



Dec 2024

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

Pastor's Message

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. -Luke 1:78-79

As the Thanksgiving holiday comes to a close, our attention focuses on Christmas. In the secular world, we call it the Christmas season with all eyes on Christmas day and family meals, gift giving, and holiday cheer. For the Christian Church, we are about to enter the Advent season which begins on December 1 and ends with the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas. For the Christian Church, the season of Christmas does not begin until Christmas day and runs for 12 days until Epiphany.

“Advent is the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks before Christmas. The word ‘Advent’ comes from the Latin, ‘to come,’ and the church has observed Advent as weeks of preparation since the fifth century with themes of watchfulness, preparation, and hope infusing this season. Together we both anticipate the celebration of God’s coming in the form of the Christ child and the final coming of Christ in the time to come.” (<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/890/>)

“The ‘now-and-not-yet’ nature of the fulfillment of our hope in Christ is never more rhetorically real than in the season of Advent. In its great wisdom, the lectionary launches us into this wheel of time with a season that, much like our own lives, is full of endings and beginnings—and, of course, waiting” (Sundays and Seasons, Year A).

During Advent, as the daylight shrinks by the day, Christians are called to focus on the light of the world breaking through the darkness in our world. It’s a hopeful, expectant time where we focus on the promises made by God through Christ. Each week in worship we light, in succession, the candles on the Advent wreath for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

I encourage you to read again slowly the passage from Luke above. Then, as you sit in the dark places of your life, make this Advent a time for prayer, devotion, meditation, and preparation for the light of the world to enter your heart and our world anew. Let the light of Christ dispel whatever darkness troubles you.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott



www.swamplutheran.org

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, Pa 17569
717-336-2849

Ministers :
Congregation

Staff

Pastor:
Rev. Scott V. Brubaker

Admin Asst:
Teresa Renninger

Sexton:
Jonathan Gyorke

Organist/Choir Director:
Susan Kreitz

Assistant Organist:
Grady Daub

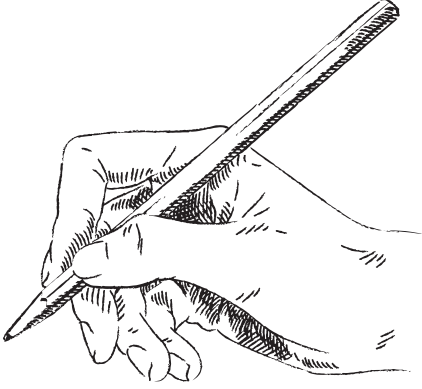
Bell Choir:
Doug Kulp

In person worship
8:30AM

Two options available:

- Watch live stream video on YouTube
- Join us inside for in person worship

Notes from the Pastor



Please call the church office at **717-336-2849** when:

- **You are in the hospital or prior to going to the hospital** (or have a relative call for you.) In an emergency, call Pastor Brubaker at **717-598-4663**.
- **You are confined to your home for an extended period of time** because of illness or accident.
- **You are going to a rehab center or a nursing home.**
- **There is a change in your family status** (birth, death, marriage, or divorce).
- **You move to a home, move out of the area, or go away to college or graduate school.** Important for keeping data base current.
- **You schedule a meeting or an event** of a group or committee. To be open and communicative with everyone, we would like to include all scheduling on the Church Calender and in the Weekly Bulletin.

Prayer Requests

Hunter Leisey
John Frantz
Ed Miller
John Wesner
Michael Wargo
Jeff Kappenstein
Nettie Kriener
Clair Sweigart
Faith Moyer
Michael A. Crowther
Reba Ranck
Grace Ranck
Ray Fox
Gene Miller
Jean Wolf
Honey Notobartolo
Bobby Hershey
Marilyn Gelsinger
Edie Snyder
J.J. Johnson

Robert Bachman
Teresa Sweigart
Mel and Troy Ulrich
Earl Myers
Elizabeth Sherman
Judy Habecker
Anna Rose Schannauer
Dennis Troutman
David Metzger
Linda Mohn
Pauline Wassmer
Jerry Landis
Laney Garrison
Karen Nye
Alicia Andrews
Mary Beth Jenkins
Evelyn Gehman
Joan Leed
Ron Adams
Kevin Williams

