



Jan 2025

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Pastor's Message

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As we step into this new year, we do so with hearts full of gratitude for the blessings of the past year and with hopeful anticipation for what lies ahead. As we make plans and set goals, let us also remember the firm foundation of faith upon which we stand.

In the church year, we are still in the season of Christmas as we reflect on the miracle of God coming to us in the flesh. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God is with us always, no matter the circumstances, and His presence is a promise that we can carry into the new year. Even when the world around us changes, God remains steadfast, offering us a peace that transcends all understanding.

This January, I invite you to reflect on these words from the prophet Isaiah:

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

In Christ, we are continually made new. Each day offers a fresh opportunity to grow in faith, to serve our neighbors, and to be transformed by the love of God. As we enter 2025, let us embrace the new things God is doing in our lives—both in our church community and in the world.

This is also a time for us to renew our commitment to one another. In the busyness of life, it's easy to forget the importance of shared worship, prayer, and fellowship. I encourage you to make worship, giving, and service a priority this year. As we gather together in Christ, we are strengthened, uplifted, and equipped to be His hands and feet in the world.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your continued support and involvement in the life of our congregation. Your prayers, time, and gifts are a testament to your faith and commitment. As we look ahead, I ask for your continued prayers for our church, our community, and for all those who are struggling with hardships. Let us be agents of God's love and compassion in all we do.

May this year be filled with joy, peace, and abundant blessings in Christ Jesus.

In Christ's love,



Pastor Scott

www.swamplutheran.org

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, Pa 17569
717-336-2849

Ministers :
Congregation

Staff

Pastor:
Rev. Scott V. Brubaker

Admin Asst:
Teresa Renninger

Sexton:
Jonathan Gyorke

Organist/Choir Director:
Susan Kreitz

Assistant Organist:
Grady Daub

Bell Choir:
Doug Kulp

In person worship
8:30AM

Two options available:

- Watch live stream video on YouTube
- Join us inside for in person worship



Generosity Minute

2025: Your year for abundant living

Many Christians think of “stewardship” only in financial terms, but money is only one of the gifts God entrusts us with – and it’s usually the one we value less than our gifts of time, relationships, faith and health.

Make 2025 your year for holistic stewardship - and abundant living – by taking steps to care better for ALL the gifts God entrusts to us, including our finances.

Here are tips.

Health: Get a physical and ask your doctor to help you to form a strategy for better living. For most of us, the plan would include eating better, exercising more and practicing wellness.

Relationships: We not only share love and joy with family and friends, but also turn to and rely on them in times of trouble. Care for your relationships with honest and frequent communication, get-togethers and sharing. Renew and repair relationships that need it.

Time: Are you just mindlessly counting the hours and days? Take charge of your time by planning events and activities that enrich your life. Plan for health and relationships.

Faith: No matter where you are on your discipleship journey, all of us can draw closer to God and open ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit. For 2024, commit to regular worship, prayer, Scripture reading, devotions, service and other faith practices.

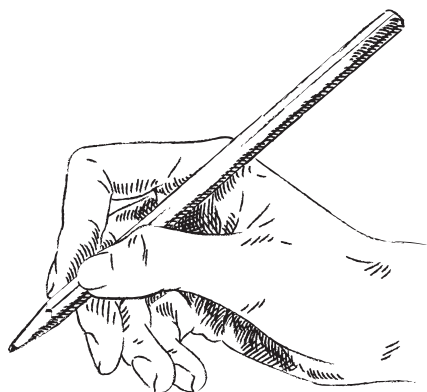
Money: Get your finances in order. Consider the 10-10-80 plan, budgeting your income to save 10 percent, give away 10 percent, and living on 80 percent.

God has given us so much. Stewarding the most important aspects of our lives can bring us into the life of abundance that Jesus promises us in John 10:10.

--Rob Blezard

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Notes from the Pastor



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 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 Calender and in the Weekly Bulletin.

