



THE RISING SUN NEWSLETTER
SWAMP EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD, REINHOLDS, PA 17569

Church Telephone 717-336-2849; Fax 717-336-2840; e-mail secretary@swamplutheran.org

STAFF

MINISTERS:

Congregation

PASTOR:

Rev. Kurt Strause

ADMIN ASST:

Brenda Johnston

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Susan Kreitz

BELL CHOIR

Doug Kulp

SEXTON

John Frantz

OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Lori Gockley, President,
Welcome

David Kupp, Vice President,
Scouts

Danielle Kauffman, Sec.,
Stewardship & Social Media

Deb Kohl, Fin. Secy, Service

Guy Templin, Co-Treas, Finance
& Worship,
Sue Knauer, Co-Treas, Personnel &
Constitution

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Dave Borrell –Helping Hands

Randy Krater - Property

Pam Leisey –Learning

Jan Risser –Love, Inc.

Ryan Ranck –Youth Ministry

David Sauder - Call Committee

Lee Showalter –Disaster Response

Tom Showalter-Safety & Security

From Pastor Kurt

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted.” Matthew 28:46

This passage from scripture captures, for me, the most realistic expression of faith. Jesus is raised from the dead. He appears to his disciples in Galilee. They worship him, recognizing him as God. Yet, some doubted. In spite of seeing the risen Christ with their own eyes some of them still had questions and doubts.

I take great comfort in these words. If some of the disciples still had

doubts in the presence of the risen Jesus then my own doubts are ok. I’m in good company when questions arise and I don’t have all the answers. I’ve come to realize that doubts and questions are actually a good thing.

Frederick Buechner, the author of “Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC” said this about doubt: “Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.” I like that. I want a faith awake and alert to God’s activity in my life and the world. A healthy doubt can lead to probing questions. Questions can lead to diving

deeply into prayer and an encounter with God’s Word.

I’ve come to believe that doubts are the evidence of the movement of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life. The Spirit raises a question and prompts one to pray about it. Or seek an answer in the Bible. Or join a study group. Or come to worship. In other words, our doubts and questions are the very means by which the Holy Spirit leads us into deeper fellowship with other disciples where we can struggle together with the meaning of faith in God. If those first disciples had some doubts then it seems to me that’s pretty good company to keep.

IN PERSON INSIDE WORSHIP CONTINUES MASKS REQUIRED

THREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Our COVID Task Force continues to meet and assess the situation as it relates to inside worship. Thank you for adhering to masks being worn at all times in building..

1. *Watch video on YouTube*
2. *Tune in to FM 87.9 in your car parked in church lot*
3. *Join us inside for in person worship.*

Those who participate from car or outside will be brought communion.

“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”
John 4.24



Church Office Requests

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 Strause at 717-475-4377.
- 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 new 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.

Earl Myers
Katie Houck
Sue Kittler
Joan Long
Hunter Leisey
Josie Reitz
Mary Jane Miller
Pastor Jim Miller
Ashton Faust
Susan Levan
Janice Moyer Kelly
Claire Sweigart
Elmo Lorah
Nancy Kulp

Jean Wolf
Randy Krater
Sharon Fremont—friend of Sue Kreitz
Shirley Achey—neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Mary Kring—aunt of Linda Ream
Shirley Martzall—friend of Ranck family
Tony Malafarina
Margaret Elser

When someone is put on the prayers list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off the unless you make another request to have them put back on.



2nd Summer Sundays - Learning Committee would like to invite EVERYONE to “2nd Summer Sundays” starting on June 13, 2021. We will have fun activities on “The Fruit of the Spirit”. This will start after the Church Service at 9:30 AM. We hope to have this outside – weather permitting. We will be hosting another 2nd Summer Sunday in July. Our theme will be “Christmas in July” and also one in August. Our theme will be “Growing in Grace”. All to be held outside – weather permitting. We hope to see you there!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

JOAN LONG SHAWN'S PARK 24493 WHITE STREET MILLSBORO, DE 19966	5/5 90th!!	KATHRYN MILLER PO BOX 210 REAMSTOWN, PA 17567	5/17
JOAN REINECKER 600 N. MUDDY CREEK ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	5/7	ANDREW KELLY JR 104 BURROWS STREET SINKING SPRING, PA 19608	5/24
SHERRILYN ARTZ PO BOX 53 390 BLUE LAKE ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	5/15	DIANNE CRILLS 137 MEADOW VALLEY ROAD LOT #50 EPHRATA, PA 17522	5/28
CARL FRANCK 8 EDIE DRIVE DENVER, PA 17517	5/16	EVAN FRANTZ 130 S. FORT ZELLER ROAD NEWMANSTOWN, PA 17073	5/28



GRADY DAUB	01
ANJA FERRY	02
CASEY COBLE	03
ANNA ADAMS	03
JEN WETZEL	03
NANCY KULP	05
JOAN LONG	05
DAVID METZLER	05
MARY ANN KING	07
JOAN REINECKER	07
ERIC ARTZ	08
RANDY KRATER	08
LAURA RAPP	08
KEITH KITTLER	08
TAYLOR KIDWELL	10
STEVE KAUFFMAN	11
JASA LORAH	11
JESSICA MILLER	11
CORINNE SWEIGART	12
TAYLOR HIGGINS	14
SHERRILYN ARTZ	15
CARL FRANCK	16
KATHRYN MILLER	17
EMILY SHOWALTER	18
JESS ZOOK	18
DENISE NULL	19
RAY WEITZEL	19
DAVID KUPP	21
JAMES KING	22
TAYLOR WEAVER	22
ADDISON MCQUATE	22
JON KOON	23
CARTER SHOWALTER	24
ANDREW KELLY	24
KIERSTEN SHOWALTER	24
RANDY LEISEY	26
DENNIS TROUTMAN	27
ABBEY RINEER	28
EVAN FRANTZ	28
KAYLIE CARMAN	28
WILLIAM MULLIGAN	29
CONNOR SHOWALTER	30
MELISSA HERSHEY	31



Ephrata Area

Social Services continues to experience high demand during this time of pandemic with a decrease in donations. They are accepting monetary donations to help bridge the gap. Monetary donations can be made out to EASS. Their address is: EASS, 227 North State Street, Ephrata, PA 17522
Thank you in advance for your help.



