



July 2026

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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



Join us at Emerald Crossing VBS, July 12-16, as we journey through Psalm 23. VBS is held outside at Reinholds Carnival Grounds (weather permitting) from 6:30-8:30 and is a fun-filled, energy-packed week of sharing the Good News with 150+ kids in our community. Any questions, see Pastor Scott or Abbey Rineer.

You can register your child at myvbs.org/rc

We are seeking crew leaders, craft helpers, snack helpers, game helpers, and Bible story tellers (more explanation below).

Crew Leaders: greet students as they arrive, lead students from station to station and dismiss students at the end of the night.

Craft Helpers: help students complete crafts that are taught/lead by the craft leader.

Snack Helpers: help distribute snacks/drinks.

Game Helpers: help students work off their excess energy.

Bible Story Teller: sign up for one night or more to share the Bible story for the night, usually includes some fun way to interact with the groups. Preschool story will be shared four times, other age groups will be shared three times.

Please use the link or QR code to sign-up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4DAEAF2BA4F85-64139348-reinholds>



For the meals there is a signup genius list of items to donate.

Sign up at bit.ly/3PDXu5h to donate cases of water bottles, 16-pk packages of hamburger and hot dog rolls, or package of individually bagged chips/snacks.

Please commit by July 5; items are needed at church by July 10 or at the Fire Co Kitchen July 12 or 14. Dates needed are indicated for each item.



Pastor's Message



Dear Friends in Christ,

In July, we continue in the long green season of the “Time After Pentecost” or “Ordinary Time.” While the name may sound unremarkable, there is nothing ordinary about what God is doing among us. This is the season of discipleship—a time when we focus on what it means to follow Jesus day by day in the midst of everyday life.

The first disciples left their fishing nets, tax booths, and familiar routines to follow Christ. Yet discipleship was never meant only for those first followers. Jesus continues to call each of us today. In baptism, we are claimed as God's own. Through worship, prayer, scripture, and fellowship, we are formed as disciples. Then we are sent into the world to live out our faith in our homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

Following Christ in today's world is not always easy. We live in a time marked by division, uncertainty, and competing voices that demand our attention. It can be tempting to keep our faith private or to measure success by standards very different from those of the Gospel. Yet Jesus calls us to something greater. He calls us to love our neighbors, seek justice, extend forgiveness, practice generosity, and bear witness to God's grace wherever we are.

Discipleship is not about having all the answers. It is about trusting the One who does. It is about taking the next faithful step, even when the path is unclear. It is about allowing God's Spirit to shape our hearts and guide our actions. As Martin Luther once observed, God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbors do. Through simple acts of kindness, compassion, and service, Christ's love becomes visible in the world.

This summer, I encourage you to consider how God may be calling you to grow as a disciple. Perhaps it means deepening your prayer life, reading your Bible, volunteering in the community (e.g., Food Pantry, Acts of Love Summer Lunch on Aug 5), reaching out to someone who is lonely, or simply being more intentional about worship and fellowship. Discipleship is not a destination we achieve but a lifelong journey we walk with Christ and one another.

As we gather at Swamp Lutheran throughout these summer months, may we be reminded that we are both gathered and sent—gathered around Word and Sacrament, and sent into the world as ambassadors of Christ's love. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide, strengthen, and equip us for the work God has given us to do.

May God's peace and joy be with you throughout this season.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott



Generosity Minute

Generosity Minute – Faithful Through Every Season

Summer is a wonderful time of year. Families travel, schedules become less structured, and we enjoy opportunities for rest and recreation. While many things slow down during the summer months, God's work through the church does not.

The ministries of Swamp Lutheran Church continue every week. Worship services are held, pastoral care is provided, outreach ministries serve our neighbors, and the church remains a place where people encounter God's love and grace. These ministries depend on the faithful support of God's people throughout the year.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, generosity is not simply a response to a need; it is an expression of our faith. We give because God has first given to us. Our offerings are a tangible way of participating in God's mission and ensuring that the ministry entrusted to this congregation continues to flourish.

Additionally, with summer vacation also comes new opportunities, new acquaintances, and new experiences. As disciples, be mindful of those opportunities, be it someone who needs a hand, a meal, or a spiritual lift. Our love is a way to share our talents with those in need of support.

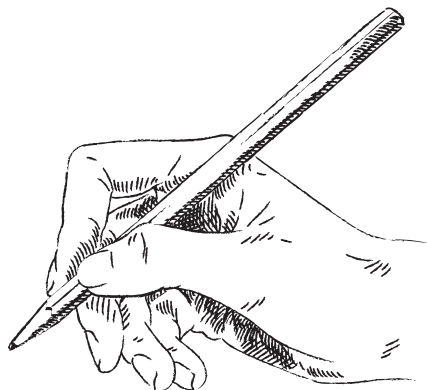
Summer can sometimes bring a decline in giving as vacations and travel take us away from our usual routines. Yet the church's responsibilities and ministry commitments remain constant. Your continued financial support during these slower months helps provide stability and allows Swamp Lutheran Church to carry out its mission faithfully.

As you enjoy the blessings of summer, please remember your commitment to supporting God's work through this congregation. Whether you worship in person, online, or while traveling, your faithful giving helps keep God's ministry moving forward.

Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and your partnership in sharing Christ's love with our community. Together, we continue God's work in every season.

Swamp Lutheran Generosity Committee

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
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
Edie 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
Gladys Eckenroad
Bonnie Koehle-Koon
Kathleen Troutman
Sally Bergman
Kevin Reimert
Pam Heisey
Connie Malafarina
Ted Heisey
Regina Reinecker
Karen Klingensmith
Sue Van Zant
Alex Merionfeld
Helen Werner
Cody Leisey
Michelle Moyer
Scott Zook

Dianna Becker
Laurie Sauder
Sue Templin
Clyde Showalter
Ashley Milosek
Dave Brown
Pat Miller
Lucille Lorah
Leah Showalter
Mark Stoner
Robert Reaser
Laney Garrison
Sam Reimert
Lou Smith
Bob Shank
Sammy Hanna
Pat Grove & Daphne
Aaron Gasparich
Tina Krall
Larry Wolf
Jerry Flickinger
Wanda Maxey
Laraine Kramer
Mike Sawyer
Allison Kenawell and family



**"The less I pray, the harder it gets;
the more I pray, the better it goes."
Martin Luther**

July 70+ Birthdays

PAT WENZEL 7/1
365 W. ROUTE 897
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

JOAN LEED 7/1
250 GALEN HALL RD
REINHOLDS PA 17569

JEAN WOLF 7/5
75 REINHOLDS RD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

PAT MCQUATE 7/9
423 SPRUCE STREET
DENVER, PA 17517

JOAN REDDIG 7/10
PLEASANT VIEW COMMUNITIES
544 N. PENRYN RD
MEADOWS #117
MANHEIM PA 17545

JOY MAIER 7/13
7 ARABIAN COURT
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

NANCY LEFFLER 7/16
250 PARKVIEW HEIGHTS RD
#202
EPHRATA, PA 17522



SAM REIMERT 7/18
54 HIGHLAND CT
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

KAREN LAUDENSLAGER 7/25
7 GARVIN RD
DENVER PA 17517

MARION BERGMAN 7/26
1 READING DRIVE
VILLAGE COMMONS 221
WERNERSVILLE PA 19565

JIM HICKERNELL 7/27
70 TEXTER MT RD
WERNERSVILLE PA 19565

KATHY TROUTMAN 7/27
720 N. GALEN HALL RD
WERNERSVILLE PA 19565

GLADYS ECKENROAD 7/29
113 E. MAIN STREET
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

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 all born in July!

Kim Houck	02
Avery Garrison	02
Austin Sweigart	03
Cathy Cammauf	04
Nate Oropollo	04
Maggie Krater	06
Dylin Sweigart	06
Jennifer Taylor	09
Jake Hill	09
David Fair	11



Laura Martin	14
Dan Clouser	15
Kim Wechter	16
Makenna Blatt	18
Hayden Cole	18
Taylor Moyer	18
Grant Oropollo	19
Jeff Leed	22
Cody Leisey	24
Nathan Artz	24
Ross Houck	25
Kaye Marini	26



Clyde Showalter	Anna Adams
Mel & Troy Ulrich	Edie Snyder
Michael A. Crowther	John Elser
Earl Myers	Marion Bergman
Gary & Joan Reddig	Harold Crills
Joyce Stoner	Sandra Haws
Bobby Hershey	

