



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 Strauss

ADMIN ASST:

Brenda Johnston

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Susan Kreitz

BELL CHOIR

Doug Kulp

SEXTON

John Frantz

OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Lori Gockley, President

David Kupp, Vice President

Jodi Showalter, Sec.

Deb Kohl, Fin. Secy

Guy Templin, Co-Treas

Sue Knauer, Co-Treas

Congregational Council

Sandy Clouser

Randy Krater

Deb Kohl

Pam Leisey

Mike Mixell

Jan Risser

Ryan Ranck

David Sauder

From Pastor Kurt

The Church's liturgical year comes to an end during the month of November. Our Church calendar focuses on the life of Jesus Christ, his ministry, and the mission of the people of God. Seasons and festivals all point to the mighty acts of God which take place in historical time.

I'll start at the end. This final festival of the church year is called Christ the King which falls on the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar. As the name suggests this particular festival points to the coming of Jesus Christ at the end of all time when he will be revealed as Lord and King of all creation. We affirm the Biblical truth summarized in the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds, that Jesus "ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living

and the dead." Yet Jesus' kingship is far from the tyrannical rule of earthly kings. Jesus reigns over a kingdom of love for the poor and outcast. In the great parable of the final judgment Jesus tells in Matthew's gospel the king says, "as you did it to the least of these you did it also to me." Jesus' kingship begins even now, in his body the Church, as we reach out to those in need.

The beginning of November sees the festival known as All Saints. In the fourth and fifth century of the Christian church festivals began to be celebrated to remember all the martyrs who gave their lives in faithful witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Over the centuries these various festivals settled on November 1 as the day to remember those who had died for the

faith. Over time, as martyrdom ceased, the festival became focused on all the departed faithful. Today All Saints has become the church's "Memorial Day." We give thanks to God for the grace given to us through Holy Baptism as we remember all those Christians who have died and now enjoy the final victory of Christ. Local congregations also remember those in their own community who have died since the last All Saints Sunday. The liturgical year helps us learn about Jesus Christ and focus on his life and ministry. Certain festivals remind us of our calling as the baptized people of God who are washed clean of sin in Baptism and sent out into the world to be ambassadors for Christ who is our gentle and loving King.

IN PERSON INSIDE WORSHIP Continues at 8:30AM

We are excited to continue inside worship weekly at 8:30AM. It is our intent to continue this through the end of the year with the current adjustments in place.

We offer four options for worship on a weekly basis.



Mark your calendars.
Christmas Eve Times
4:00PM and 7:30PM

FOUR OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. *Watch video on YouTube*
2. *Bring lawn chair and listen to service at front of church on lawn.*
3. *Tune in to FM 87.9 in your car parked in church lot*
4. *Join us inside for in person worship.*

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

*All nations whom
You have made shall
come and worship
before You, O Lord,
And they shall glorify
Your name.*

Psalm 86.9



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.

Church Joins Ephrata Area Social Services and Central PA Food Bank in Food Distribution



Our partnership serving the needs of the hungry began October 14 as Swamp Lutheran teams with Ephrata Area Social Services (EASS) and Central PA Food Bank distributed food to area residents who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. A box of nutritious fresh produce as well as non-perishable items was distributed to individuals and families on Wednesday, October 14. This will be a continuing outreach on the second Wednesday of the month. The goal is to provide 20 to 25 boxes each month.

EASS, working with The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, provides the fresh and frozen food items which will be delivered directly to the church. Swamp Lutheran will collect non-perishable items as well as provide the volunteers to assemble the boxes and distribute them to individuals for pick-up at the church.

Non-perishable canned and dry goods may be brought to the church each Sunday or to the church during regular office hours. Items especially needed are things like pasta, boxes of cereal and canned fruit and vegetables. Please note that we cannot distribute any items past their expiration date. A rotating group of volunteers are also needed to work once a month from about noon until 3:30 p.m. assembling boxes and distributing them to individuals and families. If you are interested in volunteering please speak to John Frantz.

