 267

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** O BLESSED EMMANUEL J.S.BACH

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER** - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, John Wesner, Jeff Kappenstein, Nettie Kreiner, Clair Sweigart, Faith Moyer, Michael A. Crowther, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Ray Fox, Gene Miller, Jean Wolf, Bobby Hershey, Marilyn Gelsinger, Edith Snyder, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich, Earl Myers, Elizabeth Sherman, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer, Jerry Landis, Mary Beth Jenkins, Evelyn Gehman, Joan Leed, Ron Adams, Kevin Williams, Susan Levan, Larry Eberly, Janet Bingaman, Dwayne Dimitris, Gladys Eckenroad, Bonnie Koehle-Koon, Chris Zander, Kathleen Troutman, Sally Bergman, Keith Reimert, Pam Heisey, Connie Malafarina, Ted Heisey, Regina Reinecker, Karen Klingensmith, Debbie Leed, Sue Van Zant, Alex Merionfeld, Susan Kreitz, Helen Werner, Cody Leisey, Lowell Haws, Lindsey Sauder, Anson Kauffman, Randy Krater, Michelle Moyer, Janet Craley, Scott Zook, Clarice Haws, Lisa Evans (Co-worker of Katie Krater), and Dianna Becker (Gockley's neighbor), the family of Maggie Kiralfy (Jen Brubaker's mother), Jeff Hines (friend of Lori Gockley and Toni Showalter) and Laurie Sauder.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in honor of Doug Kulp, Sue Kreitz and Grady Daub for the beautiful music during this holiday season.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** is given in memory of loved ones by Cathy Cammauf.



**SWAMP LUTHERAN'S  
HANDBELL CHOIR**

# Holiday Schedule

**Saturday, December 6th**  
Reinholds Station Trinity  
Chapel @ 2PM  
*114 E. Main St., Reinholds, PA 17569*

**Sunday, December 21st**  
Coleman Memorial Chapel -  
Brickerville @7PM  
*1980 Furnance Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543*

*Reservation Required for  
Coleman Memorial Chapel:  
Contact Doris Hinds at 717-669-4114  
(please leave a message if no one answers)*

## Other Readings for this Sunday

### Isaiah 7:10-16

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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# Be Our Guest

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

at Swamp Lutheran Church

Join us for special music, an inspiring message, and a children's sermon all in the glow of candlelight.

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**DECEMBER 24, 2025**

### **4PM**

Family Candlelight Service with  
Communion & Children's  
Church for young children

### **7PM**

Traditional Candlelight Service  
with Communion, Full Choir, &  
Bell Choir



## GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Promises Made Real

Dreams are delicate things, often hanging in our minds only long enough to evaporate in the morning like dew on the grass. Yet dreams can also endure and shape the arc of social movements and the identities of people near and far. Joseph has the rare privilege of an *angelic* dream, of all things—a visitation from a divine messenger, beckoning a change of heart and a change of direction for him and the person he loves.

It is no small thing to change direction in life, especially when family expectations and social norms can make life harder than it needs to be. Yet, Joseph and Mary do a remarkable thing as they face uncertainty: They trust God's promise that something incredible is about to happen. They take the angel's words to heart and lean into the possibility of God's Holy Spirit doing something neither of them expected.

Joseph and Mary are at a precipice, a pivot point, a threshold, a new beginning. Isaiah's language reminds us of the relationship that stands at the center of this divine arrival: God is with us, God is with humanity, God is with (and in) the world! *Emmanuel!*

We stand at a similar threshold every time God gathers us in worship. In word and sacrament, God's promise unfolds anew, birthing love and grace in our lives. Such mercy may seem like a fever dream, a vanishing vision, an impossibility. Yet it is the very thing that undergirds our lives of faith, turning us time and again to what is most important: God's promises fulfilled. As God chose to be with Mary and Joseph, God has chosen to be with us, as we together bear witness to the Spirit who brings about a world where sin is forgiven and God is ever near.

**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 – 717-283-9444

Grady Daub, Assistant Organist – 717-917-2430

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

Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM

**You are**

**Here!**

**Welcome**

At Swamp Lutheran Church, *Grace is Spoken Here!* We welcome with full participation and inclusion all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, imprisonment, physical or mental health, socio-economic circumstances or anything that too often divides us. Together as one in the Spirit, our unity is in Jesus Christ.

**Notice Regarding Audio/Video Recording and/or Photography of Services/Events:**

Persons participating in events or worship services sponsored by Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church are subject to being recorded by photographic, video, and/or audio devices. Your photo/recording may be used without your written permission. By attending a Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church service or event, you release our employees and officers and all persons involved from any liability connected with the taking, recording, digitizing, and/or publication of photographs, computer images, video and/or sound recordings.





## **SWAMP ANNOUNCEMENTS**    DECEMBER 21, 2025

WWW.SWAMPLUTHERAN.ORG    SECRETARY@SWAMPLUTHERAN.ORG    717-336-2849  
REV. SCOTT BRUBAKER, PASTOR    PASTOR@SWAMPLUTHERAN.ORG    CELL:717-598-4663

### **Week in the Parish (December 21 - 28)**

December 21      7:00PM      Bell Choir Candlelight Worship @ Coleman Chapel  
   *Please call 717-669-4114 to reserve your seats*  
December 24    4:00PM & 7:00PM    Christmas Eve Services  
December 25    CHRISTMAS    OFFICE CLOSED  
December 26                      OFFICE CLOSED  
December 28      8:30AM      Worship

