

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 18, 2025
8:30 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church
Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visitors 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 regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE EXUBERANT JOY ARNOLD SHERMAN

*congregational responses are in **bold type**.*

Stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ✠ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN! ELW 377

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. ☐ Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of



all cre - a - tion: ☐ Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

might to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

☐ For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

ANTHEM ELEANOR RIGBY ARR. RON MALLORY
BELL CHOIR WITH RANDY KRATER ON BASS

WORD

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

Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

READING: **Acts 11:1-18**

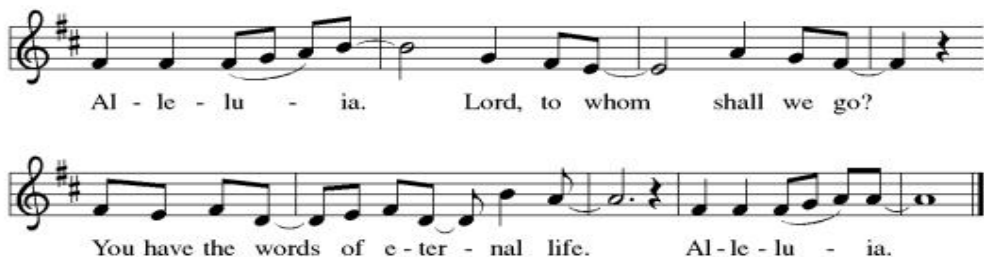
¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: **John 13:31-35**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH

"Jesus in the Morning" w/ motions

Jesus, Jesus, (point to each palm, repeat for second Jesus)

Jesus in the morning, (circle arms above head)

Jesus in the noontime; (circle arms in front)

Jesus, Jesus, (point to each palm, repeat)

Jesus when the sun goes down! (circle arms above head and circle them low)

Praise him, praise him, (hands up and shake them)

praise him in the morning, (circle arms above head)

praise him in the noontime; (circle arms in front)

praise him, praise him, (hands up and shake them)

Jesus when the sun goes down! (circle arms above head and circle them low)

Serve him, serve him (palms up and push forward, repeat)

serve him in the morning, (circle arms above head)

serve him in the noontime; (circle arms in front)

serve him, serve him, (palms up and push forward, repeat)

serve him when the sun goes down!

Jesus, Jesus, (point to each palm, repeat for second Jesus)
Jesus in the morning, (circle arms above head)
Jesus in the noontime; (circle arms in front)
Jesus, Jesus (point to each palm, repeat for second Jesus)
Jesus when the sun goes down! (circle arms above head and circle them low)

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic* church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**that is, the true, universal Christian church of all times and places*

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 NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES 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.

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the staff. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me." The score consists of six lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The final line ends with a double bar line.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
**you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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.**

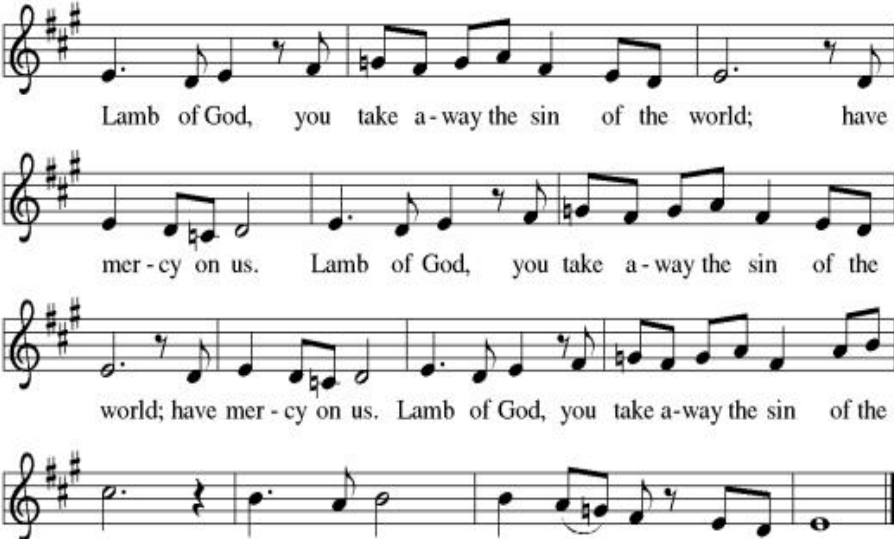
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD *remain standing*



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp, F#) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves continue the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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, Lamb of God.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Following the direction of the ushers, form a circle to receive communion. The bread, cup, and wine will be brought to you. Grape juice and gluten free options are available—tell the usher. After being communed, please return to your seat.