Karen Laudenslager
Connie Malafarina
Debbie Leed
Maggie Krater
Janet Krater
Susan Levan
Larry Eberly
Anson Kauffman
Janet Bingaman
Dwayne Dimitris
Gladys Eckenroad



Gratitude
TURNS WHAT
WE HAVE INTO
enough



Generosity Minute

It's the thought that counts'

Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you." -Luke 6:38

Why is it so hard to find that all-too-elusive "perfect gift" for the loved ones in your life? For many of us, it's because they already have everything they need and most of what they want. It sometimes feels impossible to find a gift that won't be banished to that closet for unwanted, unneeded, and unused presents -- alongside the loud ties, the strong perfumes, the unread books, and the garish sweaters.

When it comes to gift-giving, it's often said, "It's the thought that counts." If that's true, why do we still put so much emphasis on the gift?

This year focus on the thoughts behind your Christmas gifts. Thoughts in keeping with the season. Thoughts of meeting real needs and giving where it will be much appreciated. With so many disadvantaged people in the world, at least some of our Christmas budget would be well spent helping our needy neighbors.

If you are buying for a loved one who has everything, consider instead giving a monetary donation in their honor to a worthy charity that helps the poor. Some charities, such as Heifer International and ELCA Good Gifts, let you buy a specific item – such as a goat or pig for a family, or a water well for a village – to help people in the developing world.

Make the gift in your loved one's name or honor, and then describe it in a card attached to a low-cost "token" gift, such as a small box of chocolates or a bottle of wine. The better part of your gift will go to someone who truly needs it, and your loved one will share the joy of loving and helping your neighbors in need.

Just remember, 'It's the thought that counts!'

December 10+ Birthdays

JAMES R. WAGNER 35 WOODLYN ESTATES MILLSBORO, DE 19966-9018	12/2
PAULINE WASSMER 585 N. RIDGE ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	12/5
EARL MYERS 1845 FURNACE HILLS ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	12/6
HAROLD CRILLS EPHRATA MANOR, APT. 119 250 PARKVIEW HEIGHTS EPHRATA, PA 17522	12/9
ALICE FASNACHT 1050 S. COCALICO ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	12/11



SYLVIA FETTER 360 SANDY HILL ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	12/14
HELEN WERNER 250 PARKVIEW HEIGHTS RD #109 EPHRATA, PA 17522	12/19
PASTOR BONNIE OPLINGER 327 E WALNUT STREET SHILLINGTON, PA 19607	12/21
INGRID TATE 1016 GENERAL SUTTER AVE LITITZ, PA 17543-2501	12/31
PASTOR DENNIS TROUT 430 BLUE LAKE ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	12/31

Please advise the office if this is the magic year that you turn 70! Just give Terri a call at 717-336-2849 or email her at secretary@swamplutheran.org

Happy Birthday to others born in December

Lanette Miller	02
Mason Strunk	02
Andy Weitzel	03
Madison Walmer	04
Cindy Chynoweth	06
David Klingensmith	06
Tony Malafarina	06
Steve Young	10
Madison Nye	11
Phil Higgins	12
Janet Krater	17
Bert Nye	17
Sue Knauer	18
Sunnie Young	18
John Chmielewski	19
Jessica Davey	19



Sue Templin	19
Larry Maier	20
Jeff Sauder	21
Caroline Kittler	22
Emily Wagner	23
Michael A. Crowther	24
Sandy Eberly	24
Scott Kramer	24
Lisa Keppley	25
Larue Chubb	26
Susie Shirk	29
Sharon Frantz	29
Mike Witmer	31

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let us know if you
have a change of
address, email or
phone number.
secretary@swamplutheran.org



Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Michael A. Crowther
Clarice Haws
Anna Adams

December Greeters

- 1 Kauffman Klan
- 8 Steve & Karen Laudenslager
- 15 David & Lori Sauder
- 22 Steve & Danielle Kauffman
- 29 Lee & Jodi Showalter

January Greeters

- 5 Carl & Louetta Franck
- 12 Phil & Tammy Higgins
- 19 Tom & Deb Henly
- 26 John & Sharon Levan

