

Nov 2025

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church <u>Newsletter</u>

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

Polka Mass

With the Heidelberg Brass Band under direction of Pastor Glenn Beard, Jr.

Sunday, November 16, 2025

8:30 Worship

Breakfast Reception Follows Worship



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service



Swamp Lutheran & Mellingers Lutheran Joint Worship

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Mellingers Lutheran Church, 80 Gockley Road, Stevens

Presider: Pastor Tim Craven
Preacher: Pastor Scott Brubaker
Organist: Sue Kreitz

We gather together on Thanksgiving Eve for a Service of the Word to express gratitude, share fellowship, and prepare our hearts for the holiday season. Pastor Scott Brubaker will deliver the sermon, guiding us in reflection and thanksgiving. A joint choir from Swamp and Mellingers will lead in song.

All are welcome—invite a friend. Please come as you are and join in this special evening of worship.



Swamp Lutheran Youth (SLY)

2025 Thanksgiving Dinner November 23 - 11AM to 2PM

Grades 5 to 12

Swamp Lutheran Church, 275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds

Join us as we prepare a Thanksgiving meal for a needy area family and then

enjoy a fine meal in Christian fellowship

Free

Paston's Message



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, we find ourselves in a season that naturally draws us into reflection and gratitude. November is a time when we pause to give thanks—for the beauty of creation, the blessings of daily life, and the abiding presence of God in every season.

Here at Swamp Lutheran, I am continually reminded of how richly God has blessed our congregation. I see it in your compassion, your service, your prayers, and your generous hearts. This month, as we enter into our fall generosity campaign, we are invited not only to count our blessings but also to consider how we might be a blessing to others.

Generosity is one of the clearest expressions of our faith. It flows from a heart that knows how deeply it has been loved by God. When we give—of our time, our resources, our gifts —we participate in God's ongoing work in the world. We build up the body of Christ, and we plant seeds that will bear fruit in ways we may never fully see.

In the coming days, you will receive a statement of giving intent for 2026. I ask you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to give in the year ahead. Your faithful and intentional support makes possible the ministries we share—from worship and Christian education to outreach and care for our neighbors in need.

Let us give thanks this season—not just with our words, but with lives marked by joyful generosity. May this month be filled with gratitude in your homes and in your hearts.

With a thankful heart,

Pastor Scott



Generosity Minute

November: A Season of Gratitude and Generosity

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded once again of God's abundant blessings and the call to share generously with others. At Swamp Lutheran Church, we continue to see how your faithful giving sustains the mission and ministry of our congregation—through worship, outreach, education, and care for those in need.

We encourage you to take advantage of the **Jars of Joy** campaign to collect loose change to benefit Mary's Shelter, a Shillington non-profit assisting youth experiencing homelessness.

If you feel called to do so, please donate items for the **Hospitality Baskets** being assembled by our Sunday School students on December 7. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also consider sponsoring a wreath for a veteran's grave at Swamp Cemetery as part of this year's **Wreaths Across America** event on December 13. A portion of the sponsorship supports the programming of Swamp Lutheran Youth (SLY). Visit the sponsorship table in the Narthex.

Lastly, this month, you will receive your **2026 Statement of Giving Intent.** These statements are a vital part of our planning for the year ahead. More than just numbers, they are expressions of faith and trust in God's provision. Your prayerful and thoughtful response helps leadership steward our resources wisely and ensure our ministries thrive.

We invite you to take time to reflect on how God has been generous in your life—and how you might respond in kind. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the life of our church and in the lives we are called to serve.

Thank you for your continued generosity, and may this season be filled with gratitude, peace, and purpose.

