



Aug 2026

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church *Newsletter*

www.swamplutheran.org

Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd
Reinholds, Pa 17569
717-336-2849

Ministers :
Congregation

Staff

Pastor:
Rev. Scott V. Brubaker

Admin Asst:
Teresa Renninger

Sexton:
Jonathan Gyorke

Organist/Choir Director:
Susan Kreitz

Assistant Organist:
Grady Daub

Bell Choir:
Doug Kulp

In person worship
8:30AM

Two options available:

- Watch live stream video on YouTube
- Join us inside for in person worship



Blessing of School Backpacks August 23rd.
Students, Educators, and School employees are encouraged to bring their backpacks and workbags to worship for a blessing for the new school year.



Pastor's Message



As August arrives, many of us begin to shift from the relaxed pace of summer to the routines of a new season. Students are preparing for a new school year, teachers and school staff are getting classrooms ready, and families are adjusting schedules once again. While change can bring excitement, it can also bring uncertainty. As a church family, we have the opportunity to surround one another with encouragement, prayer, and hope as we begin this new chapter together.

One special way we will do that is during worship on **Sunday, August 23**, when we celebrate our **Blessing of the School Backpacks**. We invite students of all ages, teachers, school employees, and anyone involved in education to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or work bags to worship. Together, we will ask God's blessing on the coming school year, praying for wisdom, safety, kindness, and strength for everyone who learns, teaches, and serves in our schools.

As summer begins to wind down, we're also looking ahead to some wonderful opportunities to gather in September. On **September 13**, we'll come together after worship for our annual **Church Picnic**—a time to share a meal, enjoy fellowship, and celebrate the gift of our church family. Whether you've been part of Swamp Lutheran Church for many years or are joining us for the first time, there is a place for you at the table.

Then, on **September 20**, we'll kick off another year of Sunday School with our exciting **Touch-A-Truck** event. As children explore big trucks and equipment, they'll also discover that church is a place filled with joy, curiosity, friendship, and God's love. We hope this fun-filled day will encourage families to make Sunday School a regular part of their lives as we continue growing together in faith.

As we move from summer into fall, I encourage each of us to pause and give thanks. We are blessed in so many ways—through the love of family and friends, the beauty of creation, the opportunity to worship together, and the chance to serve our neighbors. Even in challenging times, God continues to provide what we need and calls us to share those blessings generously with others.

Thank you for the many ways you strengthen the ministry of Swamp Lutheran Church through your prayers, your service, your generosity, and your faithful presence. I am grateful for each one of you and look forward to all that God has in store for us in the months ahead.

May God bless you as summer gives way to a new season, filling your days with peace, purpose, and hope.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott



Generosity Minute

As August arrives, many of us are preparing for a new season. Students are gathering school supplies and heading back to the classroom. Families are settling into new routines. Here at Swamp Lutheran, we are also preparing for a busy and exciting fall filled with opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship, outreach, music, youth and children's ministries, and service to our community.

Each of these ministries is an opportunity to share Christ's love and to help others grow in faith. They happen because God calls God's people to serve together.

As we look ahead, we also need to acknowledge an important reality. While the ministry opportunities before us are abundant, our current giving is not meeting the financial needs required to sustain and expand these ministries. This is not simply about balancing a budget—it is about ensuring that we can continue the work God has entrusted to our Church.

Stewardship is about much more than dollars. God invites each of us to offer our **time, talents, and treasures** for God's kingdom. Perhaps you are being called to volunteer in a ministry, share a special skill, join a committee, help with one of our fall events, or make a renewed commitment to regular financial giving. Every gift, no matter its size, is part of God's work through this congregation.

As we begin this new season, let us prayerfully consider how God is calling each of us to participate in the life and mission of Swamp Lutheran Church. Together, through faithful generosity, we can continue to proclaim the Gospel, care for one another, and serve our neighbors with joy.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

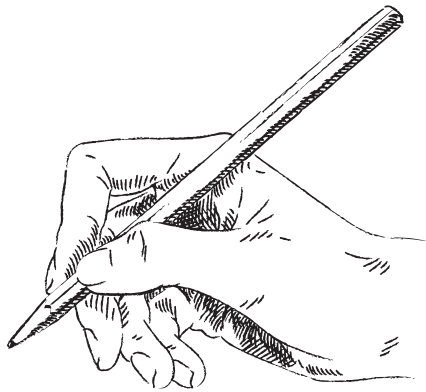
Thank you for your faithful partnership in God's ministry at Swamp. May God bless our congregation as we enter this season of new beginnings together.

Swamp Lutheran Generosity Committee



Thank God
for what you have.
Trust God
for what you need.