Online Quilt & Craft Auction –Lutheran Camping Corporation, Sunday, November 1—Sunday, November 8, 2020.



Join us for this year's Quilt and Craft Auction online. This fun-filled week of bidding raises money for the LCC Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain our fine ministry activities, including Camp Kirchenwald, Camp Nakwakwa, and the Wittle Farm.

Preview items and register at <http://www.lutherancamping.org/quiltauction>. Items will be added through October, so check back often.

Register and preview items as they are added, and begin bidding November 1. With questions, contact either the Camping Office (717) 677-8211 or Connie Taylor, (717) 940-3953

PRAYER LIST

Sue Kittler
Katie Houck
Jean Wolf
Don Risser
Sue Templin
Guy Templin
Barb Mizdail

Mary Jane Miller
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Shirley Achey—neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Mary Kring—aunt of Linda Ream
Ray Fox—cousin of Connie Taylor

Roger Gehman—father of Gaile Gehman..

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 mane another request to have them put back on.

OPPORTUNITY - You can help those in need by contributing to the Action Fund. Christmas gifts for needy families and funds for emergencies such as heat, housing, food, or medicine are just some of the ways we help others. If you want to make a contribution to the Action Fund please make your check payable to "Swamp Lutheran Action Fund" and give it to Pastor Strause.



Ephrata Area Social Services is experiencing 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.

UPDATES ON MEMBERS



Please put these changes in your pictorial directory.

NO UPDATES

Michael Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Henry Rehlich
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter



Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Mary Jane Miller



Reverse Advent Calendar

Service committee would like to help EASS 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 1st and ending Sunday December 20th add a non perishable food item to the container. Possible ideas are canned meats, canned vegetables, cereal, rice, pasta, canned fruit, hamburger helper, mac & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, and fruit juice.

Then on Sunday December 20th or Christmas Eve bring the filled container to church and we will donate the items to EASS.

This year, make someone else's Christmas a little bit brighter. Thank you in advance for your support.

Another opportunity for advent is to read a chapter in the Gospel of Luke each day and by December 24th you will have read the entire book of Luke.

Monetary donations are being accepted to help defray the cost of the turkeys and food for the families at Christmas.

One last service opportunity for Christmas, is to go online to ELCA.org/goodgifts or phone 1-800-638-3522 and purchase animals, school supplies, seeds, etc. to help our neighbors in need. These gifts grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. What a great way to share our gifts with others. If questions, contact Jodi Showalter (717) 413-7149.



Thank you for the phone calls, cards, meals and visits while I was recovering from my hospital stay. The meals were awesome!
I credit the prayers and concern of "our" Swamp Family for my speedy recovery. Thank you Pastor Strause for your visits, as well.

Love,
Lori Gockley

CALLING ALL TALENT



Calling all talent. Singers, musicians or any talent you want to share. We are putting together a Christmas Night of Music. This will be a virtual event. You can video yourself or arrange a time to come to church to have us video you. After we get all the videos together, we will post a link on YouTube. December 6, 2020 is the deadline for submissions.

Contact us at webmaster@swamplutheran.org with your ideas to let us know what you plan to do or if you need help.



SOMETIMES A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Who would have guessed that our **19th Year** of ringing would start out this unusual? **But it has also en that you can't** keep a good bell choir down. Now that we have realized we can ring as a socially distanced group (great job at the outdoor service!), I have put together the following schedule to move forward at least until the end of 2020 (and hopefully 2021 will be much more normal!). As with everything today, this schedule will be subject to change as our conditions change and safety protocols will be in place (masks, distancing, etc.) at all rehearsals and performances. Please be especially diligent in letting me know if you will be missing any rehearsals or performances so that I can fill spots in a safe and timely manner. As always, I look forward to seeing your smiling faces (ok-I will assume you're smiling under your mask!) and sharing our musical talents at the upcoming practices and worship services.

