

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



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

Page 1

SEPTEMBER 2021

From Pastor Kurt

The Church of Jesus is “in the world” but also not “of the world.” I’m not being deliberately confusing by that statement. I actually mean something quite important.

The Church is comprised of ordinary people who live regular lives in a day to day manner. We go to school, live in families, engage in commerce, have jobs, take vacations, raise children, consume entertainment, volunteer in our communities, vote for people we believe will serve us best. We live in the world alongside lots of different people, most of whom do not share our faith in Jesus. Yet we must cooperate and engage in activities that make the world in which we live not just tolerable, but a better place for ourselves and the generations who will follow us. The Church is always “in the world.”

But the Church is not “of the world,” either.

There are worldly values the Church is called to resist because we are followers of Jesus and not someone else. Self-interest, greed, making judgements about others based on birth-given characteristics, revenge, intolerance, to name just a few of the values incompatible with Christian discipleship. The way of Jesus means loving your neighbor in the same way you love yourself. But even more than that. The way of Jesus means being willing to give of yourself for the sake of your neighbor, making sacrifices for your neighbor in need. These are not worldly values. It’s what I mean when we say the Church is not “of the world.”

We know, however, that life is not that simple. We can’t simply divide ourselves into “worldly” and “unworldly” spheres of

living. Life is a lot more messy than that. But it also means we don’t simply give up and stop trying to live as faithful disciples of Jesus. We need to ask ourselves each and every day, “Is what I am doing today reflective of a follower of Jesus? How am I witnessing to the call to be faithful to the one who went to the cross on my behalf?”

Martin Luther called this way of living “sinning boldly.” He didn’t mean deliberately sinning in life. He meant that even our decisions to follow Jesus faithfully will always be colored by worldly values of self-interest. We are both “in” but not “of” the world. Because Jesus knows we live in both worlds at the same time we are assured of his constant love and forgiveness. We live under an umbrella of grace, living “in” the world but always moving towards that more perfect world in which Jesus calls us.

IN PERSON INSIDE WORSHIP CONTINUES

THREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Mask wearing optional for fully vaccinated. All other protocols remain in place.

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.

Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence.

Psalm 89: 15



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.

Earl Myers
Katie Houck
Sue Kittler
Joan Long
Hunter Leisey
Josie Reitz
Pastor Jim Miller
Ashton Faust
Susan Levan
Janice Moyer Kelly
Claire Sweigart
Nancy Kulp
Marie McQuate

Jean Wolf
Debbie Myers
Sharon Fremont—friend of Sue Kreitz
Shirley Achey—neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Mary Kring—aunt of Linda Ream
Shirley Martzall—friend of Ranck family
John Frantz
Margaret Elser

PRAYER REQUEST

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.

CHURCH WIDE PICNIC

September 12, 2021

After the 8:30am church service

Meal will be served at 11:00 am



Join us for a delicious pig roast with all the trimmings. Food and drinks will be provided. Bring a dessert to share and/or **a cake for our cake walk**. Music will be provided by a local DJ. Bocce and corn hole will be available.

JOIN US AND INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOR!!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

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

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



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 Lori Gockley.

Current needs for the pantry are: spaghetti, tuna, soup and paper towels individually wrapped. Watch the weekly bulletin for updates on this list.



Morgan Higgins	01
Betty Kauffman	01
Caitlin Ranck	01
Ned Marini	02
Sheila Reedy	02
Larry Eberly	03
Joyce Stoner	03
Katie Koehle	04
Dana Shugarts	06
Stacey Artz	07
Barb Eckenroad	08
Molli Smith	08
Barry Donmoyer	08
Pat Weitzel	08
Josh Hagy	09
Tyler Keppley	09
Deb Leed	09
Jan Press	09
Travis Leed	10
Delphine Weitzel	10
Pam Sweigart	11
Brian Binkley	11
Sarah Zook	11
Matt Showalter	12
Kendra Carman	13
Carson Bansner	13
David Kramer	13
Troy Pannebecker	14
Leona Showalter	14
Sharon Levan	15
Jake Diestel	16
Robert Bingaman	17
Hunter Leisey	17
Amy Martzall	18
David Sauder	19
John Lorah	20
Janet Bingaman	22
Elise Higgins	22
Steve Laudenslager	23
Shawna McQuate	23
Justin Jones	24
Antonio Sensenig	24
Brian Walmer	24
Nolan Weitzel	24
Gary Coble	25
Bonnie Koehle-Koon	25
Judy Sauder	25
Marion Bergman	26
Denny Habecker	27
Deb Kohl	29
Lori Donmoyer	29

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Susan Levan

85 E. Gaul Street

Wwernersville, PA 19565

Contact

:secretary@swamplutheran.org

with changes

UPDATES ON MEMBERS

Patricia F. Gress passed away on August 5, 2021. She was commended into her merciful Savior's hands on August 11, 2021.



Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Rev. Jim Miller
Margaret Elser
Michael A. Crowther
Clarice Hasws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST 18, 2021

Your council met Wednesday August 18, 2021. Highlights include:

CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETS MONTHLY ON
THE THRID WEDNES-
DAY OF THE MONTH.
AT 7:00PM

Learning Committee: Rally day will be held September 19th.
Touch a Truck will be the event to kick off the Sunday School season.
Look for additional info on the Website and Facebook.
Sunday School will start September 26.
Lois Strause will be teaching the adult class.

Helping Hands: Our food bank has provided food to 7 families in July
and 10 Families in August.
They prepared funeral luncheons for Tim Lorah, Patsy Gress and Stan
Slote.

Welcome Committee: The Church picnic will be held September 12.
It will be similar to previous picnics...Pig roast, Mac & Cheese, baked
beans and drinks provided. Bring a dessert to share and one for the cake
walk.

Worship Committee: The choir will start meeting on September 15.
Bell choir will start on September 13.
They are looking at reusable bulletins starting September 19. Utilizing
these we will be able to save money on paper purchasing the cover
images.

Call Committee—Interviewed candidate #3 on 7/19
Went to see them preach 8/15 and checked references and the com-
mittee is 100% in agreement to move forward with this candidate.

Next Steps:

We will be setting up a one hour meeting with just call
committee and council to answer any questions and
give intro information on the candidate.

Then do an interview with the candidate until all ques-
tions are addressed.

If all are in agreement the candidate will come to our
church and lead the worship service. Afterwards,
there will be a congregational meeting to vote. If the
vote is at least 2/3 positive, then the candidate has
30 days to accept the call.

Other items discussed: Pastor Strause will be spending more time visiting in homes and hospitals. He is trying to bring Holy Communion to as many homebound and nursing home residents as possible. If you know someone who would like to receive Holy Communion please contact the pastor or call the office.

The COVID task force will meet tomorrow to reassess the current COVID situation and will make recommendations to council.

The roof update: \$44,006 total has been received. We have reached our goal in the 2 year period.

The Phillies have been in a little slump lately, however, I am optimistic it is only temporary. They currently are 4 games out as opposed to the Orioles who stand 36 games out of first place.



INVITATION – The family of James K. Beard invites all from the congregation to a Memorial Service in his honor, on Saturday, September 18, 2021 to be held at Swamp Lutheran Church at 11:00AM. The celebration will be a Polka Mass.

Cub Scouts PAK 95 meets every Monday as long as there is school from 6 to 7 at Swamp Lutheran Church.

September 6	NO MEETING
September 13	Den Meeting
September 20	Kickball Game at Church (6-7:30)
September 22	March in Ephrata Parade
September 27	Den Meeting



September fundraiser will be county meat sticks \$1 each October 18th is the deadline for orders.

Anyone interested in ordering can contact me @ 717 381 1608
Or Justin @ 717 466 9932. Thank you. Travis

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY FOR FALL

Pastor will begin a zoom Bible study on **Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7PM**, titled; *Lutheranism: A Movement Rooted in Grace*. A proposed outline for the study is:



- Session 1: Where Did We Come From? A Fast History of Christianity from 33 to 1500 AD.
- Session 2: The Reformation: Luther 1517, and ALL That
- Session 3: Theology: The Word of God Deep in the Flesh
- Session 4: Theology: The Heart of the Matter—Justification by Faith.
- Session 5: Lutherans Today: From Europe to North America and beyond.
- Session 6: Where are the Lutherans Headed?

Details for registration link will be on website closer to our start date. Let's join the pastor and each other for a study of our own roots.



I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to my friends and family at Swamp Lutheran Church for your support over the past many months as I have struggled with health issues. From the meals that were provided to the cards and phone calls I have received, I am extremely grateful. God knits His family together for times such as these, and I would like each of you to know how thankful I am for my church family. My future remains at Maple Farms, 604 Oak Street, Akron, PA 17501. May God bless you as you have blessed me. Sue Kittler



The Altars Where We Worship

Lois Strause will be begin an Adult Sunday School study on **September 26, 2021 following our worship service**. This will be an in person class. The study will discuss how we replace our relationship with God, which we call religion, with other idols that are part of our every day living. The Bible teaches us that we should put righteous living above all other pursuits of the flesh and mind. Together we will consider how we might inadvertently replace God with other idols such as: *Entertainment Sports Consumerism Popular Culture*. Plan to join us on Sunday mornings after the church service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

TOUCH A TRUCK
SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH
275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD, REINHOLDS PA 17569
SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 9:30 AM-11:30 AM



COME CLIMB AND EXPLORE VARIOUS TRUCKS AND TRACTORS,
PLUS DOG TRAINING DEMONSTRATION
BRING A CAN GOOD FOR THE CHURCH'S FOOD PANTRY
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



BRING ON THE HAPPINESS

It has been a long time apart and I am so excited to be welcoming you back to choir!