July Sound Tech Schedule

05 Steve Laudenslager
12 Steve Laudenslager
19 Steve Laudenslager
26 Steve Laudenslager

Aug Sound Tech Schedule

02 Steve Laudenslager
09 Steve Laudenslager
16 Steve Laudenslager
23 Steve Laudenslager
30 Steve Laudenslager

July Video Stream Schedule

05 John Frantz
12 Josh Garrison
19 Alan Worley
26 John Frantz

Aug Video Stream Schedule

02 Josh Garrison
09 Alan Worley
16 John Frantz
23 Josh Garrison
30 Alan Worley

July Greeter Schedule

05 Jane Leshner
12 John Frantz
19 Deb Sweigert
26 Phil & Tammy Higgins

Aug Greeter Schedule

02 Jane Leshner
19 Bob & Linda Preston
16 Ray & Jen Weitzel
23 Gene & Heather Ferrari
30 Mark & Ros Bansner

Thank you for serving as
greeters.

Please try to be at the front
door by 8:10AM

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 3	OFFICE CLOSED
July 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY
July 5	8:30am Worship
July 8	1-4:00pm EASS Food Distribution
July 12	8:30am Worship
July 12-16	6:30PM VBS at Reinholds Carnival Grounds
July 19	8:30pm Worship
July 23	12:00pm Widow & Widowers Lunch at Penguin
July 26	8:30am Worship

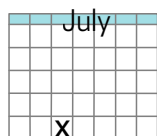


US FLAGS When a US flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. For those of you interested in retiring your worn US flags, please bring them to the church. We will collect them in the church library and deliver them to the Reinholds VFW who will arrange for them to be retired in proper fashion.

Thank you for your consideration.



Widow & Widowers Social Lunch Thurs. July 23, 12:00PM at Penguin Hotel for food, drink and friends.



July 28 is the deadline for the August Newsletter.

Please reach out to Terri Renninger at 717-336-2849 or email secretary@swamplutheran.org

Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you!



FLOWERS: Grumbine's Flowers will begin fresh Altar flowers in early Sept. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle in 2026, please sign up for flower sponsorships via Sue, John, or the flower calendar. Sue Kreitz 717-283-9444 or John Frantz 717-606-8994.



To our knitters and crocheters, please focus on prayer shawls. When you finish, please bring it to church and leave it in the library. *THANK YOU for supporting this church ministry.*



FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. There is a need for rice, noodles, pasta, mac & cheese, 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.



Special Request - BOXES. EASS uses approx. 100 boxes monthly for food bank- distribution. Please place them near the youth room entrance. Thank you!



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 Terri at the office to identify yourself as a willing volunteer driver. God needs our hands and feet to assist those in our church family.



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

Service Committee will be collecting items for **LWR School Kits** during the months of July and August. Listed below are the items which are needed for the kits.

- 70-80 sheet spiral notebooks (4 are needed for each kit)
- 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt scissors (child's safety)
- Blue or Black ballpoint pens (No gel ink)
- Crayons 16 or 24 count
- 2 1/2 inch erasers

Thank you for your generous donations!

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 or call 717-203-8551

Next Council Meeting
Aug 19
7PM

Church Council Highlights

June 17, 2026

Church Council Report:

- YTD General giving is up 12%, and overall giving has increased by 1%.
- Strawberry Shortcake Fundraiser: A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Builders of Hope fundraiser at Adamstown Community Days! It was a massive success, raising over \$7,000.
- Food Bank Impact: In June, our food bank provided essential food boxes to 51 families (143 individuals), with helpful assistance from two of our youth.

Upcoming Dates & Community Outreach

Mark your calendars and look out for more details on these wonderful upcoming events:

- July 12–17: Vacation Bible School (VBS) from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Volunteers are still needed!
- August 5: Summer Acts of Love Program. We are preparing to serve over 200 cold lunches across 4 locations. Volunteers are needed to help make and distribute food.

Property

- Organ Repairs & Music Ministry: Council has approved moving forward with servicing the organ and cleaning the pipes, aided by a generous \$500 member donation.
- We are currently securing quotes to upgrade the Narthex electrical box per insurance requests.
- New Church Garden Idea: We are exploring the exciting possibility of starting a church garden to grow fresh food for our food bank, and we may apply for a Synod grant to help fund it.

OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Cody Leisey, President,
Lee Showalter, Vice President
Danielle Kauffman, Secretary
Deb Kohl, Financial Secretary
Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer
Sue Knauer, Co-Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL LIAISONS

Danielle Kauffman —
Communication, Directory

Sue Ellen Knauer —
Constitution; Service;
Personnel, Generosity

Denise Kidwell — Disaster
Response, Kitchen Krew

Guy Templin — Finance;
Worship

Deb Sweigert — Cocalico
Builders of Hope

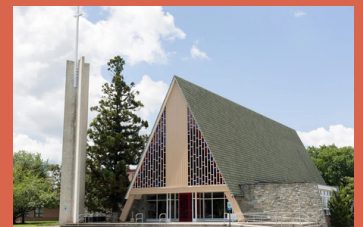
Lee Showalter — Property

Pam Leisey — Learning

George Philippopoulos—
Safety & Security

Jen Weitzel - Welcome

Alan Worley –Youth Ministry



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!**

Financial Statement

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Balance as of 12/31/25			\$28,149.21
January - March	\$104,211.24	\$112,051.05	\$20,309.40
April	\$35,521.70	\$30,088.85	\$25,742.25
May	\$25,774.48	\$39,356.85	\$12,159.88

Treasurers Report May 2026					
January 2026 - December 2026 / May					
	May 2026 Actual	This Year Budget	% of Budget	Remaining	Year-To-May Actual
Income	\$ 25,774.48	\$ 313,068.00	8%	\$ 287,293.52	\$ 165,507.42
> REGULAR	\$ 25,774.48	\$ 313,068.00	8%	\$ 287,293.52	\$ 165,507.42
Expense	\$ 39,356.85	\$ 313,068.00	13%	\$ 273,711.15	\$ 181,496.75
> OPERATIONS	\$ 2,138.74	\$ 50,940.00	4%	\$ 48,801.26	\$ 27,616.27
> ADMINISTRATION	\$ 2,247.45	\$ 19,800.00	11%	\$ 17,552.55	\$ 15,485.41
> BENEFITS	\$ 3,697.60	\$ 37,669.00	10%	\$ 33,971.40	\$ 18,510.95
> THROUGH STAFF	\$ 11,698.40	\$ 148,169.00	8%	\$ 136,470.60	\$ 59,330.95
> REIMBURSED EXP.	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 2,132.71
> YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ -	\$ 800.00	0%	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00
> PROPERTY	\$ 15,154.36	\$ 20,100.00	75%	\$ 4,945.64	\$ 36,588.55
> WORSHIP	\$ 284.70	\$ 6,500.00	4%	\$ 6,215.30	\$ 2,145.89
> SERVICE	\$ -	\$ 800.00	0%	\$ 800.00	\$ 276.67
> COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 8.60	\$ 200.00	4%	\$ 191.40	\$ 725.54
> GENEROSITY	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0%	\$ 100.00	\$ -
> WELCOME	\$ -	\$ 3,050.00	0%	\$ 3,050.00	\$ 351.98
> LEARNING	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 2,000.00	96%	\$ 80.00	\$ 1,969.83
> BENEVOLENCES	\$ 2,207.00	\$ 22,940.00	10%	\$ 20,733.00	\$ 15,962.00



ACTS OF LOVE Lunch Program - Local churches work together to make meals and serve lunch to local families within the Cocalico School District. Lunches are prepared and served each Wednesday during the summer months.

Swamp Lutheran Church will be serving lunch on Wednesday, August 5 from 11:30am - 1:00pm. We are looking for people who are willing to support this program.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare, deliver and serve the lunches at various parks throughout the Cocalico Community. (Lunch is served at the Reamstown Park, Denver Park, Adamstown Grove, and Reinholds Park on Main Street).

Lunches will be prepared and packed on Tuesday, August 4.

Lunches will be served on Wednesday, August 5.



Please contact Denise Kidwell (717) 725-8795 or denisekidwell321@yahoo.com with any questions or to volunteer.

Join us for an afternoon of great food, live music, and community at Jan's Circle of Friends: BBQ, Brew & Band!

