



Baptism of Our Lord January 8, 2023

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

GATHERING HYMN

This Is The Spirit's Entry Now

ELW 448

- 1 This is the Spirit's entry now:
the water and the word,
the cross of Jesus on your brow,
the seal both felt and heard.

- 4 Renewing Spirit, hear our praise
for your baptismal pow'r
that washes us through all our days.
Come, cleanse again this hour.

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 our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

- ¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
- ³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

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

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always. **Amen.**

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 manifested by the star
 to the sages from afar,
 branch of royal David's stem
 in thy birth at Bethlehem:
 anthems be to thee addressed,
 God in flesh made manifest.
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
 present in thy holy word;
 grace to imitate thee now
 and be pure, as pure art thou;
 that we might become like thee
 at thy great epiphany,
 and may praise thee, ever blest,
 God in flesh made manifest.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O LOVE, HOW DEEP

MACKIE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Nancy Kulp, 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, Michael A. Crowther, Eileen Leid, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Dennis Goshert, Ray Fox, Deb Lorah, Judy Habecker, Kent Weinhold, Gabe Leed, Amber and Damien, Muffy Reinecker, Tess Shank, Gene Miller, Kelly Martin, Pastor Jim Miller, Melody Ulrich, Jean Wolf.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

TAKE NOTE – Please contact Joyce Stoner (717) 336-7077 or mark Flower Calendar in Narthex if you would like flowers or the candle to be given in honor or memory of someone. Upcoming Sundays open.

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
Charles Moyer
Leona Showalter

Clarice Haws
Mary Anne Weitzel
Ella Shirk
Charles Hoppman

Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Susan Levan
Clair Sweigart
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)

Katie Houck
Jean Wolf
Joan Long
Nancy Leffler



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 EASS food bank supported by the church 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.

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.

DEHANGING OF GREENS – Volunteers welcome today after service to remove the greens.
SWAMP CHURCH CEMETARY ASSOCIATION The following are the current members of the Swamp Church Cemetery Association. If anyone has questions, concerns, needs a service we offer, or would like to help any capacity, please contact our President, David Kramer or Vice President, Christopher Dunn. If you know any of the other members, feel free to let them know your needs and they will let David or Chris know. Our goals are to serve the community and maintain the cemetery. Thank you.

David Kramer	717-874-7206
Christopher Dunn	717-629-2108
Erica Dissinger	Secretary
Cindy Ream	Co-Treasurer
Laraine Kramer	Co-Treasurer
Kurt Reich	Trustee
Clifford Walters	Trustee

**Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutheran Disaster Response Trip
Houston, TX
April 16-22, 2023**

Planning meeting is Sunday, January 15th at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz.

The next Lower Susquehanna Synod disaster response trip is to Houston, TX, April 16-22, 2023, and will be under the leadership of Pastor Glenn Beard, Jr. There is a maximum number of 40 participants for this trip. Spaces are beginning to fill up. 10 people have already indicated that they are going on the trip. Each participant must pay a registration fee of \$150. Checks should be made payable to "North Lancaster Conference Dean's Fund." Forms needed to participate are available from Pastor Scott. Forms and deposits may be sent to Pastor Beard at 600 E. Main Street, Lititz, 17543. If you are unable to attend the meeting on the 15th but want to reserve your spot, please contact Pastor Glenn Beard, Jr. at GBeard@luthercare.org

***Visioning Project for Swamp’s Future
Stories Matter!***

Stories are how we make sense of our lives. Our personal and communal stories help us see how we are part of God’s story. As living variations of scripture, together we will look at our future as Swamp Lutheran Church. This is a season for us to celebrate our sacred stories, especially as we look forward with hope toward the future.

We need *your* stories to be included in a two-part visioning workshop called *Story Matters*. Please plan to attend. Pastor Richard Jorgensen and Deacon Marsha Roscoe of our Synod staff will lead us in this project.

In part one, we will reflect on the stories of our lives and our congregation. In part two, we will name how we are part of God’s story. We are inviting members of every age and stage, regardless of how long you have been a member here. What matters most is that God has a story to tell through you! In this highly interactive workshop series, you are invited to come with openness to notice how God is working through our lives. We are working to secure childcare for those who need it.

Part one of *Story Matters* will be on Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – noon followed by lunch.

Part two will be on Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 9:00 am to noon followed by lunch.

This Week in the Parish (January 9-15)

January 9	7:00PM	Handbells
January 10	7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
January 11	1:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
	7:00PM	Choir
January 12	6:30PM	Learning Committee
January 14	9:00-12:00PM	Congregational Visioning
	12:00PM	Lunch for Attendees
January 15	2:00PM	Luther Disaster Response Trip Planning Meeting Luther Acres Community Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 29	11:15AM – 3:45PM	SLY Snow Tubing
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DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, January 9</i>	Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48
<i>Tuesday, January 10</i>	Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13
<i>Wednesday, January 11</i>	Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21
<i>Thursday, January 12</i>	Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12
<i>Friday, January 13</i>	Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5
<i>Saturday, January 14</i>	Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, Second Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 8, 2023
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Baptized and Beloved

It was a relatively common scene: a first-century Palestinian man waiting on the banks of the Jordan River for his turn to be baptized. And yet there was something different about this time, this place, this man. This time God would enter into the waters of God's own creation.

This story gives us a glimpse of how God enters fully into this life with us. God enters into our earthbound, created existence of river banks and dusty earth, rushing water and cloud-spotted skies. Jesus enters into our time-bound realities of life and death too, not shying away from the hard parts of being human. In these mysterious waters of baptism, Jesus immerses himself in pain and sin, sickness and death. And then Jesus emerges from the depths into new life—a life rooted in his identity as the Beloved One, the one sent by God to bring all of creation into renewed relationship with God and one another.

Jesus' baptism is just the beginning of his earthly ministry. From here, he will enter the wilderness, call his disciples, preach and teach and heal. He will disrupt the status quo, scandalize the authorities, and challenge his most loyal followers in his mission to offer the world a glimpse of the kingdom of God.

At its core, this is an Epiphany story. It reveals to us who Jesus is: Beloved. Sent by God. The one in whom God is pleased from the very beginning. The one in whom God is made known to the world. And this story reveals to us something else as well. It has the power to remind us who we are, as we too are swept up in these life-giving waters. We too emerge as a new creation made whole in Christ. May we hear God's words to us too: "This is my child the beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

Grady Daub, Assistant Organist – 717-917-2430

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