



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2022

STAFF

MINISTERS:

Congregation

PASTOR:

Rev. Scott V. Brubaker

ADMIN ASST:

Brenda Johnston

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Susan Kreitz

BELL CHOIR

Doug Kulp

SEXTON

John Frantz

IN PERSON WORSHIP

8:00 AM Worship

9:00AM Worship

10:15AM Sunday School

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.

From Pastor Scott

So, were you naughty or nice? That is, did Santa bring you the gifts you deserved? I recall hearing a radio ad for a Nissan dealership that said whether you were naughty or nice, you were entitled to buy a new car from them. Clever, but you still had to pay for the car—not free. Not a gift. The definition of a gift: a thing given willingly to someone without payment; a present.

Now, I was blessed at Christmas with many gifts. No new car, mind you, but I did receive an Apple watch that is pretty cool. No, I have not yet learned how to really use it.

As we know, gifts are a way for us to show our love to those we love. Gifting is one of the five love languages, along with touch, affirmation, service, and quality time.

Beyond that, giving and receiving gifts is a big thing for us in our culture. Most milestones are accompanied by gifts: weddings, graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. In a cultural sense, gift giving is a social obligation which, of course, makes them not given willingly. Right?

Also, there is some level of competition to reciprocate or keep up with what one receives. My wife gets frustrated when I give more stuff to her than she gives to me at Christmas. It's a no win for me,

since I don't know what I'm getting when I am buying her gifts.

How often do you get a gift that is more about the giver's need to show off or get attention than it is about what you might need or desire in a gift? Many people return gifts they didn't want or need.

Of course, one might give someone gifts that the recipient asked for out of need, yet when received were not always fully appreciated. For instance, I know a guy who bought his girlfriend some practical gifts she had mentioned needing—like scissors, a pepper spray key ring, ice scraper and the like. His girlfriend was polite and expressed gratitude, but the expression on her face made it clear these were not the sort of gifts one gives to a sweetheart at Valentine's Day. Alas, she married me anyway and I learned a thing or two about gift giving.

On Epiphany, we read about the Magi coming to give gifts to baby Jesus. This sort of gift giving is one of honor to those above us socially and done out of respect and often designed to curry favor with the powerful. The irony of the Epiphany story is that, in reality, Jesus is the gift.

Makes me think about the sacrament of communion. A common name for communion is Eucharist—

literally translated as "thanksgiving." It represents thanks for the gift of Jesus. It made me think about how many churches bring the bread and wine to the altar along with the offering plates as the congregation's gifts to God. Then, after the Words of Institution, the bread and wine as the body and blood of Christ become God's gift of spiritual nourishment to us.

We are reminded yet again that Jesus, as the one who receives gifts, becomes the gift. Jesus gives of himself in servant leadership that leads all the way to the cross. And he is just the gift we really need. He's the gift of forgiveness and love and compassion and wholeness. The gift of divine reconciliation that is given to us freely and undeservedly. The gift of abundant life that lasts into eternity.

As we reflect on the Christmas season just passed, we may not have received all the gifts for which we hoped. However, we have received the gift we needed: Jesus, who came to us 2000 years ago, comes to us daily in our joys and struggles, and will come again at the end of time to call us into full communion with him. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). That's Jesus, the greatest gift of all. The only gift that really matters.

Pastor Scott



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 Brubaker at 717-598-4663.
- 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
 Joan Long
 Hunter Leisey
 Josie Reitz
 Ashton Faust
 Susan Levan
 Janice Moyer Kelly
 Clair Sweigart
 Nancy Kulp

Jean Wolf
 John Frantz
 Margaret Elser
 Sharon Fremont—friend of Sue Kreitz
 Shirley Achey—neighbor of Sue Kreitz
 Mary Kring—aunt of Linda Ream
 Shirley Martzall—friend of Ranck family
 Lisa Buckles—friend of Sue Ellen Knauer
 Sue Schultz
 David Metzger (friend of Sue Kreitz)
 Ed Miller
 Family of Zach Hickernell
 Family of Donald Hirneisen



REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

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.

Handbell Practice Schedule Reminder UPDATED

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Mon. Feb. 7 | |
| Mon. Feb. 21 | Play Sun. Feb. 27 |
| Mon. Mar. 7 | |
| Mon. Mar. 14 | Play Sun. Mar. 20 |
| Mon. Mar. 28 | |
| Mon. Apr. 4 | |
| Mon. Apr. 11 | Play Sun. Apr. 17 (Easter) |
| Mon. Apr. 25 | |
| Mon. May 9 | |
| Mon. May 16 | Play Sun. May 22 |



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	BARBARA MIZDAIL 107 MUSTANG TRAIL REINHOLDS, PA 17569	2/20
BETTY HORNBERGER BLDG 2 – RM 212 BERKS HEIM 1011 BERKS ROAD LEESPORT, PA 19533	2/8	MICHAEL WARGO 178 HOSPITAL ROAD WERNERSVILLE, PA 17565	2/21
ANNA ROSE SCHANNAUER 65 FIELDCREST LANE EPHRATA, PA 17522-2913	2/10		

Ephrata Area Social Services and Swamp Lutheran Church continue on a monthly cycle to partner with food distribution. Monthly on the second Wednesday we distribute food boxes on behalf of EASS. We are so grateful to the congregation for their continued support of this outreach. Currently we need paper towels, toilet paper, canned fruit, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and relish.



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
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
Pastor Scott	26
John Frantz	27
Isaac Zook	27
Sue Kreitz	28

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



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



Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Margaret Elser
Michael A. Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Leona Showalter

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 19, 2022

Council Meeting Highlights 19 January 2022

Your Council met Wednesday, January 19, 2022 via zoom. Highlights include:

Learning Committee: Discussed the confirmation camp program. The cost per student is \$380 with the church paying half.

The Sunday school students are making valentines for the shut-ins and veterans.

They are looking into Vacation bible school options for this summer.

Service Committee: They served 73 people at the community meal. The next meal they will serve is April 28. If interested, contact Jodi Showalter.

Helping Hands: Our food bank provided food for 14 families in December.

Welcome: Mailed out 88 cards this month

Had a discussion of possibly holding the senior citizen banquet on March 19th. Will discuss further at the February meeting.

Youth Ministry: Youth will be going snow tubing on February 27 at Iron Valley Golf Course. They are inviting youth from the CALM 5 churches.

They want to hold the flashlight egg hunt

They have a goal of holding 2 activities a month to engage the youth.

Finance: Pastor Brubaker wants to work with the committee to develop a special Lenten offering drive to support our benevolence ministries.

Scouts: They currently have 5 youth on the roster and 9 adults.

They went bowling on January 10th

January 29 is the Klondike derby for Webelos only

February 7th is tentative roller skating

February 26th is the Pinewood derby.

Communications: The website homepage pop-up has been effective with getting information out to the congregation.

Next Council Meeting

Wednesday,

February 16, 2022

Other items discussed: The COVID task force met and Council approved the following recommendations:

Masks will be worn by everyone over the age of 2 inside the church.

Every other pew in the sanctuary will be roped off to provide distance between family units.

Choir and bells have been postponed until February.

Guidelines for the social hall and kitchen were discussed and approved.

The rate for the social hall will be \$250 for non-affiliated groups with an additional cost for using the kitchen on a case by case basis.

On a side note—21 days till Phillies pitchers and catchers report to spring training, hopefully.

UPDATED COUNCIL MEMBERS

We remain grateful to all of our Council Members who donate their time, talent and wisdom to assist in the running of our church. At the end of 2021 four of our Council Members finished their term: Ryan Ranck, Dave Kupp, Jan Risser and Pam Leisey. Elected by the congregation to replace them are Deb Sweigart, Jen Weitzel, Fritz Fichtner, and Alan Worley. All Committee heads are not yet determined. Please keep your Congregational Church Council in prayer as they navigate the operation of our church home.



Have you updated your will and remembered the ministry of Christ at Swamp Lutheran?

Swamp Lutheran Church can be named a beneficiary in your will and/or in your life insurance policy.

.....
Give a gift that celebrates your life and commitment to Christ!

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS NEEDED

It has come to our attention that patients at the VA Medical Center in Lebanon need Lap Robes. The size of the Lap Robe needed is **3.5' x 5'** and may be knitted, crocheted, or made of fleece. Since the Lap Robes are sent home with the patient when they leave the VA, there is an ongoing need for them. If you currently make prayer shawls, please consider switching to making Lap Robes. We truly appreciate all of those that have graciously given their time and their talent in supplying the prayer shawls these past years. We will be collecting the Lap Robes in the Church Library. Thank you in advance for considering making the change.



OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Lori Gockley, President,
Welcome

David Sauder, Vice President,
Danielle Kauffman, Secretary
Deb Kohl, Financial Secretary
Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer
Sue Knauer, Co-Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Dave Borrell –Helping Hands

Randy Krater - Property

Deb Sweigart –Love, Inc.

Fritz Fichtner – -

Alan Worley –Youth Ministry

Lee Showalter –Disaster Response

Tom Showalter-Safety & Security

Jen Weitzel - Worship; Learning

Generosity Minute
PARTNERING WITH GOD
A REFLECTION BY REV. ROBERT SCHNASE

“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.” –

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Paul and Carolyn have been leaders in their congregation for years, and their generosity has grown steadily as they have matured in faith. They also have enjoyed personal financial success. When their church felt called to reach more people and younger generations by building a new sanctuary, Paul and Carolyn were challenged to give a major gift. They prayed about it for weeks, before deciding to give the largest gift they had ever given in their lives. “I felt like I was asked to partner with God for a great purpose,” Paul said. “Our gift became one of the great delights of our lives. We loved knowing that we could make a difference. We were deeply moved by the experience.” Carolyn adds, “If God gives you the capacity and the passion to do something, why in God’s name wouldn’t you do it?”

People give because generosity helps them achieve God’s purposes in themselves. By giving, we develop the inner qualities of generosity. God uses our practice of giving to reconfigure our interior life. By giving, we craft a different inner desire as the driving element of life. Our motivations change.

Giving moderates the powerful and sometimes destructively insatiable drive for acquisition. In the daily interior struggle fostered by a consumerist, materialist society that pressures us to pursue many things that do not lead to real happiness, the practice of giving aims us at what ultimately satisfies. Giving sanctifies and deepens the struggle, and constantly resets the internal compass in the right direction. Generosity becomes a tool God uses to draw us closer to God and to align us more closely with God’s desire for us.

Have you ever given over and beyond your normal tithe or pattern of giving? If so, what was the experience like?

Do you find that the more you give, the more likely you are to give? Why or why not?

This article excerpted from *Practicing Extravagant Generosity: Daily Readings on the Grace of Giving* by Robert C. Schnase (Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2011), pp. 20-21.

<https://swamlutheran.org/giving>

Attention Amazon Shoppers

Support Swamp Lutheran Church at no extra cost when you shop at smile.amazon.com

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization (Swamp Lutheran Church) every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to **Swamp Lutheran Church**.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I shop with AmazonSmile?

To use AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone within the Settings or Programs & Features menu. On your web browser, you can add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping with AmazonSmile.

How do I select Swamp Lutheran Church as my charitable organization to support with AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from your future eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Then select **Swamp Lutheran Church** as your charity of choice. It will remember your selected charity whenever you shop at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile activated in the Amazon Shopping app, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation for your selected charity. AmazonSmile will occasionally contact you about donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the program.

**SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, PA 17569

717-336-2849
secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours:8:30-12Noon

SWAMP
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LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.swamlutheran.org

Newsletter Submission for
MARCH
Friday, February 18 2022

WINTER FUN DAY

at Kirchenwald

Sunday, February 20
1PM—6PM

Bring your family or youth group and enjoy an afternoon on Kirchenwald's award winning toboggan run, ice skating on the lake or drinking hot chocolate in the lodge.



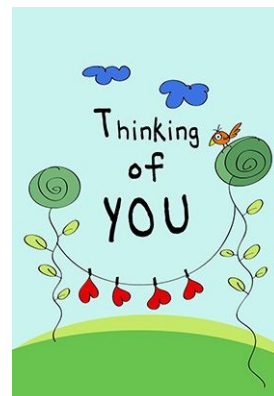
FREE WILL OFFERING ACCEPTED

RSVP to the Camping Office at 717-677-8211



Camp Kirchenwald
1 Cut Off Road
Colebrook, PA 17042

Our Church Family is grieving along with the Hilton and Hickernell Families on the recent deaths of Brandon Hilton and Zach Hickernell. We would like to invite you to participate in a "Card Shower" for these Families. Listed below are their addresses. We also listed other Church Members impacted by these tragic circumstances. If you need cards, the Church will have cards available to you located in the Narthex. Thank you for Caring.



