



Aug 2025

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

www.swamplutheran.org

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, Pa 17569
717-336-2849

Ministers :
Congregation

Staff

Pastor:
Rev. Scott V. Brubaker

Admin Asst:
Teresa Renninger

Sexton:
Jonathan Gyorke

Organist/Choir Director:
Susan Kreitz

Assistant Organist:
Grady Daub

Bell Choir:
Doug Kulp

In person worship
8:30AM

Two options available:

- Watch live stream video on YouTube
- Join us inside for in person worship

Pastor's Message

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." – Psalm 46:1

Dear siblings in Christ,

As we move through the final days of summer, I am reminded of the rhythms of God's creation: seasons come and go, school resumes, vacations wind down, and we return to routines that feel both familiar and new. In all these things, we are gently reminded that our lives are held in God's steady and faithful hands.

August in the life of the church often feels like a time of preparation. We look forward to the Church Picnic (August 24), God's work, Our hands (September 7), Touch-A-Truck (September 14), the return of Sunday School (September 21), fall programs, Bible studies, and the renewed energy that comes with a new season of ministry. I encourage you to begin praying now for our students, teachers, ministry leaders, and volunteers as we prepare to step into another year of growing in faith together.

Martin Luther once wrote that the Christian life is a daily baptism—daily dying to sin and rising again in the grace of Christ. As we watch summer begin to yield to fall, we too are invited to reflect on the ways God is renewing us, personally and as a congregation. What is God calling you to in this next season? What might you lay down, and what new thing might you take up in Christ's name?

No matter where you find yourself this month—whether you're traveling, preparing for a busy school year, or soaking in the last quiet days of summer—know that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with you. God is not only present in the pews on Sunday morning but also in the everyday moments of our lives. God is our refuge and strength, our constant companion in every season.

Let us walk together into the coming months with hope, joy, and trust in God's promises.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott





Generosity Minute

Growing in Generosity: Stewarding God's Gifts Together

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped."

-- Proverbs 11:24-25 (The Message)

Dear members and friends of Swamp Lutheran Church,

As we enjoy the warmth of summer (and perhaps feel it a little too much during worship!), we're reminded of just how much we rely on the blessings God provides through His people. One such blessing we've all become more aware of recently is our sanctuary's air conditioning system. After many years of faithful service, it is at half capacity and limping along—it needs to be replaced. This is not just a matter of comfort (though we know many of you would agree that it's an important one!)—it's also about making our sanctuary a welcoming and hospitable place for worship, fellowship, and ministry for all generations.

Replacing the system is a significant and necessary investment in the life and future of our congregation. But it's also an opportunity—an opportunity to reflect on the ways we're each called to grow in generosity, to steward the resources God has entrusted to us, and to ensure that Swamp Lutheran continues to be a place where Christ is proclaimed, lives are nurtured in faith, and the community is served with love.

As we look toward the Church Picnic, *God's work. Our hands, Touch-A-Truck*, the return of Sunday School, youth activities, Bible studies, outreach events, and more, we invite you to consider how your giving supports the full ministry of our church. From keeping the lights on and the sanctuary cool, to supporting mission partners and making disciples, every gift matters—and every gift helps us live out our calling as the body of Christ.

Here are a few ways you can help:

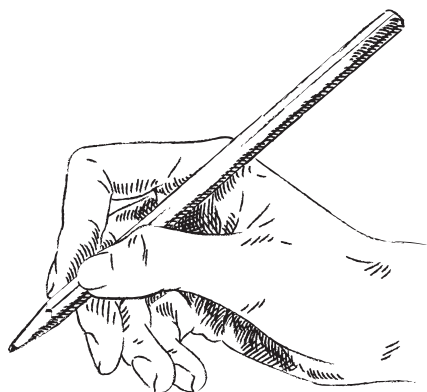
- Pray for the continued mission and ministry of Swamp Lutheran Church.
- Consider a special gift toward the sanctuary A/C replacement project.
- Review your regular giving, and ask God how you might take a step forward in your generosity this year.
- Share your time and talents in ministry areas that are meaningful to you.

