



**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](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org)

**STAFF**

**MINISTERS:**

Congregation

**PASTOR:**

Rev. Kurt Strause

**ADMIN ASST:**

Brenda Johnston

**ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Susan Kreitz

**BELL CHOIR**

Doug Kulp

**SEXTON**

John Frantz

**OFFICERS of COUNCIL**

Lori Gockley, President

David Kupp, Vice President

Danielle Kauffman Sec.

Deb Kohl, Fin. Secy

Guy Templin, Co-Treas

Sue Knauer, Co-Treas

**Congregational Council**

David Borrell

Randy Krater

Pam Leisey

Lee Showalter

Jan Risser

Ryan Ranck

David Sauder

Tom Showalter

*From Pastor Kurt*

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...And the one seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new’...Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.’” Revelation 21:1,5,6

We stand at the beginning of a new year, 2021. I think most of us will not be unhappy to bid farewell to the old year, 2020. Who among us expected on January 1, 2020 that the year would turn out as it did? I certainly didn’t.

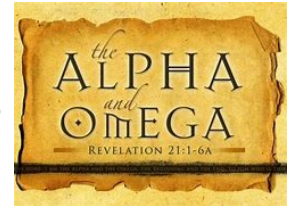
We tend to look at the start of a new year as a chance for new beginnings. We make resolutions to improve ourselves, make changes in our lives, resolve to be better persons. How long do these resolutions

actually last? Mine rarely make it past January. In reality the start of a new year on January 1 is simply an arbitrary date on the calendar. Throughout the centuries people calculated the new year at different times. Sometimes the new year was fixed to a change of seasons, like the winter solstice or the spring equinox. In the Middle Ages the new year began on March 25, the date of the Annunciation to Mary and what was thought to be the day Christ was crucified on the cross and the date God created the world.

A line from a hymn goes, “Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly forgotten as a dream, dies at the opening day.” We are reminded of the inevitable passage of time despite the cyclical change of the seasons and the return

of the calendar to a new year. God’s promise is that all of time, from its beginning to its ending, belongs to him. Jesus says, “I am the beginning and the end.” He holds all things within himself. The changes and challenges we periodically face, even something like a worldwide viral pandemic, are all embraced by a God who both enters our time and who is time’s creator itself. This means nothing stands outside of God’s providential care.

So we may anticipate 2021 not because we hope it will be better than 2020, but rather because we know this year, like all other years, belongs to God.



**INSIDE WORSHIP SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

At the December 20, 2020 COVID Task Force meeting all members were in agreement to suspend indoor Sunday Services starting December 27, 2020. This suspension of service will continue indefinitely until government or health officials advise that larger indoor meetings can be held and the Task Force feels comfortable doing so. We will continue the weekly worship videos. Please watch your emails for updates. Link for videos is found on the church website. We thank you for your understanding in this difficult decision concerning the health and safety of our members.

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the middle of them.*  
Matthew



## 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 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.** 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.

Sue Kittler  
Katie Houck  
Jean Wolf  
Family of Don Risser  
Mary Jane Miller  
Susan Levan  
Nancy Kulp  
Shirley Achey—neighbor of Sue Kreitz  
Mary Kring—aunt of Linda Ream

Barb Mizdail  
Faye Harting—Nana of Abbey Rineer  
Dorothy Good  
Roger Gehman—father of Gaile Gehman  
Jan Risser  
Patricia Gress  
Sharon Freemont—friend of Sue Kreitz  
Clair Sweigart

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



There is opportunity available for the Sanctuary Candle during the month of January. If you would like to have the candle in memory or honor of someone please contact Joyce Stoner at 717-336-7077. Candle is open for January 10 and 31.

A new year is upon us and we need to update our Birthday records to reflect those born in the year 1950 or prior. Please send the church an email at [secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org) or call the office at 717 336-2849. We would love to include your name, address and date of birthday each month in our newsletter. Thank you!

