



The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Hymn Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

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:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING **Isaiah 2:1-5**

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING **Romans 13:11-14**

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:36-44

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

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

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.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,

who dwells with us in Jesus,

and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
MANZ

WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING

PAUL

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, Ray Fox.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of their granddaughter Delancy Grace Garrison's birthday by Linda and Howard Ream.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of Irene Myers by the congregation.

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
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) 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, pasta, spaghetti sauces, ketchup, mustard 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.

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.

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.

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. Sponsor deadline is November 27.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Service committee would like to help EASS stock their shelves this upcoming holiday season by everyone doing a reverse advent calendar.

Start with an empty basket, box, or bag and every day between Sunday December 1st and ending Sunday December 25th add a non perishable food item to the container. Possible ideas are canned meats, canned vegetables, cereal, rice, pasta, canned fruit, hamburger helper, mac & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, and fruit juice.

Then on Sunday December 25th or Christmas Eve bring the filled container to church and we will donate the items to EASS or place in our food pantry.

This year, make someone else's Christmas a little bit brighter. Thank you in advance for your support.

Another opportunity for advent is to read a chapter in the Gospel of Luke each day and by December 24th you will have read the entire book of Luke.

One last service opportunity for Christmas, is to go online to ELCA.org/goodgifts or phone 1-800-638-3522 and purchase animals, school supplies, seeds, etc. to help our neighbors in need. These gifts grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. What a great way to share our gifts with others. If questions, contact Jodi Showalter (717) 413-7149 to see a brochure.

This Week in the Parish (November 28 – December 3)

November 28	6:00PM	Cub Scouts
	7:00PM	Handbell Choir
November 29	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
November 30	7:00PM	Choir

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4	10:15AM	Hanging of the Greens <small>(during Sunday School)</small> Hospitality Basket Assembling
December 6	6:00PM 7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study Welcome Committee
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 7:00PM	Sunday School Christmas Program Refreshments to follow Handbell Choir Coleman Chapel, Brickerville

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, November 28</i>	Psalm 124; Genesis 8:1-19; Romans 6:1-11
<i>Tuesday, November 29</i>	Psalm 124; Genesis 9:1-17; Hebrews 11:32-40
<i>Wednesday, November 30</i>	Psalm 124; Isaiah 54:1-10; Matthew 24:23-
<i>Thursday, December 1</i>	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 1:12-17, 21-26
<i>Friday, December 2</i>	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 30:19-26; Acts 13:16-25
<i>Saturday, December 3</i>	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 40:1-11; John 1:19-28

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

<i>Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent</i>	Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
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GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 27, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Time to Wake Up

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and, ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what's comfortable and "always has been" to what's actually happening right now. It's why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as "wake-up calls."

Yet it is never God's intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us.

That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. We won't *need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can't raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells.

This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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