

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, Helping Hands

David Kupp, Vice President, Safety & Security, Scouts

Danielle Kauffman, Sec., Service

Deb Kohl, Fin. Secy, Stewardship, Social Media

Guy Templin, Co-Treas, Finance & Worship, Personnel &

Constitution

Sue Knauer, Co-Treas

Congregational Council

Dave Burrell -Welcome

Randy Krater - Property

Pam Leisey -Learning

Jan Risser -Love, Inc.

Ryan Ranck -Youth Ministry

David Sauder Stewardship/Social Media

Lee Showalter

Tom Showalter



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

From Pastor Kurt

Jesus began his ministry with a test. According to Mark's Gospel (our primary source during this second of our three-year lectionary), after Jesus is baptized, the Holy Spirit "immediately" drives Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan.

When I first heard this verse as a child I pictured Jesus quickly hopping into the passenger seat of the family station wagon with the Holy Spirit behind the steering wheel speedily driving out into the desert. The literal interpretation isn't always the best.

Mark, like the other gospel writers, draws the connection between baptism and the testing Jesus experiences in the wilderness. In baptism we are

joined to the death and resurrection of Christ. And immediately temptations come our way. Temptations that test our faith in Christ by drawing our trust away from him.

The story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

Lent is a time in which we are invited to engage more consciously and more deeply in those activities that help us strengthen our faith in the face of temptations. So, for example, we might give up something we enjoy during Lent. Why? In order to show us how easy it is to be tempted and how weak our resolve actually is and how much

we depend upon God to give us strength in the face of our weakness. If wanting that piece of chocolate looms large in your thoughts then what about the spiritual temptations that really matter? Lent is a kind of "spring training" for the soul so when the real season of faith takes place we know what to do. Which is to trust God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength.

May you be strengthened in your faith in Christ when tests come your way on your Lenten journey.

In Christ,
Pastor Kurt Strause



Our weekly worship service continues to be online via YouTube. The link to the service is available on our website. The COVID Task Committee is meeting weekly as they continue to assess the situation. Any changes will be communicated via email and on our website.

Be aware that Abbey Rineer has been putting together Sunday School lesson videos for YouTube from Cocalico Care Center online materials and they are available on our website as well.

"Oh come let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1

Council Meeting Highlights 20 January 2021

Your council met Wednesday, 20 January 2021 via Zoom. Highlights include:

Service Committee—The Community meal was held January 14th and served 35 meals.

Reverse Advent Calendar boxes collected 45 boxes for Ephrata Area Social Services.

The new prayer chain was distributed.

Kitchen Committee—They will start meals again in February.

Worship Committee—Discussing Lenten services, waiting on COVID task force meeting to make any final decisions.

Scouts—Scout Sunday will be rescheduled when the church starts having in person services again.

They will give a list of how they would like to participate in the service.

Would like to hold the Pinewood Derby outside in the spring.

Scouts are looking into having a spring yard sale with our youth group.

Stewardship Committee—updated the Roof campaign: We raised \$40,500 of the \$44,600 needed.

Learning Committee—Advent calendars were sent out

Lesson plans are being worked on for Lent.

Connie Taylor and Pastor Strause are looking into the summer Confirmation Camp options.

Abbey Rineer has been putting together Sunday School lesson videos for youtube.

Learning committee is collecting Valentine's Day cards for our sick and shut ins.

Call Committee—The Committee consists of Chairman Dave Sauder, Chaplain Lowell Haws, Anita Kupp, Sue Knauer, Abbey Rineer and Connie Taylor.

Recent Actions:

56 surveys were completed by the congregation.

These results were put together and distributed via the newsletter, website and Email.

Shared the current status with Synod Rep, Beth Martini.

Next Actions:

They will meet again on 24 January to finalize the wording on the MSP Received recommendations to make sure we add language to be clear around acceptance of all at Swamp Lutheran (including LGBTQ+)

Set meeting with Council, Call Committee and Synod to review and discuss the draft.

Oher items discussed:

Pastor Strause's zoom Bible Study has been meeting weekly with over a dozen participants. This Study will conclude on 26 January.

The next Bible Study will be starting up on the first Tuesday in Lent, 23 February and will run for 5 weeks. Will be studying the passion accounts in the New Testament with an eye towards our own discipleship in following the way of the cross.

