

*THIRD SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST  
JUNE 9, 2024  
8:30 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 the offering plate 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 [www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org) regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

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## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

VICTOR C. JOHNSON

*congregational responses are in bold type.*

*stand*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,  
**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

YOU SERVANTS OF GOD

ELW 825

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.

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

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## WORD

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

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READING: **2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1**

*Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.*

<sup>13</sup>Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

<sup>5:1</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## HOLY GOSPEL: **Mark 3:20-35**

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

*In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.*

[Jesus went home;] <sup>20</sup>and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." <sup>22</sup>And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." <sup>23</sup>And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup>But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

<sup>28</sup>“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—<sup>30</sup>for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

<sup>31</sup>Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” <sup>33</sup>And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.

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

SERMON

CHILDREN’S SERMON

*Stand*

APOSTLES’ CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

*\*that is, the true, universal Christian church of all times and place*

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.**

*Please share the peace.*

*Sit*

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**MEAL**

***God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ***

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**OFFERTORY**

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

JANET VOGT

**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.*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,  
**you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.  
Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.  
Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
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 whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, 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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Following the direction of the ushers, form a circle to receive communion. The bread, cup, and wine will be brought to you. Grape juice and gluten free options are available—tell the usher. After being communed, please return to your seat.*

*After all have communed, stand.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

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## BLESSING

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

ON OUR WAY REJOICING

ELW 537

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

BUILT ON A ROCK

LUDVIG M. LINDEMAN

## 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, Bobby Hershey, Marilyn Gelsing, Edith Snyder, Sharon Levan, JJ Johnson, Robert Bachman, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich, Earl Myers, Elizabeth Sherman, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer, Betty Kramer, Tyler Leed, Henry, Dennis Troutman, Larry Knauer, Robyn Reihner, David Metzger, Linda Mohn, Pauline Wassmer, Jerry Landis, Bob Shank, Rachel Craven, Laney Garrison, Karen Nye, Alicia Andrews, Elmer Gockley, the family of Anna Hershey, the family of Dianne Crills.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in honor of and in memory of loved ones by Denny and Judy Habecker.

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

**ALTAR FLOWER/CANDLE UPDATE:** The altar flowers that have been sponsored thus far have been beautiful and we thank all who donated to this ministry. Your continued support would be appreciated. The following dates are available to sponsor the Altar Flowers: August 25, September 1, September 29, October 20, November 3, December 8, December 29. There are many opportunities to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle. Flowers are \$40.00 and Candle is \$5.00. Contact Sue Kreitz at 717-283-9444 or John Frantz at 717-606-8994.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** – If you give via the online option, let us know by email ([secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org)) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2023.



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. There is an urgent need for paper towels, toilet paper and there is always a need for canned vegetables (except corn) canned fruit, canned soup, spaghetti, pasta and rice. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:lgockley2@gmail.com) or call 717-203-8551.



**Gently Used Sneakers Needed.** Cub Pack 95 is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at [pack95reinholds@gmail.com](mailto:pack95reinholds@gmail.com)

**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.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU-** The commitment of our Choirs, Assistants and Leaders is what allow the congregation to enjoy Godly music each week. We wish to thank all who share their time and talent with us. May you all enjoy the well-deserved Summer break.

## **Greeter Schedule- June**

9 Glenn & Linda Beard  
16 Ray & Jen Weitzel  
23 Tom & Deb Henly  
30 Pam Leisey

## **Greeter Schedule- July**

7 Sue Ellen Knauer  
14 Deb Kohl  
21 Jane Leshner  
28 Larry & Sally Hagy

*Thank you for serving as Greeters. Please be at the front door at 8:10AM.*

### **Week in the Parish (June 10- 16)**

|         |         |                        |
|---------|---------|------------------------|
| June 10 | 6 :00PM | Mulching Detail        |
| June 11 | 7:00PM  | Constitution Cmte      |
| June 12 | 1-4PM   | EASS Food Distribution |
| June 13 | 6:30PM  | Learning Committee Mtg |
| June 16 | 8:30AM  | Worship                |

