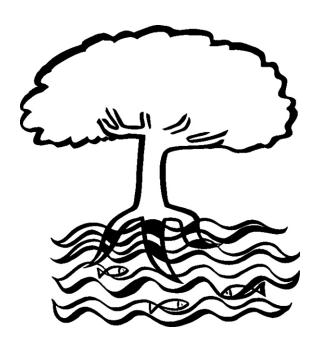
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 5, 2025 8:30 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Guests 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

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU DAVID LOWRY

congregational responses are in bold type.

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the

→ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God.

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN How FIRM A FOUNDATION ELW 796

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sit

Children leave for Children's Church

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

Psalm 37:1-9

- ¹ Do not be provoked by [|] evildoers; do not be jealous of those [|] who do wrong.
- ² For they shall soon wither | like the grass, and like the green grass | fade away.
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD | and do good; dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.
- ⁴Take delight | in the LORD, who shall give you your | heart's desire.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD, and see what | God will do.
- ⁶ The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.
- ⁷Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

- 8 Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.
- ⁹ For evildoers shall | be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶ The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷ "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' "

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

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH

BLESSING OF THE LWR SCHOOL AND PERSONAL CARE KITS

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

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.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY How Firm a Foundation Karen Smith

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 WE ARE AN OFFERING

WE LIFT OUR VOICES, WE LIFT OUR HANDS, WE LIFT OUR LIVES UP TO YOU, WE ARE AN OFFERING. LORD, USE OUR VOICES, LORD USE OUR HANDS, LORD, USE OUR LIVES, THEY ARE YOURS, WE ARE AN OFFERING.

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

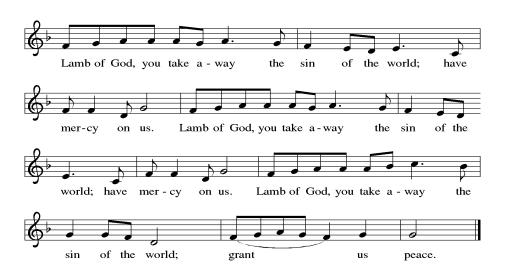
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD remain standing



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.

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,

→ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING ELW 596

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Built On A Rock Brett Lewis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, John Wesner, Jeff Kappenstein, Nettie Kreiner, Clair Sweigart, Faith Moyer, Michael A. Crowther, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Ray Fox, Gene Miller, Jean Wolf, Bobby Hershey, Marilyn Gelsinger, Edith Snyder, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich, Earl Myers, Elizabeth Sherman, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer, Jerry Landis, Mary Beth Jenkins, Evelyn Gehman, Joan Leed, Ron Adams, Kevin Williams, Susan Levan, Larry Eberly, Janet Bingaman, Dwayne Dimitris, Gladys Eckenroad, Bonnie Koehle-Koon, Ross Houck, Chris Zander, Kathleen Troutman, Sally Bergman, Keith Reimert, Pam Heisey, Connie Malafarina, Ted Heisey, Regina Reinecker, Karen Klingensmith, Debbie Leed, Sue Van Zant, Alex Merionfeld, Susan Kreitz, Helen Werner, Sandy Clouser, Cody Leisey, Lou Smith, the family of Karen Krater and the family of Pastor Conrad Youse.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of her brothers, Elmer, Bobby and Denny by Linda and Glenn Beard.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of Pastor Conrad Youse for his influence on both youth and adults of Swamp, instilling lessons and examples of discipleship, appreciation of God's World, and a legacy of kindness.

FLOWERS: November 9th is available to sponsor. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle, please contact Sue Kreitz at 717-283-9444 or John Frantz at 717-606-8994.

Food Bank – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. There is a need for canned chicken, tuna, soup, paper towels and toilet paper. Please check for a current expiration date. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month.



Knitters and Crocheters: We have been asked to provide baby blankets for Veteran Families. Please use SOFT yarn with not too loose of a pattern and no more than 32" X 32 ," but not less than 27" square or rectangular. There are some copies of baby blanket patterns

in the library at church where the shawls/blankets are being collected. We need more boy colors than girl colors.

Greeter Schedule October

5 Deb Sweigert12 John & Sharon Levan19 Deb Kohl26 Denise Kidwell

Greeter Schedule November

2 Larry & Sally Hagy 9 Glenn & Linda Beard 16 Kauffman Klan 23 Randy, Lori & Kristin Gockley 30 Jan Risser

Coffee Schedule for October	Coffee Schedule November	
5 Randy Gockley	02 Deb Sweigert	
12 Randy Gockley	09 Deb Sweigert	
19 Randy Gockley	16 Ray Weitzel	
26 Randy Gockley	23 Denise Kidwell	

Week in the	Parish ((October 5–12)

30 Denise Kidwell

TODAY	11:00AM	Blessing of the Pets
October 6	7:00PM	Bell Choir
October 7	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
October 7	7:00PM	Welcome Cmte
October 8	1-4:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
October 8	7:00PM	Choir
October 9	6:30PM	Learning Cmte
October 12	8:30AM	Worship
October 12	9:45AM	Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 14	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
October 15	7:00PM	Church Council
October 15	7:00PM	Choir
October 16	Pig Stomach	Pre Order deadline
October 19	8:30AM	Worship
October 19	9:45AM	Sunday School
October 19	11:00AM	CROP Walk
October 20	7:00PM	Bell Choir
October 21	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Mon October 6	Psalm 3 Habakkuk 1:5-17 James 1:2-11
Tue October 7	Psalm 3 Habakkuk 2:5-11 1 John 5:1-5, 13-21
Wed October 8	Psalm 3 Habakkuk 2:12-20 Mark 11:12-14, 20-24
Thurs October 9	Psalm 111 Leviticus 14:33-53 2 Timothy 1:13-18
Fri October 10	Psalm 111 Numbers 4:34—5:4 2 Timothy 2:1-7
Sat October 11	Psalm 111 Numbers 12:1-15 Luke 5:12-16

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sun October 12 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19



Swamp Needs Your Help!

