

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 23, 2022**



Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.

Hymn Rise, O Son of Righteousness

ELW 657

- 1 Rise, O Sun of righteousness;
with your might creation bless.
Shine upon your church today,
showing all your gentle way.
Have mercy, Lord.

- 5 Honor, praise, and glory be
to the holy Trinity!
May your gracious will be done:
make us one, as you are one.
Have mercy, Lord.

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:

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.

- ⁷Although our iniquities testify against us,
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;
our apostasies indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you.
- ⁸O hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler turning aside for the night?
- ⁹Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?
Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,

and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us!

¹⁰Thus says the LORD concerning this people:
Truly they have loved to wander,
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the LORD does not accept them,
now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.

¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah?
Does your heart loathe Zion?
Why have you struck us down
so that there is no healing for us?
We look for peace, but find no good;
for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,
the iniquity of our ancestors,
for we have sinned against you.

²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;
do not dishonor your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

²²Can any idols of the nations bring rain?
Or can the heavens give showers?
Is it not you, O LORD our God?
We set our hope on you,
for it is you who do all this.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who faced death. Though others let him down, Paul was sure of his faith in the Lord, who stood by him and lent him strength.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:9-14

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

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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.**

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praise to You O God of Mercy

Marty Haugen

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of grandson, Brady's 14th birthday, by Pappy and MeMaw Habecker.

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, Pam Cipa, David Metzger, Ed Miller, Charles Hoppman, Melissa Gress Swift, John Wesner, John Bergman, Beaty & Edgar Gress, Michael Wargo, Nancy Leffler, Jan Lorah, Sandi Clemens, Nettie Kriener, Glenn Beard, Sr, Clair Sweigart, Larry Knauer, family of Dottie Good, Faith Moyer, Deb Leed, Michael A. Crowther, Eileen Leid, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck.

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 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) 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 2nd 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



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.



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.

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.

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.

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 mirror |
| Small bottle Hand Sanitizer | Thermal shirts |
| Small toothbrush & toothpaste | Flannel shirts |
| Warm socks – can be wool | Warm scarf |
| Gloves | Warm hat |
| Small Shaving Cream | Deodorant |
| Razor | Band-Aids |
| Lip balm | Antibiotic Ointment |

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



Generosity continues to grow in the United States. Generosity grew even in the pandemic. Another study found that the median protestant (person in the middle if lined up smallest percentage to largest) only gave 0.62% of their income to the church.

For most people, the reason for this has less to do with their wealth or income and more to do with intentionality and regular systematic giving.

Over the course of a year, \$1 per day comes to a gift of \$365, which for about 35-40% of Americans would be significant growth in their giving to the church. The average Starbucks coffee costs \$2.75. This amounts to over \$1,000 if one is purchased each day of the year.

Regular, systematic giving can help all of us become more generous. We get overwhelmed when we think about larger numbers like \$1,000. However, most of us can find \$2.75 per day. As you think and pray about your generosity this year. Consider how systematic giving may help you become more generous.

Quote from a member:

For years, I didn't think my giving was very important to the life of the church. After all, we were just starting out, had a lot of expenses, and didn't really have much money. Then, we started by giving \$5 per week. It felt like a lot to us. I don't think we could have written a check for \$250, but we could do that \$5 per week. We have grown this amount every year and it is through the discipline of regular gifts, particularly monthly online automatic giving, that the amount doesn't overwhelm us.

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BEGINNING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

PLACE GOD FIRST IN YOUR BUDGETING AND SPENDING

The Ten Commandments stress that God must be first in our lives. And Jesus said, “Seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.” (*Matthew 6:33*)

Many experience difficulty giving generously despite the desire and pledge to do so, because they attempt to give from what is left over at the end of the week or month rather than from first fruits, from all they have received.

The simple practice of placing God and The Church first in budgeting and spending has helped many to experience joy in their giving. When you do this, you are giving from all that a good and loving God has provided. And you are practicing stewardship, understanding that you are but a temporary trustee of what God has entrusted to you.



This Week in the Parish (October 24- October 30)

October 24	6:00PM	CUBS Den Meeting
	7:00PM	Handbell Choir
October 25	7:00PM	Homes of Hope
October 26	7:00PM	Choir
October 29	7:00AM-10:00AM	All You Can Eat Buffet- Disaster Response
	5:00PM	Cubs Halloween Party
October 30	5:00PM – 8:00PM	SLY Halloween/Reformation Party

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 23	7:00PM	Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship Mellingers, Pastor Scott Preaching
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DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, October 24</i>	Psalm 84:8-12; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; 1 Peter 4:12-19
<i>Tuesday, October 18</i>	Psalm 84:8-12; Daniel 5:1-12; 1 Peter 5:1-11
<i>Wednesday, October 19</i>	Psalm 84:8-12; Daniel 5:13-31; Matthew 21:28-32
<i>Thursday, October 20</i>	Psalm 32:1-7; Proverbs 15:8-11, 24-33; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11
<i>Friday, October 22</i>	Psalm 32:1-7; Job 22:21—23:17; 2 Peter 1:1-11
<i>Saturday, October 23</i>	Psalm 32:1-7; Isaiah 1:1-9; John 8:39-47

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, October 30 Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10



GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 23, 2022
LECTIONARY 30

Fractured Hearts

At first glance, the Pharisee in Jesus' parable seems to be doing everything right. He attends worship faithfully, he offers thankful prayers to God, he tithes 10 percent of his income, and he even fasts regularly. That's an impressive list! However, it's not the state of his spiritual habits that Jesus reproaches, but the state of his heart. The Pharisee is diligent and observant, but he is putting trust in himself and his own piety rather than in God.

Martin Luther interpreted the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3), to mean that we should put our whole confidence in God alone, trusting in God above all else. Our hearts should cling to God, Luther said. When our hearts start clinging to other things, as the Pharisee's did to his religious routine, we turn those things into idols.

In one version of the communal confession we use in worship, we admit to God: "We have not loved you with our whole heart" (*ELW*, p. 95). Despite our best intentions, our hearts can become fractured, clinging to all kinds of things before they cling to God. Sometimes all that's left for God is a tiny portion of our hearts. The words of the confession reorient us by reminding us of our dependence on God and our need for God's grace. We echo the prayer of the tax collector in Jesus' parable: "God, be merciful to us sinners!"

No matter how fractured our hearts become, though, God's response to our prayers will always be the same. God overflows with mercy and compassion toward us. At the end of our confession, we receive the assurance of forgiveness in Christ. That good news is for everyone—Pharisees and tax collectors alike. We are all God's beloved children, freed and forgiven by the radical grace of God.

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