Bell Choir Schedule—Fall 2020

PRACTICES 7:30P—8:30P

Mon. Oct. 19
 Mon. Oct. 26
 Mon. Nov. 02
 Mon. Nov. 16
 Mon. Nov. 23
 Mon. Dec. 07
 Mon. Dec. 14
 Mon. Dec. 21

POSSIBLE PLAY DATES

Play Sunday, November 8

 Play Sunday, December 13

 Play Thursday December 24 (Christmas Eve)

**SWAMP
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17569

Phone: 7173362849
Fax: 57173362840

Email: secretary@swamplutheran.org
Office Hours: 8:30am—12noon

www.swamplutheran.org

Next Council Meeting :
November 18, 2020

Newsletter Submission for
December
Friday, November 20, 2020

DONNA HILL 24 ASPEN DRIVE MANHEIM, PA 17545	11/5
JEAN WOLF 76 REINHOLDS ROAD REINHOLDS, PA 17569	11/5
DOLORES D'AIELLO 62 SPECK ROAD MOHNTON, PA 19540	11/17
GALE BACHMAN 675 BLUE LAKE ROAD DENVER, PA 17517	11/24
ROBERT HERSHEY, JR. 46 STONY RUN VILLAGE DENVER, PA 17517	11/26



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

TAKE NOTE!

With much thought and consideration the Denver & Ephrata Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner has announced that the tradition will not be held this year on November 26, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please help get this word out.

Jodi Showalter will have Red and White Poinsettias and Cyclamens available again this year for the Christmas Season. Deadline for ordering is November 29, 2020. Jodi is your point person (717-413-7149) and checks are to be made out to Swamp Lutheran Church. Cost of each plant will not be available until late October. Feel free to make your order now. Order form in weekly bulletin between now and deadline.



CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Lori Gockley, President - Helping Hands	Tom Showalter
David Kupp, V. President - Safety and Security/Scouts	Jodi Showalter, Secretary Service
Sandy Clouser Welcome	Sue Ellen Knauer, Co-Treasurer Personnel and Constitution
Randy Krater Property	Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer Finance & Worship
Pam Leisey Learning	Deb Kohl, Financial Secretary Stewardship/Social Media
Mike Mixell	
Ryan Ranck Youth Ministry	
Jan Risser Love, Inc	
David Sauder Stewardship/Social Media	

Swamp Lutheran Church Receives Grant



When God's people are in need, be ready to help them.
Romans 12.13

Lower Susquehanna Synod Disaster Response Fund from their 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic Fund have granted Swamp Lutheran Church a \$4000 grant to assist us in our weekly meal distribution. Due to COVID-19 challenges a number of local families have been negatively impacted. Our distribution

of food is an outreach extended to our community by the church. This grant from the Lower Susquehanna Synod will allow us to continue with our weekly distribution of food through the end of 2020. We are grateful for God's provision through this Disaster Response Fund. Our weekly distribution not only

helps relieve some physical needs but also some mental and emotional relief as we can share a bit of time visiting. This ministry also allows us an opportunity to stay in touch with our church members and other community members.

Contact John Franz or Lori Gockley if interested in volunteering.

Gift card and prepaid cards for the holidays are now available. Order forms will be at the front door. Orders will be due on Sunday, November 29, 2020 so we have enough time to receive cards before the holidays. Any questions, call Missy Regan at (717) 314-5658.



The Birth of the Messiah: What the Bible Tells Us About Jesus' Birth



Most everyone is familiar with the Christmas story in the Bible. Shepherds and Angels, No Room in the Inn, the Manger and Wise Men; these are well-known figures in the story. However, the Bible is full of rich imagery and symbolism surrounding and informing the birth story of Jesus. There's much more to the story than what we might hear on Christmas Eve.

Pastor Strause will lead a six week Zoom Bible Study on Tuesday nights examining the Biblical record of Jesus' birth. We will explore the events leading up to his birth, the birth itself, and the immediate consequences of his birth, both on his family and the world around him. Because the birth of Jesus inspired artists and musicians throughout the centuries the study will be supplemented and supported using art and music.

The Bible Study will start on November 10 at 7:00 p.m. and run for six weeks through December 15. The Zoom link for the Bible study will be published on the church website or you may email Pastor Strause at pastor@swamplutheran.org and a