The Cocalico Lutheran Cluster of Churches will sponsor mid-week Lenten services. These will be virtual worship opportunities. Each week a different congregation will record a worship service/devotional opportunity on the theme "Created for Community." The recorded worship service will be made available to each congregation to publish in whatever way will make it accessible to most of their members. For us this will be on our Youtube channel and website.

As in previous years Swamp will take responsibility for the Ascension Day service which at this point may possibly be in person.

Since Christmas we have paused our gatherings inside the church in anticipation of a post-holiday "spike" in coronavirus cases. On Monday January 25 our Covid Task Force will meet to assess the current situation and deliberate whether or not it would be safe and appropriate to return to in-person worship. They will make a recommendation to the Church Council after their meeting which we can consider through an email vote next week.

Phillies pitchers and catchers report to Clearwater in mid February to begin the 2021 season. Go Phils! Summary by Lori Gockley.



Mary Kring wants to share with the congregation the good news of her healing. Mary has survived two cancers over two years and was considered on the verge of death twice during the same time period. She knows that her survival is a result of the prayers of God's people. Giving God the Glory for answered prayer she wants the congregation to know that she is cancer free and doing well. Mary says, "prayer works miracles and I am one of those miracles. Thank you for praying for me!"

Michael A Crowther
Betty Hornberger
Ella Shirk
Clyde Showalter
Mary Jane Miller

Clarice Haws
Charles Moyer
Alverta Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel





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.

Prayer Requests

Sue Kittler
Katie Houck
Jean Wolf
Mary Jane Miller
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Shirley Achey—neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Mary Kring—aunt of Linda Ream
Ray Fox—cousin of Connie Taylor
Janice Moyer Kelly

Sharon Fremont
Barb Mizdail
Faye Harting—Nana of Abbey Rineer
Dorothy Good
Ralph Good
Patricia Gress
Shelly Gehman—sister of John Frantz
Clair Sweigart
Earl Myers
Elmo Lorah
Korey Eppinette Family

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.



Orders are being taken for Easter Lilies. Deadline and price still unknown. Please get the following information to the church office or to Jodi Showalter (717)413-7149.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Lily 3-4 blooms _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



SHARE THE LOVE EVENT



We are collecting homemade (or pre-made) Valentine's Day cards for our sick and shut-ins. Kids (littles and bigs) and adults, too, there is a craft bin outside the back door for anyone who needs supplies to make their own cards. Make and drop off as many cards as you would like by February 6 in the bin and we will distribute them. We look forward to seeing all the LOVE you can share!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

LUCILLE LORAH 236 FIELDCREST LANE EPHRATA, PA 17522	2/1	DENNIS HILL 24 ASPEN DRIVE MANHEIM, PA 17545	2/12
KENNETH MARTIN 74 HAWK VALLEY LANE DENVER, PA 17517	2/3	SUSAN KITTLER 350 BRUNNERS GROVE ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	2/16
BETTY HORNBERGER BLDG 2 – RM 212 BERKS HEIM 1011 BERKS ROAD LEESPORT, PA 19533	2/8	BARBARA MIZDAIL 107 MUSTANG TRAIL REINHOLDS, PA 17569	2/20
ANNA ROSE SCHANNAUER 65 FIELDCREST LANE EPHRATA, PA 17522-2913	2/10	MICHAEL WARGO 178 HOSPITAL ROAD WERNERSVILLE, PA 175565	2/21



BIRTHDAYS

Phil Kerr	01
Lucille Lorah	01
Noah Weller	01
Matthew Albert	02
Maya Bingaman	03
Ken Martin	03
Missy Ragan	05
Nancy McQuate	06
Betty Hornberger	08
Karen Klingensmith	08
Dan McQuate	08
Dakota Moyer	08
Patti Walmer	08
Nate Sauder	09
Stevie Posegay	09
Anna Rose Schannauer	10
Katie Krater	11
Lori Sauder	11
Missy van Zant	11
Ros Bansner	12
Toni Showalter	12
Troy Ulrich	12
Michael Higgins	14
Tim Chynoweth	15
Jack Pannebecker	15
Sue Kittler	16
Karen Krater	16
Mikalee Kerr	18
Jamie Pannebecker	18
Barbara Mizdail	20
Cameron Hall	21
Michael Wargo	21
Ann Hilton	22
Stella Roseboro	22
Kendall Melcher	23
Gae Leed	24
Tammy Higgins	26
John Frantz	27
Isaac Zook	27
Sue Kreitz	28



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. Items that are in short supply are items such as: boxed milk, cereal, oil, spices, salt and pepper, teabags, crackers, sugar and flour, toilet paper, toiletries (male and female). If you are interested in volunteering please contact John Frantz.

