

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 14, 2024
9:00 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Face masks are **optional** inside the Church building. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so.

Offering plates are passed. Additionally, there is an offering drop box in the narthex. Online giving via cell phone is easy and secure. Just use this QR code from your phone's camera app.



Visitors are welcome and invited to make themselves at home. If you're interested in learning more about Swamp Lutheran, have questions, or are looking for a church home, speak with Pastor Scott or church members. Please complete a visitor card and place in an offering plate or drop box or sign the guest register in the narthex.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (lobby) by the coat rack.

The worship service is printed in this bulletin. **Hymns** are found in the red hymnal Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church—gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God's constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, connects us through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

Children's active presence is welcomed in our worship. There are special kids bulletins available in the narthex.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. We believe "Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink." (Small Catechism, Martin Luther) Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE THY STRONG WORD

VAN DER POL

congregational responses are in bold type.

stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit

**dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN HERE I AM, LORD

ELW 574

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Sit

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18

read responsively

¹LORD, you have | searched me out;

O LORD, you | have known me.

**²You know my sitting down and my | rising up;
you discern my thoughts | from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my | resting-places
and are acquainted with | all my ways.

**⁴Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind | and before,
and lay your | hand upon me.

**⁶Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my | inmost parts;
you knit me together in my | mother’s womb.

**¹⁴I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hid- | den from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.

**¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
written | in your book;**

my days were fashioned before they | came to be.

¹⁷How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!

How great is the | sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

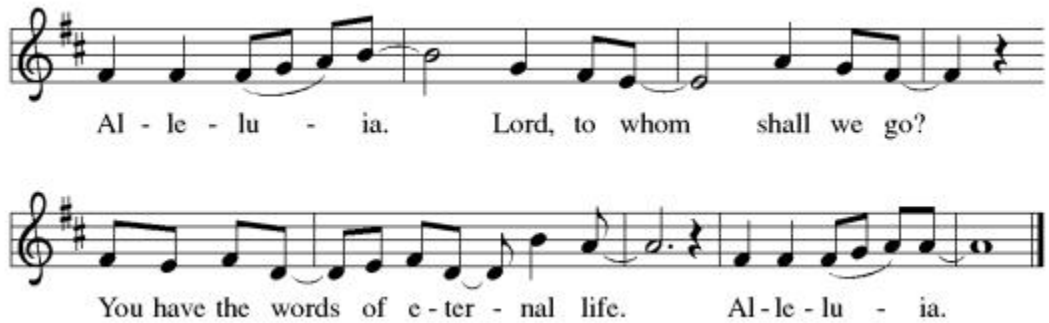
¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 1:43-51

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

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

SIT

SERMON

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Stand

CREED

We confess the faith of the church, the faith into which we were baptized:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

You may share the peace safely. A simple nod to those next to you, with the words “peace be with you” exchanged is always sufficient.

Sit

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY YOU HAVE COME DOWN TO THE LAKESHORE J. WAYNE KERR

OFFERING *In addition to the plate, online giving via cell phone is safe and secure. See QR code on the inside cover of this bulletin.*

As the offering is brought to the table, the congregation stands and sings.

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

ELW 715



Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Father, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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.**

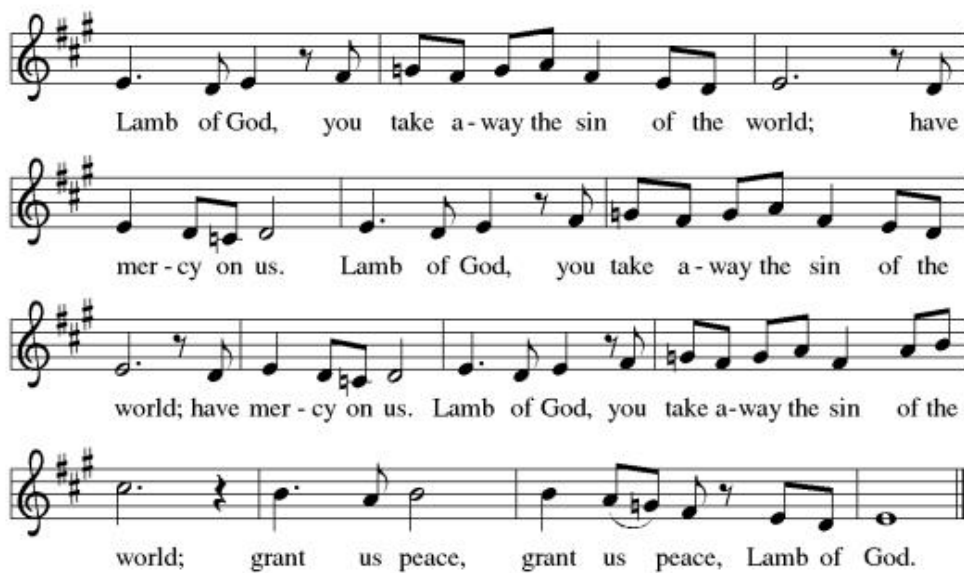
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD *remain standing*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Following the direction of the ushers, approach by the center aisle and return to your pew by the side aisles. Please get a cup from the stack by the first pew before receiving bread.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION (CONGREGATION ENCOURAGED TO SING)