Thank you for serving as greeters.
Please try to be at the front door
by 8:10AM



Exciting UPCOMING EVENTS



December 1	9:45pm	Hanging of the Greens
December 2	7pm	Bell Choir
December 3	6:30PM	Welcome Cmte Shopping @ Ephrata Walmart
December 4	7pm	Choir
December 7	2:00pm	Bell Choir Concert @ Reinholds Trinity Chapel
December 8	9:30am	Congregational Meeting
December 10	6pm	Zoom Bible Study
December 10	7pm	Cocalico Builders of Hope
December 11	1-4pm	EASS Food Distribution
December 11	7pm	Choir
December 12	11:30am	Widow & Widowers lunch @ Udder Choice
December 14	12pm	Wreaths Across America begins @ Fairview Cemetery, Denver
December 15	2pm	Day of Music
December 16	7pm	Bell Choir
December 17	6pm	Zoom Bible Study
December 18	7pm	Church Council
December 18	7pm	Choir
December 22	7pm	Bell Choir @ Coleman Chapel Service
December 24	4pm & 7pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
December 25		Christmas Day

Invite your friends to join you at Swamp. After all, you never know how God might work through your kindness and compassion to answer your neighbors' prayers, fulfilling their best hopes for Advent and Christmas.



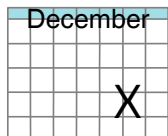
Christmas Eve special music at 7:00pm service. Please join us for a special musical prelude prior to the 7:00 service on Christmas Eve. The prelude will feature piano and organ selections by Sue Kreitz, Grady Daub, Cameron Nye and the Bell Choir and will begin at 6:40pm.



Helpers Needed for Hanging of the Greens on December 1, 9:45am. Questions: Pam Leisey



The church needs your help as a volunteer. From time to time members of the church need assistance in getting somewhere or even to get to church. It is not often but when the need arises we would appreciate having some folks who are willing to drive if available. Please call or email Terri at the office to identify yourself as a willing volunteer driver. 717-336-2849 or secretary@swamplutheran.org. God needs our hands and feet to assist those in our church family. Thank you for your consideration.



Regarding information you would like to add for the January Newsletter, please jot this date down: **December 27**. Please reach out to Terri Renninger at 717-336-2849 or email secretary@swamplutheran.org with your information. Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you.



Widow & Widowers holiday lunch will be December 12, 11:30am at Udder Choice. Please RSVP to Barbara Mizdail at Bmiz13@hotmail.com



ALTAR FLOWER/CANDLE UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who donated to the Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle ministry. The 2025 Flower Calendar will be posted later in December. The Sanctuary Candle cost will remain at \$5.00 and the cost of the Altar Flowers remains at \$40.00 for the time being, but we will know more after the beginning of the New Year. 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 spaghetti, pasta, canned fruit, green beans, peas, carrots and soup. Paper towels and toilet paper are always appreciated. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month. ***Please check for a current expiration date.***



Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. You may support these efforts by writing a check to Swamp Lutheran with the memo marked Disaster Response. The church will then send one check to Lutheran Disaster who in turn will donate 100% of the donation to assist those impacted.

Thank You as You Continue to Give Generously!!



Knitters and Crocheters Needed Thank you for changing your focus back to making Prayer Shawls. Your donations can be left in the library.

Thank you to all who continue to work on this outreach.



Reverse Advent Calendar Service committee would like to help EASS and Swamp's Food Bank stock their shelves this upcoming holiday season by everyone doing a reverse advent calendar. Start with an empty basket, box, or bag and every day between Sunday, December 1st and ending Tuesday, December 24th add a non-perishable food item to the container. Possible ideas are canned meats, canned vegetables, cereal, rice, pasta, canned fruit, hamburger helper, mac and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, and fruit juice.

Then on Tuesday, December 24th bring the filled container to church.

This year make someone else's Christmas a little bit brighter. Thank you in advance for your support.

Another great opportunity for advent is to read a chapter in the Gospel of Luke each day and by December 24th you will have read the entire book of Luke.



Wanted: Synod Assembly Representatives. We need members of Swamp to volunteer to attend the Lower Susquehanna Synod Annual Assembly on June 5-7, 2025. This is an important year as a new bishop will be elected. We need 1 lay Female, 1 Lay Male, and 1 layperson aged 30 or younger for election at the annual congregational meeting on December 8. To express interest or to learn more, please contact Pastor Scott or Lori Gockley.