Prayer Requests

Hunter Leisey
John Frantz
Ed Miller
John Wesner
Michael Wargo
Jeff Kappenstein
Nettie Kriener
Clair Sweigart
Faith Moyer
Michael A. Crowther
Reba Ranck
Grace Ranck
Ray Fox
Gene Miller
Jean Wolf
Honey Notobartolo
Bobby Hershey
Marilyn Gelsinger
Edie Snyder
J.J. Johnson

Teresa Sweigart
Mel and Troy Ulrich
Earl Myers
Elizabeth Sherman
Judy Habecker
Anna Rose Schannauer
David Metzger
Linda Mohn
Pauline Wassmer
Jerry Landis
Laney Garrison
Karen Nye
Alicia Andrews
Mary Beth Jenkins
Evelyn Gehman
Joan Leed
Ron Adams
Kevin Williams
Karen Laudenslager
Connie Malafarina

Debbie Leed
Maggie Krater
Janet Krater
Susan Levan
Larry Eberly
Anson Kauffman
Janet Bingaman
Dwayne Dimitris
Gladys Eckenroad
Pastor Dennis Trout
Bonnie Koehle-Koon
Chris Zander
Ross Houck
Michael Hagy
Kathleen Troutman
Sally Bergman



Gratitude
TURNS WHAT
WE HAVE INTO
enough

January 10+ Birthdays

LINDA CHRISTY 1/8
67 HAWK VALLEY LANE
DENVER, PA 17517

ROBERT BACHMAN 1/11
675 BLUE LAKE ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

JAN RISSE 1/17
38 KEELER AVENUE
STEVENS, PA 17578

LOWELL HAWS 1/18
712 VINEMONT ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

SALLY BERGMAN 1/19
268 W. MAIN STREET
REINHOLDS, PA 17569



DEWEY TATE 1/24
225 VERA CRUZ ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

DAVID BORRELL 1/29
972 WHITE OAK RD
DENVER, PA 17517

JAY HERTZOG 1/30
7417 N VIA CAMELLO DEL NORTE #156
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85258-3634

Please advise the office if this is the magic year that you turn 70! Just give Terri a call at 717-336-2849
or email her at secretary@swamplutheran.org

Happy Birthday to others born in January

Garrett Bansner 01
Randy Gockley 02
Robert Shank 03
Corbin Showalter 03
Patrick Weitzel 03
Carol Chmielewski 06
Linda Christy 08
Steve Weller 09
Bobby Bachman 11
Ryan Martzall 11
Andrew Showalter 14
Reagan Kerr 17
Jan Risser 17
Lowell Haws 18
Sally Bergman 19
Jolynn Leed 20



Alan Worley 20
Avery Posegay 22
Lindsay Matter 22
Dewey Tate 24
Darrin Weaver 24
Missy Strunk 25
Maya Van Zant 26
Derek Miller 27
Steve Strunk 28
David Borrell 29
Jay Hertzog 30
Adam Laudenslager 30
Kristin Gockley 31

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let us know if you
have a change of
address, email or
phone number.
secretary@swamplutheran.org

Nursing Home RESIDENTS

Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Michael A. Crowther
Clarice Haws
Anna Adams

January Greeters

5 Carl & Louetta Franck
12 Phil & Tammy Higgins
19 Tom & Deb Henly
26 John & Sharon Levan

February Greeters

2 Bob & Linda Preston
9 John Frantz
16 Lamar & June Eberly
23 Eric & Diane Hammaker

Thank you for serving as greeters.
Please try to be at the front door
by 8:10AM

Exciting UPCOMING EVENTS



January 1	New Years Day	
January 6	7:00pm	Bell Choir
January 7	4:00pm	Welcome Cmt
January 7	6:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
January 8	1:00pm-4:00pm	EASS Food Distribution
January 9	6:30pm	Learning Cmte
January 12	10:45am- 11:45am	SLY Leader Mtg
January 13	7:00pm	Bell Choir
January 14	6:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
January 15	7:00pm	Choir
January 15	7:00pm	Church Council
January 19	2:00pm	Disaster Trip Planning Mtg
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr Day	
January 20	7:00pm	Bell Choir
January 21	6:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
January 22	7:00pm	Choir
January 26	11:15am - 3:00pm	SLY Laser Tag
January 28	6:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
January 28	7:00pm	Builders of Hope
January 29	7:00pm	Choir



IT'S 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.

