



THE RISING SUN NEWSLETTER

SWAMP EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD, REINHOLDS, PA 17569

Church Telephone 717-336-2849; Fax 717-336-2840; e-mail secretary@swamplutheran.org

Eucharist Worship Service : 8.30 OUTSIDE Front of Church during SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2020

Staff:

Ministers

Congregation

Pastor

The Rev. Kurt Strause

Adm. Assistant

Brenda Johnston

Organist/Choir Director

Susan Kreitz

Hand Bell Director

Doug Kulp

Sexton

John Frantz

Officers of Council

Lori Gockley, President

David Kupp, Vice Pres.

Jodi Showalter, Sec.

Deb Kohl, Fin. Sec.

Guy Templin, Co-Treas.

Sue Knauer, Co-Treas.

Congregational Council

Sandy Clouser

Randy Krater

Deb Kohl

Pam Leisey

Mike Mixell

Jan Risser

Ryan Ranck

David Sauder

From the Pastor

My first day in the church office as the interim pastor of Swamp Lutheran Church was a bit of a whirlwind. Meeting new people, learning where everything was, how the locks worked on the doors, what the worship service looked like; all of these things filled my head and heart with joy, apprehension, and wondering if I was up to this task of starting to serve in a new place.



I sat down at the desk that would serve as my new place of work and opened the top right-hand drawer. Inside the drawer I found a small, smooth stone on which was carved a cross. Beside it was a hand-written note, "Kurt, this is a NOT to worry stone for you – God Bless," and the initials below read "DLT." Pastor Trout had given me a gift that immediately made my heart glad. He reminded me that Christ and his cross stands at the center of all things. "Not to Worry" with the sign of the cross is simply a short-hand reminder of what our Lord told his disciples, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink...can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?...if God so clothes the grass of the field...will he not much more clothe you?...but strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness..." (Matthew 6:25-33).

We have had much opportunity to give in to worry these past several months. This virus, and the subsequent thoughts and attitudes towards it, has disrupted our lives immensely. Some of us are personally acquainted with the illness and death it has brought about, especially among the most weak and vulnerable. We worry if we are safe, if we are contributing towards its spread, and if we are losing essential aspects of our lives.

Jesus says we are not to worry about our own lives, because God will provide us what we need. But not worrying about my own life does not mean I can be dismissive about the life of my neighbor. Jesus' command not to worry is actually meant to direct us away from ourselves and towards others. Christ and his cross free us from debilitating self-worry and a healthy worry about the needs and conditions of our neighbors.

So, thank you Pastor Denny for this wonderful gift and this precious reminder of who we belong to and what our calling as faithful disciples is meant to be.

Pastor Kurt Strause



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 order for the pastor to visit, someone needs to inform the church. In an emergency, call Pastor Strause at 717-475-4377.
- 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.**
- 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.**



Committee

Lori Gockley, President	Helping Hands
David Kupp, Vice President	Safety and Security/ Scouts
Sandy Clouser	Welcome
Randy Krater	Property
Pam Leisey	Learning
Mike Mixell	
Ryan Ranck	Youth Ministry
Jan Risser	Love, Inc.
David Sauder	Stewardship/social media
Tom Showalter	
Jodi Showalter, Secretary	Service
Sue Ellen Knauer Co-Treasurer & Personnel & Constitution	
Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer	Finance & Worship
Deb Kohl	Financial Secretary/ Stewardship/SocialMedia

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 23 SEPTEMBER @ 7:00pm

NOTE CHANGE

Worship will be in person outside starting Sunday, September 6, 2020.

We will meet at front of church. **Online via YouTube still is an option.**

Sunday, September 6, 2020 - 8:30am

Outside worship

Bring your lawn chairs.



Brenda Johnston has joined our staff as church administrator. Spending her corporate years in sales and marketing for TWA and the Walt Disney Corporation she looks forward to becoming an integral part of Swamp Lutheran. In 1998 God turned her life upside down by asking her to leave "her fishing nets" and to follow Him to Namibia, Africa. She returned to the USA in 2018. Brenda looks forward to an open door policy which will allow her an opportunity to gradually meet and get to know the congregants of Swamp Lutheran.



BETTY KAUFFMAN 9/1
KEYSTONE VILLA
100 N. STATE ST.
EPHRATA, PA 17522

JOYCE STONER 9/3
720 S. COCALICO ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

LARRY EBERLY 9/3
115 DURLACH HILL ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578

ILSE HEMMERICH 9/8
814 BENT CEREEK ROAD
LITITZ, PA 17543

PATRICIA WEITZEL 9/8
429 N. STATE STREET
EPHRATA, PA 17522

JUDY SAUDER 9/25
90 BLUE LAKE ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

BONNIE KOEHLE-KOON 9/25
195 HOLLOW ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

DENNIS HABECKER 9/27
637 N 11TH AVENUE
LEBANON, PA 17046



**Please put these changes in your
PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

Mrs. Joan Long
SHAWNS PARK
24493 White Street
Millsboro, DE 19966

Mrs. Delores Becker
815 W. Leesport Road #218
Leesport, PA 19533-8857

Emily Mixwell Oropollo
541 Meade Terrace
Shillington, PA 19607



Michael Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Henry Rehlich
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel



The family of John Arthur Nicholas who
went home to
our Lord on August 5, 2020.



Prayer List

- Sue Kittler
- Thomas Beck
- Lori Gockley
- The Family of John Nicholas
- Jean Wolf
- Doris Kopp
- Don Risser
- Susan Levan
- Barbara Mizdail
- Ray Showalter
- Nancy Kulp
- Mary Kring – Aunt of Linda Ream

When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 27,2020 after service



Ephrata Area Social Services is experiencing high demand during the pandemic with a decrease in food donations. They are accepting monetary donations to help bridge this gap. Monetary donations can be made out to EASS. Their address is **EASS 227 N State St Ephrata 17522**. *Thank you in advance for your donation to help your neighbor.*



OFFICE HOURS as of 9/8/2020

8.30 – 12noon Mon – Fri

NEW CHURCH EMAIL please note:

secretary@swamplutheran.org

IN PERSON OUTSIDE WORSHIP as of 9/6/2020

Outside Worship -8.30am



Monday, SEPTEMBER 14 for October Newsletter.