



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

From Pastor Kurt

Caterpillars silently transforming, emerging from their cocoons as radiant butterflies. Spring flowers pushing up from the cold earth, their blooms brightening an otherwise dull landscape.

Colorful eggs left by secretive bunnies, signs of new life.

These are common and familiar symbols for Easter. They adorn shops and homes and churches. They are the signs of coming spring, a time of new birth and saying good-bye to dreary winter.

Even though they are the usual symbols for Easter, they really aren't very adequate in communicating Easter's message: "Jesus is raised from the dead." Spring is about the return of the natural cycle of life. Easter is about life springing forth out

of death. A caterpillar is still alive in its cocoon, just as a flower bulb is in the cold earth. Jesus rose from the dead, an entirely different message altogether.

Only God could bridge the gulf between life and death. That's the proclamation of Crucifixion and Resurrection. When Jesus rose from the grave God declares to all creation that the power of death is defeated. Death's grip on humanity is broken.

Jesus' resurrection sets all humanity free. We are liberated from our fear of an uncertain future. Uncertainty causes to accumulate possessions to secure ourselves and to see others as rivals and even enemies. Because Jesus lives we are no longer held in this soul-

crushing captivity. We are free to love, both God and our neighbor.

There's nothing wrong with the joyful symbols of Easter. Still, I think the best symbol of Easter is your transformed life, freed from fear and freed to love, all because Jesus lives triumphant from the grave.

P.S. – I have now received my COVID vaccine and am willing to visit persons who are homebound or, when allowed, living in a health-care home in order to bring them Holy Communion. If you desire a pastoral visit please call or email the church office or email me directly at pas-tor@swamplutheran.org.

In Christ,
Pastor Kurt Strause

IN PERSON INSIDE WORSHIP CONTINUES 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.

Acts 4.33

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all

Our COVID Task Force continues to meet and assess the situation as it relates to inside worship. Thank you for adhering to masks being worn at all times in building..

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
Family of Dale Sweigart

Dorothy Good
Roger Good
Sharon Fremont - (friend of Sue Kreitz)
Hunter Leisey
Elmo Lorah
Joan Long
Family of Joel M Smith
Randy Krater
Family of Audrey Lewandowski



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.



SAVE THE DATES

April 3, 2021—Drive through Community Easter Egg Hunt at Swamp Lutheran Church from 10—10:30AM. Come join us!

Sunday, April 11, 2021— In person Sunday School classes to resume after our 8.30 service. 9:30 - 10AM for all ages.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

BETTY KRAMER 250 PARKVIEW HEIGHTS APT. 209 EPHRATA, PA 17522	4/7	RONALD ARTZ PO BOX 53 390 BLUE LAKE ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	4/21
RONALD STONER 720 S. COCALICO ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	4/7	SANDRA HAWS 712 VINEMONT ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	4/22
JUDY HABECKER 637 N 11 TH AVENUE LEBANON, PA 17046	4/19	LARRY WOLF 75 REINHOLDS ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	4/25
SALLY HAGY 500 BLUE LAKE ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	4/20		

Orders will be taken for potted geraniums in celebration of Pentacost in May. Deadline for orders is April 25. Prices are still unknown. Please contact Jodi Showalter at (717) 413-7149.



NAME _____

PHONE NO. _____

HOW MANY _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

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

Happy Birthday



Brittney Hickernell	01
Grace Ranck	02
Stacey Mixell	05
Mark Bansner	06
Serena Bingaman	07
Betty Kramer	07
Ron Stoner	07
Melinda Laudenslager	08
Danielle Kauffman	09
Heather Kittler	09
Kurt Eckenroad	11
Tom Leshner	11
Lindsey Sauder	11
Anna Sweigart	12
Deb Sweigert	12
Jane Leshner	13
Alexa Metzler	14
Katie Sauder	14
Krystal Brown	15
Allison Witmer	16
Michelle Young	16
Laura Pannebecker	18
Judy Habecker	19
Sally Hagy	20
Kathy Hickernell	20
Ron Artz	21
Josh Jones	21
Sandy Haws	22
Larry Wolf	25
Makiah Roth	26
Addyson Kauffman	27
Katie Miller	29
Alex Van Zant	30

Council Meeting Highlights 17 March 2021

Your council met Wednesday 17 March 2021 via Zoom. Highlights include:

Love, Inc.—A mother and her 3 children are in the house and doing very well.