 **17** Saturday, August 29

 4:00 PM

 Reinholds VFW Grove

 Rain or shine

Enjoy live music by Resin8 while spending time with family, friends, and neighbors in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere.

Your \$20 ticket includes:

 Chicken BBQ  Hot dogs  Sides  Dessert  Beer  Soda & water

BYOB if you prefer.

Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and settle in for an afternoon of delicious food, great entertainment, and celebrating our wonderful community.

We hope you'll join us for this fun-filled event. We can't wait to see you there!

Tickets: \$20 per person

 Get your tickets today! Ask a Board Member.

Warmly,

Jan's Circle of Friends  

 **17** Save The Dates!

8/29 BBQ at Reinholds VFW Grove

10/10 Daisy Dash at CHS Track

11/5 Grant Distribution at Bear Mill Estate

3/20/27 Gala at IronSpire Complex

Follow us on social media:

Facebook: @janscircle

Instagram: @janscircleoffriends

<https://janscircleoffriends.org/>



Jan's
CIRCLE of
FRIENDS

Good Food.
Cold Drinks.
Great Friends.

**BBQ
BREW &
BAND**

*August 29
4pm-10pm*

Band plays at 7pm


\$20

*Reinholds VFW
Grove*



RESIN8
ALTERNATIVE.
ROCK & GRUNGE

Thank you!



Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm

Where Faith is Renewed, the Church is Strengthened

PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303 717-677-8211 (phone) 717-677-7597 (fax) www.lutherancamping.org

June 22, 2026

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, PA 17569-9562

Dear Swamp:

As spring arrives, our staff and volunteers are hard at work preparing the sites, planning meaningful programs, and getting everything ready to welcome campers for another incredible summer. Each cabin cleaned, trail cleared, and activity prepared is made possible by people like you who believe in the power of this ministry.

Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 given on June 12, 2026, designated for Unrestricted use (no goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution). Thank you for your generous support of the Lutheran Camping Corporation Ministry. Because of your gift, kids, youth, and adults continue to experience faith and community in the beauty of God's creation at camp.

Your generosity helps ensure that campers can grow in confidence, build lifelong friendships, and deepen their faith in the church in a time and a place set apart from the busyness of everyday life.

As we anticipate the summer season, we look forward to ways we will continue to partner in ministry from sending campers, volunteering, participating in events, visiting camp, or using our facilities for a retreat. Summer will be here before we know it and we are excited for all that God has in store. Thank you for being such an important part of this ministry.

With Gratitude and Blessings.

Yours in Christ,

Zach Weiss
Kirchenwald Director

Kelsey Tomlinson
Nawakwa Director

Matthew J. Lenahan
Wittel Farm Growing Project Director



**United
Lutheran
Seminary**

06/22/26

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, PA 17569-9562

Amount received: \$250.00 (Check #18735)
Gift Purpose: United Lutheran Seminary Fund

Dear Swamp Lutheran Church,

Greetings from United Lutheran Seminary! We write with heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and partnership. At this year's commencement, we celebrated 52 graduates representing our various degree programs. Through their experiences at ULS, these emerging leaders have been equipped and inspired to serve faithfully in the diverse communities and ministries to which they are called.

This year holds special significance for our community, too, as we celebrate two hundred years of faithful theological education at ULS. For generations, this institution and its predecessor bodies have been deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition, grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and committed to the formation of Christian leaders.

Thank you again for your generosity and for your belief in the transformative power of theological education. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the world—one graduate at a time. If our team can be of assistance, please contact us at advancement@uls.edu. We invite you to stay connected through ULS Kindling Faith Continuing Education opportunities for lay and rostered leaders at kindlingfaith.com.

With sincere gratitude,

Conor Brooks, CFRE
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
United Lutheran Seminary
cbrooks@uls.edu
717-338-3012

United Lutheran Seminary is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution, making it fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please retain this receipt for your records. Our Tax ID: 23-1365169.



June 22, 2026

Dear Neighbor

I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your recent gift to Ephrata Area Social Services dba Community Hive. Over the past several years, Community Hive has experienced remarkable program growth, and support like yours has made that possible.

