



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

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,

Welcome

David Kupp, Vice President,

Scouts

Danielle Kauffman, Sec.,

Stewardship & Social Media

Deb Kohl, Fin. Secy, Service

Guy Templin, Co-Treas, Finance

& Worship,

Sue Knauer, Co-Treas, Personnel &

Constitution

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Dave Borrell –Helping Hands

Randy Krater - Property

Pam Leisey –Learning

Jan Risser –Love, Inc.

Ryan Ranck –Youth Ministry

David Sauder - Call Committee

Lee Showalter –Disaster Response

Tom Showalter-Safety & Security

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MARCH 2021

From Pastor Kurt

Two weeks before this past Christmas Lois helped her 93 year-old parents move from their home into a much smaller one-bedroom apartment at Homestead Village, a retirement community in Lancaster. We spent several weeks deciding which pieces of furniture were going to go with them, the dishes and clothes they were going to need, and necessary papers and documents to go into the apartment. Pieces of furniture that our children wanted were given to them, but the rest of the furniture and the clothing and kitchen ware were donated to organizations like the Lancaster County Food Hub, Habitat for Humanity, and Goodwill. This is a story many others have experienced in helping older parents navigate late-in-life transitions.

We couldn't donate everything. We brought home several boxes full of old photographs. Many were put into al-

bums years ago and many were simply stored in smaller boxes. For the past several weeks Lois has been going through these pictures, deciding which ones to keep and discarding the rest.

Some of the pictures are of people she recognizes from her childhood. "That's my Aunt Betty when she lived in Darby," or "This must be my grand-father who died when my mother was a teenager." But way too many photographs have no identification on them at all. There's a picture of a soldier, dressed in the uniform characteristic of those worn in World War I, looking proud and confident. Who is he? What did he experience? Did he go to war and did he come back injured? We'll never know. A formal portrait of a young man from a photographer's studio in Ireland has no name. Lois knows she has some ances-

tors who came from Ireland. Is this one of them?

In God's eyes, we are never like any of these unknown people portrayed on unidentified photographs. The Psalmist writes, "My frame was not hidden from you...in your book were written all the days that were formed for me..." (Ps. 139:15,16) The Lord knows us even before we are born and we remain beloved by God throughout our days. To God we are never anonymous nor forgotten. Even in times of sorrow or lament we can pray with confidence, "But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation." (Ps. 13:5)

So, trust in God with all your heart and soul and strength.

And get out those pictures and write names of them! Those who come after you will thank you!

IN PERSON INSIDE WORSHIP COMMENCES-MASKS REQUIRED

THREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Watch video on YouTube
 2. Tune in to FM 87.9 in your car parked in church lot
 3. Join us inside for in person worship.
- Those who participate from car or outside will be brought communion.

*Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to
the Lord with all my
heart,
In the company of
the upright and in
the assembly.*

Psalm 111:1



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
Mary Jane Miller
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Shirley Achey—neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Janice Moyer Kelly
Clair Sweigart
Earl Myers
Randy Krater

Barb Mizdail
Faye Harting—Nana of Abbey Rineer
Dorothy Good
Roger Good
Sharon Fremont—friend of Sue Kreitz
Hunter Leisey
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.



Cub Scout Pack 95 announces that they will be selling Redner's Sub Tickets as their next fundraiser. Each ticket is \$5.00 and has NO expiration. Your sub can be made to order at any Redner's Quick Shop. Orders due by March 22, 2021 and your ticket will be available within 3 days of ordering. Contact by email for ordering is: pack95reinholds@gmail.com or call Tyler at 717-740-3674 or Travis at 717-0381-1608. Cub Scout Pack 95 appreciates the partnership with Swamp Lutheran Church.

Keep an eye open for information coming from our Sunday School leaders. Despite our challenges with COVID restrictions, our Sunday School staff strives to give our children and youth an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus. Online weekly videos are offered and a Lent Activity packet was just sent out before Ash Wednesday. A huge thank you to the Sunday School staff for their continued commitment to the children and youth of Swamp Lutheran Church!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

LAMAR EBERLY 119 MARTZALL ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	3/10	WANDA MAXEY 278 W. FARMERSVILLE RD. LEOLA, PA 17540-9794	3/19
JOSIE REITZ 46 BROOKFIELD DRIVE EPHRATA, PA 17522	3/10	DELORES BECKER 815 W. LEESPORT RD #218 Leesport, PA 19533-8857	3/24
FRITZ FICHTNER 40 COOPER WAY DENVER, PA 17517	3/13	THE REV. JAMES B. MILLER 200B N. RIDGE ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	3/25
MICHAEL MILLER PO BOX 210 65 NORTH MAIN STREET REAMSTOWN, PA 17567	3/15		



BIRTHDAYS

Karl Kittler	01
Cooper McQuate	01
Christian Metzler	04
Nick Higgins	05
Ashlyn Rapp	06
Jodi Bingaman	07
Olivia Posegay	09
Lamar Eberly	10
Josie Reitz	10
Kylee Kidwell	23
Fritz Fichtner	13
Mike Miller	15
Susan Levan	16
George Philippopoulos	17
Ryan Brown	18
Wanda Maxey	19
William Fetter	20
Denise Kidwell	21
Nathan Laudenslager	22
Brooke Koehle	23
Beckah Koehle	23
Dolores Becker	24
Sue Van Zant	24
Sandy Clouser	25
Josh Lorah	25
Lee Showalter	25
Rev. James Miller	25
Michael Witmer	27
Stacey Pannebecker	28
Chris Zander	28
Justus Lorah	29
Doug Kulp	31



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



Please put these changes in your pictorial directory.