*We  
Need  
Your  
Help!*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

CHARLES HOPPMAN 519 S. SIXTH STREET DENVER, PA 17517	1/3	LOWELL HAWS 712 VINEMONT ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	1/18
ROBERT BACHMAN 675 BLUE LAKE ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	1/11	GERALD WERNER 88 E MAIN STREET REINHOLDS, PA 17569	1/19
AUDREY LEWANDOWSKI P. O. BOX 815 ADAMSTOWN, PA 19501	1/16	SALLY BERGMAN 268 W. MAIN STREET REINHOLDS, PA 17569	1/19
JAN RISSER PO BOX 281 38 KEELER AVENUE REAMSTOWN, PA 17567	1/17	SHIRLEY HOPPMAN 519 S. SIXTH STREET DENVER, PA 17517	1/22
		DEWEY TATE 225 VERA CRUZ ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	1/24
		CHARLES MOYER 300 SAINT MARK AVE. APT. 426 LITITZ, PA 17543	1/30



Ephrata Area Social Services continues to experience high demand during this time of pandemic with a decrease in donations. They are accepting monetary donations to help bridge the gap.

Monetary donations can be made out to EASS. Their address is: EASS, 227 North State Street, Ephrata, PA 17522. Thank you in advance for your help.

As a church we continue as a point of distribution for EASS, distributing 20-25 boxes of food once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We are packing and distributing all dry goods. Our need for non-perishable items and volunteers is an ongoing need. Contributions may be dropped off at the church during the morning hours M-F or on Sunday before or after service. We are unable to distribute items past their expiration date. If you are interested in volunteering please contact John Frantz.



## UPDATES ON MEMBERS



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

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Michael A. Crowther

Clarice Haws

Betty Hornberger

Charles Moyer

Ella Shirk

Alverta Showalter



Clyde Showalter

Mary Ann Weitzel

Mary Jane Miller

## BIRTHDAYS

Garrett Bansner	01
Randy Gockley	02
Charlie Hoppman	03
Robert Shank	03
Corbin Showalter	03
Patrick Weitzel	03
Anita Kupp	05
Carol Chmielewski	06
Linda Christy	08
Christine Reedy	09
Steve Weller	09
Bobby Bachman	11
Ryan Martzall	11
Andrew Showalter	14
Audrey Lewandowski	16
Raegan Kerr	17
Jan Risser	17
Lowell Haws	18
Sally Bergman	19
Jolynn Leed	20
Matt Sweigart	20
Alan Worley	20
Nolan Hagy	22
Shirley Hoppman	22
Brett Kupp	22
Avery Posegay	22
Lindsay Matter	22
Dianne Crills	24
Dewey Tate	24
Darrin Weaver	24
Missy Strunk	25
Maya Van Zant	26
Jeffrey Metzler	26
Derek Miller	27
Steve Strunk	28
David Borrell	29
Jay Hertzog	30
Adam Laudenslager	30
Charlie Moyer	30
Kristin Gockley	31
Dakota Pope	31

**SWAMP  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Fax: 7173362840

Email:

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: 8:30am—12noon

[www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org)

Next Council Meeting :  
January 20, 2021

Newsletter Submission for  
February  
Wednesday, January 20 2021



**Four Gospels: One Jesus An On-Line Bible Study**

The New Testament contains four gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each tells the story of Jesus in their own way. While many of the episodes in the life of Jesus are the same, there are differences in emphasis and events between the four evangelists. Each week we'll explore one of the gospels and discover what the particular writer wants us to know about Jesus.

This four-week Bible study will begin on Tuesday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link for the Bible study will be published on the church website.

Dear friends,

I want to thank you for the very thoughtful and kind gift you gave me at Christmas this year. Over the past several months while I've been serving you I've been impressed by your spirit of generosity. Thank you for all your support in the ministry we share.



Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Kurt Strause

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**—The call committee continues to compile the results of the survey returned by the congregation. The committee will have results and information for the congregation by the middle of January 2021. By late January the current draft of the Ministry Site Profile will be shared with the congregation.

**CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Lori Gockley, President - Helping Hands  
David Kupp, V. President - Safety and Security, Scouts  
David Borrell - Welcome  
Randy Krater - Property  
Pam Leisey - Learning  
Ryan Ranck - Youth Ministry  
Jan Risser - Love, Inc

David Sauder Stewardship, Social Media  
Tom Showalter  
Lee Showalter  
Danielle Kauffman, Secretary, Service  
Sue Ellen Knauer, Co-Treasurer, Personnel and Constitution  
Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer, Finance & Worship  
Deb Kohl, Financial Secretary