FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2024 9:00 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 it 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. **Children's** active presence is welcomed in our worship. There are special kids bulletins available in the narthex and at the side entrance.

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.



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.

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.

Website – Be sure and check our website <u>www.swamplutheran.org</u> regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Ich Ruf Zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ J.S. Bach

congregational responses are in **bold type.**

stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN BLESS NOW, O GOD, THE JOURNEY ELW 326

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

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

ANTHEM LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME JAY ALTHOUSE CHANCEL CHOIR

WORD

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

FIRST READING Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame; rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,

for they are from | everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up-|right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners|in your way.

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the

spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL MARK 1:9-15

The Holy Gospel according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

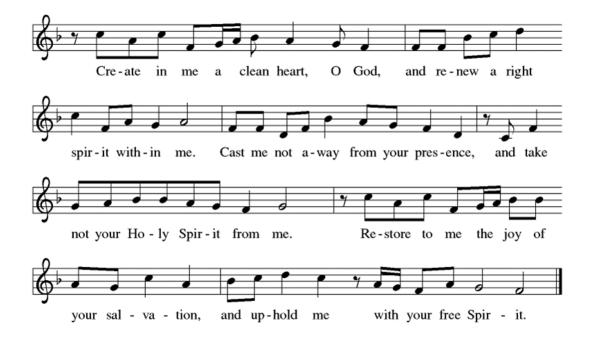
OFFERTORY

O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde

J.S. Bach

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.



OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name. 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

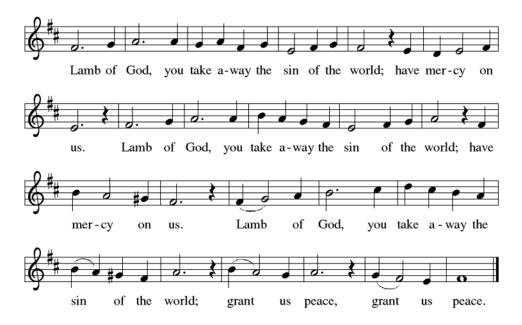
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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



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)

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517

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.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and 中 give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

ELW 504

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lenten Supplication

Martin



Join us for

COFFEE & COOKIES IN THE SOCIAL HALL

Immediately following worship

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

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

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. Several opportunities for candles are available.

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 2023.

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 17, 2024, 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 it on the list, please speak to Missy Ragan to check availability. (717) 314-5668

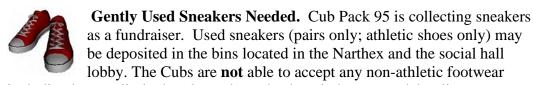


To our **knitters and crocheters**, please focus on prayer shawls. When you finish, please bring it to church and leave it in the library. *THANK YOU for supporting this church ministry*.

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, paper towels 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.

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



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



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 #
Lily 3-4 blooms	_ Tulips
In Memory of	
In Honor of	

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!

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.

2024 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 operating in or through our church.

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. Giving via online option too. Giving to multiple options each week is encouraged.



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

Swamp Lutheran Property Fund: Help with needed property improvements such as paying off the new sound system, replacing windows in sacristy and robing rooms, sealing and painting the parking lot, among many other needs.



Syrian Family Fund: Help the Syrian family we are co-sponsoring to get a firm start on their new life in the US.



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



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



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



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



Contributions to this ministry support the work to eradicate hunger in the US and throughout the world.



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



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



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



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.

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 19 – February 25)

February 19	7:00PM	Church Council
February 20	6:00PM 7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study Choir
February 21	7:00PM	Lenten Worship Service Faith United, Denver
February 22	11:30 AM	Widow/Widowers Lunch Udder Choice
February 24	2:00PM	Pinewood Derby - CUBS
February 25	8AM & 9AM 10:15AM	Worship Sunday School

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday, February 19 Psalm 77; Job 4:1-21; Ephesians 2:1-10
Tuesday, February 20 Psalm 77; Job 5:8-27; 1 Peter 3:8-18a
Wednesday, February 21 Psalm 77; Proverbs 30:1-9;Matthew 4:1-11
Thursday, February 22 Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18; Romans 3:21-31
Friday, February 23 Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
Saturday, February24 Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:7-15; Mark 8:27-30

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Second Sunday in Lent, February 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 18, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT How Beloved You Are!

Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection begins with his baptism. As the church journeys with Jesus through Lent and toward Easter, we each remember our own baptism, and our life in Christ is renewed.

At the Jordan River, God stops at nothing to declare Jesus beloved. Not even the sky can cloud the message; God tears open the heavens and proclaims it loud and clear. Now each time we dip our hands into the font or trace the sign of the cross over our bodies, we remember this promise anew: "You are a beloved child of God." Nothing can separate you from God's love.

Immediately after baptism, Jesus must contend with Satan and wild beasts in the wilderness. Then, before Jesus' ministry begins, John is arrested. The Gospel of Mark doesn't give the fact more than a passing mention at this point in the story, but John's arrest and subsequent death make for a trauma that comes at a crucial moment in Jesus' life. How was Jesus able to begin his ministry after all he had been through? And how are we, who have experienced temptation, torment, or trauma, to journey on?

The journey is not easy for Jesus, and neither will it be for us. But it's amazing what is possible when you know just how beloved you are. How long must the voice of God have echoed in Jesus' mind after that baptism day! Perhaps the angels whispered in his ear as they waited on him: "You are beloved. With you God is well pleased." Every Sunday, we return to the waters because we can never have too many reminders. When times get tough, we can trust in the promises of God made to us in baptism. This is a flood that saves us. These waters bring new life out of death. God's love will stop at nothing. Today, remember just how beloved you are!



A LENTEN DAY APART

at The Wittel Farm



Saturday, February 24, 2024 9am - 3pm

Begin your Lenten journey to Easter by joining us for a day apart.



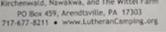
Casual, comfortable clothing will be appropriate.

A \$15 registration fee covers program and meal costs.

Register at LutheranCamping.org or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211 by February 16.



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm





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

Terri Renninger, 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