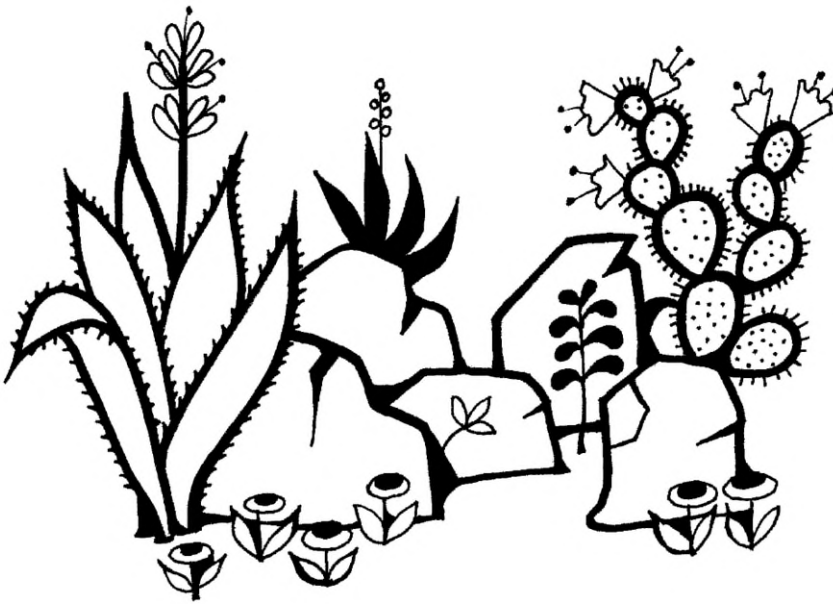


*THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*  
*DECEMBER 14, 2025*  
*8:30 AM*



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](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*

---

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** HARK, THE GLAD SOUND    BELL CHOIR    ARR. SUSAN GESCHKE

*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**    AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN    ELW 242

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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

**Third Week of Advent**

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,  
**let us travel on God's holy way  
and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**    THE MOON OF WINTERTIME    BELL CHOIR    ARR. KARISSA DENNIS

*Children leave for Children's Church*

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

---

**Psalm 146:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob <sup>1</sup> for their help,  
whose hope is in the <sup>1</sup> LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that <sup>1</sup> is in them;**  
**who keeps promis- <sup>1</sup> es forever;**  
<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to <sup>1</sup> those who  
hunger.  
The LORD sets the <sup>1</sup> captive free.  
<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who <sup>1</sup> are**  
**bowed down;**  
**the LORD <sup>1</sup> loves the righteous.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares <sup>1</sup> for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way <sup>1</sup> of the  
wicked.  
<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall <sup>1</sup> reign forever,**  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!**

READING: **James 5:7-10**

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate  
patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The  
farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it  
receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your  
hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble  
against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing  
at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters,  
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 11:2-11**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

SERMON

*CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*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.**

## 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**      O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL      ROBERT 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.*

*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*

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.

## 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.**

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

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

ELW 248

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

**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, 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, Lindsey Sauder, 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), the family of Maggie Kiralfy (Jen Brubaker's mother), Jeff Hines (friend of Lori Gockley and Toni Showalter) and Laurie Sauder.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of son, Erik Christopher and sister, Helen Fasnacht by Linda and Glenn Beard.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** is given in memory of loved ones by Cathy Cammauf.



**SWAMP LUTHERAN'S  
HANDBELL CHOIR**

# Holiday Schedule

**Saturday, December 6th**  
Reinholds Station Trinity  
Chapel @ 2PM  
*114 E. Main St., Reinholds, PA 17569*

**Sunday, December 21st**  
Coleman Memorial Chapel -  
Brickerville @7PM  
*1980 Furnance Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543*

*Reservation Required for  
Coleman Memorial Chapel:  
Contact Doris Hinds at 717-669-4114  
(please leave a message if no one answers)*

## Other Readings for this Sunday

### Isaiah 35:1-10

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.]]

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

# Be Our Guest

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

at Swamp Lutheran Church

Join us for special music, an inspiring  
message, and a children's sermon all  
in the glow of candlelight.

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**DECEMBER 24, 2025**

**4PM**

Family Candlelight Service with  
Communion & Children's  
Church for young children

**7PM**

Traditional Candlelight Service  
with Communion, Full Choir, &  
Bell Choir



## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**December 14, 2025**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Keeping Watch**

There's nothing quite like the first smell of springtime flowers emerging from the earth. The sensory explosion often catches us by surprise, reminding us that new life is surely coming soon, even though the world still seems to be slumbering and the buds we watch impatiently refuse to open. This third Sunday of Advent lifts the church and stirs our senses as we receive word, along with John the Baptizer, that Jesus is indeed the one we've been waiting for, the one who will turn buds into blooms. This is good news!

We might wonder, however, why we are hearing this news from John's perspective, out of all the voices in the growing community of Jesus-followers. Can we trust his word? After all, John is sitting behind bars at this time, caught in the gears of the world's injustice. John's unjust imprisonment reminds us that working for justice in the world can cause conflict with those in power. But while the world imprisons the innocent and strains to protect the corrupt and cruel, God sees such injustices and works to undo their power. This, too, is good news!

This third Sunday of Advent is sometimes called *Gaudete*, meaning "Rejoice." Cultivating joy amid the brokenness seen in the world is difficult, but God brings new beginnings where we have known only endings. New tendrils of life are emerging! Something new is coming! Let's share the good news as we wait and keep watch together.

**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!**

**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 14, 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 14- 21)**

December 14	9:30AM	Congregational Mtg
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 Caroling in Village Hollow
December 21	7:00PM	Bell Choir Candlelight Worship @ Coleman Chapel

*Please call 717-669-4114 to reserve your seats*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 24	4:00PM & 7:00PM	Christmas Eve Services
December 25		CHRISTMAS    OFFICE CLOSED
December 26		OFFICE CLOSED
December 28	8:30AM	Worship
December 31		NEW YEAR'S EVE
January 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY    OFFICE CLOSED
January 2		OFFICE CLOSED
January 4	8:30AM	Worship
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
January 13	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
January 14	1-4:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
January 14	7:00PM	Choir
January 18	8:30AM	Worship
January 18	9:45AM	Sunday School

**Greeter Schedule December**

21 Tom & Deb Henly  
28 Lee & Jodi Showalter

**Greeter Schedule for January**

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

**Coffee Schedule for December**

21 Deb Sweigert  
28 John Frantz

**Coffee Schedule for January**

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

**DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

*Mon December 15* Psalm 42 Isaiah 29:17-24 Acts 5:12-16  
*Tue December 16* Psalm 42 Ezekiel 47:1-1 Jude 17-25  
*Wed December 17* Psalm 42 Zechariah 8:1-17 Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34  
*Thur December 18* Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 2 Samuel 7:1-17 Galatians 3:23-29  
*Fri December 19* Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 2 Samuel 7:18-22 Galatians 4:1-7  
*Sat December 20*  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 2 Samuel 7:23-29 John 3:31-36

**UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS**

*Sun December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent* Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

**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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and ending Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> you will have read the entire book of Luke.

# *Be Our Guest*

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

at Swamp Lutheran Church

Join us for special music, an inspiring message, and a children's sermon all in the glow of candlelight.

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**DECEMBER 24, 2025**

### **4PM**

Family Candlelight Service with  
Communion & Children's  
Church for young children

### **7PM**

Traditional Candlelight Service  
with Communion, Full Choir, &  
Bell Choir