As a church we continue as a point of distribution for EASS, distributing 20-25 boxes of food once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We are packing and distributing all dry goods. Our need for non-perishable items and volunteers is an ongoing need. Contributions may be dropped off at the church during the morning hours M-F or on Sunday before or after service. We are unable to distribute items past their expiration date. If you are interested in volunteering please contact John Frantz.

Current needs for the pantry are: ketchup, mustard, relish, jam, paper towels, toilet paper individually wrapped, *canned meat*, canned fruit, coffee, tea and snacks.

We do not need at this time: peanut butter, pasta or canned vegetables. *Thank you!*

UPDATES ON MEMBERS



Please put these changes in your pictorial directory.

Please let us know if you have change of address, email or phone number.

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Michael A. Crowther

Clarice Haws

Betty Hornberger

Charles Moyer

Ella Shirk

Alverta Showalter



Clyde Showalter

Mary Ann Weitzel

Mary Jane Miller

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 21, 2021

Your council met Wednesday 21 April 2021. Highlights include:

Love, Inc.—The same family is still occupying the house. They are giving the mother month to month renewals to try to keep her on track.

Service Committee: The community meal is scheduled for May 13th. The summer lunch program is June 28 and June 30th. Contact Denise Kidwell if you would like to help.

Worship Committee—Ascension Day service will be held outdoors Thursday May 13th. The bell choir is planning to play at the service. If inclement weather, there will be no service.

Scouts—They are planning a campout May 21-23. The Pinewood Derby is scheduled for May 22.

Helping Hands—Prepared and delivered 648 meals this past month to members and folks in the community.

Property—The water heater was leaking and is still under warranty. The security system needs maintenance, the sensors need replacing...that is not under warranty. The roof fund is at \$42,326 donated out of a total needed of \$44,600. The Landscape Angel program is starting again.....see Ray Weitzel if you are interested in helping. All requests for any repairs, or work to be done in the church should be done thru Property Chair, Ray Weitzel. Please do not go thru the sexton. Mulching will be done on May 12th at 6:00pm. Please plan to help.

Call Committee—The Committee consists of Chairman Dave Sauder, Chaplain Lowell Haws, Anita Kupp, Sue Knauer, Abbey Rineer and Connie Taylor.

Recently Completed:

Received 3 names from the Synod—Beth Martini
One candidate removed their name from consideration.

Next steps:

Proceed to review resumes, research and interview 2 candidates
They are meeting on April 26 to discuss the information gathered
Conduct candidate interviews Mid May

Other items discussed:

Five young people are completing their “Pastors Crash Course” for Confirmation which will take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Pastor Strause is leading another Bible Study by Zoom on significant stories of the Old Testament Tuesday evenings. They will run thru May 18.

Pastor Strause is offering to visit homes of folks who are shut in or would like Communion because they have not felt comfortable coming back to church. He is vaccinated. Contact him through the church office.

Jean Wolf would like to thank the congregation for their cards, concerns, flowers and visits while she was homebound. She will be having further tests to help with her issues.

Our sexton is currently dealing with some health conditions. While he is recovering, Council would like to ask the congregation if anyone would be willing to help out with vacuuming, dusting and cleaning the bathrooms. If you are interested in helping, see Ray Weitzel.

The Phillies are in first place and the Orioles are looking up to see them!

**SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17569

Phone: 717-336-2849

Fax: 717-336-2840

Email:

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: 8:30am—12noon

www.swamplutheran.org

Next Council Meeting :
June 16, 2021

Newsletter Submission for
JUNE
Wednesday, May 19, 2021

From our congregation, God has welcomed home four members since January 2021. Please remember the families of Ruth Sweigart, Audrey Lewandowski, Dale Sweigert and Ralph Good as they adjust to life without their beloved family member. As we extend condolences to the families let us keep them in prayer remembering God's promise for eternal life with Him.

Sympathy



*may your memories
exceed
your sorrow*

Zoom Bible Study Resumes in April

Pastor Strause offers an online Bible study using the Zoom format on Tuesdays, meeting at 7:00 p.m. The focus for these sessions is the great stories of the Old Testament; the Call of Abraham and Sarah, the Exodus and settlement in the Promised Land, the rise of monarchy and King David, and the voices of the Prophets as they call God's people to faith. More details will be on the website as well as a registration link for the class.



Service committee is in need of new members. Some of our activities are summer lunch program, serving community meals, upkeep of the little library and pantry, Luther Acres activities, and Lutheran World Relief kits. We serve and outreach to our local community and to our global neighbors. Would love to see new members join us and help us reach out more. If interested contact, Jodi Showalter

Ascension Day Service
7PM, May 13, 2021
Swamp Lutheran Church

Swamp Lutheran will be hosting the Lutheran churches from our Cocalico cluster for this year's Ascension Day Service. We will meet outside in front of the church. Bring your lawn chair. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Communion will be served whether you choose to remain in your car or be outside on the grass. Come join us!

