

**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**JANUARY 4, 2026**  
**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](http://www.swamplutheran.org) regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

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## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

FLOR PEETERS

*congregational responses are in bold type.*

*Stand*

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the  $\ddagger$  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  $\pm$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**    WORD OF GOD, COME DOWN TO EARTH    ELW 510

**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**

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

*Children leave for Children's Church*

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**WORD**

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

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**Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD,  $\pm$  O Jerusalem;  
    praise your  $\pm$  God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars  $\pm$  of your gates**  
**and has blessed your chil-  $\pm$  dren within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace  $\pm$  on your borders  
    and satisfies you with the  $\pm$  finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command  $\pm$  to the earth,**  
**a word that runs  $\pm$  very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> God gives  $\pm$  snow like wool,  
    scattering  $\pm$  frost like ashes.

**<sup>17</sup> God scatters I hail like bread crumbs.**

**Who can stand a- I against God's cold?**

**<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the I word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the I waters flow.**

**<sup>19</sup> God declares the I word to Jacob,  
statutes and judg- I ments to Israel.**

**<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any I other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. I Hallelujah!**

#### **READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

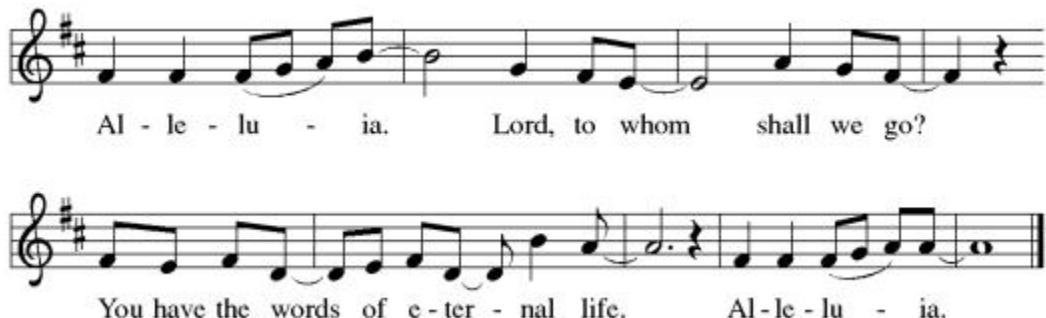
<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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*

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### MEAL

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ**

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**OFFERTORY** FROM GOD THE FATHER, VIRGIN-BORN DAVID N. JOHNSON

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

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



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

God of glory,  
**great are your wonders among us**  
**and many are the blessings you bestow.**  
**Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,**  
**that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,**  
**through Christ our Savior.**  
**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

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

**Thanks be to God.**

## LAMB OF GOD *REMAIN STANDING*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## 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.*

*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.**

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

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## BLESSING

The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**    ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

ELW 275

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**    LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD

JACOB M. WEBER

**TODAY WE WELCOME** the Rev. Bonnie Oplinger to lead us in worship. Rev. Oplinger is the retired pastor of Jerusalem Lutheran in Rothsville and former organist at Swamp. She resides in Shillington where she is a member of Grace Lutheran, Shillington.

**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, Gladys Eckenroad, Bonnie Koehle-Koon, 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, Cody Leisey, Lowell Haws, Anson Kauffman, Randy Krater, Michelle Moyer, Janet Craley, Scott Zook, Clarice Haws, Lisa Evans (Co-worker of Katie Krater), and Dianna Becker (Gockley's neighbor), Laurie Sauder, Sue Templin, Glenn Beard Sr, Ray Weitzel, Clyde Showalter, Michael Hagy, Ashley Milosek (friend of Cody and Aubrey Leisey) and the family of Dwayne Dimitris.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hershey and Mr. and Mrs. Clair Brubaker by Robert Hershey, Jr.

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

## Other Readings for this Sunday

### **Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;

I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,

and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

Says the Lord.

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 4, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

A Glimpse of God-Made-Flesh

This gospel text is wordy to the point of feeling almost otherworldly. There's no real story here; there's no narrative to follow. To illustrate this text for children, for example, seems nearly impossible.

"The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). How is this gospel text—this gospel truth—made manifest, here and now? Where do you see God, in the flesh, walking the earth? How do you experience God-made-flesh speaking to you, caring for you, guiding you?

Surely God is present, in the flesh, even in the unlikeliest of places—as unlikely as a baby lying in a manger. Surely God is still here today in some form or fashion. The Word is no longer flesh and living among us, at least not in the same way as when Jesus himself was walking the earth. But we are flesh, and we are here. Surely *you* are God made manifest for someone; surely *your* presence here on earth is a glorious display of the presence of God for a neighbor or friend or colleague or family member—maybe even for someone you'd never expect to name you in this way.

In baptism, God commissions us to "proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace" (*ELW*, p. 228). This is the work of the Word made flesh; this is the work of providing a glimpse of God to a world in need of grace, hope, and new life.

How blessed we are to live in the promise of God-made-flesh. How blessed we are to live in response to that promise!

**Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church**

717-336-2849

[www.swamplutheran.org](http://www.swamplutheran.org)

[secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto: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](mailto: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!**

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.

**Welcome**

**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.

## **SWAMP ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 4, 2026**

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

### **Week in the Parish (January 4 - 11)**

January 5	7:00PM	Bell Choir
January 6	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
January 6	7:00PM	Welcome Cmte
January 7	7:00PM	Choir
January 8	6:30PM	Learning Cmte
January 11	8:30AM	Worship
January 11	9:45AM	Sunday School

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 13	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
January 14	1-4:00PM	EAFF Food Distribution
January 14	7:00PM	Choir
January 18	8:30AM	Worship
January 18	9:45AM	Sunday School - Intergenerational
January 19		MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
January 19		OFFICE CLOSED
January 19	7:00PM	Bell Choir
January 20	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
January 21	7:00PM	Choir
January 21	7:00PM	Church Council
January 23	1:00PM	Widow & Widows Reading Museum
January 26	7:00PM	Bell Choir
January 27	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
January 27	7:00PM	Cocalico Builders of Hope
January 28	7:00PM	Choir
February 1	8:30AM	Worship
February 1	9:45AM	Sunday School
February 2	7:00PM	Bell Choir
February 3	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
February 3	7:00PM	Welcome Cmte

**Greeter Schedule for January**

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

**Greeter Schedule for February**

01 Lee & Jodi Showalter  
08 Steve & Karen Laudenslager  
15 John & Sharon Levan  
22 Denise Kidwell

**Tech Schedule January**

04 Steve Laudenslager  
11 Steve Laudenslager  
18 Steve Laudenslager  
25 Steve Laudenslager

**Tech Schedule for February**

01 Steve Laudenslager  
08 Steve Laudenslager  
15 Steve Laudenslager  
22 Steve Laudenslager

**Coffee Schedule for January**

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

**Coffee Schedule for February**

01 Ray Weitzel  
08 Pam Leisey  
15 Deb Sweigert  
22 John Frantz

**Vid Stream Schedule January**

04 Josh Garrison  
11 Alan Worley  
18 John Frantz  
25 Joah Garrison

**Vid Stream Schedule for February**

01 Alan Worley  
08 John Frantz  
15 Josh Garrison  
22 Alan Worley

**DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

Mon January 5	Psalm 72 1 Kings 10:1-13 Ephesians 3:14-21
Tue January 6	Psalm 72 1 Kings 10:14-25 Ephesians 4:7, 11-16
Wed January 7	Psalm 72 Micah 5:2-9 Luke 13:31-35
Thur January 8	Psalm 29 1 Samuel 3:1-9 Acts 9:1-9
Fri January 9	Psalm 29 1 Samuel 3:10—4:1a Acts 9:10-19a
Sat January 10	Psalm 29 1 Samuel 7:3-17 Acts 9:19b-31

**UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS**

Sun January 11 Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

**FLOWERS:** Altar flowers are needed for February 1st and 8th.

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.



### IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!

**What:** The *Souper Bowl of Caring* is a national movement across the nation working together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

**When:** Until Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026

**Where:** Bring canned soup and other nonperishable food items and place them beneath the goal post in the Narthex.

**Who:** Benefits Swamp Food Pantry

### SAVE THE DATE – January 18

Intergenerational Sunday School Class – Theme is Epiphany

January 18 @ 9:45 AM in Social Hall

Ages 5th grade and older – come one, come all

**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.).

**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](mailto:lgockley2@gmail.com) or call 717-203-8551