

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
JANUARY 7, 2024
9:00 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE WHEN JESUS CAME TO JORDAN

WILBUR HELD

congregational responses are in bold type.

stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

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

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

GATHERING HYMN CRASHING WATERS AT CREATION ELW 455

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, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after 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 CAROL OF THE BAPTISM

GEORGE BRANDON

WORD

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

FIRST READING **Genesis 1:1-5**

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 *read responsively*

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING **Acts 19:1-7**

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL **MARK 1:4 - 11**

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

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Stand

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM WITH ASPERSION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

CREED

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

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

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

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

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism;
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?
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray,
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your p[people the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

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

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

Sit

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY O LOVE, HOW DEEP

MACKIE

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

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

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

ELW 715



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



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



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



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



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



church gath - ered to - day.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

Give us today our daily bread.

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

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

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

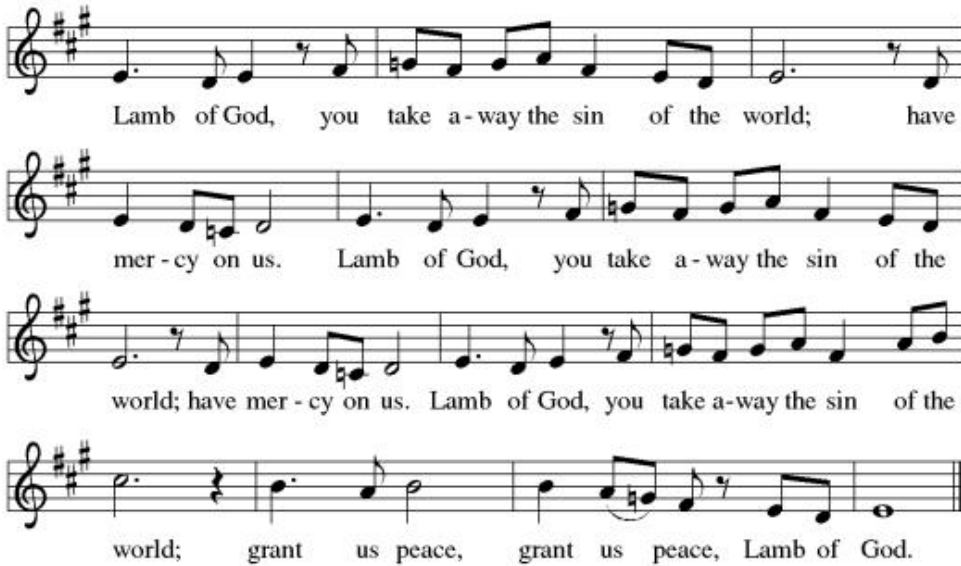
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD *remain standing*



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

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

HYMN DURING COMMUNION (CONGREGATION ENCOURAGED TO SING)

O Living Breath of God
This is the Spirit's Entry Now

ELW 407
ELW 448

After all have communed, stand

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

Let us pray.

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED ELW 311
(TUNE: THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED JACOB B. WEBER

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, family of Doreen McGonnell, Bobby Hershey, Anna Hershey, Marilyn Gelsinger, Edith Snyder, Jackson Sensenig, Sharon Levan, JJ Johnson, Robert Bachman, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich. Janey Malafarina-West,

Brandon Bailey, Earl Myers, Shirley Hoppman, Elizabeth Sherman, family of Leona Showalter, Katie Krater, Marion Bergman, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer.

ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of their parents Mrs. & Mrs. Robert Hershey and Mr. and Mrs. Clair Brubaker by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hershey.

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.

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

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

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

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



To our knitters and crocheters we have generously shared with many different organizations your prayer shawls. We have several Nursing Homes waiting asking for them When you finish, please bring it to church and leave in library. *THANK YOU!*



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

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Lily 3-4 blooms _____ Tulips _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



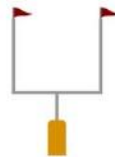
IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!!

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

When: Until Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024

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

Who: Benefits Swamp Food Pantry



This Week in the Parish (January 8 – January 15)

January 8	6:00PM 7:00PM	Service Committee Handbell Choir
January 9	6:00PM 7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study Welcome Committee
January 10	1:00PM-4:00PM 7:00PM	EASS Food Distribution Choir
January 11	9:00AM 6:30PM	Community Meal Prep Learning Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 28	11:15AM – 3:00PM	Laser Tag - SLY
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DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, January 8</i>	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Genesis 17:1-13; Romans 4:1-12
<i>Tuesday, January 9</i>	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Exodus 30:22-38; Acts 22:2-16
<i>Wednesday, January 10</i>	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Isaiah 41:14-20; John 1:29-34
<i>Thursday, January 11</i>	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:6-15; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11
<i>Friday, January 12</i>	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:16-23; Acts 13:16-25
<i>Saturday, January 13</i>	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 2:21-25; Matthew 25:1-13

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 14
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 7, 2024

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

A Life-changing New Chapter

Jesus does not *become* the Son of God at the moment of his baptism. Indeed, his relationship to God the Father is eternal—from forever in the past, through the incarnation, and forever into the future. But Jesus’ baptism is a watershed moment (pardon the pun) representing the beginning of his public ministry and revelation as both fully human and fully divine.

At the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is an unknown person from Nazareth, a remote town about which scripture says little (but for Nathanael’s insinuation of its bad reputation at John 1:46). Jesus would have seemed much like the other people who came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. Yet this is the Son of God who has chosen to join all the people on this earth, to live like we live, to experience what we experience. So Jesus gathers with the multitude that comes for this ritual of a new beginning with and through God. And a new life does open in front of Jesus. The unexpected suddenly erupts for this ordinary-seeming man: in this human among humans a new chapter is initiated in God’s story for the world—a new chapter that will come to involve a new kind of baptism.

This new baptism forms the church—both initially and yet today. No longer the temporary washing in water that John performed, Christian baptism is a definitive act of God, through water and the Holy Spirit, in which we are “marked with the cross of Christ forever” (*ELW*, p. 231) and raised to “newness of life” (Romans 6:4). As we follow Mark and the other evangelists’ accounts of Jesus’ ministry, even to death and beyond, we will learn what it means to be marked with Christ’s cross. But foundational to this—and the gift that makes it possible for us—is that the Creator’s words to Jesus resonate in our own baptism: “You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased.” It’s a life-changing new chapter for us too.

Swamp Lutheran Youth
Invites you



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

LASER TAG

@ **THE LASER MILL**

1109 Bern Rd., Wyomissing

Next to the Works ☺

\$10 for Swamp Youth and their Guests

\$30 for non-Swamp Youth & Adults

Sunday, January 28, 2024

11:15 AM to 3 PM

Pizza Lunch at 11:15 am

Leave for The Laser Mill at noon

Return to Swamp Lutheran at 3 pm

RSVP to Kristin Gockley 717.330.0628 kgock261@live.kutztown.edu

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

717-336-2849

www.swamplutheran.org

secretary@swamplutheran.org

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

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

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

Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

Jonathan Gyorke, Sexton – 717-435-3091

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

Grady Daub, Assistant Organist – 717-917-2430

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

Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00AM & 9:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM