

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 24, 2022



Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God’s own. “When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.”

Hymn Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
 Zion, let me enter there,
 where my soul in joyful duty
 waits for God who answers prayer.
 Oh, how blessed is this place,
 filled with solace, light, and grace!

- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
 let thy will be done indeed;
 may I undisturbed draw near thee
 while thou dost thy people feed.
 Here of life the fountain flows;
 here is balm for all our woes.

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Genesis 18:20-32

In today’s reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God’s justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham’s nephew, Lot.

²⁰Then the LORD said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the

righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING **Colossians 2:6-15, [16-19]**

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.]

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 11:1-13

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

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

¹[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.
Amen.

Hymn Lord of Light

ELW 688

1 Lord of light, your name outshining
all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom
as the servants of your grace;
use us to fulfill your purpose
in the gift of Christ your Son:

Refrain

Father, as in highest heaven,
so on earth your will be done.

4 By the prayers of faithful watchers,
never silent day or night;
by the cross of Jesus, bringing
peace to all and healing light;
by the love that passes knowledge,
making all your children one: *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Lord Be Glorified

Bob Kilpatrick

ALTAR FLOWERS - Given in memory of Dad by Jennie Weitzel

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in loving memory of Terry Bergman by Sally, Jen and Marino.

NOTE – Please contact Joyce Stoner if you want to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle or Altar Flowers – 717 336-7077. Many Sundays available. Due to increasing gas prices the cost of altar flowers will be \$45.00 starting May 1, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Nancy Kulp, Sue Schultz, David Metzger, Ed Miller, Margaret Elser, Charles Hoppman, Larry Knauer, Melissa Gress Swift, John Wesner, John Bergman, Beaty & Edgar Gress, Michael Wargo, Nancy Leffler, Jan Lorah, Alicia Brubaker, Luann Shuman, Nettie Kriener, Glenn Beard, Sr., Nicki Brown.

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.

HOMES of HOPE -Room painting volunteers needed on July 16th. Contact Jan Risser for information, 717-572-6733.

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

Alverta Showalter
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Leona Showalter

Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Ed Miller
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Clair Sweigart
Joan Long
Jan Lorah
Nancy Leffler
Charles Hoppman
David Metzger (friend of Sue Kreitz)
Cindy Hornberger Stahl
Glenn Beard, Sr.

Katie Houck
Sue Schultz
Hunter Leisey
Jean Wolf
John Bergman
John Frantz
Beaty & Edgar Gress
Margaret Elser
Melissa Swift (daughter of Bea & Edgar Gress)
Larry Knauer
Bill Sweigart (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)
Nicki Brown (sister-in-law of Ryan & Michelle Brown)



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.

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 - Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. Currently, there is a shortage of canned fruits and vegetables, all starches, snacks, cereal, soups, jelly and pasta sauces. Thank you for helping as you are able.



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.

US FLAGS – When a US flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. For those of you interested in retiring your worn US flags, please bring them to the church. We will collect them in the church library and deliver them to the Reinholds VFW who will arrange for them to be retired in proper fashion. Thank you.

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 Lutheran 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.

ATTENTION THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS. The Thrivent “Action Teams” program is an opportunity for Thrivent members to lead projects that provide service and outreach to the community. Thrivent Financial will provide funds of \$250 for each project to get started and pay for associated expenses. You may request two grants per year. Swamp Lutheran has many needs that qualify under this program. If you wish to direct your grant request to help with Swamp Lutheran’s activities, please reach out to Lori Gockley who will assist you with the process. Email: lgockley2@gmail.com or call 717-203-8551.

LWR SCHOOL KITS— Last year, Swamp assembled and delivered 108 backpacks to the LWR pick-up site. Thank you to all who donated supplies and helped us reach this goal!

We are presently accepting donations of items for this year’s Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project through the end of September. Please help make this year’s project a success. **Donations may be given to Jane Leshar, Denise Null and Connie Taylor.** Questions to Debbie Carvell 717-336-5638.

Items most needed: **notebooks, scissors, crayons, and pens.**

Items not needed: No backpacks (thanks to Jane!) No pencils thanks to a generous donor.

We appreciate everyone following the guidelines listed below, as Lutheran World Relief will not send anything that doesn't adhere to these guidelines. Each backpack will contain:

- **70-80** sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8" x 10 ½" – 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 (*We have enough*)
- Black or blue ink pens – 5 per backpack
- Packs of 16 or 24 crayons – 1 pack per backpack
- 2 ½" erasers – 1 per backpack

This Week in the Parish (July 25 – July 31)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, July 25</i>	Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 5:1-14; Colossians 2:16—3:1
<i>Tuesday, July 26</i>	Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 6:1—7:6; Romans 9:30—10:4
<i>Wednesday, July 27</i>	Psalm 55:16-23; Esther 7:7—8:17; Matthew 5:43-48
<i>Thursday, July 28</i>	Psalm 49:1-12; Proverbs 23:1-11; Romans 11:33-36
<i>Friday, July 29</i>	Psalm 49:1-12; Proverbs 24:1-12; Ephesians 4:17-24
<i>Saturday, July 30</i>	Psalm 49:1-12; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; Mark 10:17-22

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

<i>Sunday, July 31</i>	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
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GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 24, 2022
LECTIONARY 17

God's Goodness Doesn't Sting

Sometimes when people are in need, they pray. And then they wait. They wonder. They wait some more, and pray some more. *Is God listening? Will God answer my prayer?* Some people may worry that they have done something to deafen God's ears to their needs. Maybe they fear they are unworthy to be heard and helped, or that their lives don't matter. Maybe they just give up on themselves and on God.

Jesus is well aware of the challenges of being a person of faith and trusting in God when life is tough. He invites people into a deep trust in God. Why? Because God gives us everything we want, even if it is bad for us? No! God doesn't give scorpions to sting us, even if we ask for them. Jesus invites people into a deep trust in God because of God's profound goodness. Jesus urges us to ask God for the sustenance we need: bread, fish, eggs, mercy, justice, love. God will give us such good things because God is so good.

The heart of Jesus' message is rooted in God's goodness. It is not centered on our worthiness, but on God's generous heart. God is good. God is merciful. God is compassionate. God responds to our need out of that benevolence. The Good One gives good things for those in need. This is who God is for us.

This doesn't resolve our tough and appropriate questions about when and how prayers get answered. It does tell us that we are invited to trust that we are cared for no matter what. We are provided for beyond our comprehension, not because of *our* goodness, but because of *God's*. We can come forward to Christ's table—hungry for acceptance, longing for the bread of mercy—and know we will receive that bread in our hands.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran 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

Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272

Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798

John Frantz, Sexton – 717-606-8994

Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30AM

SWAMPLUTHERAN CHURCH
275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17569