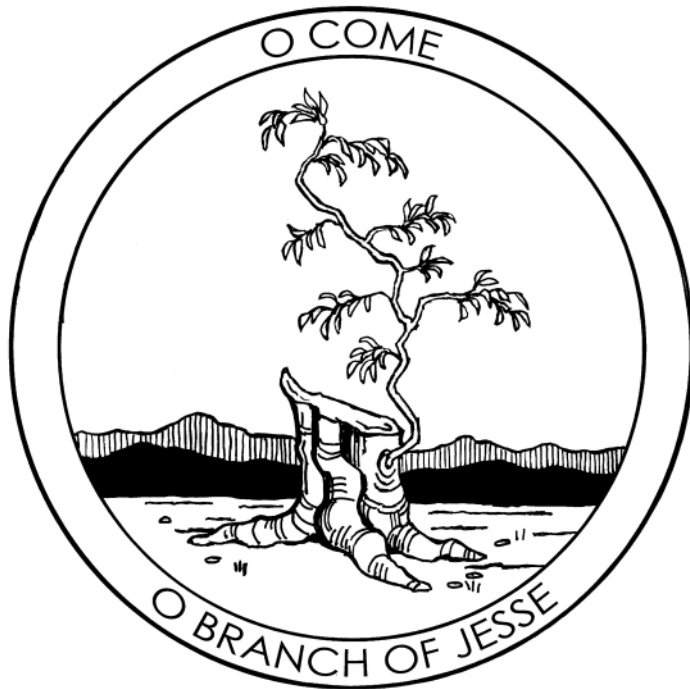


SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025
8:30 AM



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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING W.H.MONK

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 ON JORDAN'S BANKS THE BAPTIST'S CRY ELW 249

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

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Second Week of Advent

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.
As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,
let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM PREPARE THE WAY MICHAEL BARRETT

Children leave for Children's Church

WORD

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- ¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
² **that he may rule your | people righteously**
and the | poor with justice;
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;**
you alone do | wondrous deeds!
¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men.

READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

- ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you
may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 3:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN’S CHURCH

CHILDREN’S SERMON

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

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

Linda and Robert Preston come to our congregation desiring to become members.

Stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

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

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

Those being welcomed respond.

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

People of God,

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

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

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

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

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

Stand

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share the peace.

Sit

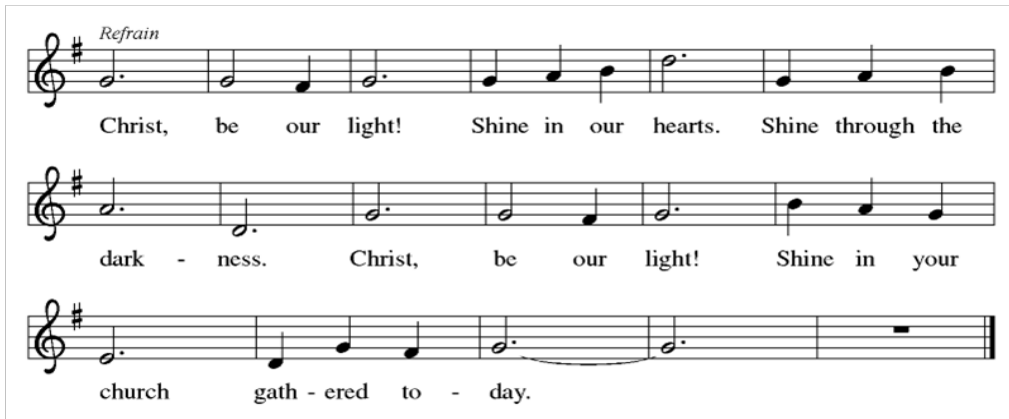
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE ROBERT C. LAU

OFFERING *In addition to the plate, online giving via cell phone is safe and secure. See QR code on the inside cover of this bulletin.*

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



The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of three staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is labeled "Refrain" and contains the lyrics "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the". The second staff contains the lyrics "dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your". The third staff contains the lyrics "church gath - ered to - day." and ends with a double bar line.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

church gath - ered to - day.

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come. 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.

