

*SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER*  
*MAY 25, 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](http://www.swamplutheran.org) regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

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## GATHERING

### *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**                      ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH                      HAL H. HOPSON

*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**      IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE      ELW 834

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.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

*Children leave for Children's Church*

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## WORD

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

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**Psalm 67** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to | us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known | upon earth,  
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on  
earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples | praise you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought | forth its increase;  
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God | give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

**READING: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**

*John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.*

<sup>10</sup>And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup>I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal,

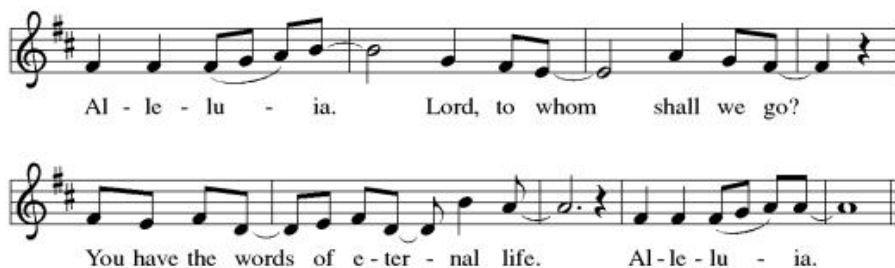
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:23-29**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.*

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be

troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

SERMON

*CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH*

*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*

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## MEAL

***God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ***

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**OFFERTORY**      COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE      J. WAYNE KERR

**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. 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 in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. 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. Ame**

## 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 image displays a musical score for the hymn 'Lamb of God' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is written on four staves. The lyrics are: '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 melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the last staff.

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.**

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## SENDING

***God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world***

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## 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**    THINE THE AMEN                      ELW 826

## 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**    Glorious Things of You Are Spoken      William P. Rowlands

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY WE WELCOME** Rev. Henry Herbener to lead us in worship while Pastor Brubaker is away this weekend. Rev. Herbener is the retired pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran in Ephrata. Rev. Herbener and his wife, Lillian, reside at Luther Acres in Lititz.

**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), Regina Reinecker(Roslyn Bansner's sister-in-law) Karen Klingensmith, family of Molly Weitzel, family of Michael Wargo, family of Diane Showalter Emes.

**ALTER FLOWERS** are given in honor of our wedding anniversary, by Randy and Lori Gockley.

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

**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:** July 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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, cereal, canned soup and vegetables. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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**

25 Glenn & Linda Beard

### **Greeter Schedule June**

1 David & Laraine Kramer  
8 Lamar & June Eberly  
15 Pam Leisey  
22 Gene & Heather Ferrari  
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 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your support of Lutheran World Relief’s worldwide mission! Jane Leshner 717-471-2974.

### **Week in the Parish (May 26- June 1)**

May 26	Memorial Day	OFFICE CLOSED
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 1	8:30AM	Worship

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

June 2	6- 8:00PM	Spring Clean-up
June 7	11:00-1:00PM	Strawberry Festival at Luther Acres
June 8	8:30AM	Worship

### **DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

<i>Monday May 26</i>	Psalm 93 1 Chronicles 12:16-22 Revelation 21:5-14
<i>Tuesday May 27</i>	Psalm 93 2 Chronicles 15:1-15 Revelation 21:15-22
<i>Wednesday May 28</i>	Psalm 93 2 Chronicles 34:20-33 Luke 2:25-38
<i>Thursday May 29</i>	Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 <i>or</i> Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53
<i>Friday May 30</i>	Psalm 97 Exodus 33:12-17 Revelation 22:6-9
<i>Saturday May 31</i>	Psalm 97 Exodus 33:18-23 John 1:14-18

### **UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS**

*Sunday June 1* Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

# 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](http://WWW.WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG)





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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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**



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 !!**

**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](mailto:denisekidwell321@yahoo.com)) with any questions and/or to volunteer serving lunch on June 25. Thanks for your consideration! Denise

## Other Readings for this Sunday

### Acts 16:9-15

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*

<sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup>When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup>We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 25, 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Graduating in Faith

This is a season of celebration—in the church, to be sure, but also in the lives of families who eagerly anticipate graduation ceremonies. Graduations can happen at any time of life, either in the formal sense or in the many informal ways humans commemorate transitions into new phases of life. For many of us, however, May and June are Graduation Central, with all the excited hoopla that implies.

When a child graduates from a school or program, parents face the bittersweet transition of letting go. The high school senior may leave home for college, the military, or independent employment; the college graduate may head off toward the myriad adventures of adulthood. Even the newly minted preschool alum eagerly anticipates the broader fields of big-kid school and greater independence.

Amid the excitement, pride, fear, and uncertainty, those who have cared for these loved ones—parents, mentors, teachers, and others—hope their voices will travel with the grads. Remember, child, what we have taught you. Remember who you are. Remember *whose* you are.

How fitting, then, that at this time of year the church reminds itself that God feels the same way about us. God wants the voice of the Spirit to travel with us. God sends us the Advocate—one who will stay with us even when Jesus physically returns to his Parent. In baptism, we have graduated into lives in Christ that may take us to unpredictable places. In this world of uncertainty, however, we trust that, as Jesus assures us, we need not be troubled or afraid. The One who reminds us who we are, and *whose* we are, is always with us.

**Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church**

717-336-2849

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[secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org)

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The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: [pastor@swamplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@swamplutheran.org)

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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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