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.

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING ELW 389

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE SPIRIT, OPEN MY HEART ALFRED V. FEDAK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY WE WELCOME Rev. Newell Embley, III to lead us in worship while Pastor Brubaker is attending his daughter's college graduation. Rev. Embley is the retired pastor of Zion Lutheran, Leola.

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, Pauline Wassmer, Jerry Landis, Mary Beth Jenkins, Evelyn Gehman, Joan Leed, Ron Adams, Kevin Williams, Karen Laudenslager, Susan Levan, Larry Eberly, Anson Kauffman, Janet Bingaman, Dwayne Dimitris, Gladys Eckenroad, Bonnie Koehle-Koon, Ross Houck, Chris Zander, Kathleen Troutman, Sally Bergman, Keith Reimert, Pam Heisey, Cathy Stine, Connie Malafarina, Ted Heisey(Jenny Weitzel's brother), family of Molly Weitzel, family of Michael Wargo, family of Diane Showalter Emes.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of June and Edwin Kramer by their family.

ORGAN FLOWERS are given in loving memory of her husband, Harold Kauffman, by Betty Kauffman.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of Marie Jenkins by her family.

ALTAR FLOWER/CANDLE UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who donated to the Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle ministry. The 2025 Flower Calendar is posted in the Narthex. The Sanctuary Candle cost will remain at \$5.00 and the cost of the Altar Flowers remains at \$40.00 (subject to change).

FLOWERS: June 1st and 8th 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you give via the online option, let us know by email (secretary@swamplutheran.org) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2025.

FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. There is a need for paper towels, toilet paper, canned tuna, chicken, vegetables and soup. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month. Please check for a current expiration date.

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.

Cocalico Builders of Hope fundraiser. Strawberry Shortcake Stand at Adamstown Community Days, May 29-31 in the Grove. Featuring Boehringer’s ice cream. Come out and enjoy a sweet treat!



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.



LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN

We need volunteers to learn and share in the livestreaming and sound control for Sunday worship. We need additional helpers so that we can create a rotation schedule. If interested or to learn more, contact Pastor Scott.

Greeter Schedule May

18 Deb Sweigert
25 Glenn & Linda Beard

Greeter Schedule for June

1 David & Laraine Kramer
8 Lamar & June Eberly
15 Pam Leisey
22 Gene & Heather Farrari
29 Lowell & Sandy Haws

SERVICE COMMITTEE LWR Personal Care Kits.

During the months of March and April we will be collecting items for personal care kits. The following items are included in each kit, you may donate a complete kit or individual items.

- 1 light-weight bath size towel (maximum 52”X27”), dark color recommended
- 2 bath size bars (4 or 5 oz) of soap in original wrapping
- 1 adult size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clippers, remove packaging

Do not add other items than those that are listed. All items should be new.

All kits, soap, and quilts can be collected for LWR until Sunday, October 1st.

Thank you for your support of Lutheran World Relief’s worldwide mission!

Jane Leshner 717-471-2974.

Orders are being taken for **red geraniums for Pentecost**, Sunday June 8th, 2025. Price is not yet known and the deadline for ordering is today. Please give the following information to the church office or Jodi Showalter 717-413-7149.

Name_____ Phone Number_____

Red Geraniums_____

In memory of_____

In honor of _____

Week in the Parish (May 20 - 26)

May 18	11:00AM	Spring Fest
May 18	5-8:00PM	SLY Mini-Golf
May 25	8:30AM	Worship
May 26	Memorial Day	OFFICE CLOSED

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 27	7:00PM	Cocalico Builders of Hope
May 28	7:00PM	Choir
May 29	7:00PM	Ascension Day Service @ Swamp Lutheran Church
May 29-31		Cocalico Builders of Hope fundraiser @Adamstown Community Days
June 2	6:00PM	Spring Clean-up
June 9	6:00PM	Mulching Detail