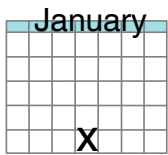
When: Until Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, 2025

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

Who: Benefits Swamp Food Pantry



The church needs your help as a volunteer. From time to time members of the church need assistance in getting somewhere or even to get to church. It is not often but when the need arises we would appreciate having some folks who are willing to drive if available. Please call or email Terri at the office to identify yourself as a willing volunteer driver. 717-336-2849 or secretary@swamplutheran.org. God needs our hands and feet to assist those in our church family. Thank you for your consideration.



Jot down January 29, regarding information for the February Newsletter. Please reach out to Terri Renninger at 717-336-2849 or email secretary@swamplutheran.org

Your cooperation is appreciated in order to make the February 1 deadline. ***Thank you!***



To the Congregation: Thank you for your generous Christmas gifts!

I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness! Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! Terri



ALTAR FLOWER/CANDLE UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who donated to the Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle ministry. The 2025 Flower Calendar is posted in the Narthax. The Sanctuary Candle cost will remain at \$5.00 and the cost of the Altar Flowers remains at \$40.00 for the time being, but we will know more after the beginning of the New Year. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle, please contact Sue Kreitz at 717-283-9444 or John Frantz at 717-606-8994.



FOOD BANK: Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. There is a need for canned vegetables, fruit and soup, spaghetti, pasta, mac & cheese, toilet paper and paper towels. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month. Please check for a current expiration date.



Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. You may support these efforts by writing a check to Swamp Lutheran with the memo marked Disaster Response. The church will then send one check to Lutheran Disaster who in turn will donate 100% of the donation to assist those impacted. The next Disaster Response trip will be April 13-19, 2025.

Thank You as You Continue to Give Generously!!



Disaster Response Mission Trip On Sunday, January 19, 2025, a planning meeting for the 25th trip of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Disaster Response team will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz. This is also the deadline to sign up for the trip. Registration for the trip is only \$150/person. The trip will be taking place, April 6-12, 2025, and will be to western North Carolina. More details will be shared at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but hope to make the trip, please contact Pastor Glenn Beard at gbeard@lutheracare.org.



Knitters and Crocheters Needed Thank you for changing your focus back to making Prayer Shawls. Your donations can be left in the library. Thank you to all who continue to work on this outreach.

Thank You

letters and cards:



Dear Pastor Scott,

Thank you for all the ways your leadership and ministry is bringing hope to the people of Swamp and to our neighbors around the world. We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

Have a blessed Advent,
Emma Wagner

*Praying the love of God
will fill you with joy,
the peace of God
will fill you with hope,
and the grace of God
will surround you with
reminders of His presence
this Christmas and
in the new year.*

*Thank you for your
thoughts and prayers
thru out the year 2024
Pauline Wassmer*

Dear Swamp family ☺

Thank you for the cards and the prayers. It was comforting to know so many people were thinking of me and sending well wishes.

My thyroid surgery went well and my recovery has been smooth. Thank you again.

Happy holidays! Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.
♥ Maggie Krater

*Thank You for all the cards
We want everyone to know. We are doing fine. We miss our home. but they take care of us here. We don't have to do any cleaning or washing.*

We also play bingo about 4 times a week. We win candy and different things.

We just want to say thank you to all of you. God Bless. sorry we don't get much candy to give out. May God bless you all.

*Thank you for the fruit & candy
Mike & Kathy Miller*

MAY THE *Light*
THAT SHINES AT
Christmas,
GUIDE YOUR WAY
THROUGHOUT THE
Year.

