

First Reading: ISAIAH 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

- ¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.
- ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

The Holy Gospel according To Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction and Blessing

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.

Almighty God,

motherly, majestic, and mighty,

✠ bless you this day and always.

Amen

Hymn

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

- 1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'ful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed

Severus Gastorius

Altar Flowers given in memory of her mother, Mary Derr by Jane Leshner.

Sanctuary Candle given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

NOTE – Please contact Joyce Stoner if you want to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle or Altar Flowers – 717 336-7077. Many Sundays available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOST CURRENT INFORMATION – Be sure and check our website regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church.

www.swamplutheran.org. Church office is open from 8:30AM-12PM daily.

ACTION FUND – Donations are sought for Swamp’s Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write “Action Fund” in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.



Michael A. Crowther
Margaret Elser
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Ella Shirk
Leona Showalter

Alverta Showalter
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Josie Reitz

Katie Houck
Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Ed Miller
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Clair Sweigart
Janice Moyer Kelly
Josie Reitz
Erika Eberly (friend of Jennifer Taylor)
Charles Hoppman
David Metzger (friend of Sue Kreitz)
Cindy Hornberger Stahl

Sharon Fremont – (friend of Sue Kreitz)
Janice Ballenger (friend of Connie Taylor)
Sue Schultz
Hunter Leisey
Jean Wolf
Randy Gockley
John Frantz
Joan Long
Margaret Elser
Larry Knauer
Dottie Smith
Bill Sweigart (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Nancy Kulp, Sue Schultz, Janice Kelly, David Metzger, Ed Miller, Margaret Elser, Charles Hoppman, Randy Gockle, Larry Knauer, Pastor Drahus Oslík.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you give via the online option, let us know by email (secretary@swamplutheran.org) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2022.

FOOD BANK current needs are ketchup, mustard, snacks, and canned tuna. Our ministry to the community continues in strength. Thank you for your faithfulness.



Gently Used Sneakers Needed. Cub Pack 95 is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. The sneakers will be purchased from the Cubs by an organization that resells or recycles them, saving landfill space and natural resources while helping the Scouts raise money to fund their activities. Time to clean out your closets! The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at pack95reinholds@gmail.com



LAP ROBES – Thank you to those who are knitting and/or crocheting lap robes for the ongoing need of the VA Hospital. Please be aware that the church has received a donation of yarn that is available for your use. Please contact Brenda in the office.

GIFT CARDS FOR EASTER -Gift cards are available for purchase and the list of available gift cards is in the Narthex on the table. Deadline for ordering is April 3, 2022 and the cards will be delivered in time for Easter. If there is a specific place that you are interested in and do not find on the list please speak to Missy Ragan to check availability. (717) 314-5668



Orders are being taken for Easter Lilies. Price is 10.50 per lily and deadline for ordering is March 27. Please give 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 _____

Pick Six Lenten Offering

This year, Swamp Lutheran will begin a new giving opportunity for Lent: Pick Six. For the six weeks of Lent, we are encouraging you to give a special, weekly offering in addition to

your regular giving. The benevolence giving options listed below are opportunities to give to ministries benefitting those in need—sharing God’s love outside the walls of Swamp.

Envelopes with these options listed on them are available on the table in the narthex. Please grab a pack of six envelopes (one for each week of Lent). Call the office if you need them mailed to you.



Swamp Action Fund: Help those in dire need of support for rent, bill payment, etc.



Community Meal: Contributions to this ministry support the purchase of food and supplies for the monthly community meal Swamp supports in the community.



Confirmation Camp: Help subsidize the cost of Confirmation Camp held at Camp Kirchenwald in June.



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Help bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
EPHRATA AREA
SOCIAL SERVICES
EPHRATA • COCALICO

Contributions help provide services to people in our community in the areas of food, clothing, fuel, transportation, and meals on wheels.



Swamp Food Pantry: Contributions support Swamp’s ministry of food to those challenged by food insecurity.



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Contributions to this ministry support the work to eradicate hunger in the United States and throughout the world financially.