Tell Pastor Scott if you can help or want to learn more

Most pressing needs include:

Learning Committee: Connie Malafarina and Connie Taylor are stepping back and only pitching in when needed in a pinch. So, we could use new committee members interested in fostering the faith of our disciples, both young and old.

SLY: Connie Malafarina and Ryan Ranck have stepped back from their leadership roles with the youth group. We need additional leaders to guide this ministry.

Worship Committee: We can always use fresh perspectives on worship. New members on the Worship Committee are always welcome.

Sunday School teachers: We need another teacher for the prekindergarten to 3rd grade class and our high school class.

Generosity Committee: We need additional disciples to help promote generosity to God's work at Swamp.

Property Committee: We need help attending to the property needs of Swamp. Consider adopting a flower bed to maintain or giving of a skill (electrician, plumbing, carpentry, painting, etc.).

Choir: We need singers for Swamp's Chancel Choir to lead our singing in worship.

Bell Choir: Ringers needed for this music ministry.

POINSETTIAS -It is that time of the year again to consider your holiday orders for poinsettias. Jodi Showalter (717-413-7149) will be handling the orders. Pricing will not be known until sometime later in October. Jodi or the church office should be contacted with questions. The following information needs to be provided. Deadline for ordering is December 7th.

NAME	Phone Number
Poinsettias RED	WHITE
In Memory of	
In Honor of	

Swamp Lutheran Church 2025 BLESSING OF THE PETS

October 5, 2025

11 AM

Under the Carport

Bring your leashed and well-behaved pets for a blessing by Pastor Scott

In honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi and in remembrance of his love for all creatures, Swamp's Blessing of the Pets is rooted in the belief that all creatures, including animals, are part of God's creation and deserve blessings.



Food, LIVE Band, Fun for all ages

October 12

Elks Lodge #1933 170 Akron Road, Ephrata For tickets: eassinfo.org



Sunday, October 19 @ 11 AM

Leave from and return to Swamp Lutheran Church 5k route

To participate, tell Jodi Showalter 717-413-7149

If we work together, we can end world hunger. That's why Swamp is participating in the CROP Hunger Walk to support Church World Services hunger ministry and help families who are struggling with hunger. Please join us with your steps and your donations. Together, we will provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them and create greater food security in communities around the world. We will donate 50% of our raised donations to our local Swamp Food Pantry.

The Widow and Widowers Group will meet for lunch on Monday, October 27 at 11:30 at the Udder Choice Restaurant. The speaker, Sue Fisher, will talk about The Cloister in Ephrata, where she is a docent. She was also actor Johnathan Groff's Conestoga Valley Middle School drama teacher, and will share some tidbits of her connection with him.



Join us for Swamp Lutheran Church's Annual Pig Stomach Takeouts!

Whole Cooked Stomach: \$38

Pre-orders must be placed by October 16th.

Please call the church office at 717-336-2849 to place your preorder

All proceeds will go to benefit Swamp Lutheran's Food Bank and the new air conditioning system for the church.

Other Readings for this Sunday

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

2:1I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,

so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;

it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 5, 2025 LECTIONARY 27 Faith beyond Measure

Matters of faith are sometimes tricky to comprehend. Faith is a relationship of trust in God. But how do we measure it? It is, by definition, unquantifiable. Of course, that does not stop us from trying. We want to grade our faith, and we look on the outside for signs of a high faith score.

How often do we mistake material success for God's blessing? It is tempting to look at other people and think they must be more faithful than we are because they have or do more than we do. But there is a flaw in that logic. Quite often, looks can be deceiving. We have all suffered disappointment a time or two (or ten!). Life sometimes deals us more than we can handle. We could have faith the size of a bowling ball, but sometimes things just don't work out.

Jesus' understanding of faith seems different from his disciples' or our own. He teaches the apostles that even the tiniest amount of faith possesses transformative power capable of altering entire realities. The "size" of faith is irrelevant.

God gives every one of us a seed of faith. It is a gift freely given, nurtured through baptism and communion. We build confidence in that faith through worship, prayer, and community. While we struggle to measure our faith, we can increase our confidence and willingness to act on it. When that confidence is low, we can lean on those around us. When it is high, we can strive to build up others, encouraging them in their own relationship with God.

God is calling all of us to be willing and confident servants, sending us out into the world to act on our faith. Like a giant, wild bush that grows from the tiniest seed, our faith can grow, spread, and thrive beyond measure.

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 8:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM

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 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #**SAS006925**