I appreciate your cards so much. Thank you and God bless you.

Sandy Heisey

*...Here's hoping today and all the year, too,
will bring lots of good things
especially for you!*

*Blessings + Joy
to everyone at Swamp
Lutheran Church who make
the church such a light to all
in Jesus's name*
Jonathan Gyorko

OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Lori Gockley, President,

Lee Showalter, Vice President

Danielle Kauffman, Secretary

Deb Kohl, Financial Secretary

Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer

Sue Knauer, Co-Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL LIAISONS

Danielle Kauffman —
Communication

Sue Ellen Knauer — Constitution;
Service; Personnel

Lee Showalter — Disaster
Response

Guy Templin — Finance;
Worship

Deb Sweigert — Love, Inc.

Randy Krater — Property

Pam Leisey — Learning

TBD—Safety & Security

Denise Kidwell — Kitchen Krew

TBD - Generosity

Jen Weitzel - Welcome

Alan Worley —Youth Ministry

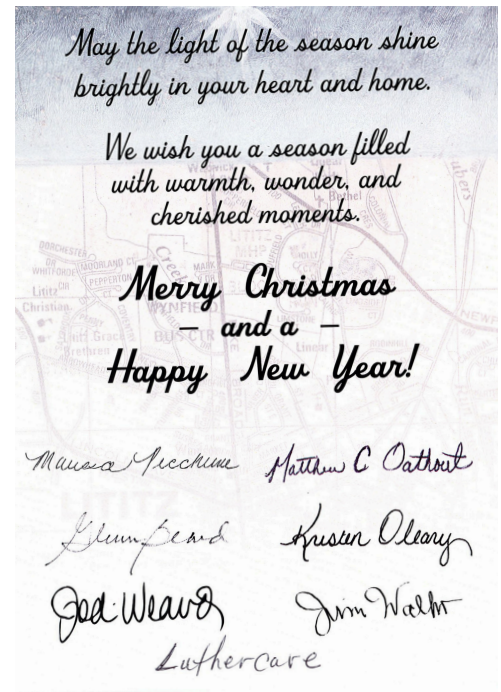
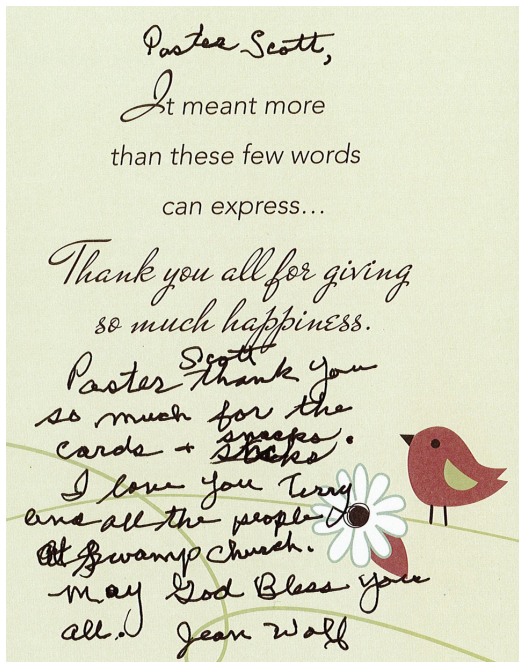
New Members:

Grady Daub

Cody Leisey

Thank You

letters and cards:



Thank you for the many cards sent during my recovery. I'm so very grateful for the prayers that have helped me return to good health and normal activities. May your Christmas be filled with Peace, Joy and hope.
Robyn Reichner

Thank you for the Holiday Gift Bag with the goodies and Christmas cards. Also, thank you for the many cards I received for my birthday.
Helen Werner

Dear Members of
Swamp Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Thank you for:
the visits Pastor Scott
and others
For all the caring cards.
For God's Hands Volunteers
for the maintenance work
in our yard
and the Christmas goodies
for the Kitchen Krew.

Blessings To all

Thank you
Chair Swegart

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY AND TODAY
AND FOREVER.

