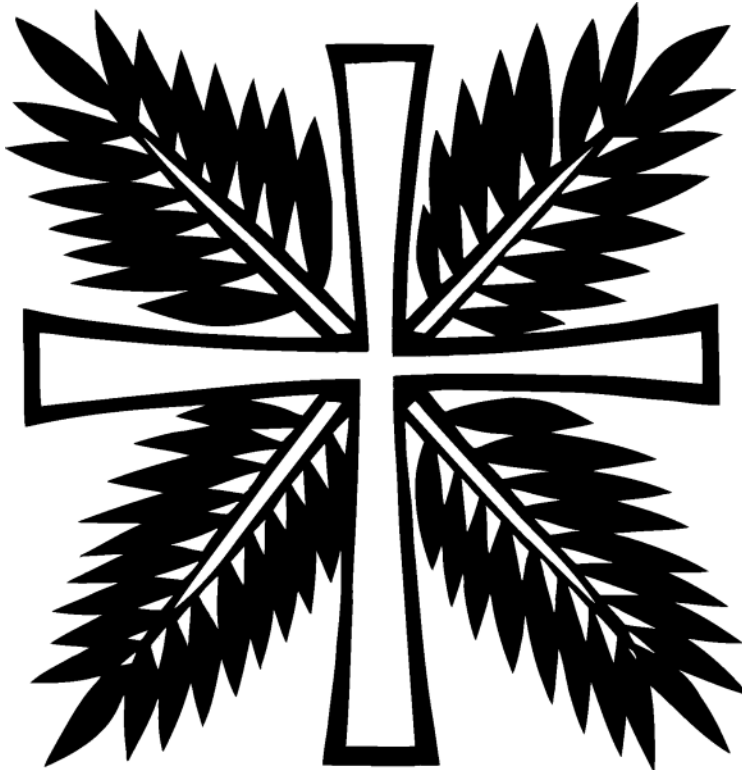


*SUNDAY OF THE PASSION*  
*PALM SUNDAY*  
*MARCH 29, 2026*  
*8:30 AM*



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." (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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Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**      TRIUMPHAL ENTRY      ARR. TERRY OSMAN  
GRADY DAUB, ORGAN & SUE KREITZ, PIANO

*congregational responses are in bold type.*

*Stand*

ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL **Luke 19:28-40**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Entrance into the final days*

28 After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

<sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying,

“Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!”

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

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

#### BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.  
We praise you, O God,  
for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Today he entered the holy city in triumph  
and was proclaimed messiah and king  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Bless these branches and those who carry them.  
Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,  
so that, joined to his death and resurrection,  
we enter into life with you;  
through the same Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

ELW 264

#### 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

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

**ANTHEM**

SHOUT, SING, CELEBRATE

JOEL RANEY

*Children leave for Children's Church*

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## WORD

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

---

**Psalm 31:9-16** (*read responsively*)

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I <sup>l</sup> am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat <sup>l</sup> and my belly.

<sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my <sup>l</sup> years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones <sup>l</sup> are  
consumed.**

<sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay  
to <sup>l</sup> my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street <sup>l</sup> they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, <sup>l</sup> out of mind;  
I am as useless as a <sup>l</sup> broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup> For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is <sup>l</sup> all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to <sup>l</sup> take my life.

<sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in <sup>l</sup> you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You <sup>l</sup> are my God.**

<sup>15</sup> My times are <sup>l</sup> in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who <sup>l</sup> persecute  
me.

<sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine up- <sup>l</sup> on your servant;  
save me in your <sup>l</sup> steadfast love."**

READING: **Philippians 2:5-11**

*Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.*

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name

that is above every other name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 27:11-54**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.*

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

<sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

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

*Sit*

## SERMON

### *CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Avery and Josh Garrison, John Lewandowsky, and Laura, Phyllis, and Ralph Vedder come to our congregation desiring to become members.