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

|            |               |                                       |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| June 16-21 |               | Confirmation Camp at Camp Kirchenwald |
| June 18    | 6:00PM        | Widow & Widowers Dinner - Penguin     |
| June 19    | 7:00PM        | Church Council                        |
| June 25    | 7:00PM        | Homes of Hope                         |
| July 7-11  | 6:30PM-8:30PM | Reinholds Community VBS               |
| July 26    | 2:30PM        | Philadelphia Phillies Bus Trip        |
| August 25  | 10:30AM       | Church Picnic                         |

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

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Monday June 10</i>    | Psalm 74 1 Samuel 16:14-23 Revelation 20:1-6          |
| <i>Tuesday June 11</i>   | Psalm 74 1 Kings 18:17-40 Revelation 20:7-15          |
| <i>Wednesday June 12</i> | Psalm 74 Isaiah 26:16—27:1 Luke 11:14-28              |
| <i>Thursday June 13</i>  | Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 Genesis 3:14-24 Hebrews 2:5-9     |
| <i>Friday June 14</i>    | Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 1 Kings 10:26—11:8 Hebrews 11:4-7 |
| <i>Saturday June 15</i>  | Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 2 Kings 14:1-14 Mark 4:1-20       |

### **UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS**

*Sunday June 16* Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 4:26-34

**LWR SCHOOL KITS** - Last year, Swamp assembled and delivered 120 school kits to the LWR pick-up site. Many thanks to all who donated supplies and helped us reach this goal! This year we're aiming for a match or more!

We are presently accepting donations of items for this year's Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project through the end of September. Please help make this year's project a success.

Donations may be given to Jane Leshner, Denise Null and Connie Taylor.

Questions to Debbie Carvell 717-336-5638.

Items most needed: notebooks, pencils, erasers.

Items not needed: No backpacks (thanks to Jane).

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

- 70-80 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8"x10 1/2" - 4 per backpack
- 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side - 1 per backpack
- Pencil sharpener - 1 per backpack
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors). (They must say this on the packaging) - 1 per backpack
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers - 5 per backpack
- Black or blue ink pens - 5 per backpack
- Packs of 16 or 24 crayons - 1 per backpack
- 2 1/2" erasers - 1 per backpack



**COCALICO MINISTERIUM'S ACTS OF LOVE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM.** Swamp will be preparing and delivering on Wednesday, July 3. Persons interested in helping should contact Denise Kidwell. 717-725-8795.

**LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD DISASTER RESPONSE CREW** would like to thank you for supporting their efforts to rebuild Ft. Myers area, following Hurricane Ian. On Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Luther Acres Community Room, join them to hear stories and see pictures from the response crew.



**Lancaster  
County**

### **The Project**

The **Service Committee** would like to sponsor the following local service opportunity over the summer. This is being organized by Love Inc.

### **How does The Project work?**

It all begins when churches want to do a “missions trip” in their community. Talented and handy people are willing to serve neighbors who cannot afford repairs and are experiencing financial hardships due to fixed income constraints.

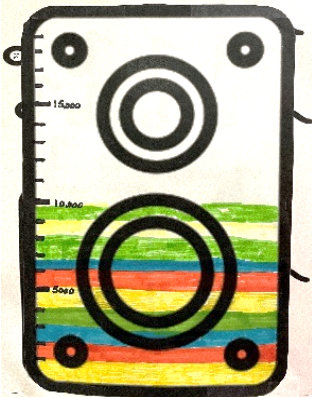
Swamp is seeking those who are good with simple carpentry, electric, plumbing, painting, outdoor yard work, or cleaning (just to name a few). Please prayerfully consider helping by completing the below and returning to Jodi Showalter, 717-413-7149. The exact project and timing will be determined based on the helpers who sign up.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

| Outside Projects         |                                  | Inside Projects          |  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Painting                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stripping wallpaper                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Basic carpentry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Painting                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Caulking                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Spackling/wall repair                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trim bushes and trees            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Repair/replace leaky faucets, toilets, sinks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mulch                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Repair/replace broken lights and fixtures    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fix screens/replace screen doors | <input type="checkbox"/> | House cleaning/carpet cleaning               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove trash/clean out debris    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fix cabinets/doors; replace locks/hardware   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Power washing                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caulking/weatherstripping/replace trim       |



