

*SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
JULY 27, 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

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE THE LORD'S PRAYER ALBERT MALOTTE

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 WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS ELW 742

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sit

Children leave for Children's Church

WORD

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

READING: **Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]**

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.]

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

HOLY GOSPEL: **Luke 11:1-13**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

¹[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."²He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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 3 VARIATIONS ON KUM BA YAH JOHN BENKLE

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.*

Last Sunday of the month special offering. The plate will be passed a second time to collect funds to benefit Lutheran Disaster Response earmarked for Texas Flood Relief.

As the offering is brought to the table, the congregation stands and sings.

Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Song

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right'. The second staff continues: 'spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take'. The third staff continues: 'not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of'. The fourth staff concludes: 'your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.' The piece 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.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
**in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**
**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,**
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God *remain standing*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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.

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN DAY BY DAY ELW 790

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE TRIUMPHANT MARCH PAUL SANDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, 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, Susan Kreitz, Helen Werner, Sandy Clouser, Ron Stoner and Larry Wolf.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of his wife Karen's birthday by Steve Laudenslager.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

FLOWERS: August 10th & 24th and 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.

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



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.

Service Committee will be collecting articles for **Lutheran World Relief school kits** during July & August. Most needed items are crayons and pens. Thank you for your support of this ministry. Questions see 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.



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.

Greeter Schedule July

27 Denise Kidwell

Greeter Schedule August

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

Coffee Schedule July

27 Lee Showalter

Coffee Schedule August

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3	8:30AM	Worship
August 5	7:00PM	Welcome Cmte
August 13	1-4:00PM	EASS
August 14	6:30PM	Learning Cmte
August 15	6:00PM	Widow & Widowers Dutch Apple Dinner Theater
August 17	8:30AM	Worship
August 20	7:00PM	Council Mtg
August 22	2:30PM	Bus leaves for Church Phillies Trip/Game 6:45PM
August 24	8:30AM	Worship
August 24	10:00AM	Church Picnic

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday</i> July 28	Psalm 55:16-23 Esther 5:1-14 Colossians 2:16—3:1
<i>Tuesday</i> July 29	Psalm 55:16-23 Esther 6:1—7:6 Romans 9:30—10:4
<i>Wednesday</i> July 30	Psalm 55:16-23 Esther 7:7—8:17 Matthew 5:43-48
<i>Thursday</i> July 31	Psalm 49:1-12 Proverbs 23:1-11 Romans 11:33-36
<i>Friday</i> August 1	Psalm 49:1-12 Proverbs 24:1-12 Ephesians 4:17-24
<i>Saturday</i> August 2	Psalm 49:1-12 Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 Mark 10:17-22

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday August 3 Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21



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.

Salem-Kissel Hill & Bergstrasse congregations invites you, the congregations of the North Lancaster and Lancaster conferences, to participate in our first annual "Weave Together" Community Service Project & Retreat! First up is to invite your friends and neighbors to crochet or knit 12" X 12" single squares using any washable & dryable worsted (4) weight yarn. Any stitch, any color! Drop off completed squares at Salem-Kissel Hill or Bergstrasse before September 21. Be sure to call first to make sure someone is available to receive your squares! Next - register for the "Weave Together Retreat" happening on Saturday October 3, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm when we will 'weave together' the gathered squares into blankets that will then be distributed to the Lancaster County unhoused populations between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The retreat includes a bible study, lunch, snacks and a wealth of yet to be determined learnings from each other weaving our love and life experience into each blanket.

For those who don't crochet or knit --- there will be plenty of work to be done sorting, gathering, cooking, etc.!

Watch for dates and times when we'll present our gifts to our unhoused neighbors.

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. 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. Thanks for your consideration



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
Denver Park
Reamstown Park
Reinholds Park

339 W. Main St., Reinholds, PA 17569
801 W. Main St., Denver PA 17517
E. Church St., Stevens, PA 17578
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 !!

Other Readings for this Sunday

Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Psalm 138

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because
of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹ bove all things.**

³ When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹ hand
shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- ¹ pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works ¹ of your hands.**

GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 27, 2025

LECTIONARY 17

Our Prayer

The disciples' request that Jesus teach them to pray reveals a touching vulnerability. Jesus responds with an invitation into a prayer brimming with gratitude and expectation for the care and intimacy of the divine Parent. While the Lord's Prayer may be familiar, each time we pray it, it still possesses the grace to speak a new word to us and draw forth a desire we were not aware of. Martin Luther felt that Christians who prayed the Lord's Prayer each day, or even portions of it, could be certain their prayer would be more than adequate.

The Lord's Prayer is not the prayer of an individual but of a collective. The prayer begins with "Our Father," not "My Father," and petitions God to address *our* hunger, *our* sins, and *our* practice of forgiveness. Prayer of all kinds, including the Lord's Prayer, is not simply a private conversation between God and an individual, but a unique harmony in the immense choir of those set free in Jesus. Every time we turn our hearts to God in prayer, we do so with and alongside the entire body of Christ.

It's easy in our culture today to dismiss prayer or to trivialize it as empty wishes. And when prayer is offered as a cynical gesture in response to real pain and suffering, such dismissal seems understandable. But the truly countercultural nature of our prayer is our trust that God receives and responds to our praise, petition, and lament, that our persistence and perseverance in prayer are not in vain. The God who gives us our daily bread, forgives us our sins, and saves us from the time of trial hears our prayers animated by the trust that God will be faithful and will keep God's promises. This prayer then becomes for us a spark of hope that guides our daily action and our faith that God is making all things new and inviting us into this redemptive work.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

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www.swamplutheran.org

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

Terri Renninger, Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

Jonathan Gyorke, Sexton – 717-435-3091

Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272

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

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.

Notice Regarding Audio/Video Recording and/or Photography of Services/Events:

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