Let us give with joyful hearts, not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for all that God has done and is doing among us. Together, we can keep our sanctuary cool—and our ministries vibrant—as we serve in Christ's name.

In gratitude,

The 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 Calendar 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
Karen Laudenslager
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
Ron Stoner



Faith isn't hoping God can
It is knowing that God will

August 70+ Birthdays

LARRY HAGY 500 BLUE LAKE ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	8/1	BEATRICE GRESS 155 S. BLAINSPORT ROAD REINHOLDS PA 17569	8/16	JOHN LEVAN 208 HAWTHORNE CT. NORTH READING, PA 19610	8/22
LINDA BEARD 300 ST. MARK AVE. #1117 LITITZ, PA 17543	8/4	GARY REDDIG PLEASANT VIEW COMMUNITIES 544 N. PENRYN RD TERRACE GARDENS #127 MANHEIM PA 17545	8/17	CLYDE SHOWALTER FAITHFUL LIVING 2015 N. READING RD. #117 DENVER, PA 17517	8/27
RONALD BINGEMAN 580 GOCKLEY ROAD STEVENS, PA 17578	8/4	RON CRILLS 137 MEADOW VALLEY RD #50 EPHRATA, PA 17522	8/21	SUSAN FICHTNER 48 COOPER WAY DENVER, PA 17517	8/31
LOUETTA FRANCK 8 EDIE DRIVE DENVER, PA 17517	8/8				

Please advise the office if this is the magic year that you turn 70! Just give Terri a call at 717-336-2849 or email her at secretary@swamplutheran.org

Happy Birthday to all born in August!



PAM LEISEY	01	TOM SHOWALTER	12
CAMERON NYE	01	ALYSSA EVANS	13
MELIA VANZANT	02	DYLAN HICKERNELL	13
HEATHER WEAVER	03	JARED TENGAN	13
JEN BRUBAKER	03	TAMMY CRALEY	14
BETH NYE	04	DENISE WELLER	15
WILLIAM SPONSER	04	SHAWNA MOYER	17
ERIK POSEGAY	06	MELANIE FRANTZ	19
MIA FINNEGAN	07	TROY EBERLY	21
KATHY WORLEY	08	KYLE WEITZEL	21
MATTHEW DEBOCK	08	CAMERON LAMBERT	21
NEAL MCQUATE	08	BETH SWEIGERT	24
JERRY HOWE	09	ELIZABETH SHANK	24
PAM LEED	09	MICHELLE BROWN	27
ZAC BROWN	11	NATHAN SHUGARTS	27
		LAURIE SAUDER	27

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Nursing Home

RESIDENTS

Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Michael A. Crowther
Clarice Haws
Anna Adams
Marion Bergman

GREETER SCHEDULE

AUGUST

3 Missy Ragan
10 Alan & Kathy Worley
17 Jane Risser
24 Ray & Jen Weitzel
31 Jane Leshner

SEPTEMBER

7 Josh Garrison
14 Steve & Karen Laudenslager
21 Carl & Louetta Franck
28 John & Carol Chmielewski

COFFEE SCHEDULE

AUGUST

3 Denise Kidwell
10 Denise Kidwell
17 Deb Sweigert
24 Deb Sweigert
31 John Frantz

SEPTEMBER

07 Ray Weitzel
14 Pam Leisey
21 Lee Showalter
28 Pam Leisey

Thank you for serving as greeters.
Please try to be at the front door by 8:10AM

UPCOMING Events

August 5	7:00pm	Welcome Cmte
August 13	1-4:00pm	EASS Food Distribution
August 14	6:30pm	Learning Cmte
August 15	6:00pm	Widow & Widowers Dutch Apple Theater
August 19	6:00pm	Service Cmte
August 20	7:00pm	Church Council
August 22	2:30pm	Swamp Church Phillies Trip/Game 6:45pm
August 24	10:00am	Church Picnic
August 26	7:00pm	Cocalico Builders of Hope
Sept 1	LABOR DAY	OFFICE CLOSED



Widow & Widowers: Dutch Apple Dinner Theater, Buddy Holly Story
Friday August 15. 6:00pm dinner, 7:30pm show. Cost: \$80.00. Please
RSVP at bmiz13@hotmail.com or call the Church office 717-366-2849.