With grateful and generous hearts,

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

Larry & Jean Wolf

Bobby Hershey

Marilyn Gelsinger

Edie Snyder

Teresa Sweigart

Mel and Troy Ulrich

Earl Myers

Elizabeth Sherman Judy Habecker

AnnaRose 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

Sandy Clouser

Helen Werner

Susan Kreitz

Cody Leisey

Lou Smith

Lowell Haws

Steve Kauffman

Lindsey Sauder

Anson Kauffman

Randy Krater

Michelle Moyer

Tayler Moyer

"The fewer the words, the better the prayer". Martin Luther



November 10. Birthdays

DEB HENLY 11/03 505 S. SIXTH STREET DENVER, PA 17517

TESS SHANK 11/07 712 LINCOLN GARDENS RD EPHRATA, PA 17522

BILL KNAUER 11/07 365 WEST ROUTE 897 REINHOLDS PA 17569

DEBBIE CARVELL 11/14 1059 W. SWARTZVILLE RD REINHOLDS, PA 17569

FRANK D'AIELLO 11/16 62 SPECK ROAD MOHNTON, PA 19540



CARD SHOWER to celebrate Bobby Hershey turning 95 on November 26th! DOLORES D'AIELLO 11/17 62 SPECK ROAD MOHNTON, PA 19540

LARAINE KRAMER 11/21 59 E. MAIN ST. PO BOX 161 REINHOLDS, PA 17569

GAIL BACHMAN 11/24 675 BLUE LAKE ROAD DENVER, PA 17517

ROBERT HERSHEY, JR. 11/26 EPHRATA MANOR 99 BETHANY RD RM # 227B EPHRATA PA 17522

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 Buthday to all others born in November





Melissa Miller	17
Karen Blatt	19
Haylee Martin	21
Jace Blatt	22
Missy Kramer	24
Nick Troutman	24
Nathan Keppley	25
Abigail Martzall	26
Lori Gockley	27
Delaney Garrison	28
Amanda Fetter	29

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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



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

NOV GREETER SCHEDULE

02 Larry & Sally Hagy

09 Glenn & Linda Beard

16 Kauffman Klan

23 Randy, Lori, Kristin Gockley

30 Jan Risser

DEC GREETER SCHEDULE

07 Barb Mizdail

14 Sue Ellen Knauer

21 Tom & Deb Henly

28 Lee & Jodi Showalter

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2 Daylight Savings Time ends (Fall Back)

November 3 7:00pm Bell Choir

November 4 ELECTION DAY

November 4 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study

November 4 7:00pm Welcome Cmte

November 5 7:00pm Choir

November 8 11-1:00pm Builders of Hope Cheesesteak Sale

November 11 VETERANS DAY

November 11 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study

November 12 1-4:00pm EASS Food Distribution

November 12 7:00pm Choir

November 13 6:30pm Learning Cmte

November 16 8:30pm Polka Mass

November 17 7:00pm Bell Choir

November 18 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study

November 19 7:00pm Church Council

November 19 7:00pm Choir

November 21 1:00pm Widow & Widowers Reading Museum

November 23 11-2:00pm SLY Thanksgiving Dinner

November 24 7:00pm Bell Choir

November 25 6:00pm Zoom Bible Study

November 26 7:00pm Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Mellingers

November 27 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED

November 28 OFFICE CLOSED

November 30 "Blue Day" to celebrate Avent

November 30 9:45am Hanging of the Greens

NOV COFFEE SCHEDULE

02 Deb Sweigert

09 Deb Sweigert

16 Ray Weitzel

23 Denise Kidwell

30 Denise Kidwell

DEC COFFEE SCHEDULE

07 John Frantz

14 Ray Weitzel

21 Deb Sweigert

28 John Frantz

Thank you for serving as greeters.

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



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.



November 26 is the deadline for the December Newsletter.

Please reach out to Terri Renninger at 717-336-2849 or email secretary@swamplutheran.org *Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you!*



ALTAR FLOWER/CANDLE UPDATE: If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle, please contact Sue Kreitz at 717-283-9444 or John Frantz at 717-606-8994.



FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. There is a need for canned chicken, tuna, 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 Wed each month.



Knitters and Crocheters Needed 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 church library where the shawls/blankets are being collected. We need more boy colors than girl colors.



Gently Used Sneakers Needed. SLY is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. SLY is not able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Pastor Scott Brubaker at 717-336-2849 or email pastor@swamplutheran.org



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



Cocalico Builders of Hope Fundraiser Steak Sandwich Sale Saturday November 8, 11:00-1:00 at St. John's UCC in Denver contact Deb Sweigert with questions.



Widow & Widowers Reading Museum Senior Series 1:00pm on the 4th Friday of the month unless otherwise noted. Free with Museum admission and Free for Members. UPCOMING DATES: Oct 24, Nov 21, Dec 19.

<u>AMT Christmas Show</u> Dec 7 at 3pm at a discounted rate of \$49. Tickets are going fast. Please RSVP Barbara Mizdail at bmiz13@hotmail.com or church office at 717-336-2849.



Helpers Needed for Hanging of the Greens on November 30, 9:45am. Questions: Pam Leisey 717-690-4811



VBS 2025 Recap. The 2025 Reinholds Community Vacation Bible School, held July 13-17 at the Reinholds Carnival grounds, was a success. There were 196 students registered from 37 different churches who participated in crafts, games, snacks, songs, and Biblical instruction. Average attendance each evening was 170. 830 free meals were served to 100 different families who participated. \$1,300 in offerings were collected to support Bible Adventure. The Bible Adventure Program is a Pennsylvania state approved program which allows public school students to be dismissed from school for religious instruction.

Mark your calendars! The 2026 VBS is scheduled for July 12-16, and the theme will be Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23.



Swamp Needs Your Help!

Tell Pastor Scott if you can help or want to learn more Most pressing needs include:

Choir: We need singers for Swamp's Chancel Choir to lead our singing in worship.

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: We need another teacher for the prekindergarten to 3rd grade class and our high school class.

Worship Committee: We can always use fresh perspectives on worship. New members on the Worship Committee are always welcome.

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.).

HOSPITALITY BASKETS - We will be putting together hospitality baskets for our sick and shut-ins on December 7th during Sunday School. The donated items from the list below are being collected and should be placed at either entrance to the church. Thanks for helping to make the holidays brighter for our sick and shut-ins. NOTE the following items are being requested with the sizes noted in order to fit into the baskets:

- Individually wrapped packages of crackers or cookies
- Individually sized canned fruit or pudding packages
- Pocket tissue packs (please do not bring boxes of tissues)
- Individual hand sanitizers (the small size)
- Individual tubes of toothpaste and individually wrapped toothbrushes





Lower Susquehanna Synod Sr. High Youth Event January 2-4, 2026 / Wyndham Resort in Lancaster

SLY subsidized event for Swamp High Schoolers See Kristin Gockley or Pastor Scott for more information

Musical Talent Needed for Swamp Christmas Program

December 14, 2025 @ 10 AM

If you play an instrument or sing, we need you to share those talents with the congregation at our annual Christmas Program that combines the Christmas Play and the Day of Music.

Please let Guy Templin know you can help. guy@templinfamily.org | 484.256.5596



https://www.lutherancamping.org/upcoming-events/

Church Council Highlights October 15, 2025

Builders of Hope,TL:

• Their steak sandwich fundraiser will be held November 8 from 11-1.

Service:

• The CROP walk was held on October 19 at 11am.

Kitchen Krew:

- Our food bank provided food boxes for 47 families with 134 folks in October.
- The Pig Stomach take out was held October 25.
- Breakfast after the Polka Mass on November 16.

Worship Committee:

 In conjunction with the Worship Study Follow Up Committee, we will be amending the Communion procedure:

From Reformation Sunday to Easter, Communion will be down the aisle.

The balance of the year, Communion will be in the round.

Welcome:

- Veterans recognition will be held November 9th.
- The Widow and Widowers will meet at Udder Choice on October 27
- American Music Theater trip will be Sunday Dec 7th at 3pm.

Learning:

- Upcoming Dates: November 30—Hanging of the Greens
- December 7—Hospitality Baskets
- December 14—Day/Night of Music with Children's Program combined
- December 21—Santa after Church

Youth Ministry:

• Wreaths across America fundraiser details coming up at a later date.

Property:

• They received and are reviewing 3 bids for the Air conditioning replacement.

Generosity: They reported that we will receive a grant of \$1,466 from our Synod for the food bank.

Worship Study

 Follow up—Cody Leisey will be presenting the findings October 19 and will be available the next few Sundays to answer follow up questions.

Directory:

- The layout is finished and is in the proof-reading phase.
- Electronic copies will be available to all at no cost. Hard copies will be available by donation. See Lori Gockley or call the office if you want a hard copy.

Other items discussed:

Nominations were given to replace Randy Krater and Lori Gockley for Council. If you see Lori
coming toward you, please don't run away. It is a very rewarding experience. Grady Daub and
Sue Ellen Knauer are returning for a second 3-year term.

The Phillies are done for this year, and we continue to say what every Philly fan knows so well:

Wait until next year!

With that, the Eagles are gearing up for another Super Bowl run!

FLY EAGLES FLY!

OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Lori Gockley, 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

Lee Showalter — Disaster Response

Guy Templin — Finance; Worship

Deb Sweigert — Love Inc./ Homes of Hope

Randy Krater — Property

Pam Leisey — Learning

Grady Daub—Safety & Security

Denise Kidwell — Kitchen Krew

Jen Weitzel - Welcome

Alan Worley - Youth Ministry

Cody Leisey- Worship Study



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!



On behalf of the Service Committee, I want to thank everyone who donated items for the Lutheran World Relief School and Personal Care Kits. We assembled 120 School kits and 22 Personal Care kits which will be distributed throughout the world. Special thanks to everyone who helped organize the items and assemble the kits and to Ruth Kramer and Gaile Gehman who delivered them to the collection site. Also thanks to Peggy Coble for donating the boxes. Thank you again for your support of Lutheran World Relief kit ministry. Jane Lesher



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

October 6, 2025

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

Dear Siblings in Christ at Swamp Lutheran Church:

Psalm 65:11-13 "You crown the year with your bounty...the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy."

Thank you for your recent gift of \$100.00 given on September 22, 2025, designated for Unrestricted use (no goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution). As we move into the fall of the year, we are very aware of God's blessings upon us. Chief among them are devoted and supportive friends such as you. Thank you so much for your generosity!

This is especially true, given all of the activity at each of our sites this past summer. Even though the activity level changes, the fall brings a variety of groups and retreats at all of the sites.

As the seasons change and the joys and successes of this ministry are lived and witnessed, one cannot help but be moved and excited by the great possibilities being realized for the church. We also are thankful and excited about the opportunities that are before us as 'the church in a time and place apart.' We look forward to having you join us sometime at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and/or the Wittel Farm. Again, thank you for partnering with us in this ministry through your contribution.

May the peace that transcends time and place be with you.

Michael Youse Executive Director

michael your

Lutheran Seminary

October 8, 2025

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

> "From beginning to end, fundraising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude." Henri Nouwen A Spirituality of Fundraising

ount received: \$250.00 (Check #18550) Gift Purpose: United Lutheran Seminary Fund

Dear Swamp Lutheran Church.

As a new academic year begins at United Lutheran Seminary, I want to thank you - not just for supporting this mission, but for being part of it.

You're not simply helping form future church leaders - you are forming them. When a student steps into the classroom with curiosity and conviction, when they wrestle with Scripture, when they preach their first sermon or comfort someone in crisis: You are right there with them. You are raising leaders for the church. You are teaching theology. You are sustaining a community of faith, courage, and hope.

At ULS, we are deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition, guided by the Spirit's call to be bold, compassionate, and engaged. Our students come from many backgrounds and traditions, but they are united in a desire to serve - and they carry your influence with them. Every time a student answers a call they weren't sure they could fulfill, every time they lead worship with steady hands or bring a word of hope to someone on the margins, you are there. Your generosity becomes books on their desks, mentors by their side, and moments of clarity that shape their call. You may never meet them, but know you are part of their story - and they will carry your faithfulness into the congregations, hospitals, chaplaincies, and communities they serve

If there's ever a way we can support you, please reach out at advancement@uls.edu. We also invite you to stay connected through our Kindling Faith continuing education programs: uls.edu/kindlingfaith

Mr. Conor Brooks, CFRE Vice President for Institutional Advancement 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.

GETTYSBURG 61 Seminary Ridge | Gettysburg, PA 17325 PHILADELPHIA 7301 Germantown Avenue | Philadelphia, PA 19119 717-338-3000 | uls.edu

Swamp Lutheran Church September 2025 Finance Reports

Treasurers Report September 2025						L			
January 2025 - September 2025 / September					i				
	Se	2025 Actual	Th	is Year Budget	% of Budget	R	emaining	Yea	-To-Date Actual
Income	\$	46,622.52	\$	326,063.00	14%	\$	279,440.48	\$	285,102.99
Expense	\$	30,381.27	\$	326,063.00	9%	\$	295,681.73	\$	294,965.73
OPERATIONS	\$	795.17	\$	53,590.00	1%	\$	52,794.83	\$	35,441.90
ADMINISTRATION c253341	\$	1,756.95	\$	21,350.00	8%	\$	19,593.05	\$	21,682.89
BENEFITS	\$	3,569.98	\$	36,435.00	10%	\$	32,865.02	\$	32,054.46
THROUGH STAFF	\$	12,182.34	\$	146,148.00	8%	\$	133,965.66	\$	105,950.39
REIMBURSED EXP.	\$	275.99	\$	-		\$	(275.99)	\$	3,033.84
PROPERTY	\$	3,016.97	\$	18,050.00	17%	\$	15,033.03	\$	16,048.57
WORSHIP	\$	241.94	\$	7,550.00	3%	\$	7,308.06	\$	4,753.08
SERVICE	\$		\$	900.00	0%	\$	900.00	\$	792.10
COMMUNICATIONS	\$	-	\$	750.00	0%	\$	750.00	\$	763.15
GENEROSITY	\$	-	\$	500.00	0%	\$	500.00	\$	-
WELCOME	\$	423.56	\$	5,350.00	8%	\$	4,926.44	\$	1,726.09
LEARNING	\$	199.00	\$	3,850.00	5%	\$	3,651.00	\$	664.00
BENEVOLENCES	\$	7,919.37	\$	30,790.00	26%	\$	22,870.63	\$	45,790.33
Insurance Claim - Broken Pipe	\$		\$			\$	-	\$	26,264.93



from the Bishop

THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

Dear Siblings in Christ of the Lower Susquehanna Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Holy and Most Blessed Trinity. Amen.

"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." (Romans 15:13)

These words written by St. Paul to the church in Rome remind each of us that God provides hope, joy, and peace rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. The presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit accompanies us in our ministries and work to share the good news of God's love and grace.

Amidst a world filled with many conflicts, grief, suffering, and injustice, God enters in with hope to encourage and sustain us. Through the grace and forgiveness embodied in God's almighty and powerful Word and holy sacraments, we receive the gift of faith that fills our lives with hope and strength to face the challenges of life and ministry. By grace and through faith, God claims, loves, and forgives us.

I care deeply about the vitality of our congregations and your health and wellbeing as we share the Gospel. In these early months of my service as bishop, I look forward to listening and hearing your joys, concerns, and hopes for the future of our synod as we discern where God is leading us together. With God's presence and inspiring love, we will find opportunities to support one another and partner together.

It is a joy and an honor to serve with the diverse and gifted cloud of witnesses that is the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Together, we look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, to guide our ministry, inspire our collaboration, energize our justice work, and accompany our care for one another, the church, and the world.

Your servant in Christ.

About Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025. He began this role on Oct. 1, 2025, and was installed on Oct. 4 in Minneapolis.

Previously, he served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he leads a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations. He was elected synod bishop in 2019 and reelected in spring 2025. Curry chaired the ELCA Conference of Bishops, fostering ecumenical relationships and theological engagement across the Lutheran communion.

Previously, Curry served as the mission developer (2007–2012) and pastor (2013–2019) of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale, III. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, III., and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.





★ December 13, 2025 ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



Help Wreaths for Swamp Church Cemetery honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Swamp Church Cemetery

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/PA0872





#KeepMovingForward



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA.

The Swamp Church Cemetery Association is proud to announce it will be joining with numerous cemeteries across the United States to honor our veterans by placing wreaths on gravesites of those Veterans interned at Swamp Cemetery. National Wreath Day will be held on Saturday December 13,2025. It is important that we remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach the generations the value of freedom. We are currently seeking sponsors of wreaths. We have invited Swamp's youth group to use this opportunity as a fund raiser. Wreaths will be placed on December 13,2025. The cost of a wreath is \$17.00. You will be able to designate a gravesite of a veteran you wish to honor and if you want to personally lay the wreath on that day. We currently have 231 veterans interned at Swamp Cemetery. We are asking for volunteers to help us lay wreaths. If you are able and willing to help please let us know. Prior to laying the wreaths we will be holding an opening ceremony on the grounds of Swamp Christian Fellowship Church. The ceremony will begin at 12 noon followed by the laying of the wreaths at the cemetery. We thank you in advance for your support and participation in this event. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Laraine Kramer 717-405-4047 or Kristin Gockley 717-330-0628

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 is December 7th.

NAME	Phone Number	1/2	
Poinsettias RED	WHITE		
In Memory of			





Swamp Lutheran Gift Cards

for Christmas

Great gift idea with a portion of the price benefitting the ministries of Swamp Lutheran

Checks payable to Swamp Lutheran Church

Orders due December 7

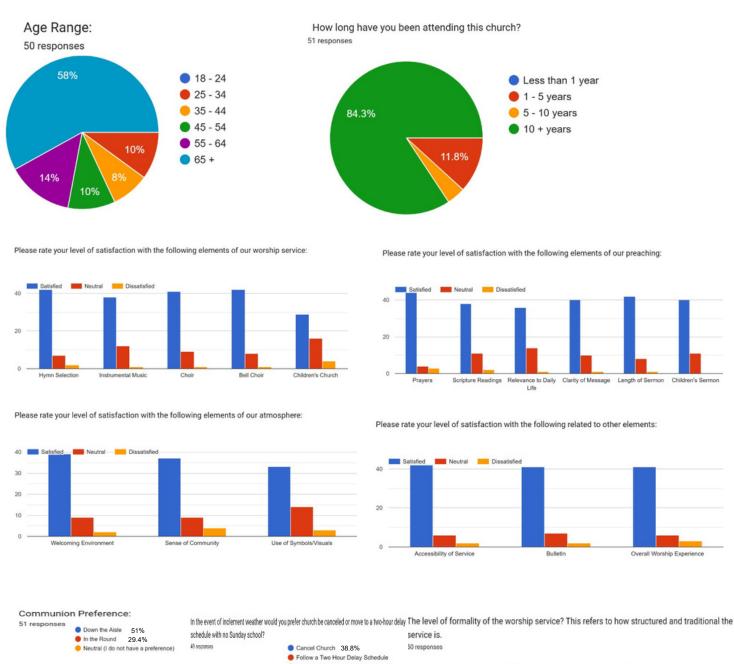
Place order sheet with payment in the collection plate, in Secretary's mailbox by the office, or give it to Missy Ragan. Questions Missy Ragan 717-314-5658

