

Last Sunday After Epiphany
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
February 19, 2023



Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

GATHERING HYMN

IMMORTAL INVISIBLE GOD ONLY WISE

ELW 834

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

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, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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

Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the LORD" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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.

SENDING HYMN ALLELUIA, SONG OF GLADNESS

ELW 318

- 1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever dear to choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.

- 4 In our hymns we pray with longing:
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep glad Easter
with the faithful saints on high;
there to you forever singing
alleluia joyfully.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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, Faith Moyer, Michael A. Crowther, Eileen Leid, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Dennis Goshert, Ray Fox, Deb Lorah, Jean Wolf, Karen Gardner, Kent Weinhold, Muffy Reinecker, Gene Miller, Kelly Martin, Pastor Jim Miller, Melody Ulrich, Jean Wolf, Kenny Rauch, Diane Crills, Casey and Connor.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of three special ladies, Ruth Guise, Ginny Guise, and Mary Guise Heisey by Jennie Weitzel.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of her mother, Bertha Becker by Joan Long.

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.

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 canned fruit, ketchup and mustard..

Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd 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. 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.



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



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.

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 _____



We are currently accepting donations dedicated to the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit Project. We will be collecting items through the end of April. Donations may be given to **Jane Leshner, Denise Null, Connie Taylor and Debbie Carvell**. Questions to Debbie Carvell 717-336-5638.

We appreciate everyone following the guidelines listed below, as Lutheran World Relief will not send anything that doesn't adhere to these guidelines. Each kit will contain:

- One bath-size towel, (approximately 52"x27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 or 5 oz) of soap, in it's original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging
- One sturdy comb, (wide-toothed preferred), remove packaging
- One metal nail clipper, remove packaging

Wrap all items in the towel and tie with ribbons or yarn. Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. **If you don't feel comfortable wrapping an entire kit, we will accept donations of any of the items and gladly assemble the kits!** *Hint for buying towels: Big Lots carries really nice towels that are the exact size needed for the kit. We bought some last year for a price of \$5.00 each!*

As always, thank you for making this project a success!

GIFT CARDS FOR EASTER -Gift cards are available for purchase and the list of available gift cards is in the Narthex on the table. Deadline for ordering is March 26, 2023 and the cards will be delivered in time for Easter. If there is a specific place that you are interested in and do not find on the list please speak to Missy Ragan to check availability. (717) 314-5668

Pick Six Lenten Offering

This year, Swamp Lutheran will again offer a special giving opportunity for Lent: Pick Six. For the six weeks of Lent, we are encouraging you to give a special, weekly offering in addition to your regular giving. The benevolence giving options listed below are opportunities to give to ministries benefitting those in need—sharing God’s love outside the walls of Swamp.

Envelopes with these options listed on them are available on the table in the narthex. Please grab a pack of six envelopes (one for each week of Lent). Call the office if you need them mailed to you.



Swamp Action Fund: Help those in dire need of support for rent, bill payment, etc.



Community Meal: Contributions to this ministry support the purchase of food and supplies for the monthly community meal Swamp supports in the community.



Confirmation Camp: Help subsidize the cost of Confirmation Camp held at Camp Kirchenwald in June.



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Help bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.



EPHRATA AREA SOCIAL SERVICES
EPHRATA • OCCASION

Contributions help provide services to people in our community in the areas of food, clothing, fuel, transportation, and meals on wheels.



Swamp Food Pantry: Contributions support Swamp’s ministry of food to those challenged by food insecurity.



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Contributions to this ministry support the work to eradicate hunger in the United States and throughout the world financially.



Jan's CIRCLE of FRIENDS

Jan’s Circle of Friends: Contributions to this organization fund efforts to assist children coping with domestic violence and parental loss.



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
including **MYLE the tAble**
Young Adult Gathering

Contributions help cover the cost to send Swamp Youth and Advisors to the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA.



Contributions support the Cocalico Area Homes of Hope transitional housing home in Adamstown and provides housing, mentoring, and budget coaching to participants.

This Week in the Parish (February 20– February 26)

February 22	12:00PM-1:00PM 5:00PM 7:00PM	Drive through Ashes @ Carport Ash Wednesday Supper Ash Wednesday Service
February 25	3:00PM	CUBS Pinewood Derby
February 26	11:15AM	SLY Leaders Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1	7:00PM	First Lenten Service Faith United, Denver
March 4	9:00AM-12:00PM	Final Visioning Meeting Followed by Lunch

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, February 20</i>	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34
<i>Tuesday, February 21</i>	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6
<i>Wednesday, February 22</i>	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 <i>or</i> Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
<i>Thursday, February 23</i>	Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7
<i>Friday, February 24</i>	Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17
<i>Saturday, February 25</i>	Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, February 26, First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 19, 2023

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

A New, Old Covenant

To his disciples and followers, Jesus must have seemed like someone wholly new and unique. His wisdom and power amazed them and left them wondering about his new teachings and extraordinary authority. As Peter, James, and John join Jesus on the mountain, they see yet another new thing as Jesus is transfigured before them. This experience, however, is not disconnected from God's past works: Jesus is accompanied by Moses and Elijah, and the disciples hear the voice of God. Jesus' transfiguration is a new part of the old story of God creating life in the world. As they descend, Jesus points ahead to another unprecedented experience that is to come: his death and resurrection. Change is wrapped up in God's continuity.

Humans are challenged by change, which seems to be even more present in a world defined by instant-communication channels and headline news. Change is particularly difficult when new ideas or experiences upend our long-held beliefs about the world around us. Change can be even more difficult when such experiences push us to rethink what we believe about God. It is easier to hunker down in the comfort of what we have always known than to admit we are wrong and work to think and live differently.

The amazing thing about God's story is that it has always encompassed all of who we are and all of the change we have experienced or ever will. God's grace gathers up everything from the beginning of creation to the promised heavenly feast, and every broken and blessed bit in between, each new covenant consistent with the old. When we gather in confession, we admit that we have been wrong, and we are blessed into newness by the forgiveness found in the words of absolution. The font and table further remind us that God makes all things new, and that God's continuity holds grace-filled space for our beloved transformation.

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