I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone and joining together in song. It seems like forever since I've heard your wonderful voices!

Choir rehearsals will begin **Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00PM.**

We will rehearse in the choir pews in the Sanctuary. Please enter at the back doors by the church office and if the doors are locked, please call my cell phone—717-283-9444 and I will let you in (I promise). We will also continue to follow any health guidelines issued by Church Council.

Please invite and encourage any new singers to join our group. I know there is a lot of untapped talent in our congregation!

Can't wait to start the new year!

Sue

CHOIR MEETS
WEEKLY AT 7:00PM

SCHOOL KITS - We are presently accepting donations of items for school kits through the end of September for this year's LWR school kit project. The items most needed are the **notebooks, rulers, and pens**. No backpacks are needed thanks to Jane! All items are listed below. Donations may be given to Jane Leshar, Denise Null and Connie Taylor. Last year, despite the obstacles, we put together 54 backpacks and delivered to the LWR pick-up site. Thank you to all who donated supplies and a special thanks to Beatty Gress for helping us achieve this amount. Thanks for all the help!

While we still have a surplus of pencils, we depleted most of our other supplies last year, so we are starting from "scratch". We appreciate everyone following the guidelines listed below, as Lutheran World Relief will not send anything that does not adhere to these guidelines.
Thanks so much! Debbie Carvell

70-80 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8" x 10 1/2" – 4 per backpack

30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side – 1 per backpack

Pencil sharpeners – 1 per backpack

Blunt scissors (safety scissors). (They must say this on the packaging) – 1 per backpack

Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers – 5 per backpack

Black or blue ink pens – 5 per backpack

Packs of 16 or 24 crayons – 1 pack per backpack

2 1/2" erasers – 1 per backpack



ALTAR FLOWERS

The church needs volunteers to deliver flowers to our sick and shut-ins after our worship service each Sunday. The church secretary, Brenda, will coordinate this effort for the worship team. Please call the church or email Brenda at: secretary@swampluthera.org if you are willing to be part of a rotating group of volunteers for this vital outreach. This will begin on September 12th. *Thank you for volunteering!*

**SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17569

Phone: 717-336-2849
Fax: 717-336-2840

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

www.swamplutheran.org

Next Council Meeting :
September 22, 2021

Newsletter Submission for
OCTOBER

Wednesday, September 22,
2021

WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER YEAR OF SERIOUS MUSIC!

Welcome Back! Can you believe that this is the **20th Year** of our bell choir? Some of our ringers were not even born when this group began (And No, Lori, I'm not talking about you!?) While last year proved to be a rather interesting year (to say the least), everybody still did an amazing job and I am optimistically anticipating a slightly more normal season ahead (or as normal as we can be!) We will continue to follow all health guidelines issued by the Church Council, but hopefully we can get back to ringing in a more traditional way. I would once again ask that you are diligent in letting me know if you will be missing any rehearsals or performances so that I can fill spots in a safe and timely manner. This year, I would also like to invite and encourage any new ringers to join our group! **If you know of anyone new who would like to join us, please invite them along to our first practice on MON. SEPT. 13.** As always, I look forward to seeing all of your returning faces (ok - at this point, seeing anybody out in public is a welcome sight!) and sharing our musical talents at the upcoming practices and worship services!

BELL CHOIR SCHEDULE – 2021/2022

Practices from 7:30 – 8:30

Mon. Sept. 13
Mon. Sept. 20
Mon. Sept. 27
Mon. Oct. 18
Mon. Oct. 25
Mon. Nov. 8
Mon. Nov. 15
Mon. Nov. 22
Mon. Nov. 29
Mon. Dec. 6

Mon. Dec. 20
Mon. Jan. 3
Mon. Jan. 10
Mon. Jan. 24
Mon. Jan. 31
Mon. Feb. 7
Mon. Feb. 21
Mon. Mar. 7
Mon. Mar. 14
Mon. Mar. 28
Mon. Apr. 4
Mon. Apr. 11
Mon. Apr. 25
Mon. May 9
Mon. May 16

Possible Play Dates

Play Sun. Oct. 10

Play Sun. Nov. 14

Play Sat. Dec. 11 (Chapel Concert)

Play Sun. Dec. 12 (Morning and Night
of Music)

Play Fri. Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)

Play Sun. Jan. 30

Play Sun. Feb. 27

Play Sun. Mar. 20

Play Sun. Apr. 17 (Easter)

Play Sun. May 22