HEBREWS 13:8

Swamp
Lutheran
Church
Congregation

Wishing you
peace and joy
this Christmas

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

Terri Ranniger

Next Council Meeting
Jan 18, 2025
7PM

Church Council Highlights

December 18, 2024

Builders of Hope TL:

- They have a family in the house and are doing great!
- Mentors and budget coaches praise EASS for the support they are receiving.

Service:

- The Community meal will be held January 9 and May 8, 2025.
- The Good Gifts Tree received \$2475.00 so far.

Kitchen Krew:

- Food bank provided 42 families with 116 folks with food in December.

Welcome:

- They shopped for 4 families with 9 children plus 2 extra children from a local fire company and 2 seniors from EASS.

Learning:

- Christmas Program was held December 22 with Santa and cookies afterward.
- College Student recognition will be January 5.

Youth Ministry:

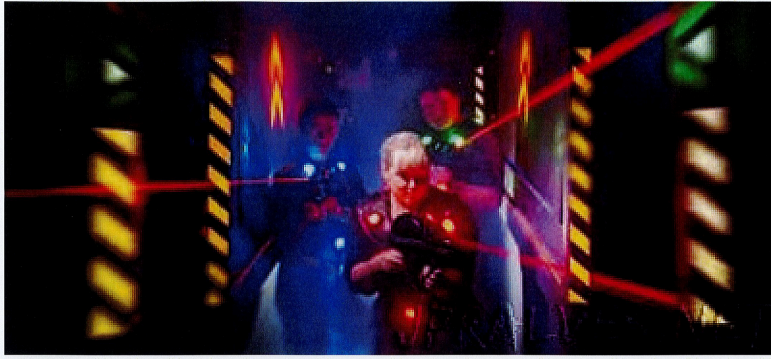
- Two youth participated in Wreaths Across America.
- January 26 will be laser tag.
- February 9 will be Souper Bowl of Caring.

Other items discussed:

- Directory update: Approx. 46 families submitted photos for the directory. They will be looking at a stop date for photos and a rough estimate for printing and distribution.
- We are still looking for lay members to attend the 2025 Synod Assembly. If interested see Pastor Brubaker.
- The Worship Study transition team will be formed officially and will need members from the congregation to serve on the committee. If you are interested see Pastor or myself. They will start meeting after the New Year.
- Pastor Glenn Allen Beard's disaster trip is being planned for Asheville, NC. Let him know if you are interested in helping.
- The second offering on the last Sunday in December will go toward the upcoming Disaster trip.
- The parking lot was crack - sealed and the lines were painted on December 13-14.
- Elections results of Council Officers for 2025 are:
 - Lori Gockley-President.
 - Lee Showalter - Vice President.
 - Danielle Kauffman- Secretary.
 - Sue Ellen Knauer and Guy Templin - Co-Treasurers.
 - Deb Kohl- Financial Secretary.

GO EAGLES! I think this is their **SUPER BOWL YEAR!** **FLY EAGLES FLY!!**

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 ®

\$15 for Swamp Youth and their Guests

\$30 for non-Swamp Youth & Adults

Sunday, January 26, 2025

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

Grade 6-12

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

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?

Our **Lower Susquehanna Synod** celebrates the diverse gifts of its members and asks that members consider sharing those gifts in leadership roles in this church.

The **Gifts Discernment and Nominating Committees** of this synod are seeking persons who are willing to be nominated for election to the following ministries:



Synod Secretary

- Lay or rostered minister Four-year term; 3 term limit
- Seeking at least one nominee for this officer position

Synod Treasurer

- Lay or rostered minister Four-year term; 3 term limit
- Seeking at least one nominee for this officer position

Synod Council

- 5 adults (2 ordained, 1 lay woman, 1 lay man, 1 layperson any gender) Three-year term; 2 term limit
- 1 young adult Three-year term; 2 term limit
- 1 youth Two-year term; 1 term limit
- Seeking at least 2 nominees for each position

Committee on Discipline

- 4 persons (2 rostered ministers and 2 lay persons) Six-year term; 1 term limit
- Seeking at least 2 nominees for each position



For more information, visit our website

<https://www.lss-elca.org/synod-assembly/nominations/>

for position descriptions and to complete a Nominee Information Form by January 9, 2025.

