



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 14, 2022

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Hymn Faith of Our Fathers ELW 813

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

- 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

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:

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who

prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING **Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 12:49-56

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

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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.

Sending Hymn Let the Whole Creation Cry ELW 876

- 1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.

- 3 Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Thy Strong Word Jerry van der Pol

ALTAR FLOWERS - Given in loving memory of John Nicholas by his family.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of her father Raymond Reitz by Dianne Reitz Zell..

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, Luann Shuman, Nettie Kriener, Glenn Beard, Sr., Alverta Showalter, Rev. Drahus Oslik.

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)
Susan Levan
Jean Wolf
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Clair Sweigart
Joan Long
Nancy Leffler
Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)

Katie Houck
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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

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



“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

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS- Next Sunday, August 21 at 8:30AM service we will give thanks and praise for our teachers and children as they begin the new school year. As a manner of encouragement to the excited and comfort to

the anxious, Pastor Scott will invite the children and teachers with their backpacks and bags to the front for prayer. Children and teachers bring your school bags next Sunday.



This Week in the Parish (August 15 – August 21)

August 15	9:00AM	COVID Task Force
August 17	7:00PM	Council Meeting
August 21	8:30AM	Blessing of the Backpacks

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, August 15</i>	Psalm 32; Jeremiah 23:30-40; 1 John 4:1-6
<i>Tuesday, August 16</i>	Psalm 32; Jeremiah 25:15-29; Acts 7:44-53
<i>Wednesday, August 17</i>	Psalm 32; Jeremiah 25:30-38; Luke 19:45-48
<i>Thursday, August 18</i>	Psalm 103:1-8; Numbers 15:32-41; Hebrews 12:3-17
<i>Friday, August 19</i>	Psalm 103:1-8; 2 Chronicles 8:12-15; Acts 17:1-9
<i>Saturday, August 20</i>	Psalm 103:1-8; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Luke 6:1-5

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

<i>Sunday, August 21</i>	Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17
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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

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 14, 2022
LECTIONARY 20

A Division That Brings Peace

Today's word is difficult to hear, but all too obvious at the same time. The message of God's governance among us, which lifts up the lowly and challenges the mighty, brings division. The good news brings division because some welcome it with exuberant joy, since it is the only good news they hear, and some resist it because it is a profound challenge to human assumptions about God, the world, and us.

We might be surprised to hear Jesus say he has not come to bring peace, but division. This is because he insists on a gospel of peace for everyone, not just a few. The division Jesus speaks of is not the goal, but it is the inevitable outcome of insisting that everyone is included in God's family. Division and conflict are the price he is willing to pay if that's what it takes to usher in a world of true peace rooted in God's mercy. Jesus paid that price when he was crucified for his faithfulness to God's welcoming way.

The church continues the ministry of Jesus when it enters into the fray of lifting up people the world deems unwelcome or lowly. Who is excluded or marginalized in your community? Why is this so? Does your church mirror this exclusion and marginalization, or does it transcend it with a welcome to those very persons left out elsewhere? What division has this faithfulness to the gospel caused?

The most wonderful witness the church gives, and the most divisive thing it does, is declare forgiveness to every repentant heart in Christ's name: the excluded and the exclusive, the lowly and the mighty. The most beautiful inbreaking of the governance of God is when humble persons gather around Christ's table, open their hands to receive bread and wine, and deeply embrace their own welcome and their neighbor's welcome at the very same table. In that sacramental moment, the peace that led to division turns into complete peace.

SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH
275 Swamp Church Road
Reinhards, PA 17569