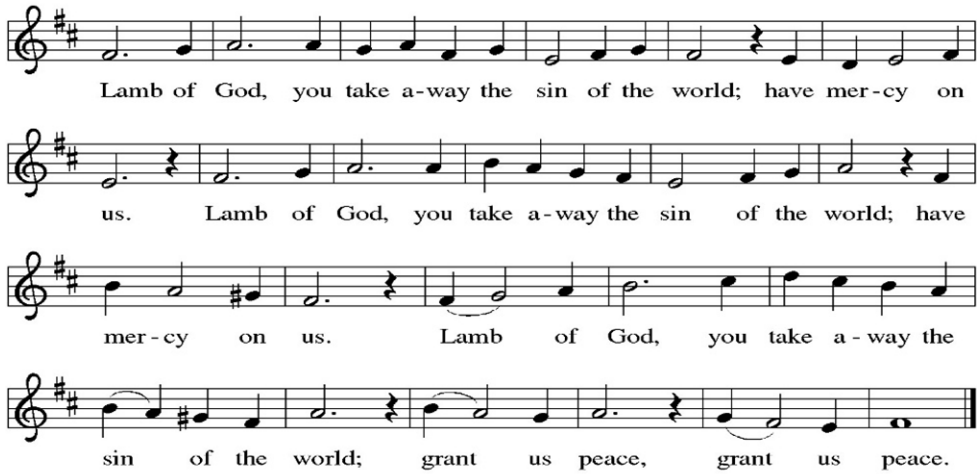
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD *REMAIN STANDING*



THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE ELW 247

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.

God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

May God who comes among us,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY ELW 264

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD WM. P. ROWAN

Today We Welcome Linda and Robert Preston into membership at Swamp Lutheran. The Preston's come to Swamp via transfer from St. Daniel's Lutheran, Robesonia.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, John Wesner, Jeff Kappenstein, Nettie Kreiner, Clair Sweigart, Faith Moyer, Michael A. Crowther, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Ray Fox, Gene Miller, Jean Wolf, Bobby Hershey, Marilyn Gelsinger, Edith Snyder, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich, Earl Myers, Elizabeth Sherman, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer, Jerry Landis, Mary Beth Jenkins, Evelyn Gehman, Joan Leed, Ron Adams, Kevin Williams, Susan Levan, Larry Eberly, 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, Lowell Haws, Steve Kauffman, Lindsey Sauder, Anson Kauffman, Randy Krater, Michelle Moyer, Tayler Moyer, Janet Craley, Scott Zook, Clarice Haws, Lisa Evans (Co-worker of Katie Krater), and Dianna Becker (Gockley's neighbor), Elijah Sensenig, the family of Maggie Kiralfy (Jen Brubaker's mother).

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of the wedding of Lauren (Moyer) and James Maloney.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of loved ones by Larry and Sue Ellen Knauer.

Other Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 7, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Turning and Mending (Again)

Being on the receiving end of sharp language can be heartbreaking. Indeed, words can wound—or worse. John the Baptizer, a key figure in our Advent narratives, finds himself at odds with other religious leaders of the time, and uses the tool he has (language) to call attention to their broken relationship. It's unclear what exactly led to this prickly, pointed exchange between John and the Pharisees and Sadducees, but there is a growing chasm between them.

“Prepare the way of the Lord,” John cries out in the wilderness, echoing the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah cried out in his own day centuries prior, testifying to God's desire to mend the world (though the world seemed to be at an end). Perhaps John repeats Isaiah's plea in order to remind the people of his day of God's intent for all things: for the world to be mended, healed, made right; for the reign of heaven to be revealed on earth, here and now. Often, however, mending brokenness requires honesty first about the wounds that have been inflicted and the death that has been wrought. With John's painful honesty, his strained relationship with other leaders of his time takes a step toward healing, toward justice, so that a new beginning might take hold. This is a starting point, as difficult as it may be.

Every Advent, as the church year begins again, we hear the familiar call: *Repent. Turn back to God.* Repentance is no easy thing, but thankfully, God draws us back to this imperative, year after year, day after day, hour after hour. With infinite mercy, once again God invites us to turn toward healing, toward justice, toward the righting of the world, one relationship at a time.