12/17/2024

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report November 2024

Treasurer's Report November 2024				
Current Fiscal Year / November				
	This Year Budget	This Year Actual	% of Budget	Remaining
INCOME	\$ 314,126.00	\$ 306,541.46	0.98	\$ 7,584.54
Expense	\$ 314,126.00	\$ 309,933.72	0.99	\$ 4,192.28
OPERATIONS	\$ 53,590.00	\$ 40,245.95	0.75	\$ 13,344.05
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 21,800.00	\$ 25,756.30	1.181	\$ (3,956.30)
BENEFITS	\$ 34,622.00	\$ 34,285.37	0.99	\$ 336.63
THROUGH STAFF	\$ 133,924.00	\$ 122,424.08	0.91	\$ 11,499.92
REIMBURSED EXP.	\$ -	\$ 10,129.93		\$ (10,129.93)
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ 800.00	\$ 4,202.94	5.26	\$ (3,402.94)
PROPERTY	\$ 17,700.00	\$ 11,176.70	0.63	\$ 6,523.30
WORSHIP	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 5,299.20	0.72	\$ 2,100.80
SERVICE	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 408.00	0.33	\$ 842.00
WELCOME	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 3,191.70	0.514	\$ 3,008.30
LEARNING	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 3,092.41	0.58	\$ 2,257.59
BENEVOLENCES	\$ 30,790.00	\$ 49,093.12	1.59	\$ (18,303.12)
Income	\$ 314,126.00	\$ 306,994.46	0.98	\$ 7,131.54
Expense	\$ 314,126.00	\$ 309,933.72	0.99	\$ 4,192.28
	\$ -	\$ (2,939.26)	-0.01	\$ 2,939.26



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!