Jan’s Circle of Friends: Contributions to this organization fund efforts to assist children coping with domestic violence and parental loss.



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

Help fund camperships for needy campers.



Support activities and special projects to enrich the lives of senior residents.

UKRAINIAN RELIEF -Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting Ukraine through the Lutheran World Federation. Donations are used for items such as bedding, hygiene items, food and pastoral care through a group of local Eastern Europe Lutheran churches. You may support this effort by writing a check to Swamp with the memo marked Ukraine. We have a Disaster offering plate in Narthex. The church will then send one check to Lutheran Disaster who in turn will donate 100% of the donation to assist those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

This Week in the Parish (March 21 – March 27)

Monday	6:00PM	PACK 95 Den Meeting
Tuesday	7:00PM	Homes of Hope
Wednesday	7:00PM	Lenten Series
Thursday	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	5:00PM	Pack 95 Blue & Gold Banquet
Sunday	8:00AM	Worship
	9:00AM	Worship
	10:15AM	Sunday School
	5:00PM – 8:00PM	SLY First Responder Basket Activity

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 8-9	6:00PM-9:00AM	SLY Flashlight Egg Hunt Lock-In (overnight)
-------------------	---------------	--

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, March 21</i>	Psalm 39; Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 2:1-11
<i>Tuesday, March 22</i>	Psalm 39; Ezekiel 17:1-10; Romans 2:12-16
<i>Wednesday, March 23</i>	Psalm 39; Numbers 13:17-27; Luke 13:18-21
<i>Thursday, March 24</i>	Psalm 32; Joshua 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16—5:5
<i>Friday, March 25</i>	Psalm 32; Joshua 4:14-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-15
<i>Saturday, March 26</i>	Psalm 32; Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, March 27, Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES 2022 – RETURNING TO JOY

7PM

- MARCH 23 I AM ABOUT TO DO A NEW THING ISAIAH 43:1-7, 14-21
The Rev. Jim Goodyear at Muddy Creek Lutheran Church
11 S. Muddy Creek Rd., Denver
- MARCH 30 EVERLASTING JOY SHALL BE UPON THEIR HEARTS ISAIAH 51:4-11
The Rev. Sandy Gideon at Mellingers Lutheran Church
80 Gockley Rd., Stevens
- APRIL 6 GOD HAS THE LAST WORD REVELATION 21:1-7
The Rev. Scott Brubaker at St. John Center Lutheran Church
599 Reading Rd., East Earl
- MAY 26 (ASCENSION) RETURNING WITH JOY LUKE 24:44-53
The Rev. Peter Schwabe-Fry at Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd, Reinholds

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 20, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

When Bad Things Happen

Do you think some people suffer because they are worse sinners than others? It's an uncomfortable question that usually goes unspoken, but Jesus poses it directly. Terrible things happen in this world, and human minds seek and invent patterns to find reasons for such catastrophes so we can be confident that we might prevent them from happening to us.

While we know from experience that some of our actions cause us to suffer, we cannot reason backwards from that. We cannot assume that if someone is suffering, it's because they did something wrong. The rain falls on the just and the unjust.

While Jesus asserts that no one is a worse sinner for being on the receiving end of suffering, he complicates matters by adding, "But unless you repent, you will all perish as they did" (Luke 13:3). *Repentance—metanoia* in Greek—literally means "turning around." A sense of urgency comes into the story, and a sense of personal accountability. Jesus is calling us to quit trying to infer from other people's suffering what they might have done wrong. Instead, Jesus says, *Look at yourself and your own actions and their natural consequences. Are you living the way God calls you to live?*

Lutheran theology teaches that baptism is a lifelong process. It is a daily invitation to repent, to let go of what fails us and let the grace of God refresh us like a cool drink on a hot day.

Bad things happen to good people because bad things happen to all of us sooner or later. Every day, however, we are invited into a fresh start, a choice of how we want to live, and the unyielding love of God gives us strength to carry on.

Swamp Evangelical Church

275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, PA 17569

717-336-2849

www.swamplutheran.org

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: pastor@swamplutheran.org

Brenda Johnston, Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00AM and 9:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM