



## Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 22, 2023

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

**GATHERING HYMN**

**Dearest Jesus at Your Word**

ELW 520

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.
  
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation  
while we here on earth await you,  
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

### **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:**

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

FIRST READING

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

<sup>1</sup>There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

#### SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.*

<sup>10</sup>Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

#### GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

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

*Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that

what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

YOU HAVE COME DOWN TO THE LAKESHORE

J. WAYNE KERR

**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, Jean Wolf, Karen Gardner, 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 his mother, Nancy W. Frantz by John Frantz.

**ORGAN FLOWERS** are given in memory of her husband, Tom by Pat Wenzel.

**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](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  
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](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org)) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2023.

**FOOD BANK** – Needs of the EASS food bank supported by the church are ongoing and need replenished monthly. Currently, there is a shortage of canned fruit. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month.

**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](mailto:lgockley2@gmail.com) or call 717-203-8551.



**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)



**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.



**Help SLY tackle hunger in our community.** From now until Super Bowl Sunday, February 12, bring a can or three of soup or other non-perishable food items to church and leave at the goal post collection point in the Narthex. Your donation benefits Swamp Lutheran Food Pantry and



**LOCAL DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY** - Pastor Glenn Beard, Jr. needs volunteers to make phone calls in York County to residents impacted by Hurricane Ida who potentially have unmet needs in our own backyard. Lutheran Disaster Response will be holding its second telethon on Saturday, February 4th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the York County Office of Emergency Management, 120 Davies Drive, York. If you could offer an hour or two of your time, please let Pastor Beard know @ [GBeard@luthercare.org](mailto:GBeard@luthercare.org) or (717) 471-1067. You will be provided everything you need to make these important calls.



Orders are being taken for Easter Lilies and Tulips. Price will not be known until the time of actual purchase. The final day for orders will be February 26. Please give the following information to the church office or to Jodi Showalter (717)413-7149.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Lily \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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



**HOMEWORK for Part 2: Write down the name of a biblical story or text that reminds you of the congregation, explain briefly why you selected that story, and give it to Pastor Scott. The facilitators will use your stories to help us discern where God is calling us going forward. If you have any questions or need help, please ask Pastor Scott.**

### This Week in the Parish (January 23-29)

January 23	7:00PM	Generosity Committee
January 24	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
	7:00PM	Homes of Hope
January 25	7:00PM	Choir
January 29	11:15AM-3:45PM	SLY Snow Tubing

### UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12	Final Day for Souper Bowl Donations
February 19	SLY Meeting
February 22	Ash Wednesday

### ***DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK***

<i>Monday, January 23</i>	Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14
<i>Tuesday, January 24</i>	Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18
<i>Wednesday, January 25</i>	Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79
<i>Thursday, January 26</i>	Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12
<i>Friday, January 27</i>	Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17—25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24
<i>Saturday, January 28</i>	Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35

### **UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS**

*Sunday, January 29, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**January 22, 2023**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

#### **Worth the Risk**

Perhaps Peter, Andrew, James, and John had heard rumors of this wandering preacher Jesus. Maybe they had been growing restless for some time in their lives as fishermen. It's possible they sensed that something was shifting in the world around them. They could have been fed up with the brutality of the Roman Empire and were looking for a leader to bring about change. Maybe they longed for something more, for a better way of living and loving and being. Maybe they were just so taken aback by this invitation to drop everything and follow that they couldn't help but say yes. We don't know their reasons for joining the Jesus movement that day, but there was clearly something so compelling about this kingdom of heaven (Matthew 4:17) that they were willing to drop their nets, risk everything, and not look back.

Perhaps we too hear in the gospel today a renewed invitation to get swept up in this kingdom, a call to drop old ways of being and embrace a life of following Jesus. Maybe this vision of the kingdom catches us when we witness ancient scripture finding new life in our hurting world. Perhaps we glimpse the possibilities of the heavenly kingdom when communities of unlikely people gather to share bread and wine at the same table, and when we see the hungry being fed, the suffering being cared for, the lonely finding welcome, the oppressed finding freedom. Suddenly, we know that this is God at work.

As Jesus reminds us, the kingdom of heaven is not a far-off kingdom. It draws near to us, breaking in around us perhaps in the moments when we least expect it. And when we catch sight of it, we just might never be the same. A world where the sick are healed, the hungry are fed, the outcasts find belonging, and ordinary days are filled with holy purpose? That's a kingdom worth risking everything for.



**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

Grady Daub, Assistant Organist – 717-917-2430

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