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 – 717-283-9444

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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SWAMP ANNOUNCEMENTS *DECEMBER 7, 2025*

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

Week in the Parish (December 7 - 14)

December 7	3:00PM	Widow & Widowers AMT Christmas Show
December 8	7:00PM	Bell Choir
December 9	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
December 9	7:00PM	Builders of Hope
December 10	1-4:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
December 10	7:00PM	Choir
December 11	6:30PM	Learning Cmte
December 12	11:30AM	Widow & Widowers Lunch & Craft Udder Choice
December 13	12:00PM	Wreaths Across America
December 14	8:30AM	Worship
December 14	9:30AM	Congregational Mtg
December 14	9:45AM	Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15	7:00PM	Bell Choir
December 16	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
December 17	7:00PM	Church Council
December 19	1:00PM	Widow & Widowers Reading Museum
December 21	8:30AM	Worship
December 21	9:45AM	Sunday School
December 21	7:00PM	Bell Choir Candlelight Worship @ Coleman Chapel
December 24	4:00PM & 7:00PM	Christmas Eve Services
December 25	CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	
December 26	OFFICE CLOSED	



Wreaths Across America Honor deceased US veterans on December 13. Noon ceremony at Swamp Christian Fellowship followed by wreath laying at Swamp Cemetery. Sponsor a wreath for \$17. Fundraiser for SLY – see SLY table in Narthex. Checks payable to Swamp Lutheran Youth Group. Questions to Laraine Kramer 717-405-4047 or Kristin Gockley (SLY) 717-330-0628.

Greeter Schedule December

7 Barb Mizdail
14 Sue Ellen Knauer
21 Tom & Deb Henly
28 Lee & Jodi Showalter

Coffee Schedule for December

7 John Frantz
14 Ray Weitzel
21 Deb Sweigert
28 John Frantz

Greeter Schedule for January

04 Deb Sweigert
11 John Frantz
18 Brian & Katie Koehle
25 David & Laraine Kramer

Coffee Schedule for January

04 Deb Sweigert
11 Ray Weitzel
18 Pam Leisey
25 Randy Gockley

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Mon December 8 Psalm 21 Isaiah 24:1-16a 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Tues December 9 Psalm 21 Isaiah 41:14-20 Romans 15:14-21
Wed December 10 Psalm 21 Genesis 15:1-18 Matthew 12:33-37
Thurs December 11 Psalm 146:5-10 Ruth 1:6-18 2 Peter 3:1-10
Fri December 12 Psalm 146:5-10 Ruth 4:13-17 2 Peter 3:11-18
Sat December 13 Psalm 146:5-10 1 Samuel 2:1-8 Luke 3:1-18

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sun December 14 Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

FLOWERS: All Sundays have been filled for 2025. Thank you to everyone! If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle in 2026, please contact Sue Kreitz at 717-283-9444 or John Frantz at 717-606-8994.

Grumbine's Flowers is looking to relocate and will not guarantee fresh altar flower arrangements beyond February 2026. In the event that Grumbine's discontinues service, the flower committee will be discussing options and/or alternatives. In the meantime, please continue to sign up for flower sponsorships via Sue, John, or the flower calendar. Candle sponsorships will not be changing.

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

ACTION FUND – Donations are sought for Swamp Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write “Action Fund” in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.



Knitters and Crocheters: We have been asked to provide baby blankets for Veteran Families. Please use SOFT yarn with not too loose of a pattern and no more than 32" X 32," but not less than 27" square or rectangular. There are some copies of baby blanket patterns in the library at church where the shawls/blankets are being collected. We need more boy colors than girl colors.

Swamp Needs Your Help!

Tell Pastor Scott if you can help or want to learn more

Most pressing needs include:

Communion Extender: We need helpers to take communion to our homebound members. Training provided.

Choir: We welcome singers for Swamp's Chancel Choir.

Bell Choir: Ringers needed for this music ministry.

Learning Committee: We could use new committee members interested in fostering the faith of our disciples, both young and old.

SLY: We need additional leaders on our team to guide this ministry.

Sunday School teachers: Helpers and teachers needed.

Worship Committee: We can always use fresh perspectives on worship.

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.).



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.

POINSETTIAS -It is that time of the year again to consider your holiday orders for poinsettias. Jodi Showalter (717-413-7149) will be handling the orders. Jodi or the church office should be contacted with questions. The following information needs to be provided. Deadline for ordering is TODAY!

NAME _____ Phone Number _____

Poinsettias RED _____ WHITE _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Reverse Advent Calendar Service committee would like to help EASS and our branch at Swamp 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 Wednesday 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 Wednesday 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.