Notes from the Pastor



Please call the church office at **717-336-2849** when:

- **You are in the hospital or prior to going to the hospital** (or have a relative call for you.) In an emergency, call Pastor Brubaker at **717-598-4663**.
- **You are confined to your home for an extended period of time** because of illness or accident.
- **You are going to a rehab center or a nursing home.**
- **There is a change in your family status** (birth, death, marriage, or divorce).
- **You move to a home, move out of the area, or go away to college or graduate school.** Important for keeping data base current.
- **You schedule a meeting or an event** of a group or committee. To be open and communicative with everyone, we would like to include all scheduling on the Church Calender and in the Weekly Bulletin.

Prayer Requests

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
Larry Wolf
Bobby Hershey
Marilyn Gelsinger
Edie 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
Susan Levan
Gladys Eckenroad
Bonnie Koehle-Koon
Kathleen Troutman
Sally Bergman
Kevin Reimert
Pam Heisey
Connie Malafarina
Ted Heisey
Regina Reinecker
Karen Klingensmith
Helen Werner
Cody Leisey
Michelle Moyer
Scott Zook
Dianna Becker
Laurie Sauder
Sue Templin
Clyde Showalter

Ashley Milosek
Dave Brown
Pat Miller
Lucille Lorah
Leah Showalter
Mark Stoner
Robert Reaser
Laney Garrison
Sam Reimert
Llew Smith
Bob Shank
Sammy Hanna
Pat Grove & Daphne
Aaron Gasparich
Tina Krall
Wanda Maxey
Chris Zander
Allison Kenawell
Margaret Kroh
Jason Stricker
Laraine Kramer
Mike Sawyer
Linda Mohn
Jen Sikie
Keith Weinhold



**“Prayer is a strong wall and
fortress of the church; it is a
goodly Christian weapon.”**

Martin Luther

August 70+ Birthdays

LARRY HAGY 8/1
500 BLUE LAKE ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

LINDA BEARD 8/4
300 ST. MARK AVE. #1117
LITITZ, PA 17543

RONALD BINGAMAN 8/4
580 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578

LOUETTA FRANCK 8/8
8 EDIE DRIVE
DENVER, PA 17517

BEATRICE GRESS 8/16
155 S. BLAINSPORT ROAD
REINHOLDS PA 17569



GARY REDDIG 8/17
PLEASANT VIEW COMMUNITIES
544 N. PENRYN RD
TERRACE GARDENS #127
MANHEIM, PA 17545

RON CRILLS 8/21
137 MEADOW VALLEY RD #50
EPHRATA, PA 17522

JOHN LEVAN 8/22
208 HAWTHORNE CT. NORTH
READING, PA 19610

CLYDE SHOWALTER 8/27
FAITHFUL LIVING
2015 N. READING RD. #123
DENVER, PA 17517

SUSAN FICHTNER 8/31
48 COOPER WAY
DENVER, PA 17517

Please advise the office if this is the magic year that you turn 70! Just give Terri a call at 717-336-2849 or email her at secretary@swamplutheran.org

Happy Birthday to all born in August!

Pam Leisey 01
Cameron Nye 01
Melia VanZant 02
Jen Brubaker 03
Beth Nye 04
Erik Posegay 06
Kathy Worley 08
Jerry Howe 09



Tom Showalter 12
Angelina Good 13
Dylan Hickernell 13
Shawna Moyer 17
Gillian Chirigos 20
Beth Sweigert 24
Nathan Shugarts-Devanapally 27
Laurie Sauder 27

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let us know if you
have a change of
address, email or
phone number.
secretary@swamplutheran.org

Nursing Home RESIDENTS

Clyde Showalter
Mel & Troy Ulrich
Michael A. Crowther
Earl Myers
Gary & Joan Reddig
Joyce Stoner
Bobby Hershey

Anna Adams
Edie Snyder
John Elser
Marion Bergman
Harold Crills
Sandra Haws
Sally Bergman

