

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 11, 2022**



The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Hymn We Are One in the Spirit

1. We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

CHORUS: And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love, Yes they'll
Know we are Christians by our love.

4. All praise to the Father,
From whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus,
His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit,
Who make us one.

CHORUS

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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING **Exodus 32:7-14**

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: **LUKE 15:1-10**

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

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.
Amen.

Sending Hymn Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father
We are family.
Let us walk with each other In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Lord, I Lift Your Name on High Rick Founds

ALTAR FLOWERS - Given in honor of their 61st wedding anniversary by Glenn and Linda Beard.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of grandparents by Ron and Joyce Stoner.

NOTE – Please contact Joyce Stoner if you want to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle or Altar Flowers – 717 336-7077. Many Sundays available. The cost of altar flowers is \$45.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Nancy Kulp, Sue Schultz, David Metzger, Ed Miller, Family of Margaret Elser, Charles Hoppman, Melissa Gress Swift, John Wesner, John Bergman, Beaty & Edgar Gress, Michael Wargo, Nancy Leffler, Jan Lorah, Luann Shuman, Nettie Kriener, Glenn Beard, Sr., Family of Alverta Showalter, Clair Sweigart, Dottie Good, Sister Phyllis.

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
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Ella Shirk
Leona Showalter

Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer

Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Susan Levan
Bill Sweigart (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Nancy Leffler
Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)

Katie Houck
Jean Wolf
Clair Sweigart
Joan Long



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, all starches, condiments, mac and cheese, rice, jelly and canned meat & tuna. 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



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 September 25. Please help make this year's project a success. ***Donations may be given to Jane Leshner, 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

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.

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 and put in the Disaster Offering plate in the Narthex.

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.

This Week in the Parish (September 12 – September 18)

September 12	7:30PM	Handbells
September 14	1:00PM 7:00PM	EASS Food Dist. Choir
September 18	9:30AM	Rally Day Touch a Truck

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22	7:00PM	Council Meeting
September 25	8:00AM 9:00AM 10:15AM 5:00PM – 8:00PM	Worship Worship Sunday School SLY Kickoff Meeting

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, September 12</i>	Psalm 73; Amos 7:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:18-20
<i>Tuesday, September 13</i>	Psalm 73; Jonah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 3:8-13
<i>Wednesday, September 14</i>	Psalm 73; Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6; Luke 22:31-33, 54-62
<i>Thursday, September 15</i>	Psalm 113; Exodus 23:1-9; Romans 3:1-8
<i>Friday, September 16</i>	Psalm 113; Ezekiel 22:17-31; Romans 8:31-39
<i>Saturday, September 17</i>	Psalm 113; Isaiah 5:8-23; Mark 12:41-44

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

<i>Sunday, September 18</i>	Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
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GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 11, 2022
LECTIONARY 24

Peripheral Vision

“Look straight forward and raise your hand on the side where you see the blinking light in the corner of your eye.” Maybe you have taken a peripheral-vision test at an optometrist’s office or at a DMV while renewing your driver’s license. Peripheral vision, like peripheral hearing and other sensory parallels, is the ability to perceive things that occur outside the center of one’s focus.

In today’s gospel, Jesus tells a story about a shepherd who seems to have good peripheral senses. He loses one sheep out of a hundred and immediately notices and sets off to look for it. This story may be so familiar that it is easy to take his actions for granted. But should we? It seems that many people looking at such a large group of nearly identical animals would have a difficult time noticing the disappearance of just one.

Yet this is precisely what Jesus does throughout his ministry. He is always noticing people on the margins of society whom others don’t see—whether because of disease, profession, gender, economic status, or past wrongs. Again and again he is criticized by other religious leaders for moving beyond the people they are focused on and toward others they see as peripheral. As Jesus’ followers, we are called to let him shift our attention to people who need the love and attention of God—even when it takes us beyond the comfort of our normal focus.

Today, as you gather to worship, ask yourself: Who is missing from the picture? Who is at the periphery of your assembly? Who is Jesus inviting to this table? In your church, in your community, in your neighborhood, or in your work, who does Jesus see that you have missed, and what would it look like to seek after them?

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

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