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

SHARING WISDOM FROM A FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER

Following are some ideas for our food bank which distributes food on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box. It needs milk and butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal of which they get a lot.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned foods should be POP TOPS or donate CAN OPENERS.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni of which they get a lot.
6. Spices, salt & pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Seeds are great in spring and summer because it is growing season.
10. Tuna and Crackers make a great lunch.
11. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
12. Often there is lots of peanut butter and jelly but no sandwich bread.
13. Butter or margarine is good.
14. Eggs are a commodity.
15. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child a birthday cake.
16. Dishwashing detergent is expensive and always appreciated.
17. Feminine Hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over them.
18. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.
19. Boxed juices—not ones requiring refrigeration.

Council Meeting Highlights

18 February 2021

Your council met Thursday, 18 February 2021 via Zoom. Highlights include:
Love, Inc.—reported the family will be moving out February 20, and they will start looking for a new family to help.

Helping Hands—Feb 9th –delivered 85 meals

Feb 15th - delivered 102 meals

Feb 10th –our food bank gave out boxes to 17 families.

If anyone knows any folks that need food, from either food bank or meals once a week, let John Frantz, David Borrell or myself know.

Worship Committee—We will be using the same format for services as in the past: Masks, temperatures, social distancing, etc.

Lenten services will be available on line every Wednesday.

Scouts—Looking for soda can tabs to be given to Hunter Leisey.

Stewardship Committee/Social Media—The church's website was updated to make us look more appealing and share information about our church for potential pastors.

New pages include: Our leadership, our committees and Community connections.

We thank Danielle Kauffman for updating the website.

Learning Committee—Valentine's Day cards were collected and sent out.

Abbey Rineer is doing a great job with the Sunday School videos.

They are starting to collect ideas for an online Sunday School program to keep the kids involved.

Safety & Security—On March 3rd, our insurance provider is holding an online webinar about church safety in 2021. Guy will attend.

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

Recently Completed:

In early January the call committee reviewed and documented results of the congregation survey

On 1/10/21 the call committee met and continued with updates to the Ministry Site Profile based on survey feedback

On 1/24/21 the call committee continued updating the Ministry Site Profile

The committee finalized the Ministry Site Profile draft on 1/31/21

The draft was shared with the Synod, Council and Congregation on 1/31/21

The draft was updated with feedback from the Congregation and Council on 2/5/21

The MSP draft was reviewed with Synod and Council on 2/7/21 (minor adjustments to be made)

Next Steps:

Call committee meets on 2/21/21 to make final minor adjustments to the Ministry Site Profile

Receive council approval on final changes and submit the Ministry Site Profile to the Synod

The Synod will match our MSP with 3 candidates and present them for interviews

Once the interview process begins, they cannot be as transparent as they are now. This part must be kept confidential.

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Next Council Meeting :
March 17, 2021

Newsletter Submission for
APRIL
Tuesday, March 23, 2021



Other items discussed:

Pastor Strause's 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. Registration is on our church's website.

Pastor Strause will begin a "Pastor's Crash Course for Confirmation" starting before Easter and running for 6 weeks.

This is for those young people who are getting ready for the Rite of Confirmation which will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. They will be using Luther's Small Catechism as the basis of our study. A service project will be included.

Lilies again will be available for Easter. Contact Jodi Showalter to order. Thank you goes out to all the folks plowing and shoveling the property.

Spring training is happening as we speak, so I would like to give you an update of the chances the Phillies make playoffs.

The current odds are:

- Dodgers—96.7%
- Braves—67.8 % (Pat Wenzel)
- Phillies—13.4%
- Orioles—0% (Sorry Pastor Strause)

Call Committee March Update

Our final version of the Ministry Site Profile has been completed, approved by the committee and submitted. Once we receive approval for posting from the Bishop it will be posted to the ELCA's list of "Current Openings". May God richly bless us as we pray together for discernment in choosing a servant leader to join us in ministry.

BELL CHOIR SCHEDULE - SPRING 2021

Practices from 7:30 – 8:30

- Mon. Mar. 8
- Mon. Mar. 22
- Mon. Mar. 29
- Mon. Apr. 12
- Mon. Apr. 19
- Mon. Apr. 26
- Mon. May 3
- Mon. May 10
- Mon. May 17

Possible Play Dates

- Play Sun. Apr. 4 (Easter)
- Play Sun. May 2
- Play Sun. May 23

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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.

"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, 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"

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 _____

