

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
OCTOBER 16, 2022**



Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

**Hymn**

O Word of God Incarnate

ELW 514

- 1 O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance  
that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps,  
shines on from age to age.
- 3 Oh, make your church, dear Savior,  
a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations  
your true light, as of old;  
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims  
by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended,  
they see you face to face.

**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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING    Genesis 32:22-31**

*Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."*

<sup>22</sup>The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise

everything that he had. <sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

*The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.*

<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup>proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL: LUKE 18:1-8

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

*Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice,

so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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            Jesus, Still Lead On**

ELW 624

1    Jesus, still lead on,  
    till our rest be won;  
    and, although the way be cheerless,  
    we will follow, calm and fearless;  
    guide us by your hand  
    to the promised land.

- 4 Jesus, still lead on,  
till our rest be won;  
heav'nly leader, still direct us,  
still support, console, protect us,  
till we safely stand  
in the promised land.

## **DISMISSAL**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed

Severus Gastorius

**ALTAR FLOWERS** - Given in memory of her parents, Clair and Minerva Showalter and his parents, Lester and Erla Eberly by Lamar and June Eberly.

**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. The cost of altar flowers is \$45.00. The cost of the candle is \$3.00.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER** - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Nancy Kulp, Sue Schultz, David Metzger, Ed Miller, 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, Clair Sweigart, Larry Knauer, family of Dottie Good, Faith Moyer, Deb Leed, Michael A. Crowther.

**MOST CURRENT INFORMATION** – Be sure and check our website regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. [www.swamplutheran.org](http://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 Anne 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](mailto: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 carrots, mixed vegetables and peaches, tomato soup, rice and canned chicken and spam. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month.



**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](mailto:pack95reinholds@gmail.com)



**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE** shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. As IAN devastated parts of Puerto Rico, Florida and the East Coast these areas are added to the many other areas including the Kentucky rebuilding, and the devastating situation in Ukraine and surrounding countries. Please write your check to Swamp Lutheran and place it in the Disaster Response box in the Narthex. Thank you for giving generously.

**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](mailto:lgockley2@gmail.com) or call 717-203-8551.

**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.



**GIFT CARDS AND PREPAID CARDS** for the holidays are now available. Order forms will be at the table in Narthex. Orders will be due on Sunday, November 13 so that we have enough time to receive cards before the holidays. Prayerfully, even before Thanksgiving. Any questions, call Missy Regan at 717-314-5658.

**BIBLES** – Youth with a Mission (YWAM) Lancaster County has an ongoing need for Bibles which they pass out on their ministry outreaches. If you have extra Bibles that you would like to recycle for the expansion of the Kingdom please bring to office or leave outside office door and Brenda will be sure they get to YWAM. Thank you for your generosity.

### **POINSETTIAS and CYCLAMENS**

It is that time of the year again to consider your holiday orders for poinsettias and cyclamens. Jodi Showalter (717-413-7149) will be handling the orders. Pricing will not be known until sometime later in October. Jodi or the church office should be contacted with questions. The following information needs to be provided. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, October 31.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettias    RED \_\_\_\_\_    WHITE \_\_\_\_\_

Cyclamens    RED \_\_\_\_\_    WHITE \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**BLESSING BAGS** – To honor our veterans this year, we are asking the congregation to purchase items from the provided list to assemble into “Blessing Bags” for Homeless Veterans in our surrounding area. Please bring your purchased donations to the church by November 4 and leave in the library. Items needed are:

Hunting Hand Warmers  
Small bottle Hand Sanitizer  
Small toothbrush & toothpaste  
Warm socks – can be wool  
Gloves  
Small Shaving Cream  
Razor  
Band-Aids

Small Mirror  
Thermal Shirts  
Flannel Shirts  
Warm Scarf  
Warm Hat  
Deodorant  
Antibiotic Cream  
Lip Balm

# BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



We hope to never live through another pandemic. It seems though, in the hardship, we often see what God is up to. Here are just a few of the ways in which you have shared with us how you have seen God at work through this time:

- I didn't realize how important my Christian Friends are until we couldn't gather together last year. Now, it is these friends that are my closest and keep me reminded about the importance of my faith.

*CT*

- When I lost my job last year, I have to admit I was scared. I had never lived through such a traumatic event. However, Swamp Lutheran's food pantry showed me what it is to truly care for someone. You reminded me that God is with me.

*JL*

- Weekly worship felt kind of optional before last year. Then, in-person worship was taken away and I realized just how important it is to get me through the week. We are blessed that each week, we hear the word proclaimed and have the opportunity to hear the gospel. I don't want to miss worship ever again.

*JB*

- I faced some medical expenses that blew up my budget and I needed support from the community meals that Swamp Lutheran helps to provide. It was a real lifeline for my family. Thank you for living out Christ's teaching to help those in need.