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

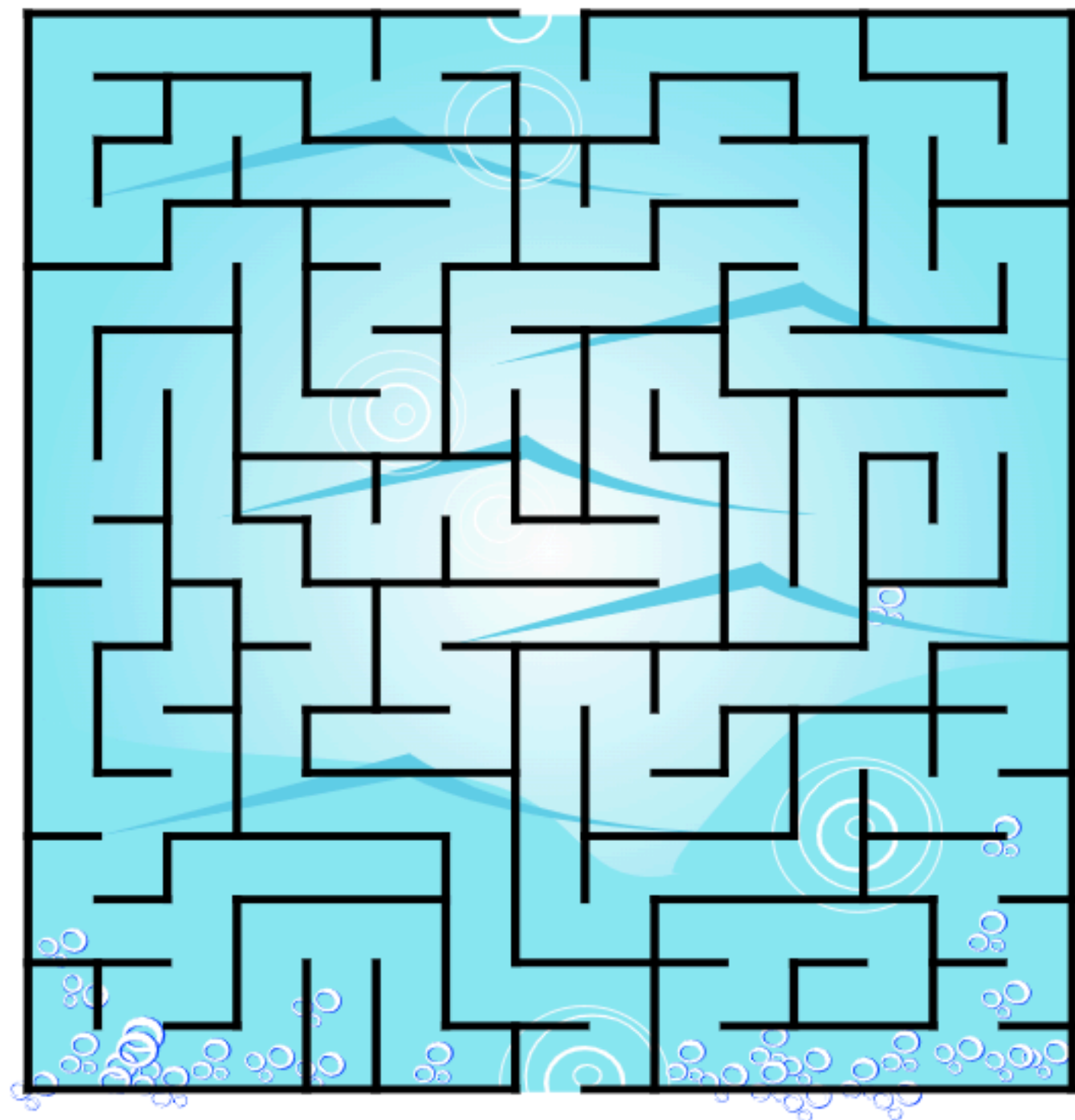
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

2025 Upcoming Event List

Chicken & Waffles at Nawakwa - January 19, 2025
Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald - January 19, 2025
CampPerson Meeting at Kirchenwald at Kirchenwald - January 19, 2025
CampPerson Meeting at Nawakwa at Nawakwa - January 19, 2025
Nawakwa Winter Work Day at Nawakwa - January 19, 2025
CampPerson Zoom Meeting at Online - January 21, 2025
Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald - February 16, 2025
Lenten Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - March 15, 2025
Summer Camp Open House at Kirchenwald - March 16, 2025
Summer Camp Open House at Nawakwa - March 16, 2025
Quilting Weekend at Kirchenwald - March 21 - 23, 2025
Summer Camp Open House at Kirchenwald - April 6, 2025
Summer Camp Open House at Nawakwa - April 6, 2025
Nawakwa Work Day at Nawakwa - April 26, 2025
Earth Day Celebration at Kirchenwald - April 27, 2025
Kirchenwald Work Day at Kirchenwald - May 3, 2025
Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic at Nawakwa - May 18, 2025
All Saints Confirmation Camp at Nawakwa - June 8 - 13, 2025
Harrisburg Area Confirmation Camp at Nawakwa - June 15 - 21, 2025
Elder Camp at Nawakwa - July 6 - 11, 2025
July Family Camp at Nawakwa - July 13 - 18, 2025
Kirchenwald Camp-K-tion (Family Camp) at Kirchenwald - August 3 - 8, 2025
August Family Camp at Nawakwa - August 3 - 8, 2025
Capture the Flag Spectacular at Kirchenwald - October 5, 2025
Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa - October 7 - 9, 2025
Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa at Nawakwa - October 19, 2025
Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald at Kirchenwald - October 26, 2025
Annual Quilt Auction at Nawakwa - November 2, 2025
Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa - November 7 - 9, 2025
Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - December 6, 2025

Find the path that Jesus walked on water to the boat.

START



END