Service Committee is looking for additional members. See Jodi Showalter or Deb Kohl.

Helping Hands—Prepared and delivered 482 meals.

March 10th our food bank gave out boxes to 12 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—Info for Worship services for Holy Week and Easter are as follows:

Palm Sunday—8:30 am

Maundy Thursday—7:30 pm

Good Friday—8:00 pm

Easter Sunday—6 am and 8:30 am. Please call the office to let them know how many will be attending which service. We won't turn folks away... we just would like a count so we can prepare for it.

No Holy week or Easter breakfasts.

Scouts—Scout Sunday is tentatively scheduled for April 18th.

They would like to help with the drive thru egg hunt.

Learning Committee—Sunday School will be starting April 11th thru May 23 starting at 9:30 until 10:00am.

The social hall will be utilized for all classes

They would like to have one event during the summer months to keep the children connected to Sunday School.

They would follow all the guidelines from the COVID Task Force that have been approved by Council.

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

Recently Completed:

Ministry site profile approved by Church Council (02/22/21)

Ministry site profile accepted by the Synod (02/24/21)

No potential candidates presented to Swamp Call Committee to this point

Call Committee prepared interview questions for candidate interviews (02/28/21)

Call committee conducted mock interview of a retired Pastor (03/7/21)

Next Steps:

- Finalize interview questions (3/21/21)
- Wait for list of candidates from Synod
- Conduct candidate interviews and research

Other items discussed:

- Thank you goes out to all the folks plowing and shoveling the property after the snow storms.
- Karate is approved to start back up as long as they follow the guidelines from the COVID Task Force.
- Council renewed Pastor Strause's call for him to continue as our interim pastor until January 31, 2022 or until another pastor is called.

11 days until Phillies Opening Day!

If the Baltimore Orioles keep signing ex-Phillies, I may have to start cheering for them!

Zoom Bible Study Resumes in April

Pastor Strause will offer an online Bible study using the Zoom format starting Tuesday, April 13, meeting at 7:00 p.m. The focus for these sessions will be the great stories of the Old Testament; the Call of Abraham and Sarah, the Exodus and settlement in the Promised Land, the rise of monarchy and King David, and the voices of the Prophets as they call God's people to faith. More details will be on the website as well as a registration link for the class.



**EPHRATA
AREA
SOCIAL
SERVICES**

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.

Current needs for the party are: ketchup, mustard, jam, paper towels, toilet paper individually wrapped, canned meat, canned fruit and snacks.

We *do not* need at this time: peanut butter, pasta or canned vegetables.

THANK YOU!

**SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17569

Phone: 7173362849

Fax: 57173362840

Email:

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: 8:30am—12noon

www.swamplutheran.org

Next Council Meeting :
April 14, 2021

Newsletter Submission for
MAY
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Holy Week

This week, the center of the church’s year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark’s gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ’s suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God’s salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God’s astonishing work.

Schedule of Holy Week Worship Services

Maundy Thursday: April 1 – 7:30 p.m.

Jesus gathers his closest disciples for a final meal before his betrayal and death. During this meal he institutes the Lord’s Supper as well as giving them an example of servanthood as he washes their feet.



Good Friday: April 2 – 8:00 p.m.



A somber and dramatic service in which we celebrate the Triumph of the Cross. The Gospel of John tells the story of Jesus facing all the powers of darkness and evil as he willingly accepts the will of his Father for the sake of the whole world.

Easter Day, The Resurrection of Our Lord: April 4 – 6:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Christ is Risen! Jesus triumphs over the powers of sin and death as he is raised from the dead. The whole church resounds with the glorious “Alleluias” signaling the end of our captivity.

Two essentially identical services are being offered on Easter morning to accommodate extra worshippers.



Please note there will be no Holy Week breakfasts this year, nor will there be an Easter morning breakfast.