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 31    NEW YEAR'S EVE  
January 1      NEW YEAR'S DAY    OFFICE CLOSED  
January 2                      OFFICE CLOSED  
January 4      8:30AM      Worship  
January 5      7:00PM      Bell Choir  
January 6      6:00PM      Zoom Bible Study  
January 6      7:00PM      Welcome Cmte  
January 7      7:00PM      Choir  
January 8      6:30PM      Learning Cmte  
January 11     8:30AM      Worship  
January 11     9:45AM      Sunday School  
January 13     6:00PM      Zoom Bible Study  
January 14     1-4:00PM    EASS Food Distribution  
January 14     7:00PM      Choir  
January 18     8:30AM      Worship  
January 18     9:45AM      Sunday School - Intergenerational

**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.

**SPECIAL REQUEST- BOXES** EASS uses approx.100 boxes monthly for food bank distribution. Please place them in the youth room hallway. *Thank you!*

**Greeter Schedule December**

21 Tom & Deb Henly  
28 Lee & Jodi Showalter

**Greeter Schedule for January**

04 Deb Sweigert  
11 John Frantz  
18 Brian & Katie Koehle  
25 David & Laraine Kramer

**Sound System Schedule for January**

04 Steve Laudenslager  
11 Steve Laudenslager  
18 Steve Laudenslager  
25 Steve Laudenslager

**Coffee Schedule for December**

21 Deb Sweigert  
28 John Frantz

**Coffee Schedule for January**

04 Deb Sweigert  
11 Ray Weitzel  
18 Pam Leisey  
25 Randy Gockley

**Video Stream Schedule January**

04 Josh Garrison  
11 Alan Worley  
18 John Frantz  
25 Josh Garrison

**DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

*Mon December 22* Luke 1:46b-55 Isaiah 33:17-22 Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20  
*Tue December 23* Luke 1:46b-55 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29 Galatians 3:6-14  
*Wed December 24* Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]  
*Thurs December 25* Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20  
*Thurs December 25* Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12] John 1:1-14  
*Fri December 26* Psalm 148 Wisdom 4:7-15 Acts 7:59—8:8  
*Sat December 27* Psalm 148 Proverbs 8:22-31 1 John 5:1-12

**UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS**

*Sun December 28* Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

**FLOWERS:** Altar flowers are needed for January 11, 2026.

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle in 2026, please contact Sue Kreitz at 717-283-9444 or John Frantz at 717-606-8994.

**Grumbine's Flowers** is looking to relocate and will not guarantee fresh altar flower arrangements beyond February 2026. In the event that Grumbine's discontinues service, the flower committee will be discussing options and/or alternatives. In the meantime, please continue to sign up for flower sponsorships via Sue, John, or the flower calendar. Candle sponsorships will not be changing.

**FOOD BANK** – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. There is a need for canned chicken, tuna, soup, paper towels and toilet paper. Please check for a current expiration date. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month.



**Knitters and Crocheters:** We have been asked to provide baby blankets for Veteran Families. Please use SOFT yarn with not too loose of a pattern and no more than 32" X 32," but not less than 27" square or rectangular. There are some copies of baby blanket patterns in the library at church where the shawls/blankets are being collected. We need more boy colors than girl colors.

### **Swamp Needs Your Help!**

***Tell Pastor Scott if you can help or want to learn more***

#### **Most pressing needs include:**

**Communion Extender:** We need helpers to take communion to our homebound members. Training provided.

**Choir:** We welcome singers for Swamp's Chancel Choir.

**Bell Choir:** Ringers needed for this music ministry.

**Learning Committee:** We could use new committee members interested in fostering the faith of our disciples, both young and old.

**SLY:** We need additional leaders on our team to guide this ministry.

**Sunday School teachers:** Helpers and teachers needed.

**Worship Committee:** We can always use fresh perspectives on worship.

**Generosity Committee:** We need additional disciples to help promote generosity to God's work at Swamp.

**Property Committee:** We need help attending to the property needs of Swamp.

Consider adopting a flower bed to maintain or giving of a skill (electrician, plumbing, carpentry, painting, etc.).



### **Good Gifts Tree**

This year instead of a hat and mitten tree, the Generosity committee is placing a Good Gifts tree in the narthex. If you ever selected a gift for someone in need from a display in a store or shopping mall this tree will work the same way. Beginning in November, the tree will be full of ornaments that represent items for purchase to benefit families in need around the world. Simply pick an ornament to purchase, write a check to Swamp Lutheran (Good Gifts on memo) and give something unexpected this Christmas.

In Christ, we receive the gift of God's love. Let us share God's love with others. ELCA Good Gifts are a fun, meaningful ways to make a difference in the world and make real, lasting change in the life of someone in need. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** Service committee would like to help EASS and our branch at Swamp stock their shelves this upcoming holiday season by everyone doing a reverse advent calendar. Start with an empty basket, box, or bag and every day between Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> and ending Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> add a non- perishable food item to the container. Possible ideas are canned meats, canned vegetables, cereal, rice, pasta, canned fruit, hamburger helper, mac and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, and fruit juice.

Then on Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> bring the filled container to church.

This year make someone else's Christmas a little bit brighter. Thank you in advance for your support. Another great opportunity for advent is to read a chapter in the Gospel of Luke each day and by December 24<sup>th</sup> you will have read the entire book of Luke.

**THANK YOU** to the congregation for purchasing wreaths for Wreaths Across America. Also, thank you to the congregation for participating in laying the wreaths at the Swamp Cemetery.

Kristin and Swamp Lutheran Youth

# *Be Our Guest*

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

at Swamp Lutheran Church

Join us for special music, an inspiring message, and a children's sermon all in the glow of candlelight.

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**DECEMBER 24, 2025**

**4PM**

Family Candlelight Service with  
Communion & Children's  
Church for young children

**7PM**

Traditional Candlelight Service  
with Communion, Full Choir, &  
Bell Choir

