



## Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 13, 2022

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the

apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

**Hymn** Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

ELW 327

- 1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,  
onward goes the pilgrim band,  
singing songs of expectation,  
marching to the promised land.  
Clear before us through the darkness  
gleams and burns the guiding light;  
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim  
stepping fearless through the night.
- 4 Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;  
onward, with the cross our aid.  
Bear its shame, and fight its battle  
till we rest beneath its shade.  
Soon shall come the great awak'ning;  
soon the rending of the tomb!  
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,  
and the end of toil and gloom.

### 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, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING Malachi 4:1-2a**

*Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.*

<sup>1</sup>See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2a</sup>But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

## SECOND READING    **2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

*Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.*

<sup>6</sup>Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup>This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup>For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup>Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

## GOSPEL: LUKE 21:5-19

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

*As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.*

<sup>5</sup>When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>7</sup>They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" <sup>8</sup>And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup>"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my

name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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**

The God of peace,  
who creates all things and calls them good,  
who makes us alive in Jesus,  
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**        We Praise You, O God

ELW 870

- 1    We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
     in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
     We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
     we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

- 3 With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us,  
your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

Robert Lau

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of her brothers, Tom & Troy by Linda and Howard Ream.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** is given in memory of her grandmother, Edna Hertzog by Dianne Reitz Zoll.

## 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, Michael Wargo, Nancy Leffler, Jan Lorah, Sandi Clemens, Nettie Kriener, Clair Sweigart, Larry Knauer, Faith Moyer, Deb Leed, Michael A. Crowther, Eileen Leid, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, family of Irene Myers, Dennis Goshert.

**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  
Clair Sweigart  
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)  
Nancy Leffler  
Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)

Katie Houck  
Jean Wolf  
  
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 paper towels, toilet paper, tomato soup, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauces, ketchup, mustard 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.



**GIFT CARDS AND PREPAID CARDS** for the holidays are now available. Order forms will be at the table in Narthex. Orders will be due today, 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](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.

**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.

**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.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> during Hanging of the Greens. The donated items should be placed at either entrance to the church on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a change from previous years. We will not be accepting items for the baskets on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

- 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



Last week, we returned our Statements of Intent for the *Building a Culture of Generosity effort*. We are certainly witnessing significant generosity from you.

23 Statements of Intent were received

7 of these Intents indicated an increase in generosity

1 of you indicated you would begin this new level of giving immediately

If you were unable to return your intent form last week, you can still send it in this week, or you can simply email Financial Secretary Deb Kohl at [debkohl@windstream.net](mailto:debkohl@windstream.net) and your intent will be recorded from the email.

All those returning forms will be entered into a raffle drawing for a custom-made cake by Jan Risser. So, get your form in soon.

Please remember that intents are not binding, but are used for us to proclaim our faith, and to help the congregational leadership in making plans for the coming year.

### **A note of thanks:**

I'm delighted that so many of you joined me in returning your statement of intent last week! Of course, we have more to go. This process has really reminded me of the joy of discipleship as we give of our time, talent, and treasure to God's work here at Swamp Lutheran. We are blessed to be part of this community. Thank you for your generosity.

*Lori Gockley, Council President*



# BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

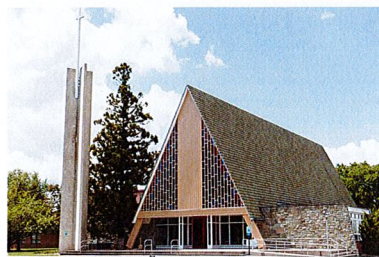
## CONTINUE GROWING IN CHRIST

When do you stop giving and growing in giving? You don't. Growth in generosity is a journey.

If your giving is to be blessed and joyful, it must continue to grow and expand. For each person, that growth may look different! Some are motivated by a biblical tithe and then to grow to the concept of offerings. Others seek to grow by a percent a year and never stop their giving. While still others have the challenge to find a process to be more generous even in a case where their income has declined due to layoff, death, or divorce.

For those who give generously of their treasure (tithe), giving more of their time and talent may be their way to grow in generosity.

In each case, once you have experienced the joy of good and generous giving, you will want to keep on growing!



***This Week in the Parish (November 14 – November 20)***

|             |               |                             |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| November 14 | 9:00AM        | COVID Task Force            |
|             | 6:00PM        | CUBS Police Station         |
|             | 7:00PM        | Handbell Choir              |
| November 15 | 6:00PM        | Zoom Bible Study            |
| November 16 | 7:00PM        | Choir                       |
|             | 7:00PM        | Council Meeting             |
| November 19 | 9:00AM-4:00PM | Holiday Bazaar Luther Acres |

***UPCOMING EVENTS***

|             |         |  |
|-------------|---------|--|
| November 23 | 7:00PM  | Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service<br>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   |
| December 18 | 10:15AM | Sunday School Christmas Program<br>Refreshments to follow            |
|             | 7:00PM  | Handbell Choir Concert,<br>Coleman Chapel, Brickerville              |

**DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Monday, November 14</i>    | Psalm 141; Ezekiel 11:14-25; Ephesians 4:25—5:2         |
| <i>Tuesday, November 15</i>   | Psalm 141; Ezekiel 39:21—40:4; 1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1 |
| <i>Wednesday, November 16</i> | Psalm 141; Ezekiel 43:1-12; Matthew 23:37—24:14         |
| <i>Thursday, November 17</i>  | Psalm 46; 2 Chronicles 18:12-22; Hebrews 9:23-28        |
| <i>Friday, November 18</i>    | Psalm 46; Zechariah 11:1-17; 1 Peter 1:3-9              |
| <i>Saturday, November 19</i>  | Psalm 46; Jeremiah 22:18-30; Luke 18:15-17              |

**UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Sunday, November 20</i> | <i>Christ the King</i><br>Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43 |
|----------------------------|--|



## GOSPEL MESSAGE

**November 13, 2022**  
**LECTIONARY 33**

### Beware and Trust

In an instant, documents are signed six thousand miles away, and suddenly you have no job. In an instant the walls rattle, the floors rumble, ceilings crack, and you have no home. In an instant the lights flicker, the signals weaken, the screens go blank, and you have no connections. In an instant a door slams, a voice shouts, a car screeches, and you have no one. In an instant the dam breaks, the fire blazes, the winds rage, and . . . and what?

What is the world coming to? Shadowing every calamity, circling the grounds of every collapse, chasing every human tragedy, prophets and pundits are sure to announce that all is lost. They are eager to foretell all futures eroded, ready to broadcast that all hope is dead, all tomorrows canceled, all creation buried. But beware!

“Beware” hardly has the lilting tone of a glad good-news bell. “Beware” bites at our ears and strikes our heartbeat like the cold peal of a brass tongue slapping against a pitted funeral bell. “Beware” is the screech of the siren, the shout before battle, the shudder at the edge of lonely nightfall. “Beware” scarcely sounds like gospel, but it is the exact gospel word Jesus chooses to post like an iron stanchion into bedrock in the midst of uncertain and frightening times. Pay attention; listen closely to Jesus’ “beware.” It is not beware of wars and rising nations, plagues and earthquakes, arrests and persecutions. Jesus instead cautions: beware of those prophets and pundits, of their timetables of destruction, their signs of the end, and their oracles of despair. Beware of them. The world may tremble fiercely, you may be hated unjustly, you may know betrayal painfully, yet with the strength of iron in bedrock and the sound of the gospel bell ringing, Jesus encourages us: “Beware . . . do not be terrified” (Luke 21:8-9).

**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