*JR*

- I love the activities at Swamp Lutheran like the Spring Fling and Touch-a-Truck, to name a few. Being able to gather again refreshes my soul.

*LG*

What a beautiful community we are part of! God is certainly active here and we look forward to how we can help keep this ministry vibrant in the coming year.



# BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

## SEEK IN PRAYER GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR GIVING

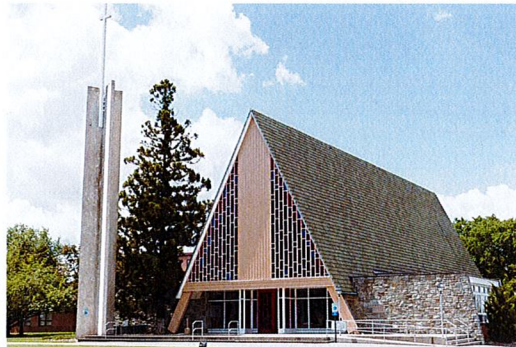
What do we tend to do when the church asks for our support?

The common tendency is to consult our spouse, our budget, our bills, our income, our tax situation, our investments, our accountant, etc., and then determine what we can afford or spare.

Instead, we should as Christians seek to discover what God's will is for us in our giving. A Christian pledge can really only be made on our knees, seeking God's will in fervent prayer.

Prayer is an integral part of the Christian life. The decision on how much to give should not be made without seeking first in prayer what God would have us do and listening for the voice of God in the prayer conversation.

Giving to the church is not a financial transaction. Instead, giving to the church is a spiritual exercise undertaken only after conversation with God.



## This Week in the Parish (October 17- October 23)

October 17	6:00PM	Cubs Meeting
	7:00PM	Handbell Choir
October 19	7:00PM	Choir Church Council
October 22	1:00PM – 4:00PM	Pig Stomach Take Out

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 29	7:00AM-10:00AM	All You Can Eat Buffet-Disaster Response
October30	5:00PM – 8:00PM	SLY/Halloween/Reformation Party

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, October 17</i>	Psalm 57; 1 Samuel 25:2-22; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
<i>Tuesday, October 18</i>	Psalm 57; 1 Samuel 25:23-35; James 5:7-12
<i>Wednesday, October 19</i>	Psalm 57; 1 Samuel 25:36-42; Luke 22:39-46
<i>Thursday, October 20</i>	Psalm 84:1-7; Jeremiah 9:1-16; 2 Timothy 3:1-9
<i>Friday, October 21</i>	Psalm 84:1-7; Jeremiah 9:17-26; 2 Timothy 3:10-15
<i>Saturday, October 22</i>	Psalm 84:1-7; Jeremiah 14:1-6; Luke 1:46-55

## UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

*Sunday, October 23* Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 *or* Sirach 35:12-17; Psalm 84:1-7  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

PIG STOMACH TAKEOUT  
OCTOBER 22, 2022  
1:00PM – 4:00PM



## PIG STOMACH MEAL

\$ 18.00 per meal  
(includes vegetable, pepper cabbage, dessert, and beverage)

COOKED PIG STOMACH ONLY

\$24.00

DEADLINE FOR ORDER: OCTOBER 14

Swamp Lutheran Church  
275 Swamp Church Road  
Reinholds, PA 17569  
717-336-2849

**DESSERTS NEEDED** – As in years past we appreciate the donation of desserts from the congregation. Please bring them to the Church Kitchen on Friday, OCTOBER 21 BETWEEN 3PM – 6PM. THANK YOU!!



## GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 16, 2022  
LECTIONARY 29

### Praying Like It Matters

The unjust judge in Jesus' parable admits that he eventually decides to grant the persistent widow justice because she has worn him out by continually "bothering" him (Luke 18:5). And this is the character to whom Jesus compares God? Is Jesus trying to tell us that God feels worn out and bothered by our prayers? That's not a very comforting notion.

Of course, that interpretation misses the very first line of this passage, in which Jesus specifically says the parable is meant to underscore the importance of prayer. The widow's diligence is set as a spiritual example. She is confident in her case. She knows she deserves justice, and she will not stop until she is heard. What would it look like if we prayed with the kind of conviction this woman displays? We would know that our prayers matter, that they can make a real difference in our lives. Like the widow, we too would believe that justice can and will become reality.

Actually, we do pray this way every time we say the Lord's Prayer. When we call out to God, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven," we are praying like the persistent widow in Jesus' parable. We can be certain God hears that prayer and shares that dream for humanity. It is not prayer that wearies God, but human sinfulness and injustice.

God is nothing like the unjust judge because God's vision for our world is one that centers on generosity, compassion, and care for the vulnerable. The unjust judge may need to be hassled repeatedly before he will relent, but God is already overflowing with abundant mercy, even before our prayers are spoken. So, let us take heart and pray always, with our words and with our actions, as we join God's mission for a more just world.

**Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church**

275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, PA 17569

717-336-2849

[www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org)

[secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto: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](mailto: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