FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 8:30 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Guests 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." (<u>Small Catechism</u>, 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 <u>www.swamplutheran.org</u> 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

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude There is A Balm in Gilead

ROBERT LAU

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 \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN ELW 686

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.

Canticle of Praise Lord, I Lift Your Name on High



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in 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

Psalm 113

- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants [|] of the LORD; praise the name [|] of the LORD.
- ² Let the name of the | LORD be blessed, from this time forth for- | evermore.
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down let the name of the | LORD be praised.
- ⁴The LORD is high a- | bove all nations; God's glory a- | bove the heavens.
- ⁵ Who is like the ¹ LORD our God, who sits en- ¹ throned on high,
- ⁶ but stoops | to behold the heavens | and the earth?
- ⁷The LORD takes up the weak out [|] of the dust and lifts up the poor [|] from the ashes,
- ⁸ enthroning them | with the rulers, with the rulers | of the people.
- ⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a [|] childless house to be a joyful mother of children. [|] Hallelujah!

READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For there is one God:

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down guickly, and make it fifty.' 7 Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INSTALLATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

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 BE THOU WITH ME J.S.BACH

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.

OFFERING WE ARE AN OFFERING

WE LIFT OUR VOICES, WE LIFT OUR HANDS, WE LIFT OUR LIVES UP TO YOU, WE ARE AN OFFERING.

LORD, USE OUR VOICES, LORD USE OUR HANDS,

LORD, USE OUR LIVES, THEY ARE YOURS,

WE ARE AN OFFERING, WE ARE AN OFFERING.

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

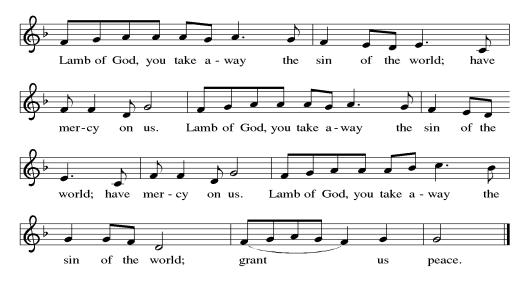
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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
Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD remain standing



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.

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN LET STREAMS OF LIVING JUSTICE

ELW 710

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE All Depends On Our Possessing

J.Wayne Kerr

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, Cody Leisey, Lou Smith, family of Karen Krater and the family of Ron Stoner.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in remembrance of my mom, thank you for your faith learning, by Jen Weitzel.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of Karen Krater.

FLOWERS: November 9th is 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, soup, paper towels and toilet paper. Please check for a current expiration date. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month.



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.

Greeter Schedule September 21 Carl & Louetta Franck 28 John & Carol Chmielewski

Coffee Schedule for September 21 Lee Showalter

21 Lee Showalte 28 Pam Leisey

Greeter Schedule October

5 Deb Sweigert

12 John & Sharon Levan

19 Deb Kohl

26 Denise Kidwell

Coffee Schedule October

5 Randy Gockley

12 Randy Gockley

19 Randy Gockley

26 Randy Gockley

Registration is open for *Weave Together Retreat*, an all-day retreat hosted by Bergstrasse and Salem Lutheran Churches. The retreat will be held on October 4 at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church (26 Owl Hill Road, Lititz, PA 17543) from 8:30 - 4:00 p.m. Through prayer, scripture, reflection, fellowship, and laughter, the day will explore and strengthen the connections we have with one another through the making of squares and assembling of blankets. Squares either crocheted or knitted, 12"x12" any worsted weight yarn, any stitch can be made throughout the day, or beforehand and brought to Salem on the day of the retreat. Finished squares will be assembled together and donated to various organizations in Lancaster County serving the unhoused. To register online: https://forms.gle/zq99wGfJEmcjydSC9.

For more information, please contact Pr. Traci Glover (<u>pastortri1016@gmail.com</u>), or (717) 979-8521.

Week in the Parish (Sept 21- 28)

September 22	5:00PM	Worship Cmte
September 22	7:00PM	Bell Choir
September 23	7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
September 23	7:00PM	Cocalico Builders of Hope
September 24	7:00PM	Choir
September 25	6:00PM	Generosity Cmte
September 28	8:30AM	Worship
September 28	9:45AM	Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS

7:00PM	Choir
8:30AM	Worship
9:45AM	Sunday School
11:00AM	Blessing of the Pets
7:00PM	Bell Choir
6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
7:00PM	Welcome Cmte
1-4:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
7:00PM	Choir
6:30PM	Learning Cmte
	8:30AM 9:45AM 11:00AM 7:00PM 6:00PM 7:00PM 1-4:00PM 7:00PM