Thank you to the congregation, Chancel Choir and Bell Choir for the cards, flowers, meals and thoughts and prayers while in the hospital and recuperating at home. Your caring meant so much to me. Blessings, Sue Kreitz.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA. The Swamp Church Cemetery Association is proud to announce our joining more than 4,000 locations throughout the US in placing wreaths on the gravesites of our 211 veterans interred at Swamp Church Cemetery. It is important we remember, honor and teach. Remember the fallen, honor those who served, and teach the next generation the value of freedom. We are currently seeking sponsors of wreaths. Swamp's youth group (SLY) will be selling wreath sponsorships in the Narthex on upcoming Sunday mornings. The cost of a wreath sponsorship is \$17.00.

Wreaths will be placed on Saturday, Dec 14, 2024. Ceremony at 12:00pm at Fairview Cemetery in Denver followed by wreath placement at Swamp Cemetery. You will also be able to designate a wreath and place it that day on a gravesite of a veteran. We are also seeking volunteers to place wreaths on Dec 14, 2024. Details on how you can support this effort are coming soon. Please contact Laraine Kramer at 717-405-4047 with your questions or concerns. Thank you, Swamp Church Cemetery Association.

11/19/2024

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurers Report October 2024

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Treasurers Report October 2024				
Current Fiscal Year / October				
	This Year Budget	This Year Actual	% of Budget	Remaining
INCOME	\$ 314,126.00	\$ 264,988.48	84.36%	\$49,137.52
Expense	\$ 314,126.00	\$ 278,616.32	88.70%	\$35,509.68
OPERATIONS	\$ 53,590.00	\$ 38,757.83	72.32%	\$14,832.17
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 21,800.00	\$ 22,217.32	101.91%	(\$417.32)
BENEFITS	\$ 34,622.00	\$ 31,050.22	89.68%	\$3,571.78
THROUGH STAFF	\$ 133,924.00	\$ 111,189.58	83.02%	\$22,734.42
REIMBURSED EXP.	\$ -	\$ 9,879.93		(\$9,879.93)
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ 800.00	\$ 4,202.94	525.37%	(\$3,402.94)
PROPERTY	\$ 17,700.00	\$ 8,322.35	47.02%	\$9,377.65
WORSHIP	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 5,129.29	69.31%	\$2,270.71
SERVICE	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 408.00	32.64%	\$842.00
COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 200.00	\$ 602.00	301.00%	(\$402.00)
GENEROSITY	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$500.00
WELCOME	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 3,191.70	51.48%	\$3,008.30
LEARNING	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 3,092.41	57.80%	\$2,257.59
BENEVOLENCES	\$ 30,790.00	\$ 40,572.75	131.77%	(\$9,782.75)
Income	\$ 314,126.00	\$ 265,441.48	84.50%	\$48,684.52
Expense	\$ 314,126.00	\$ 278,616.32	88.70%	\$35,509.68
	\$ -	\$ (13,174.84)	-4.19%	\$13,174.84



Have you updated your will and remembered the ministry of Christ at Swamp Lutheran?

Swamp Lutheran Church can be named a beneficiary in your will and/or in your life insurance policy.

Give a gift that celebrates your life and commitment to Christ!

OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Lori Gockley, President,
David Sauder, Vice President
Danielle Kauffman, Secretary
Deb Kohl, Financial Secretary
Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer
Sue Knauer, Co-Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL LIAISONS

Danielle Kauffman —
Communication
Sue Ellen Knauer — Constitution;
Service; Personnel
Lee Showalter — Disaster
Response
Guy Templin — Finance;
Worship
Deb Schweigert — Love, Inc.
Randy Krater — Property
Pam Leisey — Learning
TBD—Safety & Security
Denise Kidwell — Kitchen Krew
Fritz Fichtner — Generosity
Jen Weitzel - Welcome
Alan Worley -Youth Ministry

Love, Inc. Homes of Hope is now Builders of Hope TL in partnership with Ephrata Area Social Services:

- They have a family in the house and are doing great!
- The group participated and sold 446 steak sandwiches in the fundraiser at St. John's UCC on November 9. Approx. \$2500 was raised in this effort.