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

ELW 733

After all have communed, stand

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

ELW 798

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE HE COMES TO US AS ONE UNKNOWN

PARRY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, John Wesner, Michael Wargo, Jan Lorah, Sandi Clemens, Nettie Kriener, Clair Sweigart, Faith Moyer, Michael A. Crowther, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Ray Fox, Gene Miller, Kelly Martin, Jean Wolf, Bruce Wagner, Honey Notobartolo, Charles Moyer, Anna Habecker, Bobby Hershey, Anna Hershey, Marilyn Gelsinger, Edith Snyder, Jackson Sensenig, Sharon Levan, JJ Johnson, Robert Bachman, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich. Janey Malafarina-West, Brandon Bailey, Earl

Myers, Shirley Hoppman, Elizabeth Sherman, family of Leona Showalter, Katie Krater, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer, family of J. Edwin Harting.

ALTAR FLOWERS are in honor of their 24th wedding anniversary Tom and Jane Leshner.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS – A 2024 altar flower calendar is in the Narthex. Flower & Candle costs remain at \$40.00 & \$5.00, respectively. Standing orders remain on calendar from year to year. Please support the church by signing up for the weeks that do not have sponsors. Sue Kreitz, 717-283-9444 and John Frantz, 717-606-8994 are now taking care of the flower and candle sign-up if you have questions or want to schedule.

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 2023.

MOST CURRENT INFORMATION – Be sure and check our website regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

ACTION FUND – Donations are sought for Swamp Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write “Action Fund” in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.

FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. Currently, there is an *urgent shortage* of paper towels. There continues to be a need for cereal and canned goods. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month. Please check for a current expiration date.



To our **knitters and crocheters**, our prayer shawls are completely gone. We need Prayer Shawls! We have generously shared with many different organizations, and we have several Nursing Homes waiting for them. The VA Hospital has advised that they have no storage available for any more lap robes now. Any that

have not yet been brought to the church will be distributed when we receive them. Please switch your focus to prayer shawls. When you finish, please bring it to church and leave in library. *THANK YOU!*



Orders are being taken for **Easter Lilies and White Tulips for Easter**. Price is not yet known and the deadline for ordering is February 25. Please give the following information to the church office or to Jodi Showalter (717)413-7149.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Lily 3-4 blooms _____ Tulips _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



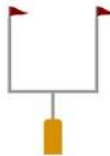
IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!!

What: The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement across the nation working together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

When: Until Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024

Where: Bring canned soup and other nonperishable food items and place them beneath the goal post in the Narthex.

Who: Benefits Swamp Food Pantry



This Week in the Parish (January 15 – January 21)

January 15	7:00PM	Handbell Choir
January 16	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
January 17	7:00PM 7:00PM	Church Council Choir
January 21	8:00AM 9:00AM 10:15AM	Worship Worship Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 28	11:15AM-3:00PM	SLY Laser Tag
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DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday, January 15 Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8; 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

Tuesday, January 16 Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 15:10-31; Acts 5:1-11

Wednesday, January 17 Psalm 86; Genesis 16:1-14; Luke 18:15-17

Thursday, January 18 Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 19:1-15; Revelation 18:11-20

Friday, January 19 Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:7-13; 2 Peter 3:1-7

Saturday, January 20 Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:14-18; Luke 10:13-16

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 14, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Faith, Seen and Unseen

“Follow me,” says Jesus to Philip. Then “Come and see,” says Philip to Nathanael. Early in the Gospel of John and in Jesus’ public ministry, the movement is already spreading. This transmission of faith from person to person is something like a fire jumping from one twig to another.

Sometimes, though, it can feel as if the spark just isn’t catching—not much transmission is happening any longer. Many people lament that their children, grandchildren, or other loved ones have abandoned the Christian faith. But have they truly? Maybe, similar to Nathanael, they have not yet personally encountered Jesus. Nathanael questions and doubts the words of the witness Philip until he experiences for himself that Jesus is the Son of God. Just as the message of the good news can spread like fire from twig to twig, so can faith ignite—or reignite—when one has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. There is no miracle for pastors or others to perform; we are simply called to prepare the way, to welcome all of God’s children, and to accompany people no matter where they are on their faith journey.

To change metaphors, sometimes faith flows like an underground stream. In some limestone terrains, a stream of water might disappear from the surface and reappear farther along in a different kind of terrain. The fact that the stream can’t be seen doesn’t mean it has stopped flowing. Likewise, faith is sometimes difficult to identify, but that doesn’t mean it’s not flowing in and through someone’s life. Visible signs of Jesus at work in a person are not always where or in the form we expect to see them. They can be in Sunday worship or in daily acts of kindness, compassion, grace, and love for ourselves and for others. Only Jesus knows what is in our hearts—already burning, deeply flowing, or yet to spark.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

Jonathan Gyorke, Sexton – 717-435-3091

Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272

Grady Daub, Assistant Organist – 717-917-2430

Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798

Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00AM & 9:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM