FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 16, 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." (<u>Small Catechism</u>, 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

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD ARR. SPRUNGER GRADY DAUB, ORGAN AND SUE KREITZ, PIANO

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 FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION ELW 679

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.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sit

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

READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

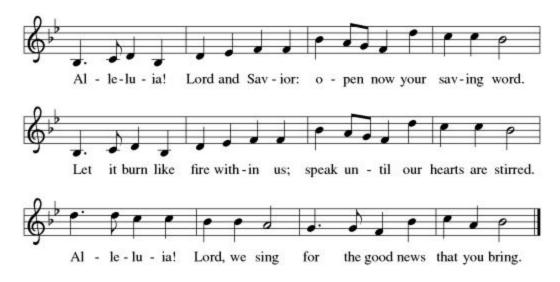
[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

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

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to

hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Sit

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 places

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.

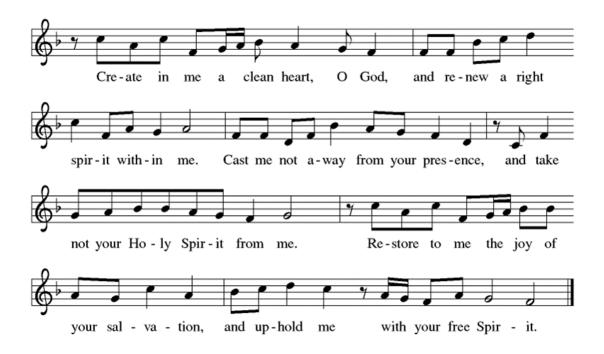
Sit

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY FAITH OF OUR FATHERS HENRI F. HEMY

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, 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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The blessing of God,

who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

+ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN THE SPIRIT SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE ELW 551

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Be Still, My Soul

Jean Sibelius

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 Gelsinger, 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 memory of our fathers, Jack Habecker and Bill Gensemer, by Denny and Judy Habecker.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of loved ones, by Howard and Linda Ream.

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 (<u>secretary@swamplutheran.org</u>) 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 a need for spaghetti, pasta, canned fruit, green beans, peas, carrots and soup. Paper towels and toilet paper are also appreciated. 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: <u>lgockley2@gmail.com</u> or call 717-203-8551.

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.



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

Greeter Schedule- June

Greeter Schedule- July

- 16 Ray Weitzel
- 23 Tom & Deb Henly
- 30 Pam Leisey

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

Week in the Parish (June 17- June 23)

June 16-21		Confirmation Camp at Camp Kirchenwald
June 18	6:00PM	Widow & Widowers Dinner - Penguin
June 19	7:00PM	Church Council
June 21	1:00PM	Widow & Widowers Reading Museum
June 23	8:30AM	Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 25	7:00PM	Homes of Hope
June 29		Widow & Widowers Hike Nolde Forest
July 2 7:00PM		Welcome Committee
July 4 & 5	Independence Day	OFFICE CLOSED
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

Monday June 17	Psalm 52 Ezekiel 31:1-12 Galatians 6:11-18
Tuesday June 18	Psalm 52Psalm 53 Jeremiah 21:11-14 Revelation 21:22-22:5
Wednesday June 19	Psalm 52 Jeremiah 22:1-9 Luke 6:43-45
Thursday June 20	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 Job 29:1-20 Acts 20:1-16
Friday June 21	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 Job 29:21—30:15 Acts 21:1-16
Saturday June 22	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 Job 37:1-13 Luke 21:25-28

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday June 23 Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41

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 Lesher, 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

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 <u>pack95reinholds@gmail.com</u>



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:		P	'hone:
	Outside Projects		Inside Projects
	Painting		Stripping wallpaper
	Basic carpentry		Painting
	Caulking		Spackling/wall repair
	Trim bushes and trees		Repair/replace leaky faucets, toilets, sinks
	Mulch		Repair/replace broken lights and fixtures
	Fix screens/replace screen doors		House cleaning/carpet cleaning
	Remove trash/clean out debris		Fix cabinets/doors; replace locks/hardware
	Power washing		Caulking/weatherstripping/replace trim



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.

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



Help Wanted

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.



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: <u>https://www.myvbs.org/rc</u>

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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple. ²²Thus says the Lord GoD:

I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it

on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,

I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree

and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;

I will accomplish it.

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. (Ps. 92:12) ¹It is a good thing to give thanks [|] to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, ¹O Most High; ²to herald your love | in the morning and your faithful- | ness at night: ³on the psaltery, and ¹ on the lyre, and to the melody | of the harp. ⁴For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD; and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands. ¹²The righteous shall flourish ¹ like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a ce-¹ dar of Lebanon. ¹³Those who are planted in the house [|] of the LORD shall flourish in the courts [|] of our God: ¹⁴they shall still bear fruit [|] in old age; they shall be [|] green and succulent; ¹⁵that they may show how up-¹ right the LORD is, mv rock, in whom there is | no injustice.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

June 16, 2024 LECTIONARY 11 God Gives the Growth

In the life of faith, we often look at ourselves and wonder if we're really growing at all. The temptation to examine ourselves and despair over our flaws (or perhaps to look at others and judge their weaknesses) is ever-present. For us as Christians, the call to repentance is critical; we are to be aware of our shortcomings, confess them, and receive God's forgiveness. But we shouldn't be too hard on ourselves either.

In the gospel reading today, Jesus uses two farming or gardening analogies to portray the kingdom of God. In the first he describes the entire process—from planting, through the various growth phases, and finally to the harvest. In the second he speaks of the tiny mustard seed which, over time, grows so large that it provides shelter for other creatures.

This is the kingdom of God as a whole, and also the individual's life of faith. The seeds of faith are planted in holy baptism. Over time, God as gardener nurtures us through worship, prayer, holy communion, the practice of confession and absolution, and fellowship with other believers, such that we grow in faith toward God and love toward our neighbors. You, who started out as the tiniest of seeds or the greatest of sinners or were carelessly scattered by others, are gently tended by Jesus, the Master Gardener. You are brought into the kingdom of God so you can grow and thrive and become life-giving for others.

You may "not know how" this has happened; you may not notice it in yourself, or even in other people sometimes. But God gives the growth, and what God sets in motion will come to fruition. That we are promised. So be gentle with yourself and with others. Trust the Lord and be patient. You are being loved and nurtured and cared for, even at this very moment. 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: <u>pastor@swamplutheran.org</u>

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 8:30AM

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, socioeconomic 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.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License **#SAS00692**