Service:

- The Community meal will be held on January 9 and May 8th 2025.
- The CROP walk raised around \$1000.
- November- December, a goods gift tree is placed in the Narthex. This is in lieu of the hat and mitten tree. Directions are placed near the tree.
- The reverse advent calendar project will be done again this year to benefit our food bank. Details in bulletin.

Kitchen Krew:

- Food bank provided 42 families with 111 folks with food in November.
- We received and sorted food from the Scouting for Food program for our food bank. Over 900 lbs of food was donated.
- 137 folks were served at Glenn Allen Beard Disaster Response breakfast. The kitchen donated the food for the event.
- 65 folks were served breakfast after the Polka Mass Service last week.
- They stuffed baked and sold 135 pig stomachs at the annual take out event.

Welcome:

- Seventy-one Thanksgiving cards were mailed out this month.
- We will be postponing the Tree lighting event this year.
- They will be collecting items for the homeless veterans until December 1st.

Learning:

- December 1- Hanging of the Greens.
- Christmas Program will be held December 22 with Santa and cookies afterward.
- College Students recognition will be January 5.

Worship:

- We are returning to communion down the center aisle until the end of the year.
- November 27 will be a Thanksgiving eve service at Mellinger's Church beginning at 7:00pm.
- Afternoon of music will be held December 15 at 2:00pm.

Youth Ministry:

- Thanksgiving meal for needy families- November 24.
- Hospitality bags-December 1.
- Wreaths Across America-December 14.

Other items discussed:

- Directory update: we will be taking photos after church for the next several weeks. Call the church office to schedule a time.
- We are still looking for lay members to attend the 2025 Synod Assembly. If interested, see Pastor Brubaker.
- Glenn Allen Beard's disaster trip is being planned for Asheville, NC. in early April. Let him know if you are interested in helping.
- We received a quote of 2700 from Burke Asphalt for striping the lines in the parking lot and also filling the cracks.
- We received a donation to cover \$2000 of the cost and will do a second offering on Nov. 24 to cover the remainder.
- Nominations- Alan Worley, Deb Sweigert and Jen Weitzel have agreed to a 2nd three-year term.
- Dave Sauder is stepping down with one year left on his three-year term.
- Fritz Fichtner opted not to stay on for 2nd term.
- Cody Leisey and Grady Daub have been nominated to replace the folks stepping down. They will be approved at the congregational meeting on December 8th.
- The spending guidelines have been approved by Council and will be presented for approval at the Congregational meeting.
- Changes in the Constitution will also be voted on at the Congregational meeting.

Time to focus on the Eagles as they sit on top of the NFC East Division!
I think this is their SUPER BOWL YEAR!! FLY EAGLES FLY!!



Good Gifts Tree

This year instead of a hat and mitten tree, the Generosity committee is placing a Good Gifts tree in the narthex. If you ever selected a gift for someone in need from a display in a store or shopping mall this tree will work the same way. Beginning in November, the tree will be full of ornaments that represent items for purchase to benefit families in need around the world. Simply pick an ornament to purchase, write a check to Swamp Lutheran (Good Gifts on memo) and give something unexpected this Christmas.

In Christ, we receive the gift of God's love. Let us share God's love with others. ELCA Good Gifts are a fun, meaningful ways to make a difference in the world and make real, lasting change in the life of someone in need. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

2024 Day of Music



at Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds

December 15 @ 2 pm



Come and enjoy the musical talents of the Swamp Lutheran Congregation and special guest performers.

If you are interested in sharing your talents, please contact Guy Templin:

guy@templinfamily.org or 484.256.5596



Donations of cookies for the post-event reception are appreciated.



Please join us for a free
Afternoon Concert in the Chapel
The Swamp Lutheran Church
Handbell Choir 
Under the direction of Mr. Doug Kulp
Saturday, December 7, 2024
2:00 P.M.



Reinholds Station
Trinity Chapel
114 E. Main St.
Reinholds, PA 17569
717 336-6846



The Swamp Lutheran Church

Handbell Choir

under the direction of Mr. Doug Kulp

Sunday, December 22 @ 7 PM

Music Accompaniment for Worship Service
Coleman Memorial Chapel—Brickerville
1980 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543



Wise Men Hidden Pictures

Find each of these items hidden in the picture: Banana, fish, umbrella, kite, cat, pencil, apple, hammer, ball, and watermelon slice. When you find all the items you may color the picture.