UPDATES ON MEMBERS



Pam Danzinger
PO Box 392
Denver, PA 17517-0392

Donn & Susan Taylor
358 Granite St.
Cornwall Boro, PA 17042-9248

Kim Weachter
315 Gockley Rd
Stevens, PA 17578-9739

Dennis & Heather Weaver
222 Longview Drive
Sinking Springs, PA 19608-9596

Michael & Julie Witmer
980 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, PA 17569

Stephen & Michelle Young
10 Windward Ct.
Berlin, Ms. 21811-1544

Jan Risser
38 Keeler Avenue
Stevens, PA 17578

CALL COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS



*News
from
the
Call
Committee*

The Call Committee wishes to thank the congregation for their participation in the congregational surveys we distributed during the month of December. We received 56 responses and here are the results of the survey.

Top Five Ministry Tasks

- Preaching/Worship (40 votes)
- Pastoral care and Visitation (32 votes)
- Youth and Family Ministry (21 votes)
- Ministry in Daily Life (20 votes)
- Christian Education (18 votes)

Top 10 Gifts for Ministry

- Help people develop their spiritual life
- Be an effective communicator
- Build a sense of community among his/her co-workers
- Be effective working with youth
- Be an effective teacher
- Be effective in working with children
- Be active in visitation of members and non-members
- Be able to share leadership and work in a team
- Bring joy and good humor to relationships
- Have a strong commitment and loyalty to the Lutheran church

The committee will now use these results when preparing numerous narratives to be included in the Mission Site Profile. Once we have written these narratives a rough draft of the Mission Site Profile will be available for the congregation's review and comment.

Again, the committee would like to thank everyone for taking the time to give your input on these topics. If you have any questions on the survey, please contact Sue Ellen Knauer by phone at 717-336-4277 or email sknauer@dejazzd.com.

The Call Committee
David Sauder, Lowell Haws, Connie Taylor,
Anita Kupp, Abbey Rineer, Sue Ellen Knauer

**SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17569

Phone: 7173362849
Fax: 7173362840

Email:
secretary@swamplutheran.org
Office Hours: 8:30am—12noon

www.swamplutheran.org

Next Council Meeting :
Thursday
February 18, 2021

Newsletter Submission for
February 23,2021



Following Jesus: An Online Lenten Pilgrimage

Lent provides Christians and opportunity to deepen their faith by focusing on Jesus’ own journey to the cross. By following our Lord to his Passion, Death, and Resurrection we are drawn into the story of God’s confrontation with the forces of sin and evil and the victory God wins over death. You are invited to participate in a Lenten pilgrimage with Jesus through a weekly gathering on Zoom. Each week we’ll follow Jesus to the cross by reading the stories in scripture.

Our journey will be enhanced by depictions in art, music, and literature. The sessions will be held each week on Tuesdays beginning on February 23 and continue for five weeks through March 23. Each session begins at 7:00 p.m. and lasts about an hour. All are welcome to participate but we are asking that you register. You may do so by following the link on our church’s website.

Cub Scout Pack 95 February Events

- February 7 Scout Sunday
- February 20 Pinewood Derby
Everyone is Invited
Location to be Determined



Date to be determined—Fundraiser with Redner’s Sub Tickets

PACK 95 meets Mondays from 6P-7P at Swamp Lutheran Church. Boys and girls ages 5-11 are invited! pack95reinholds@gmail.com for information.

“MADE FOR COMMUNITY”

The Cocalico Lutheran Cluster of Churches will sponsor a VIRTUAL Lenten series. We will post the videos weekly on our church website. Please take note of the schedule below.

Wednesday, February 24	St. Paul’s, Adamstown	“In Community with Creation”
Wednesday, March 3	Faith United, Denver	“In Community with All the Saints”
Wednesday, March 10	St. John Center, East Earl	“In Community with Our Neighbors”
Wednesday, March 17	Mellingers, Stevens	“In Community with Those on the Margins
Wednesday, March 24	Muddy Creek, Denver	“In Community with Christ”
Wednesday, March 31	Bergstrasse, East Ephrata	“In Community in the Face of Brokenness”