



**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 7, 2022**

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

Hymn

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

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 God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God’s promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you

give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God’s promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: **LUKE 12:32-40**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God’s reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God’s generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For

where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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.

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me
from day to day.
Without your grace and favor
I go astray;
so take my hand, O Savior,
and lead the way.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen
my steps toward home,
then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me
unto the end.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE To God Be the Glory arr. Victor C. Johnson

ALTAR FLOWERS - Given in memory of Mim and Bud Landis and brother Jeff by Jerry and John.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is 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. Due to gas prices the cost of altar flowers is \$45.00

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 (niece of Pastor Scott), Luann Shuman, Nettie Kriener, Glenn Beard, Sr., Family of Nicki Brown, Alverta Showalter, Rev. Drahus Oslík (traveling to Ukraine on Aug. 8).

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

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
Family of Nicki Brown
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)
Nettie Kriener
Alverta Showalter



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. 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



CUB SCOUT HELPERS NEEDED. Pack 95 is growing and with that growth there is a need for adult helpers. Male and Female Den Leaders and Pack Committee Members are needed. If

this is something to which you may feel called, contact Cubmaster Travis Leed to learn more: 717-381-1608 or pack95reinholds@gmail.com

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. 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 Lesher, 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

CUB PACK 95 in conjunction with Subway at 2350 North Reading Rd, Denver will have a fundraiser on Tuesday, August 9 from 4:00PM – 9:00PM. Please mention that you are supporting Pack 95 with your purchase.

KENTUCKY RELIEF - Beginning on July 27, a line of severe storms dumped record amounts of rain on eastern Kentucky, overflowing rivers and creeks onto streets and neighborhoods. Rising waters are damaging infrastructure, including roads, bridges and power lines, which hinders rescue efforts. The flooding has destroyed hundreds of homes and other buildings and disrupted the lives of families. As the waters recede and the full scope of the damage is assessed, Lutheran Disaster Response will work with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and local communities to focus on long-term needs. Please write your check to Swamp Lutheran and mark the memo with Kentucky Relief.

GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”

We’re looking for new ideas and opportunities for a church-wide day of service!

Is there a service project or organization that you have connections to or feel passionate about? Is the work appropriate for all ages, or at least appropriate for youth grades 6-12 and adults?

If so, please contact Pastor Scott at pastor@swamplutheran.org or Hailey Ranck at herratio3@gmail.com with any ideas or questions.

Our greatest commandment is to love, so we look forward to coming together as a congregation to actively love our neighbors and live out God’s grace through personal acts of service! If interested, for more information and examples, please visit www.elca.org/dayofservice

This Week in the Parish (August 8 – August 14)

August 9	4:00P-9:00P	CUBS Fundraiser Subway, Denver 2350 Reading Rd
August 10	1:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
August 11	9:00AM	Worship Committee
	7:00PM	Learning Committee
August 14	8:30AM	Baptism Quinton LeeRoy Rineer

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 21	8:30AM	Blessing of the Student Backpacks
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DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, August 8</i>	Psalm 89:1-18; 2 Chronicles 33:1-17; Hebrews 11:1-7
<i>Tuesday, August 9</i>	Psalm 89:1-18; 2 Chronicles 34:22-33; Hebrews 11:17-28
<i>Wednesday, August 10</i>	Psalm 89:1-18; Jeremiah 33:14-26; Luke 12:41-48
<i>Thursday, August 11</i>	Psalm 82; Joshua 7:1, 10-26; Hebrews 10:26-31
<i>Friday, August 12</i>	Psalm 82; 1 Samuel 5:1-12; Hebrews 10:32-39
<i>Saturday, August 13</i>	Psalm 82; 1 Samuel 6:1-16; Matthew 24:15-27

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, August 14 Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29—12:2; Luke 12:49-56

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 7, 2022

LECTIONARY 19

Security Systems That Don't Fail

Jesus knows that we worry about a lot of things. Many people who own a lot of possessions live in fear of losing them. Some find that a security system installed with cameras and sensors and smart doorbells can lower their anxiety. But even with internet-of-things technology, these security systems do not stop the risk of theft. We may get a video of someone stealing our stuff, but we still lose the stuff. Anxiety over losing what we have persists and may in fact be ever-present as our cell phones alert us to each passerby at the front door.

Jesus proposes several other security systems that transform our anxiety over losing what we have into a different kind of calm. The first one he offers is probably the least popular: *Sell your possessions and give the money to the poor*. You don't have to worry about your belongings being stolen if you get rid of them. It's a radical option, but an option nonetheless.

Jesus also proposes another kind of security: *Place value in the things that can't be stolen*. When we treasure the mercy and love of God as our most prized possession, we have what no one else can take. We have a security system that does not fail. We have deep and abiding peace. Our fears are calmed.

There is one additional security system to which Jesus invites us: *Have confidence that it is God's good pleasure to give us life with God*, life in a world where everyone has enough and no one worries about losing it, life where we all know we are equally beloved. When this is our treasure, when it is where we place our hearts, we find the peace that is a secure gift.

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

SWAMPLUTHERAN CHURCH
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