



**FIFTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

Hymn Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710

- 1 Let streams of living justice
 flow down upon the earth;
 give freedom's light to captives,
 let all the poor have worth.
 The hungry's hands are pleading,
 the workers claim their rights,
 the mourners long for laughter,
 the blinded seek for sight.
 Make liberty a beacon,
 strike down the iron pow'r;
 abolish ancient vengeance:
 proclaim your people's hour.

- 3 Your city's built to music;
 we are the stones you seek;
 your harmony is language;
 we are the words you speak.
 Our faith we find in service,
 our hope in others' dreams,
 our love in hand of neighbor;
 our homeland brightly gleams.
 Inscribe our hearts with justice;
 your way—the path untried;
 your truth—the heart of stranger;
 your life—the Crucified.

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:

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING **Amos 8:4-7**

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING **1 Timothy 2:1-7**

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
⁶who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 16:1-13

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

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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 Justice Flow Like Streams

ELW 717

- 1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.

- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE By Gracious Powers

Robert Buckley Farlee

ALTAR FLOWERS - Given in memory of Mom by Jenny Weitzel.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of memory of Margaret Elser by congregation.

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.

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.

TEACHER INSTALLATION – We are grateful and thankful for the following teacher volunteers who are being installed today. Their gift of time and talent is appreciated by the church family.

Nursery - Danielle Kauffman

Pre K - 2nd - Jenny Weitzel
Sally Hagy
Donna Glover

3rd & 4th - Connie Malafarina
Kristen Gockley

5th - Connie Taylor
Debbie Carvell

6th – 9th - Abbey Rineer
Hailey Ranck
Jodi Showalter
Sue Ellen Knauer

Adult Class - Guy Templin
Randy Krater

Youth Leaders - Kristen Gockley
Ryan Ranck
Hailey Ranck
Connie Malafarina

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



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.

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.

BLESSING OF THE PETS – On October 2 at 11:30AM under the Portico we will provide a service of blessing. Please bring your tame and leased/caged ets or a picture to the rear of the church under the carport.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS - On Sunday, October 2 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., we will meet at the Homes of Hope property in Adamstown, next to Bollman Hat Company, for our "God's Work. Our Hands." project. We will do cleaning, painting, outside maintenance, organizing and other work. More details will follow.



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

This Week in the Parish (September 19 – September 25)

September 19	9:00AM 6:30PM	COVID Taskforce, Zoom Sound System Review
September 21	7:00PM	Choir
September 22	7:00PM	Church Council
September 25	8:00AM 9:00AM 10:15AM 5:00PM-8:00PM	Worship Worship Sunday School SLY Kickoff Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2	11:30AM 1:00PM-4:00PM	Blessing of Pets God’s Work, Our Hands Homes of Hope Adamstown
October 8	Time TBD	SLY DC Day Trip

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, September 19</i>	Psalm 12; Proverbs 14:12-31; Acts 4:1-12
<i>Tuesday, September 20</i>	Psalm 12; Proverbs 17:1-5; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
<i>Wednesday, September 21</i>	Psalm 12; Proverbs 21:10-16; Luke 20:45—21:4
<i>Thursday, September 22</i>	Psalm 146; Proverbs 22:2-16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15
<i>Friday, September 23</i>	Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10
<i>Saturday, September 24</i>	Psalm 146; Proverbs 28:11-28; Luke 9:43b-48

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, September 25 Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 18, 2022
LECTIONARY 25

The Grace of Confusion

In today's gospel, Jesus tells a challenging parable about a dishonest steward that ends with an unsettling moral: "And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes" (Luke 16:9).

Is Jesus being ironic or sincere? Do the characters in the story somehow represent our relationship with God? Are we supposed to emulate the dishonest steward? This text is filled with questions. If you find Jesus' words today perplexing, even baffling, don't worry—you are in good company. Both the details of the parable itself and the lesson Jesus is drawing from it have vexed and puzzled generations of the best interpreters, theologians, and preachers.

There are many plausible ways to explain what is happening and what it means for our lives as Christians that might be explored in your assembly today. At the same time, scriptures like this are a reminder that the life of discipleship does not always come with easy answers and neatly packaged meanings. The gospels frequently report moments when Jesus' disciples simply could not understand what he was saying to them or profoundly misinterpreted his meaning.

The value of the community you join today does not come from the perfect understandings of either the assembly or its leaders. It comes from the one who continues to speak even when we do not understand, who daily affirms God's love for us through the waters of baptism, who offers his own body and blood at the table each week for those who are still struggling and learning what it means to be his disciples—and that includes all of us. In short, the value of the community you join today comes from a Lord committed to leading us as disciples, even when we are unclear of the way.

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 8:00AM & 9:00AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM

SWAMPLUTHERAN CHURCH
275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17569