

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
EASTER SUNDAY
+April 20, 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

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS ARR. KIYO WATANABE
RISEN THIS DAY MICHAEL RYAN

congregational responses are in bold type.

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

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.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

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

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

ELW 365

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.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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-tory 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 God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

ANTHEM

RUN, MARY RUN

JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Children leave for Children's Church

WORD

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

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

¹ On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were

perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES!

ELW 619

2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -

ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,

throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.

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 THINE IS THE GLORY ARR. LANI SMITH
CAMERON NYE, PIANO AND SUE KREITZ, ORGAN

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. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). 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*



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, approach by the center aisle and return to your pew by the side aisles. Please get a cup from the stack by the first pew before receiving bread. Grape Juice and gluten free options are available – tell the usher.

COMMUNION HYMNS (CONGREGATION ENCOURAGED TO SING)

BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN	ELW 474
THE EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT	ELW 384
THE DAY OF RESURRECTION	ELW 361
CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY; ALLELUIA!	ELW 369
CHRIST HAS ARISEN, ALLELUIA	ELW 364

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.

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

THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS

G.F. HANDEL

GRADY DAUB, ORGAN & SUE KREITZ, PIANO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, John Wesner, Michael Wargo, Jeff Kappenstein, Nettie Kriener, 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, Linda Mohn, 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, Larry Hagy, Pam Heisey, Cathy Stine, Connie Malafarina, family of Molly Weitzel.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of our children and grandchildren by David and Laraine Kramer.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of loved ones by a friend.

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).

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.

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.



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.



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

ATTENTION THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS. The Thrivent “Action Teams” program is an opportunity for Thrivent members to lead projects that provide service and outreach to the community. Thrivent Financial will provide funds of \$250 for each project to get started and pay for associated expenses. You may request two grants per year. Swamp Lutheran has many needs that qualify under this program. If you wish to direct your grant request to help with Swamp Lutheran’s activities, please reach out to Lori Gockley who will assist you with the process. Email: lgockley2@gmail.com or call 717-203-8551.



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.



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.

Greeter Schedule April

20 Delores D’ Aiello
27 John Frantz

Greeter Schedule May

4 Ken & Sam Reimert
11 Deb Kohl
18 Deb Sweigert
25 Glenn & Linda Beard

Week in the Parish (April 20 – 27)

April 20	7:00AM	Breakfast
April 20	8:30AM	Worship
April 21	OFFICE CLOSED	
April 22	No Zoom Bible Study	
April 22	7:00PM	Cocalico Builders of Hope
April 23	7:00PM	Choir
April 27	8:30AM	Worship
April 27	9:45AM	Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 28	7:00PM	Bell Choir
April 29	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
April 30	7:00PM	Choir
May 4	8:30AM	Worship
May 4	9:45AM	Sunday School

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday April 20 Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Evening Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 114 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 Luke 24:13-49

Monday April 21 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Joshua 10:16-27 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Tuesday April 22 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a Revelation 12:1-12

Wednesday April 23 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 2 Samuel 6:1-15 Luke 24:1-12

Thursday April 24 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:1-23 Acts 5:12-16

Friday April 25 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:19-32 Acts 5:17-26

Saturday April 26 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:32-51 Luke 24:36-40

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday April 27 Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31



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

EASTER FLOWERS

In memory of:

- Loved ones by Glenn and Linda Beard
- Polly Knauer by Bill Knauer
- Tom Wenzel by Pat Wenzel
- His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Chmielewski, by Carol and John Chmielewski
- Her father, Mr. Kenneth Mummah, by Carol and John Chmielewski
- Nancy Kulp by Doug Kulp
- Their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kauffman, by Debbie, Dwayne, Peggy, and Gary
- Their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Linton D. Myers, by Debbie, Dwayne, Peggy, and Gary
- Their favorite Mema, Irene Myers, by Earl Myers family
- parents, Russell and Mary Derr, by Jane and Tom Leshner
- Parents, Charles and Carolyn Leshner, by Tom and Jane Leshner
- Mahlon and Lucy Sweigart by the family
- Parents, Ralph and Dottie Good, by Pam Leisey
- Elaine Fair by the Fair family
- Parents and grandparents by Sue Ellen and Larry Knauer
- Parents and grandparents, Charlie and Anna Mae Moyer, by the Moyer family
- Scott's mother, Etta, by Pastor Scott and Jen Brubaker
- Anna Hershey by Robert Hershey Jr.
- Helen Shank by Teresa Renninger
- Mabel Mertz by Teresa Renninger
- Parents, James and Nancy Frantz, by John and Jerry
- Parents, Musser and Miriam Landis, by John and Jerry
- Jeffrey Landis by John and Jerry
- Joan, Dale, and Muffy Reinecker by Mark and Roslyn Reinecker Bansner
- Our grandparents/great -grandparents by the Rineer family
- Parents and grandparents, Vernon and Edith Showalter, by Lee, Jodi, Matthew, and Eric Showalter
- Parents and grandparents, Gil and Joann Gockley, by Lee, Jodi, Matthew, and Eric Showalter

In honor of:

- Children, Debbie, Dwayne, Peggy, and Gary, by Earl Myers
- His favorite grandson, P. Casey Coble, by Earl Myers
- His favorite granddaughter, Stevie Nicole and Erik Posegay, by Earl Myers
- His great granddaughters, Avery Ann and Olivia Nicole Posegay, by Earl Myers
- The Glory of God by Connie Taylor
- Molli, Chace, and Jennifer by Connie Taylor
- Her mother, Mrs. Ruth Mummah, by Carol and John Chmielewski
- Our loving family by Glenn and Linda Beard
- Grandchildren, Addyson and Anson Kauffman, by Sue Ellen and Larry Knauer
- Helping neighbors by Chris Zander
- God's beauty in nature by Chris Zander
- Our parents/grandparents, Tom Showalter, Bob and Donna Rineer, and Bonnie Showalter by the Rineer family
- Our children, Kenzie, Maren, and Quinton, by Zach and Abbey Rineer
- Children, Matthew and Kiersten and Eric and Lindsay, by Lee and Jodi Showalter
- Granddaughter, Emily Joann, by Lee and Jodi Showalter
- Grandson, Noah Lee, by Lee and Jodi Showalter

Other Readings for this Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 20, 2025

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY

Memory and Hope

Of all the Sundays for Jesus to be absent from the gospel story! How can he be missing on Easter? Go figure.

Since Jesus is nowhere to be found, the women who go to the tomb have no evidence of the resurrection but only the testimony of two mysterious figures: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again” (Luke 24:5-7).

And they remembered.

The women’s memory is more than simple recall. Their sudden recollection of Jesus’ prophecy implies a deeper level of comprehension. And with new insight into the bewildering events they have witnessed comes a stirring of hope for what is to come.

The Akan people of Ghana in West Africa give us the wisdom of *sankofa*, the principle that by reaching back, we may move forward. The *sankofa* proverb teaches, “It is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot.” We face the future by grasping the past.

That is a good way to describe Christians’ confession of faith. We are all like the women at the tomb on Easter morning. We have no evidence of the resurrection, but only the testimony we have received from others, all the storytellers and saints throughout the generations. Recalling their witness, we proclaim the Easter promise again today. Memory and hope go hand in hand.

So remember, beloved. Remember: where even two or three of you are gathered, the living Christ will be there with you. Remember: blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Remember: if Christ has gone to prepare a place for you, he will come again and take you to himself, so that where he is, there you may be also.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

717-336-2849

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

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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