### *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*

### *Sit*

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*Those being welcomed respond.*

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.*

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*The new members return to their seats.*

*Stand*

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*

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OFFERTORY

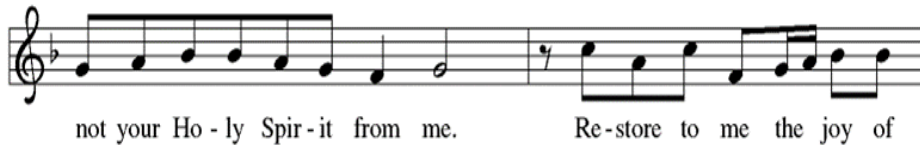
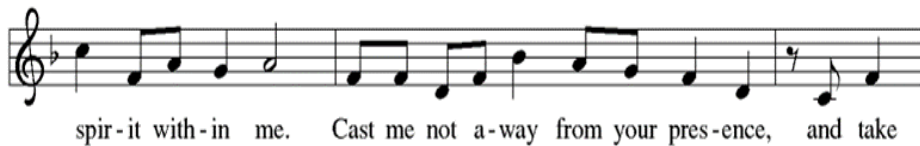
GLORY BE TO JESUS

ROBERT LAU

**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.*

**Last Sunday of the month special offering. The plate will be passed a second time to collect funds to benefit Lutheran Disaster Response.**

*As the offering is brought to the table, the congregation stands and sings.*



## OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
**your steadfast love embraces all creation.**  
**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth**  
**and bring forth its bounty.**  
**Through these gifts of bread and wine,**  
**draw us into the death and life of your Son,**  
**who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**  
**We ask this in Jesus' name. 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

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

## LAMB OF GOD *REMAIN STANDING*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Following the direction of the ushers, approach by the center aisle and return to your pew by the side aisles. Please get a cup from the stack by the first pew before receiving bread. Grape Juice and gluten free options are available.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

ELW 338

*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.**

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

---

**SENDING**

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

---

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

ELW 347

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

ROBERT LAU

**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, Gladys Eckenroad, Bonnie Koehle-Koon, Chris Zander, Kathleen Troutman, Sally Bergman, Kevin Reimert, Pam Heisey, Connie Malafarina, Ted Heisey, Regina Reinecker, Karen Klingensmith, Debbie Leed, Sue Van Zant, Alex Merionfeld, Susan Kreitz, Helen Werner, Cody Leisey, Michelle Moyer, Janet Craley, Scott Zook, Clarice Haws, Dianna Becker (Gockley's neighbor), Laurie Sauder, Sue Templin, Clyde Showalter, Ashley Milosek (friend of Cody and Aubrey Leisey) Dave Brown, Pat Miller, Brian Gress, Lucille Lorah, Leah Showalter (Louetta Franck's great niece) Michael Miller, Mark Stoner, Robert Reaser, Leonard Hoover, Laney Garrison, Sam Reimert, Lou Smith, Bob Shank, Sammy Hanna (friend of Ruth & Gaile) the family of Lowell Haws, the family of Jeremy Charles and the family of Janet Bingaman.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in honor of Doug Kulp's birthday by the Bell Choir.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** is given in memory of loved ones by Cathy Cammauf.

**TODAY WE WELCOME** with joy Avery and Josh Garrison, John Lewandowski, and Laura, Phyllis, and Ralph Vedder into membership at Swamp Lutheran.

## **LDR ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST BUFFET** **SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026** **7:00-10:00 AM**

**SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL**

*PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD  
LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE MINISTRY IN 2026*

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
NORTH LANCASTER CONFERENCE DEAN'S FUND

# Holy Week

at Swamp Lutheran Church

## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD!

*Come for special music, an inspiring message, &  
a children's sermon all in the glow of candlelight*

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4/2 MAUNDY THURSDAY @ 7:30PM

4/3 GOOD FRIDAY @ 8PM

4/4 COMMUNITY EGG HUNT @ 10AM

4/5 EASTER SUNDAY @ 6AM & 8:30AM  
WITH BREAKFAST AT 7AM





JOIN US FOR AN

# EASTER EGG HUNT

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!  
THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF CRAFTS, SNACKS  
AND PRIZES FOR CHILDREN AGES PRE K -  
5TH GRADE! WITH A SPECIAL APPEARANCE  
BY THE EASTER BUNNY!