Jeff and Chris Hickernell, 36 Georgie Lane., Richland, PA 17087
Dylan Hickernell, 4005 Railroad St. #1, Myerstown, PA 17067
Ann Hilton, 220 Swamp Church Rd., Reinholds, PA 17569
Jim & Kathy Hickernell, 70 Texter Mountain Rd., Wernersville, PA 19565
Dave & Karen Klingensmith, 1329 Martin Ave., Ephrata, PA 17522
Clair Sweigart, 120 Woodchuck Dr., Ephrata, PA 17522
Shawn & Cheyenne Hilton, 401 Spruce St., Denver, PA 17517
Shannon Hilton, 327 North 6th St. Denver, PA 17517



SNOW TUBING



The Swamp Lutheran Youth Group (SLY) invites you to go snow tubing with us! We will meet at Swamp Lutheran Church at 11:15am, have a pizza lunch, depart for Iron Valley Golf Course at 12:15pm, and we will be back at the church by 3:45pm. Dress warmly! Friends and family are welcome!*

Cost: \$10 per youth **

When: Sunday, February 27, 11:15am-3:45pm

Where: Meet at Swamp Lutheran Church, tubing at Iron Valley Golf Course

PLEASE RSVP BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

CONTACT KRISTIN GOCKLEY, (717)330-0628

kgoock261@live.kutztown.edu

*cost for non-youth is dependent on group rate, prepare to pay \$35.52-\$43.29 if interested

** it is advised to bring pocket money for food and snacks at venue

CUB SCOUT PACK 95 continues with their weekly meetings under the leadership of Travis and Justin. Events for February are as follows:

- February 6 Scout Sunday—the boys will assist during 9AM service.
- February 7 Roller Skating—SkateAway, Shillington
- February 26 Pinewood Derby—Swamp Lutheran Church 1PM –finish\



All are invited to join in cheering on the scouts on February 26 . There will be a potluck dinner.

Pack 95 is always looking for new youth and adult members. Anyone interested please contact Travis @ 717-381-1608 or Justin @ 717-466-9932 .

pack95reinholds@gmail.com.

Please keep Justin in your prayers as he has ongoing health issues.

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Reinholds, PA 17569

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secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours:8:30-12Noon

SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.swamplutheran.org

A LENTEN DAY APART

at The Wittel Farm



Saturday, March 12, 2022

9am-3pm

Begin your Lenten journey to Easter by joining us for a day apart.

Casual, comfortable clothing will be appropriate.
A \$15 registration fee covers program and meal costs.

Register at LutheranCamping.org or
Call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211 by March 4.

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm

PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303

717-677-8211

www.LutheranCamping.org



The Lutheran Camping
Corporation of Central PA
LutheranCamping.org



The Lutheran Camping
Corporation of Central PA
LutheranCamping.org

WHY CAMP?

A place for Faith Formation and Vocational Discernment

The heart of faith formation is essentially deepening the relationship between us and God, and also between us and our siblings in Christ. Camp is a place where faith formation comes to life! Scripture and living the way Jesus teaches us becomes real. Rather than stories and poems written about and for ancient people, scripture is revealed to us as a story we enter into and are part of!



Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop James Dunlop, who continues to attend Family Camp with his wife and grandchildren, has often reflected that his time at camp was central in his own vocational discernment, leading him to enter seminary and seek ordination. Deep conversations and time for personal devotion and prayer helped him listen closely to the Holy Spirit – and his experience was not unique!

“Camp is where I first really felt God speaking to me,” is a common refrain we hear from campers year after year – and not just from kids. We hear this from people of all ages, people in public ministry roles, and people who live out their faith in the secular world.

Maybe it's time we rethink the value of the summer church camp experience. It's not just a “once and done” opportunity; it's a valuable and unmatched opportunity for lifelong faith formation and vocational discernment.



REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP AT
LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of
Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm
LutheranCamping.org

Insert #

Summer Camp NOW HIRING CAMP STAFF



Counselors Maintenance
Lifeguards Craft Staff
Kitchen Staff

Why Apply?

- Impact Lives
- Share Your Faith
- Meet New People
- Experience New Places
- Spend The Summer Outdoors

LutheranCamping.org/employment

Kirchenwald

Lebanon, PA

Zach Weiss

zweiss@lutherancamping.org

717-964-3121

Nawakwa

Arendtsville, PA

Mindy Shively

mshively@lutherancamping.org

717-677-8211

Ministry sites of The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

OPPORTUNITIES