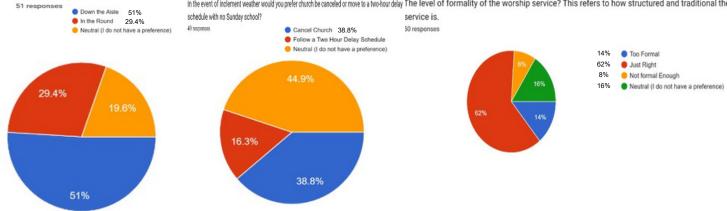
Swamp Lutheran Gift Cards			Name	_	
Orders due December 7, 2025			THE PARTY OF THE P		
Checks payable to Swamp Lutheran	 		Phone #		
Missy Ragan 717-314-5658	Total #	Total \$		Total #	Total \$
RESTAURANTS \$25 cards			SHOPPING \$25 cards		
Applebees 8%			Ace Hardware 6%		
Arbys 8% \$10, \$25			Auto Zone 7%		
BJ's Restaurant 8% Electronic			American Eagle 10%		
Bonefish Grille 10%			Barnes & Noble 8% \$10, \$25		
Buffalo Wild Wings 8%			Bass Pro Shops 9%		
Burger King 7% \$10, \$25			Bath & Body Works 12%		
Carrabas 10%			Best Buy 4%		
Cheesecake Factory 5%	_		Big Lots 4%		
Chilis 10%			Boscovs 8%		
Chipotle 9% \$10, \$25			Burlington 8%		
Cracker Barrel 8%			Cabelas 9%		
Dunkin Donuts 3.5% \$10 or \$25			Chewy 5%		
Door Dash 4% electronic			CVS 7%		
Dairy Queen 6.5% \$10, \$25			Columbia 12% \$50 only		
Jimmy Johns 8%			Disney 3%		
Longhorn Steakhouse 8%			Dicks Sporting Goods 8%		
Millers's Ale House 8% Electronic			DSW 10.5%		
Olive Garden 8%		1	Famous Footwear 8%		
On the Border 10%			Gamestop 5%		1
Outback Steakhouse 10%			Gap 14%		1
PF Changs 6%		1	Home Depot 4%		
Panera Bread 8%			Home Goods 6%		
Papa Johns 8% \$10 only			Kohls 7%		
Red Robin 8%			LL Bean 16%		
Red Lobster 8%			Land's End 14%		
Starbucks 4.5% \$10 or \$25			Lane Bryant 8%		1
Taco Bell 5% \$10,\$25			Lowes 4%		
Texas Roadhouse 8%			Marshalls 6%		
subway 6% \$10, \$50			Nordstrom Rack 4%		
GROCERY \$25, \$50, \$100			Old Navy 14%		l'
Giant 3.5%		-	Petco 9%		
Redners 5%			PetSmart 5%		
Weis Markets 5% \$25, \$100			Sams Club 2.5%		
Food Lion 3.5% \$25, \$100		<u> </u>	Shutterfly 9%		ļ
ONLINE \$25 CARDS			Staples 5%		İ
Amazon 1.5%			TJMaxx 6%		ļ
Amazon 1.5% Apple/iTunes 5%		<u> </u>			ļ
			Target 2.5%	-	ļ
nstacart 5%		<u> </u>	Tractor Supply 4.5%		<u> </u>
GAS		-	Uber 3%		
Royal Farms 4% \$25 \$100			Ulta 7%		
Sheetz 3% \$25, \$100			Walmart 2.5%		
Speedway 4% \$25, \$50, \$100					
Wawa 2 % \$ 25, \$100			Totals:		

Summer Survey Results Snapshot:

Survey responses collected online and by paper throughout the month of June and into July of 2025.

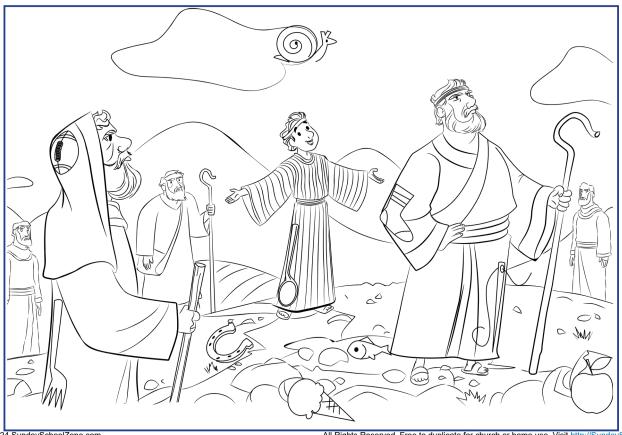
Average Attendance: 60 In-person, 40 Online, Total≈ 100. Total Survey Responses: 53 or 53% response rate with regularly attending members. A "good" survey response percentage varies, but generally, a 33% average is often cited, while rates between 20% and 30% are considered good for online surveys. Excellent response rates are typically above 50% and can vary significantly depending on the survey type, such as internal employee surveys (good at 30-40%) versus B2B surveys (good at 20-35%). (Information based on Google).





Hidden Pictures in Joseph's Special Coat

Find these objects hidden in the picture: apple, fish, football, fork, horse shoe, ice cream cone, needle & thread, snail, sock, and spoon.



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Color page God Helped Ruth and Naomi

