

HOLY CROSS DAY
SEPTEMBER 14, 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." (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 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

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

PEOPLE NEED THE LORD

GRAHAM NORRIS

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 ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY ELW 324

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.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

Children leave for Children's Church

WORD

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

READING: **1 Corinthians 1:18-24**

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: **John 3:13-17**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever

believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

OFFERTORY THE SHEPARD, MY LORD IS KAREN TORRES

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.

Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Song



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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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*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

ELW 660

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God Joseph Haydn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONDOLENCES to the family of **Karen Krater** who joined the Church Triumphant on September 3. Her Celebration of Life was held at Swamp on Wednesday. Please keep Randy and the family in your prayers during this difficult time of loss. Notes of sympathy for Randy can be sent to him at 135 Cocalico Road, Robeson, PA 19551.

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, Karen Laudenslager, 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, family of Karen Krater and the family of Ron Stoner.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of loved ones by a friend.

FLOWERS: November 9th & 16th 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 and vegetables. Please check for a current expiration date. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month.



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 717-336-2849 or email 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.

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.

Salem-Kissel Hill & Bergstrasse congregations invites you, the congregations of the North Lancaster and Lancaster conferences, to participate in our first annual "Weave Together" Community Service Project & Retreat! First up is to invite your friends and neighbors to crochet or knit 12" X 12" single squares using any washable & dryable worsted (4) weight yarn. Any stitch, any color! Drop off completed squares at Salem-Kissel Hill 717-627-0048 or Bergstrasse 717-733-7808 before September 21. Be sure to call first to make sure someone is available to receive your squares!

Next - register for the "Weave Together Retreat" happening on Saturday October 4, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm when we will 'weave together' the gathered squares into blankets that will then be distributed to the Lancaster County unhoused populations between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The retreat includes a bible study, lunch, snacks and a wealth of yet to be determined learnings from each other weaving our love and life experience into each blanket. For those who don't crochet or knit --- there will be plenty of work to be done sorting, gathering, cooking, etc.!

Watch for dates and times when we'll present our gifts to our unhoused neighbors.



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.



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.





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

Sunday
October 12
2-5 pm

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.

Pig Stomach ^{annual} TAKEOUT DINNER

**OCTOBER 25, 2025
1PM - 3PM**

**Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd, Reinholds, PA 17569**

**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.**

Greeter Schedule September

14 Steve & Karen Laudenslager
21 Carl & Louetta Franck
28 John & Carol Chmielewski

Greeter Schedule October

5 Deb Sweigert
12 John & Sharon Levan
19 Deb Kohl
26 Denise Kidwell

Coffee Schedule for September

14 Pam Leisey
21 Lee Showalter
28 Pam Leisey

Coffee Schedule October

5 Randy Gockley
12 Randy Gockley
19 Randy Gockley
26 Randy Gockley

Week in the Parish (Sept 14- 21)

September 14	10:00AM	Touch a Truck
September 16	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
September 16	7:00PM	Welcome Cmte
September 17	7:00PM	Choir
September 17	7:00PM	Council Mtg
September 21	8:30AM	Worship
September 21	9:45AM	Sunday School begins

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22	7:00PM	Bell Choir
September 23	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
September 24	7:00PM	Choir
September 28	8:30AM	Worship
September 28	9:45AM	Sunday School
October 5	8:30AM	Worship
October 5	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

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Mon</i> September 15	Psalm 73 Amos 7:1-6 1 Timothy 1:18-20
<i>Tue</i> September 16	Psalm 73 Jonah 3:1-10 2 Peter 3:8-13
<i>Wed</i> September 17	Psalm 73 Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6 Luke 22:31-33, 54-62
<i>Thurs</i> September 18	Psalm 113 Exodus 23:1-9 Romans 3:1-8
<i>Fri</i> September 19	Psalm 113 Ezekiel 22:17-31 Romans 8:31-39
<i>Sat</i> September 20	Psalm 113 Isaiah 5:8-23 Mark 12:41-44

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

<i>Sun</i> September 21	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
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Other Readings for this Sunday

Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalms 98:1-4

The LORD has done marvelous things. (Ps. 98:1)

¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ^l marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ^l won the victory.

² **O LORD, you have made ^l known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ^l of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ^l house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ^l of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, ^l all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ^l joice, and sing.**

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 14, 2025

HOLY CROSS DAY

Saving Presence

An internet meme circulating a few years ago chided its audience, “If God didn’t send Jesus into the world to condemn it, I doubt God sent you to.” It’s hard to refrain from judgment, especially when so many social pressures tempt us to judge ourselves as right and everyone else as wrong. John’s gospel puts such competitions to rest: God loves everyone and everything—the whole world, all of creation, every person and part of the entire cosmos, all that is.

At first take, we might be baffled that we lift up the cross as the place where God’s expansive love is so significantly shown for us. But through Christ’s crucifixion, death, and resurrection, God works to unravel all the violence that leads to things like crucifixion in the first place. In the cross, God’s presence is with us: God has taken on all of our human suffering so we can know that Christ’s loving presence is with us when we are hurting too. God accompanies us through hardships. God brings new life in the midst of death! This is the mysterious power of the cross.

Every time God gathers us for holy communion, we remember that night when Jesus faced these hardest moments. Before being lifted up on the cross, he broke bread and shared wine and promised to remain with us always. Jesus continues to be with us in the holy meal even all these centuries later: in bread and wine, for us, lifted high. Indeed, this is the presence we need. It is the presence that sustains us at work, at school, at play. It is the presence that makes grace real. It is the presence that saves us from sin and death, always.

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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

Here!

Welcome

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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