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday May 19</i>	Psalm 133 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42 Acts 11:19-26
<i>Tuesday May 20</i>	Psalm 133 2 Samuel 1:4-27 Acts 11:27-30
<i>Wednesday May 21</i>	Psalm 133 Leviticus 19:9-18 Luke 10:25-28
<i>Thursday May 22</i>	Psalm 67 Proverbs 2:1-5 Acts 15:36-41
<i>Friday May 23</i>	Psalm 67 Proverbs 2:6-8 Acts 16:1-8
<i>Saturday May 24</i>	Psalm 67 Proverbs 2:9-15 Luke 19:1-10

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday May 25 Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9



SPRING FEST

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ALL AGES

May 18 @ 11AM

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, PA 17569

**The Swing Fever Band, Free Food,
Games for Kids. All proceeds go to Stockings for
Soldiers shipping costs and Wreaths Across
America for the local Swamp Church Cemetery**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT THE CHURCH AT 717.336.2849

JOIN US IN WELCOMING THE



**TUESDAY,
JULY 8, 2025**

12 P.M. - 7 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 9, 2025**

10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

**WEAVER'S MARKET
2610 N READING RD
DENVER, PA**



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is a rolling exhibition that brings the local community, veterans, active-duty military and their families together through interactive exhibits, short films, and shared stories. The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes as well as to serve as an official 'welcome home' station for our nation's Vietnam Veterans. All veterans, active-duty military, their families, and the local community members are invited and encouraged to visit, take a tour and speak with WAA representatives and volunteers.

They can also share more about the national nonprofit, and the work its volunteers do to support our heroes and their communities year-round.

WWW.WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG

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. Swamp Lutheran Church will be serving lunch on Wednesday, June 25 from 11:30 - 1:00. We are looking for people who are willing to support this program. Please consider helping with the ACTS OF LOVE lunch 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) with any questions and/or to volunteer serving lunch on June 25. Thanks for your consideration! Denise



Brought to you by area churches
and community organizations!

2025 Acts of Love Summer Lunch Program

Wednesdays, June 11,
18, 25, July 2, 9, 16,
23, 30, August 6, 13

11:30 am-12:30 pm

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 !!



Swamp Lutheran Church

**Philadelphia Phillies
Bus Trip**

Philadelphia Phillies

vs.

Washington Nationals

August 22, 2025

Game Time 6:45 PM

\$100.00

300 Level Ticket (3rd baseline)

Miller Lite Floppy Hat Giveaway

**Round trip Deluxe Motor Coach to/from Swamp Lutheran
Church and Citizens Bank Park**

Snacks and Door Prizes

**CONTACT: RUTH KRAMER (717) 335-8018 or
LORI GOCKLEY (717) 203-8551 by JUNE 2, 2025**

Other Readings for this Sunday

Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 18, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Deceptive Simplicity of Love

As the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, the rabbi often speaks in cryptic terms, and his teachings in today's reading are no exception. "The Son of Man has been glorified"? "Where I am going, you cannot come"? (John 13:31, 33). The disciples must have heard Jesus' instructions about love with a sigh of relief—finally, clear words. They are given a new commandment, to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them. All they must do is love each other, and everyone will know they're Jesus' disciples.

One wonders how long it took before the disciples realized just how complicated this was going to be. If we're honest, we have to ask, Have we figured it out in the past 2,000-plus years? After all, Jesus' love often mystifies us. Whom does he love? The leper. The tax collector. The outcast. The rich young man. The person living with addiction. The collections agent. The teen who just tagged your wall with spray paint. The wealthy CEO.

Suddenly, this loving doesn't look so easy.

The context of this week's passage makes it clear that Jesus isn't averse to speaking truth in love. Just before today's exchange, Jesus signals to Judas that he knows what he's up to. Just after, he cautions overeager Peter that despite his best intentions, he too will betray Jesus. Love isn't syrupy and bland, slathered across our world in rosy hues that cover up injustice or hard times.

Love is a commitment. Love extends outward from Jesus, through us, to bring everyone whom Jesus loves into the communion of saints. That means Judas, and Peter, and the graffiti tagger, and the CEO—and you. Us. Every person, in every pew, and every child of God who couldn't identify a pew if they skinned their shin on one.

Each of our communities is a little different. Our everyday "each others" are different too. But the good news is, "each other" always includes everyone—even us.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM

You are Welcome Here!

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.

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