Because of generous contributions from donors like you, we have been able not only to meet the growing needs of our community through our existing programs, but also to expand and respond as new needs arise. Looking ahead to 2026, Community Hive is preparing for several significant projects, including renovating and expanding additional office space, adding transitional housing properties, and growing our food programs. None of this would be possible without your continued support.

We are also excited in 2025 to launch our new "doing business as" Community Hive. This effort will better reflect the full scope of our work and ensure that families throughout the Cocalico School District know that Community Hive is here to support them with the same care and compassion we provide to our Ephrata neighbors. Serving both Cocalico and Ephrata has been at the heart of our mission since 1971. The rebrand simply allows us to make that commitment clearer.

Thank you for your support as we move into 2026. We are grateful to walk into this next chapter together and remain committed to creating a vibrant community for everyone by empowering and connecting neighbors.

Warmest regards,

Casey E Ellis

Casey Ellis, M.S
Ephrata Area Social Services
dba- Community Hive



Habitat for Feathered Friends Photos



Thank you to the Church Congregation for the birdhouse. There is a nest in it already! I love it! Terri



Frank and Dolores D'Aiello's birdhouse (including the complimentary one made and given by Deb Sweigart)



The Rineer family birdhouse.



Quinton Rineer installing birdhouse.



Katie Koehle's birdhouse.

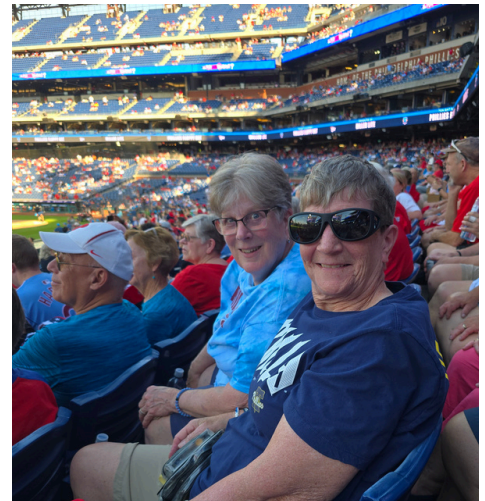
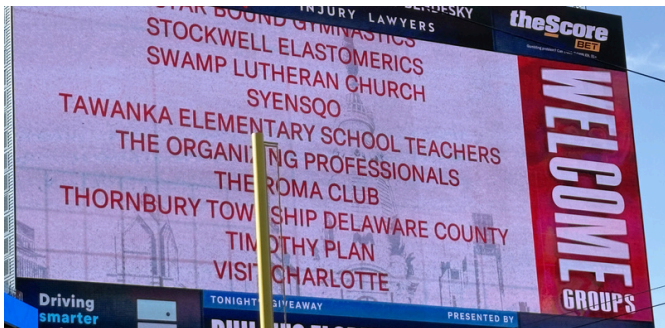


Jan Risser's birdhouse temporarily on her wash post until she can figure out a better place for it. There is a bird using it already!



Rev. Dennis and Bonnie Trout Birdhouse

Fun time at the Philadelphia Ball Park June 5th!



Confirmation Camp Photos



Pastor Scott accompanied confirmands Ryelee Martin and Kenzie Stopper and Kenzie's friend Emma for the week. The weather could not have been better—moderate temperatures and low humidity. Confirmation-related education occurred every morning with the balance of the day affording opportunities for rest, swimming, and camp adventures such as a hike to Buzzards Rocks, crafts, nature study, archery and slingshot, high ropes and tower climbing—with ziplining. Friday's traditional Capture the Flag competition resulted in Confirmation Camp's team winning. Tuesday morning the students engaged in service learning at Wittel Farm in Elizabethtown. On Thursday morning, students had the opportunity to climb Chickies Rock.

The educational theme for the week was "Listen! God is Calling." Daily themes: Monday-Called to be Loved. Tuesday-Called to Share, Wednesday-Called to Gratitude, Thursday-Called to Faith, Friday-Called to Love. Each day a component of traditional confirmation education was provided. For instance, Pastor Scott taught about Holy Communion and what constitutes a sacrament on Tuesday at Wittel Farm. The whole group shared in Holy Communion during lunch where participants communed each other.

Travel with the Wise Men

Make your way across the desert from the oasis to Bethlehem. Stay on the lighter colored paths and do not cross over rocks, plants or any little desert creatures.