**APRIL 4, 2026 | 10AM - 12PM**

**SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Rd, Reinholds, PA 17569

Questions: 717 336 2849



## Other Readings for this Sunday

### Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me

a trained tongue,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens,

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious;

I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand in court together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**March 29, 2026**

**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY**

**His Blood Be on Us**

Today we begin Holy Week, a week filled with paradoxes, reversals, and ironic twists. The story moves inevitably toward death, yet it brings the promise of life. Jesus appears to be the victim, but he chooses this path, humbling himself, confident that God will exalt him in victory. Pilate embodies the full might of the Roman Empire but is powerless before the crowd's demands. The chief priests and elders, perhaps more than anyone else, should recognize the long-hoped-for Messiah, but their jealousy prevents this.

Perhaps the greatest irony in today's Passion reading is found in the crowd's exclamation, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25). These words have been misused to slander the Jewish people, claiming they bear the guilt of Christ's blood. Superficially, that is what the crowd means: Pilate refuses responsibility, so the people take it upon themselves. Theologically, though, the crowd speaks a universal truth. Far from justifying anti-Jewish scapegoating, these words apply to all humanity. Somehow we are all implicated in the death of Jesus. Our rebellion, our sin, places him on the cross.

Paradoxically, however, the crowd's words also reveal a deeper truth. The blood of Christ does not mark with condemnation; it promises forgiveness. It does not stain with guilt; it washes sin away. By accepting suffering and death at the hands of sinners, Jesus wins the victory of love. His blood be on us, indeed! Just as we all share guilt in the crucifixion of Jesus, so too are we all granted mercy by his self-giving death. United in baptism to his death and resurrection, receiving his body and blood in communion, we receive grace, freedom, and life.

In the days to come, do not look at these contradictions as puzzles to be solved. They are mysteries beyond full understanding. But as you contemplate the events of Holy Week, you will discover new depths of God's love for you. May his blood be upon us all, with mercy and salvation.

**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 – 717-283-9444

Grady Daub, Assistant Organist – 717-917-2430

Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798

Cody Leisey, Council President – 717-984-0248

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, 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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## **SWAMP ANNOUNCEMENTS    *MARCH 29, 2026***

WWW.SWAMPLUTHERAN.ORG    SECRETARY@SWAMPLUTHERAN.ORG    717-336-2849  
REV. SCOTT BRUBAKER, PASTOR    PASTOR@SWAMPLUTHERAN.ORG    CELL:717-598-4663

### **Week in the Parish (March 30 – April 4 )**

Today	9:30AM	Palm Sunday Breakfast
March 30	7:00PM	Bell Choir
March 31	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
April 1	7:00PM	Choir
April 2	7:30PM	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 3	8:00PM	Good Friday Worship

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 4	10:00AM	Community Easter Egg Hunt (5 <sup>th</sup> grade and younger)
April 5		EASTER
April 5	6:00AM	Sunrise Worship
April 5	7:00AM	Breakfast
April 5	8:30AM	Worship
April 6		OFFICE CLOSED
April 7	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
April 7	7:00PM	Welcome Cmte
April 8	1-4:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
April 8	7:00PM	Choir
April 9	12:00PM	Widow & Widowers Lunch/Udder Choice Ephrata
April 9	6:30PM	Learning Cmte
April 11	7-10:00AM	Lutheran Disaster Response breakfast @ Swamp
April 12	8:30AM	Worship
April 12	9:45AM	Sunday School
April 13	7:00PM	Bell Choir
April 14	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
April 15	7:00PM	Choir
April 15	7:00PM	Church Council
April 19	8:30AM	Worship
April 19	9:45AM	Sunday School
April 20	7:00PM	Bell Choir
April 21	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study

