



REFORMATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 2022

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

ELW 504

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

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:

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: JOHN 8:31-36

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

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Dale Wood

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Irene Myers by Pastor Scott and Jen Brubaker.

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, Faith Moyer, Deb Leed, Michael A. Crowther, Eileen Leid, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, family of Irene Myers.

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 30.



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
Lip balm

Small mirror
Thermal shirts
Flannel shirts
Warm scarf
Warm hat
Deodorant
Band-Aids
Antibiotic Ointment

HOMES OF HOPE – Cheesesteak fundraiser for Homes of Home on November 12 from 11:00AM – 2:00PM at St. John's UCC in Denver. Come out and help support the work of Homes of Home.

CUB SCOUT FUNDRAISER – R & K Subs is sponsoring a fundraiser for our local PACK 95. The order due date is November 21 with a delivery date of December 5. Order forms are on the table in Narthex.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA is an opportunity to sponsor a wreath and support our SL Youth while honoring an American hero at one of 2,800 locations nationwide. Each wreath sponsorship costs \$15.00 and SLY receives \$5.00 per wreath sponsored. SL Youth will lay the wreaths sponsored at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on December 17. Let us remember the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of a veteran is never forgotten. Look for our youth in the Narthex collecting sponsorships and answering questions.

Hospitality Baskets

We will be putting together hospitality baskets for our sick and shut-ins on December 4th during Hanging of the Greens. The donated items should be placed at either entrance to the church on Sunday, November 20th or Sunday, November 27th. This is a change from previous years. We will not be accepting items for the baskets on Sunday, December 4th.

- Individually wrapped packages of crackers or cookies
- Individual boxes of cereal (one serving size)
- Individually sized canned fruit or pudding packages
- Individual fruit juice cans (one serving size)
- Breakfast bars
- Pocket tissue packs (please do not bring boxes of tissues)
- Individual packages of peanut butter (one serving size – please do not bring jars)
- Individual packages of raisins (one serving size)
- Individual hand sanitizers (the small size)
- Individual tubes of toothpaste and individually wrapped toothbrushes

Important: please note the sizes for these items. We cannot use large jars of peanut butter, boxes of tissues, etc. These need to fit into the baskets. Also, please only bring items on the list.

Thanks for helping to make the holidays brighter for our sick and shut-ins.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

HAVE FAITH AND ASSUME SUFFICIENCY NOT SCARCITY

Many fear they will not have enough to live on. This is called The Scarcity Assumption. It is human and natural, but it is not Christian.

Our faith teaches us that God will provide sufficiently for all of our needs, if we but trust in God's promises. And this is so even when we give away the largest portion or amount that we have ever given!

So, we must have faith that a good and gracious God will continue to provide for us in the future as God has in the past. And as God has promised to do!

We are to trust God as did Abraham of old and so many others throughout the pages of the Bible. These examples were written for our instruction and for our assurance. We must learn to give in faith with the assumption of sufficiency, not scarcity. God will provide because God cares for us.



BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



As you consider your giving to the church this year, please consider how you can grow in your own generosity.

An idea for someone whose income has gone down in the last year:

Everyone can grow in generosity, even if that means the overall dollars given decreases. Perhaps, if before your income decreased you were giving away 2% of your income, now with income being less, can you find a way to grow the percentage of giving to 3 or 4%? There are people in our congregation who will need to decrease the total dollars given because of loss of work or other reasons.

Other ideas:

1. Systematic giving leads to generosity: For most people, we can grow significantly in our giving just by making our gift on a regular basis. Sign up for automatic giving or just add an amount each week or month. Growing giving by \$1 per day equates to significant growth over the course of the year.
2. An extra gift or two during the year: A story was shared from a congregation that participated in this program last year about someone who said, "I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but for now I am doing okay, so I will double my giving in the month of April." Well, what if we all decided to double our giving one month or even two months next year?
3. Give in a tax efficient way. If you are age 70.5 or older, you are able to give directly from a traditional IRA/401k to the church and have that distribution qualify as your Required Distribution. Or, if you have an appreciated asset, you can give that to the church and avoid capital gains. Please contact a church treasurer or your tax professional for all the rules and requirements of this. Most people find they can be more generous when giving in a tax efficient manner.

You may have your own ideas for growing in generosity. As a church family, as we each grow in our generosity, it will have a tremendous overall impact.

This Week in the Parish (October 31- November 6)

November 1	7:00PM	Welcome Committee
November 2	7:00PM	Choir
November 6	Both Services	All Saints Sunday

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8	ALL Day	Election
November 23	7:00PM	Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service Mellingers, Pastor Scott Preaching
December 4	10:15AM	Hanging of the Greens (during Sunday School)
December 10	2:00PM	Bell Choir Concert, Reinholds Chapel
December 11	8:30AM	Worship, Congregational Meeting Follows
December 11	7:00PM	Night of Music
December 17	10:30AM	Wreaths Across America - Meet

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, October 31</i>	Psalm 50; Nehemiah 13:1-3, 23-31; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
<i>Tuesday, November 1</i>	Psalm 50; Zechariah 7:1-14; Jude 5-21
<i>Wednesday, November 2</i>	Psalm 50; Amos 5:12-24; Luke 19:11-27
<i>Thursday, November 3</i>	Psalm 17:1-9; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Acts 22:22—23:11
<i>Friday, November 4</i>	Psalm 17:1-9; Genesis 38:1-26; Acts 24:10-23
<i>Saturday, November 5</i>	Psalm 17:1-9; Exodus 3:13-20; Luke 20:1-8

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

<i>Sunday, November 6</i>	Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
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REMEMBER to set your clocks back next Sunday, November 6 at 12:01AM. Daylight Saving Time Ends.



GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 30, 2022
REFORMATION SUNDAY

Who Needs to Be Freed?

Martin Luther disliked the idea that adherents to his ideas would call themselves “Lutherans,” preferring the term “Christians” instead. Luther wanted the focus to be on what Christ had done, not on what he had done. So perhaps Luther would be distressed to see so many faithful people not only calling themselves Lutherans five centuries later, but also celebrating Reformation Sunday as a church holiday! Lucky for Luther, the focus of Reformation Sunday is not on Luther’s writings or accomplishments but on the freedom in Christ that is at the heart of the gospel message.

In today’s text from John’s gospel, Jesus’ audience also quibbled over terminology. When Jesus told them, “The truth will make you free” (John 8:32), they were suspicious about what exactly he meant by “free.” They rejected any implication that they or their ancestors might previously have been slaves in need of being set free. However, Jesus wasn’t talking about politics or history. He was referring to a kind of slavery that transcends context: the slavery of sin. All people have been enslaved by sin, and all people need God’s mercy. We are bound by the individual sin of personal choices and by the societal sin of complex systems that are beyond any one person’s control.

The weight of all that sin can feel crushing, but at the heart of the Reformation message is the truth that, through Christ’s death and resurrection, God has already offered us unconditional forgiveness for all our sins, no matter how heavy. We don’t need to earn God’s mercy because it is a gift offered without reservation or requirement. God’s grace is given to us for free and to make us free. Thanks be to God, the chains are gone! That is the good news at the heart of Luther’s teachings, and it is the good news at the heart of our celebration on Reformation Sunday and every day.

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