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Mon Sept 22	Psalm 12 Proverbs 14:12-31 Acts 4:1-12
Tue Sept 23	Psalm 12 Proverbs 17:1-5 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
Wed Sept 24	Psalm 12 Proverbs 21:10-16 Luke 20:45—21:4
Thur Sept 25	Psalm 146 Proverbs 22:2-16 2 Corinthians 8:8-15
Fri Sept 26	Psalm 146 Proverbs 28:3-10 Ephesians 2:1-10
Sat Sept 27	Psalm 146 Proverbs 28:11-28 Luke 9:43b-48

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sun Sept 28 Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31



Swamp Needs Your Help! Tell Pastor Scott if you can help or want to learn more Most pressing needs include:

Learning Committee: Connie Malafarina and Connie Taylor are stepping back and only pitching in when needed in a pinch. So, we could use new committee members interested in fostering the faith of our disciples, both young and old.

SLY: Connie Malafarina and Ryan Ranck have stepped back from their leadership roles with the youth group. We need additional leaders to guide this ministry.

Worship Committee: We can always use fresh perspectives on worship. New members on the Worship Committee are always welcome.

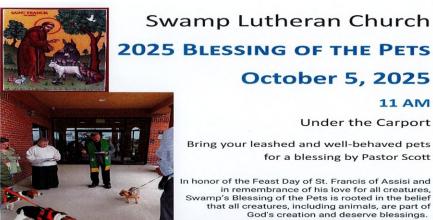
Sunday School teachers: We need another teacher for the prekindergarten to 3rd grade class and our high school class.

Generosity Committee: We need additional disciples to help promote generosity to God's work at Swamp.

Property Committee: We need help attending to the property needs of Swamp. Consider adopting a flower bed to maintain or giving of a skill (electrician, plumbing, carpentry, painting, etc.).

Choir: We need singers for Swamp's Chancel Choir to lead our singing in worship.

Bell Choir: Ringers needed for this music ministry.



Swamp's Blessing of the Pets is rooted in the belief that all creatures, including animals, are part of God's creation and deserve blessings.

11 AM



Food, LIVE Band, Fun for all ages

Sunday

Elks Lodge #1933 170 Akron Road, Ephrata eassinfo.org



Sunday, October 19 @ 11 AM

Leave from and return to Swamp Lutheran Church
5k route

To participate, tell Jodi Showalter 717-413-7149

If we work together, we can end world hunger. That's why Swamp is participating in the CROP Hunger Walk to support Church World Services hunger ministry and help families who are struggling with hunger. Please join us with your steps and your donations. Together, we will provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them and create greater food security in communities around the world. We will donate 50% of our raised donations to our local Swamp Food Pantry.



OCTOBER 25, 2025 1PM - 3PM

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

Join us for Swamp Lutheran Church's Annual Pig Stomach Takeouts!

Whole Cooked Stomach: \$38

Pre-orders must be placed by October 16th.

Please call the church office at 717-336-2849 to place your preorder

All proceeds will go to benefit Swamp Lutheran's Food Bank and the new air conditioning system for the church.

Other Readings for this Sunday

Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 21, 2025 LECTIONARY 25 True Riches

Being stuck in unjust systems is exhausting. Perhaps they are designed to frustrate and impede any efforts to undo their power. The manager in Jesus' parable does what he can to make the most of his precarious position, but his resolution still leaves a lot to be desired. Does the rich man remain in his wealthy and powerful position? What about all the others who still owe the estate? Why does the manager, and not the rich landowner who holds all the cards, become the object lesson?

It seems Jesus is getting serious here about our relationships with money, riches, and power: "You cannot serve God and wealth" (Luke 16:13). That much is clear. But perhaps Jesus is drawing our attention to the larger implications of God's economy and what it means to lean on one another for the sake of justice in our world. Luke's gospel began with Mary's song, after all, extolling the ways the poor will be lifted up in the kin-dom Jesus brings. In this new reign, all resources are brought into the service of those who need them most. Faithful living here and now might look different from what we're accustomed to when we consider what God has in mind, especially when we are used to unhelpful contemporary mantras like "Might makes right" and "Winner takes all."

True to Mary's song, Jesus indeed turns our world upside down, which distresses those of us who appreciate good order. But in the end, this turning does what is needed to make the world right. In our world today, we may struggle with the forgiveness of debts and the redistribution of wealth, but Jesus doesn't. God brings the true riches of justice and love for all and will not fail to do what is needed to make sure every last beloved person on earth has what they need to truly live.

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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, socioeconomic 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:

Persons participating in events or worship services sponsored by Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church are subject to being recorded by photographic, video, and/or audio devices. Your photo/recording may be used without your written permission. By attending a Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church service or event, you release our employees and officers and all persons involved from any liability connected with the taking, recording, digitizing, and/or publication of photographs, computer images, video and/or sound recordings.

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