**Greeter Schedule for March**

29 Gene &amp; Heather Ferrari

**Greeter Schedule for April**

05 Pam Leisey  
 12 Danielle, Addy & Anson Kauffman  
 19 Alan & Kathy Worley  
 26 Gene & Heather Ferrari

**Sound Schedule for March**

29 Steve Laudenslager

**Sound Schedule for April**

02 John Frantz  
 03 John Frantz  
 05 6am Alan Worley  
 05 Steve Laudenslager  
 12 Steve Laudenslager  
 19 Steve Laudenslager  
 26 Steve Laudenslager

**Coffee Schedule for March**

29 Randy Gockley

**Coffee Schedule for April**

05 Ray Weitzel  
 12 Deb Sweigert  
 19 Pam Leisey  
 26 John Frantz

**Video Schedule for March**

29 Josh Garrison

**Video Schedule for April**

02 Josh Garrison  
 03 Josh Garrison  
 05 6am Alan Worley  
 05 Alan Worley  
 12 John Frantz  
 19 Josh Garrison  
 26 Alan Worley

**DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK***Mon March 30* Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11*Tue March 31* Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36*Wed April 1* Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32*Maundy Thursday April 2* Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35*Fri April 3 Good Friday* Isaiah 52:13—53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1—19:42*Sat April 4* Romans 6:3-11 John 20:1-18**UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS***Sun April 5 Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Day* Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

**FLOWERS:** If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle in 2026, please contact Sue Kreitz at 717-283-9444 or John Frantz at 717-606-8994.

**Grumbine's Flowers** will now continue delivery of fresh altar flower arrangements through June 2026. Please sign up for flower sponsorships via Sue, John, or the flower calendar.

**EASTER FLOWER COST** for Lilies is \$11.50. Please make checks payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.

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

**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.



**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.

### **Holy Week at Swamp**

- April 2 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:30pm.
- April 3 Good Friday Worship 8:00pm.
- April 4 Community Egg Hunt (5<sup>th</sup> grade & younger) 10:00am.
- April 5 Easter Sunday Worship 6:00am and 8:30am. Breakfast 7:00am.

**TODAY Sunday Brunch Menu** Scrambled Eggs, Egg Casserole, Bacon, Sausage, Stuffed Pepper Soup, Ham Slices, Gourmet Potatoes, Green Beans, Waffles/Ice Cream w/toppings, Fruit, Shoo Fly Pie, Juices.

**EASTER Breakfast Menu** Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Scrambled Eggs, Potatoes, Chipped Beef, Pastries, Cobbler, Juices, French Toast.

## 2026 Pick Six Lenten Offering

For the six weeks of Lent, we are encouraging you to give a special, weekly offering *in addition* to your regular giving. The benevolence giving options listed below are opportunities to give to ministries operating in or through our church.

Envelopes with these options listed on them are available on the table in the narthex or rear lobby. Please grab a pack of six envelopes (one for each week of Lent). Call the office if you need them mailed to you. Online Giving is an option too via our website. Giving to multiple options each week is encouraged.

**ELCA Youth Gathering**

**Ephrata Area Social Services**

**Swamp Lutheran TLC**

**Swamp Food Pantry**

**Non-designated Gift**

**ELCA Hunger Appeal**

**Community Meal**

**Jan's Circle of Friends**

**Luth. Disaster Response**

**Builders of Hope**

**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, like the monthly food pantry, events, etc. 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

**Service Committee LWR Personal Care Kits.** During the months of March and April we will be collecting items for personal care kits. The following items are included in each kit, you may donate a complete kit or individual items.

- 1 light-weight bath size towel (maximum 52”X27”), dark color recommended
- 2 bath size bars (4 or 5 oz) of soap in original wrapping
- 1 adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clippers, remove packaging

Do not add other items than those that are listed. All items should be new.

All items can be collected for LWR until Ingathering Sunday ( 1st Sun. in Oct.)

Thank you for your support of Lutheran World Relief’s worldwide mission !

Jane Leshner 717-471-2974.