FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 11, 2025 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 gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE SAVIOUR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US WILLIAM CARLTON

congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one. We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN THE DAY OF RESURRECTION ELW 361

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

ANTHEM SHEPHERD ME, O GOD MARTY HAUGEN Children leave for Children's Church

WORD

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

Psalm 23 read responsively

- ¹The LORD | is my shepherd; I shall not | be in want.
- ²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures and leads me be- | side still waters.
- ³ You restore my [|] soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways [|] for your name's sake.
- ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.

READING: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the

great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My

sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.

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

Sit
SERMON
CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH
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

OFFERING THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD DERRICK JOHNSON **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.



Music: Liturgy of Joy, James M. Capers, b. 1948 Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in 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

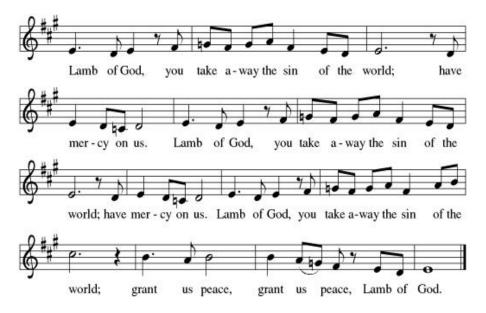
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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. Ame

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. **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.

COMMUNION HYMN SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US ELW 789

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.

Living One,

in this feast you have made yourself known to us.

Send us now to tell of your wonders,

sing of your glory,

and proclaim your risen life

to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ⊕ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING ELW 631

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Ye Servants of God Jacob Smith

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, Pauline Wassmer, Jerry Landis, Mary Beth Jenkins, Evelyn Gehman, Joan Leed, Ron Adams, Kevin Williams, Karen Laudenslager, Susan Levan, Larry Eberly, Anson Kauffman, Janet Bingaman, Dwayne Dimitris, Gladys Eckenroad, Bonnie Koehle-Koon, Ross Houck, Chris Zander, Kathleen Troutman, Sally Bergman, Keith Reimert, Larry Hagy, Pam Heisey, Cathy Stine, Connie Malafarina, Ted Heisey(Jenny Weitzel's brother), family of Molly Weitzel, family of Michael Wargo, family of Diane Showalter Emes.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in loving memory of her father, Mr. Kenneth Mummah, by Mr. & Mrs. John Chmielewski.

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

ALTAR FLOWER/CANDLE UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who donated to the Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle ministry. The 2025 Flower Calendar is posted in the Narthex. The Sanctuary Candle cost will remain at \$5.00 and the cost of the Altar Flowers remains at \$40.00 (subject to change).

FLOWERS: June 1st and 8th are 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.

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 2025.

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

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.



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.

Cocalico Builders of Hope fundraiser. Strawberry Shortcake Stand at Adamstown Community Days, May 29-31 in the Grove. Featuring Boehringer's ice cream. Come out and enjoy a sweet treat!

Greeter Schedule May 11 Deb Kohl 1 David & Laraine Kramer 18 Deb Sweigert 25 Glenn & Linda Beard 15 Pam Leisey 22 Gene & Heather Ferrari 29 Lowell & Sandy Haws

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 kits, soap, and quilts can be collected for LWR until Sunday, October 1st. Thank you for your support of Lutheran World Relief's worldwide mission! Jane Lesher 717-471-2974.

Orders are being taken for **red geraniums for Pentecost**, Sunday June 8th, 2025. Price is not yet known and the deadline for ordering is Sunday May 18th. Please give the following information to the church office or Jodi Showalter 717-413-7149.

Name	Phone Number
Red Geraniums	
In memory of	
-	



Swamp Lutheran Church Philadelphia Phillies Bus Trip

Philadelphia Phillies

VS.

Washington Nationals

August 22, 2025 Game Time 6:45 PM

\$100.00

300 Level Ticket (3rd baseline)

Miller Lite Floppy Hat Giveaway

Round trip Deluxe Motor Coach to/from Swamp Lutheran Church and Citizens Bank Park

Snacks and Door Prizes

CONTACT: RUTH KRAMER (717) 335-8018 or LORI GOCKLEY (717) 203-8551 by JUNE 2, 2025

Widow & Widowers Luncheon at 11:30am on Tuesday May 13 at Udder Choice Ephrata, located in a private room, upon entering, on right. (separate checks) Pastor Glenn Beard will be the guest speaker and will be sharing his experiences with Disaster Response of the ELCA. If you have a widow or widower friend, feel free to bring them along! We ask that you contact Terri to RSVP at 717-336-2849 for a headcount for the restaurant. We hope to see you soon..and remember YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Week in the Parish (May 11 - 18)

May 12	7:00PM	Bell Choir
May 13	11:30AM	Widow & Widowers Luncheon @ Udder Choice
May 13	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
May 14	1-4:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
May 14	7:00PM	Choir
May 15	6:30PM	Learning Cmte
May 16	OF	FICE CLOSED
May 17	2:00PM Bell Cl	hoir Afternoon of Music at Reinholds Trinity Chapel
May 18	8:30AM	Worship
May 18	9:45AM	Sunday School
May 18	11:00AM	Spring Fest
May 18	5-8:00PM	SLY Mini-Golf

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21	7:00PM	Church Council Mtg	
May 25	8:30AM	Worship	
May 26	Memorial Day	OFFICE CLOSED	
May 28	7:00PM	Choir	
May 29	7:00PM	Ascension Day Service	@ Swamp Lutheran Church
May 29-31	Cocalico Builders	s of Hope fundraiser @A	damstown Community Days
June 2	6:00PM	Spring Clean-up	

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday May 12	Psalm 100 Ezekiel 37:15-28 Revelation 15:1-4
Tuesday May 13	Psalm 100 Ezekiel 45:1-9 Acts 9:32-35
Wednesday May 14	Psalm 100 Jeremiah 50:17-20 John 10:31-42
Thursday May 15	Psalm 148 Ezekiel 2:8—3:11 Revelation 10:1-11
Friday May 16	Psalm 148 Daniel 7:13-14 Revelation 11:15
Saturday May 17	Psalm 148 Daniel 7:27 Revelation 11:16-19

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

Other Readings for this Sunday

Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died. Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer. ³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.





FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH AT 717.336.2849

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 11, 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER All Your Answers Questioned

Some years ago, a class from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago had T-shirts made with the slogan "LSTC: The place to get all your answers questioned." What does it mean to advocate questioning at a seminary? Shouldn't the church train leaders to provide answers? It is a common assumption that we achieve right faith by coming to a correct interpretation of divine things. Indeed, many people of faith are ready and willing to provide that correct interpretation. But faith is more than a set of propositions. It is a relationship of trust with the living Lord.

For his part, Jesus tends to resist easy answers. "How long will you keep us in suspense?" his interrogators ask in today's gospel reading from John. "If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly" (10:24). But Jesus' reply is hardly straightforward: "I have told you, and you do not believe, . . . because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me" (10:25-27).

We may crave clarity, but faith is not always clear-cut. It is filled with subtlety, ambiguity, tension. Even as God desires abundant life for us, God also calls us to lay down our lives for each other. The gospel encompasses both suffering and hope, death and new life. The Son of Man comes not to be served but to serve, to shepherd.

These truths are hard to "tell plainly." That is not to say we should not seek understanding in the life of faith. But faith also means having our answers questioned, allowing God to renew our minds for the sake of our relationship with Christ who claims us for himself. After all, the gift and challenge of discipleship is not to come to indisputable conclusions about God, but to follow our Shepherd on the way.

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.

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