

*EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST  
JULY 14, 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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When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**      HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION      ROBERT LAU

*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**      LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE STREAMS      ELW 717

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, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through 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: **Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

*Stand*

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 6:14-29**

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

*As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.*

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

<sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

*Sit*

SERMON

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING FOR THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

*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*

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

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**OFFERTORY**

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

ARR. CINDY BERRY

**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**

LET STREAMS OF LIVING JUSTICE

ELW 710

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Lead On, O King Eternal

Burkhardt

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PASTORAL CARE** - This week while Pastor Brubaker is attending the ELCA Youth Gathering, pastoral emergency care will be provided by the Rev. Peter Schwabe-Fry (Muddy Creek). His number is 717-598-5095.

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER** - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, John Wesner, Michael Wargo, Jan Lorah, Jeff Kappenstein, 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, 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, Mary Beth Jenkins, the family of Elmer Gockley, the family of Dianne Crills, the family of Elwood Fasnacht, the family of Jean Moyer (Dennis' wife).

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of her husband, Michael Kreitz and dear friend Tim Lorah, by Sue Kreitz.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** is given in memory of loved ones, by Linda and Howard 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: 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 a need for paper towels, pasta, canned fruit and soup. 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.

**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.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered for the COCALICO MINISTERIUM’S ACTS OF LOVE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM. We couldn’t have done it without you!

**A HUGE THANK YOU** goes out to our incredible Kitchen Krew and volunteers who worked many hours to plan, prepare and package meals for the Acts of Love lunch program! Swamp made over 140 hot meals and served 140 cold lunches. I couldn’t have done it without all the people who gave their talents and time. The people of our community are grateful! You all rock! Thank you, Denise Kidwell.

**Greeter Schedule- July**

- 14 Deb Kohl
- 21 Jane Leshner
- 28 Larry & Sally Hagy

**Greeter Schedule- Aug**

- 4 David & Laraine Kramer
- 11 Lowell & Sandy Haws
- 18 Cody Leisey & Aubrey Page
- 25 Jen Brubaker

## Week in the Parish (July 14- 21)

July 21 8:30AM Worship

### UPCOMING EVENTS

July 26 2:30PM Philadelphia Phillies Bus Trip  
August 6 7:00PM Homes of Hope  
August 18 8:30AM Blessing of the Backpacks during Service  
August 25 10:00AM Church Picnic  
August 27 7:00PM Homes of Hope  
August 28 7PM Widows and Widowers Historical Society of Cocalico's  
Program at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Ephrata.

### DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

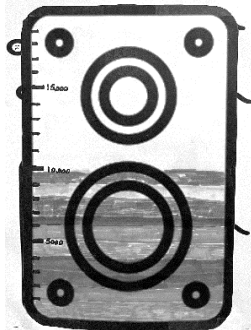
*Monday July 15* Psalm 142 Amos 5:1-9 Acts 21:27-39  
*Tuesday July 16* Psalm 142 Amos 9:1-4 Acts 23:12-35  
*Wednesday July 17* Psalm 142 Amos 9:11-15 Luke 7:31-35  
*Thursday July 18* Psalm 23 Jeremiah 10:1-16 Colossians 1:15-23  
*Friday July 19* Psalm 23 Jeremiah 10:17-25 Acts 17:16-31  
*Saturday July 20* Psalm 23 Jeremiah 12:1-13 Luke 18:35-43

### UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

*Sunday July 21* Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### SANCTUARY SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE

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



#### ***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.



August 18, during the 8:30AM Service, we will give thanks and praise for our children and teachers and the fact that they will have all they need as they begin their school year with our Blessing of the Backpacks. As a manner of encouragement to the excited and comfort to the anxious, Pastor Scott will invite the teachers and children and their backpacks/work bags to the front for prayer. Bring your school bags on August 18!



**Gently Used Sneakers Needed.** SLY 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. SLY is **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 Pastor Scott Brubaker at 717-598-4663 or email [pastor@swamplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@swamplutheran.org)



**US FLAGS** When a US flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. For those of you interested in retiring your worn US flags, please bring them to the church. We will collect them in the church library and deliver them to the Reinholds VFW who will arrange for them to be retired in proper fashion. Thank you for your consideration.

**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





Swamp's Annual  
**CHURCH  
PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25**

10am (After Church) | Social Hall

**FREE FOOD, KIDS ACTIVITY,  
AND A CAKE & COOKIE WALK**

Music will be provided by  
Doug Kulp & Cat's Pajamas

**We are requesting baked good  
donations for the cake & cookie walk**

Questions? Please contact Jen Weitzel

## Other Readings for this Sunday

### Amos 7:7-15

*Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.*

<sup>7</sup>This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;

<sup>9</sup>the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup>For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.'

<sup>12</sup>And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup>but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup>and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

### Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

*I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)*

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD<sup>1</sup> God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their<sup>1</sup> hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to<sup>1</sup> those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell<sup>1</sup> in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have<sup>1</sup> met together;  
righteousness and peace have<sup>1</sup> kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up<sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look<sup>1</sup> down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed<sup>1</sup> grant prosperity,  
and our land will<sup>1</sup> yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be-<sup>1</sup> fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for<sup>1</sup> God a pathway.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**July 14, 2024**

**LECTIONARY 15**

**Risk-taking Witness**

What makes a good leader? Confidence, compassion, or courage? Popularity and prestige? A quick Google search offers no shortage of books, articles, and classes on leadership. And it's no wonder: organizations, communities, and entire governments depend on the abilities of those who step into decision-making roles. A good leader can inspire the masses and impact the world in profoundly positive ways, while a corrupt leader can cause entire systems to crumble, resulting in devastation for individuals and communities alike.

It turns out these concepts are not new. Scripture has much to say about the qualities of leaders and the consequences of their decisions. The Bible offers several stories of faithful leaders: those who think about what is best for the whole community, particularly the people who are most vulnerable. These kinds of leaders follow God's call at great personal risk. John the Baptist is just one example.

Meanwhile, corrupt leaders are most concerned with self-preservation. They are governed by fear and greed, easily threatened by those on the margins. Herod finds himself in this position. While he may have been intrigued by John, saving his own reputation mattered more to him than John's life. The result is nothing short of horrific, culminating with an innocent man's head on a platter.

Our world is full of leaders who wield their power for their own benefit. But the good news is, God continues to call faithful leaders who pave the way with risk-taking, truth-telling witness. This type of leadership is not easy, and the personal risk is great. John's story illustrates this in alarming ways. And yet, John's story is not defined by his death—in Christ, his prophetic words and deeds echo through the ages. His impact lives on, calling us to the humble, compassionate way of Jesus.

So, what kind of leader will you be? And whom will you choose to follow?

**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 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, 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.

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