FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 4, 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 drop box or sign guest register in 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." (<u>Small Catechism</u>, 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

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE OH WORSHIP THE KING

ROBERT LAU

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 PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS ELW 843

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

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sit

ANTHEM HEAL ME, HANDS OF CHRIST

AUNE & PERRY

WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain. and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-20c

read responsively

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

²The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,

and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.

³The LORD heals the | brokenhearted and binds | up their wounds.

⁴The LORD counts the number | of the stars and calls them all | by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and might- | y in power; there is no limit | to God's wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts | up the lowly,

but casts the wicked | to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp | to our God,

8who covers the heav-| ens with clouds

and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- $^{\parallel}$ on the mountains.

⁹God provides food | for the cattle and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹⁰God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,

and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL MARK 1:29-39

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

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

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 HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

JEREMY BANKSON

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



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

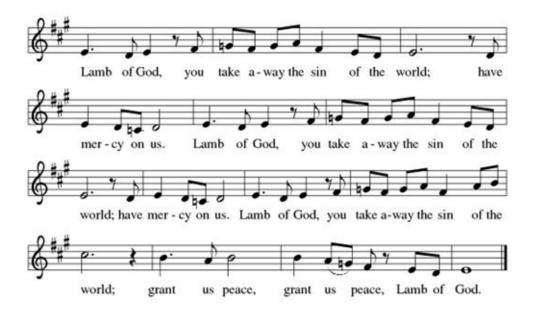
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.



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)

On Eagles Wings

ELW 787

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 PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY ELW 858

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND TOMMY DORSEY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCOUT SUNDAY – Today is Scout Sunday. Cub Scouts from Pack 95, sponsored by our church, are worshipping with us today and assisting with our service. Cubmaster Travis Leed 717-381-1608 or pack95reinholds@gmail.com

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

ALTAR FLOWERS are in honor of Joyce Stoner from the congregation for doing the altar flowers and sanctuary candle schedule for 17 years. Thank you!

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 the 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. Many opportunities exist for the sanctuary candle.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you give via the online option, let us know by email (<u>secretary@swamplutheran.org</u>) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2024.

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 is always a need for canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, canned meat and tuna, pasta, rice, mac & cheese, cereal, and toilet paper. 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**, please keep your focus on prayer shawls. When you finish, please bring it to church and leave it in the library. *THANK YOU for your support of this ministry!*



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



LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN

We need volunteers to learn and share in the livestreaming and sound control for Sunday worship. We need additional helpers so that we can create a rotation schedule. If interested or to learn more, contact Pastor Scott.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KIT PROJECT

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

We appreciate everyone following the guidelines below, as Lutheran World Relief will not send anything that does not adhere to their specified guidelines. Each kit will contain:

- One bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27") dark color recommended.
- Two bath-size (4 or 5 oz) of soap, in it's original wrapping.
- One adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging.
- One sturdy comb, (wide tooth preferred), remove packaging.
- One metal nail clipper, remove packaging.

Wrap all items in the towel and tie with ribbon or yarn. Please 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: Last year we bought these exact towels at Big Lots for \$4.00 each! As always, thank you for making this project a success!



SANCTUARY SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE

LIFT UP YOUR VOICES PLEDGE

We continue to stretch towards our goal of \$20,000. Pledge Cards are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary. A one-time gift or a weekly, monthly, quarterly pledge is welcome. Feel free to call or email the office if you want a pledge card mailed to you.

Give via QR code now



2024 CLUSTER LENTEN SERVICES 7PM

Date	Location	Preacher
Wed. Feb 21	Faith United, Denver	Rev. Scott Brubaker
Wed. Feb 28	Bergstrasse, Ephrata	Rev. Marissa Becklin
Wed. March 6	Muddy Creek, Denver	Rev. Jim Goodyear
Wed. March 13	Mellingers, Schoeneck	Rev. Sandy Gideon
Wed. March 20	St. John Center, East Earl	Rev. Peter Schwabe-Fry
Thurs. May 9	Swamp, Reinholds	Rev. Tim Craven
Ascension Day		

This Week in the Parish (February 5 – February 11)

February 5	7:00PM	Handbell Choir
February 6	6:00PM 7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study Welcome Committee
February 7	7:00PM	Choir
February 8	6:30PM	Learning Committee
February 11	8AM & 9AM 10:15AM 11:15AM	Worship Sunday School SLY Leader Meeting

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday, February 5 Psalm 45:6-17; Hosea 3:1-5; 2 Corinthians 1:23—2:11 Tuesday, February 6 Psalm 45:6-17; Hosea 14:1-9; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 Wednesday, February 7 Psalm 45:6-17; Isaiah 62:1-5; John 3:22-36 Thursday, February 8 Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 11:26-40; 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 Saturday, February 10 Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 14:1-18; 1 Timothy 1:12-20

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 11, 2024 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 4, 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY A Fiercely Tender Love

Think of a lioness; perhaps you've seen one in a nature documentary. Her power is palpable, even through the TV screen. She is strong and fierce, able to expertly take down prey and defend her pride from danger. She is also gentle, grooming her tiny cubs carefully in the afternoon sun. With the same strong jaws she is able both to kill an enemy and to carry her young gingerly by the scruff of their neck. Jesus' power is something like that: just as mighty as it is tender.

Jesus casts out demons relentlessly. In a single evening, he exorcises an entire city's worth! Jesus' power over the demons is so complete that he doesn't even permit them to speak. What are the demons in your own life, or in your community? What forces seek to dominate or control? What systems cause hurt or destruction? Out of God's great love for us, Jesus grapples with each and every source of pain, oppression, and suffering in the world.

With that same power, Jesus gently lifts Simon's mother-in-law by the hand, and her fever is gone. In a tender bedside moment, she is healed personally, intimately, and completely. This woman, ordinary and unnamed in Mark's gospel except by her relation to her son-in-law, is still not so unimportant as to escape Jesus' notice and care. And neither are we.

Jesus bathes us in the waters of salvation and defends us from danger. He feeds us at the table of mercy and carries us tenderly into abundant life. We are protected, healed, and loved by the One who created the cosmos, who possesses power to destroy any earthly power, yet who "gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless" (Isaiah 40:29). Like cubs learning from their mother, we rise and follow so that our lives might show forth that same fiercely tender love.

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

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