The church needs your help as a volunteer! From time to time members of the church need assistance in getting somewhere or even to get to church. It is not often but when the need arises we would appreciate having some folks who are willing to drive if available. Please call Terri at the office to identify yourself as a willing volunteer driver. God needs our hands and feet to assist those in our church family.



Service Committee will be collecting articles for school kits during July & August. Most needed items are crayons and pens. Thank you for your support of this ministry. Questions, Jane Leshner.

School Kits:

- 4 - 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8"X10 1/2"
- 1 - 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side & inches on the other
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 blunt scissors (safety scissors)
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secure with rubber band
- 5 black or blue pens, secure with rubber band
- 1 box 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 - 2 1/2" eraser

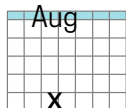
YOU DO NOT NEED TO INCLUDE THE DRAWSTRING BACKPACK.



FLOWERS: September 21st & 28th are available to sponsor. 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, vegetables and fruit. Please check for a current expiration date. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month.



August 26 is the deadline for the September Newsletter.

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

Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you!



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.



ACTS OF LOVE Lunch Program: Local churches work together to make meals and serve lunch to local families within the Cocalico School District. Lunches are prepared and served each Wednesday during the summer months. We are looking for people who are willing to support this program. There are two ways in which to help.

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

2- Donate snacks for a snack box that will be provided the day of the meal. We are looking to have individually wrapped snacks that children and adults are able to take along with them when they pick up their meals. Items could include: Single servings of apple sauce, crackers, pretzels, animal crackers, juice boxes, etc. Please contact Denise Kidwell (717-725-8795 or denisekidwell321@yahoo.com) Thanks for your consideration! Denise.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS. Sunday, September 7th, 2025

Service committee would like to have our congregation join the ELCA sponsored service opportunity. This is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as a congregation – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans- an act of service sharing God's grace freely given for all.

How can you be of service?

1. Do you know of a local organization that could use a few hours of help?
2. Do you know of a neighbor, friend, or fellow member of the congregation that could use a few hours of help around the house/yard area?
3. Are you interested in signing up and joining in this fun faith filled service activity?

If you have service ideas please contact Pastor Brubaker or Jodi Showalter.

If interested in helping, please sign up on the sign up sheets at the front or back of the church.



*Thank you to ALL at
Swamp Church for your condolences
and support. It has been a difficult
time, however it is comforting to be
surrounded by good people here at
Swamp Church. I am very grateful
for your prayers and friendship.
Thank you,
Terri*

Next Council Meeting
September, 2024
7PM

Thank you



Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm
Where Faith is Renewed, the Church is Strengthened
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303 717-677-8211 (phone) 717-677-7597 (fax) www.lutherancamping.org

July 7, 2025

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

Dear Siblings in Christ at Swamp Lutheran Church:

Greetings in this Pentecost Season – a time of growth and renewal. I hope that you will be able to visit at least one of our camps this summer.

Thank you for your recent gift of \$100.00 given on June 16, 2025, designated for Unrestricted use. (No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution). As we celebrate Christ's victory over death and the new life that he gives us, we celebrate the summer camping season with appreciation for devoted and supportive friends such as you. Thank you so much for your generosity!

This summer we see new opportunities at all of our ministry sites for sharing Christ's love and proclaiming the Gospel. We welcome God's children of all ages to camp this summer and rejoice as they enjoy Christian fellowship, grow in faith, are renewed in spirit, and then return to their homes, churches, schools and communities more fully committed Christian disciples.

As the seasons change and the joys and successes of this ministry are lived and witnessed, we are moved and excited by the great possibilities that are 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.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Youse

Michael Youse
Executive Director

Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

▲ **KIRCHENWALD:** 1 Cut Off Road, Lebanon, PA 17042, 717-964-3121 ▲ **NAWAKWA:** PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303-0459, 717-677-8211 ▲ **THE WITTEL FARM HOUSE OF PRAYER:** 1753 Mill Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022-9510, 717-367-2001



July 14, 2025

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

Amount received: \$250.00 (Check #18503)
Gift Purpose: United Lutheran Seminary Fund

Dear Swamp Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to United Lutheran Seminary. Your support is vital to sustaining our mission of providing transformative theological education to all students—through degree programs, distance learning, and Kindling Faith continuing education.

At ULS, we are committed to developing spiritual leaders who are equipped to live out God's call in the world through worship, advocacy, and care for others. Your gift helps us shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Your generosity makes a meaningful difference, helping us shape the future of our church. If you'd like to learn more about ULS or need assistance, please contact us at advancement@uls.edu. Stay connected with our ongoing learning opportunities through ULS Kindling Faith Continuing Education - <https://www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/academics/kindling-faith>.

With gratitude,

Conor Brooks

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

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

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

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

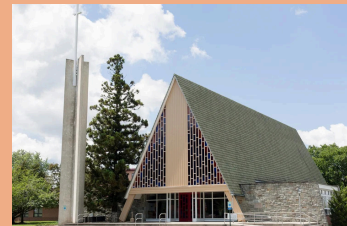
Grady Daub—Safety & Security

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!**



2025 Acts of Love
Summer Lunch
Program
Wednesdays,
August 6, 13
11:30 am-12:30 pm

**Brought to you by area churches
and community organizations!**

Meals will be available at the 4 parks listed below. Meals will vary each week depending on the group providing the food. If you have any questions, please reach out to Real Life Community Services at 717-336-7797 option 1.

Adamstown Grove	339 W. Main St., Reinholds, PA 17569
Denver Park	801 W. Main St., Denver PA 17517
Reamstown Park	E. Church St., Stevens, PA 17578
Reinholds Park	5 E. Main St., Reinholds, PA 17569



***Come and get a Wednesday Welcome
and a delicious meal this summer!***

If you are in need of additional food help this summer, please reach out to Real Life Community Services in Denver at 717-336-7797 or Ephrata Area Social Services in Ephrata at 717-733-0345.

Feeding our Children in The Cocalico Community !!

Meals on Wheels currently has a need for a driver in the Reinholds region. Meals are picked up at St. Johns UCC in Denver. It is a commitment of 1-2 hours a week, one day a week. Contact the MOW Coordinator Robin to learn more: 717-733-0345 ex: 116.



10am (After Worship) | Social Hall

**FREE FOOD, KIDS ACTIVITY,
CAKE & COOKIE WALK, SOAK THE PASTOR**

We are requesting baked good donations for the cake & cookie walk

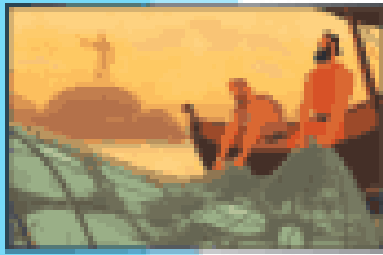
SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT

SWAMP LUTHERAN TRIVIA

Courtesy of Gladys Eckenroad



Questions? Please contact Jen Weitzel @ 717-405-5587



Peter Goes Fishing Word Scramble

The letters of the words below are mixed up. Unscramble them to make words from the story "Peter Recognized Jesus."

TOBA

PLEDSCII

TREEP

SHIFNIG

CLAIRME

MONSI

ERTWA

TSNE

NAWDRE