LIFT UP YOUR VOICES  
SOUND SYSTEM CAMPAIGN  
\$20,000 GOAL



## 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**



**PACK 95** is looking for more **Cubs** and a **Cubmaster** and **Treasurer**. To learn more, talk to Pastor Scott or Cubmaster Travis Leed: 717-381-1608 or email at [pack95reinholds@gmail.com](mailto:pack95reinholds@gmail.com)



**SAVE THE DATES:** July 7-11, 2024. 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Reinholds Community VBS at Reinholds Carnival Grounds for Ages 4 to Junior High. Come join in the fun and enjoy Music, Crafts, Stories, Games and Snacks.

To register your child: <https://www.myvbs.org/rc>

To volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4DAEAF2BA4F85-48871364-reinholds#/>

**A FREE Community Meal will be served each evening 5:30-6:15 pm**  
*(Pre-registration is required for the meal)*

## Other Readings for this Sunday

### Genesis 3:8-15

*Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.*

<sup>8</sup>[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

### Psalms 130

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

**in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup>**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

**more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plentiful redemption.

<sup>8</sup>**For the LORD shall redeem Israel**

**from all their sins.**

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

June 9, 2024

LECTIONARY 10

### No Room for Compromise

Some things seem more trouble than they're worth. People who fish with monofilament line may find that when it kinks, and tangles it isn't worth the effort to pull apart the knots. Likewise for knitters whose balls of yarn unravel into a snarl on the floor. Or when packages of puff pastry can be had from the grocer's freezer case, a baker may well find making it from scratch more bother than benefit and opt for ready-made. Those banking on Jesus' admonition to forgive seventy times seven may find it impossible to make peace with his uncompromising warning that "whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness." Like a foreign-language crossword puzzle, it might seem unsolvable.

Some might find relief in joining the people gathered around Jesus' home who concluded that it would be best to ignore him: "He has gone out of his mind." Others, like his family, stay on the edge of conflict and attempt to restrain him—"Hush, you're making a scene." Tensions are high, not only out among the crowds, not merely *close* to home, but in the *center* of home, the very heart of community and family. The air sizzles with discord. It must have been like the many broken bonds and hollowed-out relationships familiar to us today, at a time roiling with division. Pursuing hope and finding healing might seem not worth the effort.

To that temptation Jesus delivers a scorching, confounding warning: by ascribing his actions to the evil one, rejecting good as though it were demonic, judging the spirit of God's love to be wicked—all of this is to choose *against* forgiveness and mercy. Without recognizing the urgency of love behind Jesus' warning, we may think his words a contradiction to Jesus' commitment to forgiveness. In fact, he uncompromisingly claims that the way of forgiveness belongs to the kingdom of God. Period!

**Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church**

717-336-2849

[www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org)

[secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: [pastor@swamplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@swamplutheran.org)

Terri Renninger, Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

Jonathan Gyorko, 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 8:30AM

**You are Welcome Here!**

At Swamp Lutheran Church, *Grace is Spoken Here!* We welcome with full participation and inclusion all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, imprisonment, physical or mental health, socio-economic circumstances or anything that too often divides us. Together as one in the Spirit, our unity is in Jesus Christ.

**Notice Regarding Audio/Video Recording and/or Photography of Services/Events:**

Persons participating in events or worship services sponsored by Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church are subject to being recorded by photographic, video, and/or audio devices. Your photo/recording may be used without your written permission. By attending a Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church service or event, you release our employees and officers and all persons involved from any liability connected with the taking, recording, digitizing, and/or publication of photographs, computer images, video and/or sound recordings.