Aug Sound Tech Schedule

02 Steve Laudenslager
09 Steve Laudenslager
16 Steve Laudenslager
23 Steve Laudenslager
30 Steve Laudenslager

Sept Sound Tech Schedule

06 Steve Laudenslager
13 Steve Laudenslager
20 Steve Laudenslager
27 Steve Laudenslager

Aug Video Stream Schedule

02 Josh Garrison
09 Alan Worley
16 John Frantz
23 Josh Garrison
30 Alan Worley

Sept Video Stream Schedule

06 John Frantz
13 Josh Garrison
20 Alan Worley
27 John Frantz

Aug Greeter Schedule

02 Jane Leshar
09 Bob & Linda Preston
16 Ray & Jen Weitzel
23 Gene & Heather Ferrari
30 Mark & Ros Bansner

Sept Greeter Schedule

06 Gene & Heather Ferrari
13 Lamar & June Eberly
20 Barb Mizdail & George Philippopoulos
27 Ray & Jen Weitzel

Sept Coffee Schedule

06 Deb Sweigert
13 John Frantz
20 Pam Leisey
27 Ray Weitzel

Thank you for serving as greeters.
Please try to be at the front door by
8:10AM

August Calendar



August 2	8:30am	Worship
August 4	7:00pm	Welcome Cmte
August 5	11:00am	Acts of Love Summer Lunch distribution
August 9	8:30am	Worship
August 12	1-4:00pm	Ephrata Area Food Distribution
August 13	6:30pm	Learning Cmte
August 16	8:30am	Worship
August 17	8:00am	Malamark Bell Factory Tour
August 19	7:00pm	Church Council
August 23	8:30am	Worship
August 25	7:00pm	Cocalico Builders of Hope
August 27	11:30am	Widow & Widowers at Fox Meadows Creamery Ephrata
August 30	8:30am	Worship

Service Committee will be collecting items for **LWR School Kits** during the months of July and August.

Listed below are the items which are needed for the kits.

- 70-80 sheet spiral notebooks (4 are needed for each kit)
- 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt scissors (child's safety)
- Blue or Black ballpoint pens (No gel ink)
- Crayons 16 or 24 count
- 2 1/2 inch erasers



Thank you for your generous donations!

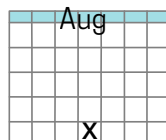
Malmark Bell Factory Tour - Mon. Aug.17 - Plumsteadville, PA

Carpooling from Church - 8:00 a.m.

Tour of Factory - 10:00 a.m.

Tour lasts approx. 90 min. Possible lunch in the Bucks County area.

Cost - \$10.00 Contact Douglas Kulp for more info.



August 26 is the deadline for the Sept Newsletter.
Please reach out to Terri Renninger at 717-336-2849
or email secretary@swamplutheran.org
Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you!



FLOWERS: Grumbine's Flowers will begin fresh Altar flowers in early Sept. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle in 2026, please sign up for flower sponsorships via Sue, John, or the flower calendar. Sue Kreitz 717-283-9444 or John Frantz 717-606-8994.



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



Special Request - BOXES. EASS uses approx. 100 boxes monthly for food bank- distribution. Please place them near the youth room entrance. Thank you!



To our knitters and crocheters, please focus on prayer shawls. When you finish, please bring it to church and leave it in the library. *THANK YOU for supporting this church ministry.*



The church needs your help as a volunteer. From time to time members of the church need assistance in getting somewhere or even to get to church. It is not often but when the need arises we would appreciate having some folks who are willing to drive if available. Please call or email the office to identify yourself as a willing volunteer driver at 717-336-2849 or secretary@swamplutheran.org. God needs our hands and feet to assist those in our church family. *Thank you for your consideration.*



Gently Used Sneakers Needed. SLY is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. SLY is not able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Pastor Scott Brubaker at 717-336-2849 or email pastor@swamplutheran.org



US FLAGS When a US flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. For those of you interested in retiring your worn US flags, please bring them to the church. We will collect them in the church library and deliver them to the Reinholds VFW who will arrange for them to be retired in proper fashion. Thank you for your consideration.



Widow & Widowers. 11:30am. Lunch and Ice Cream Thurs. Aug 27th
at Fox Meadow Creamery Ephrata.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA. The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit will be at Weaver's Market, 2610 N Reading Rd, Denver, on Tues. August 25, from 12:00pm until 7:00pm and Wed. August 26, from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

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, like the monthly food pantry, events, etc. 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.

Thank you

Thank you so much
for the wonderful
gift!!

for you (Sweigert)

Swamp Congregation,
YOU ARE APPRECIATED!



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS. Sunday October 4th 2026.

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.

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, August 5 from 11:30am - 1:00pm. We are looking for people who are willing to support this program.

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).

Lunches will be prepared and packed on Tuesday, August 4.
Lunches will be served on Wednesday, August 5.



Please contact Denise Kidwell (717) 725-8795 or denisekidwell321@yahoo.com with questions or to volunteer.

OFFICERS of COUNCIL

Cody Leisey, President,
Lee Showalter, Vice President
Danielle Kauffman, Secretary
Deb Kohl, Financial Secretary
Guy Templin, Co-Treasurer
Sue Knauer, Co-Treasurer

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL LIAISONS

Danielle Kauffman —
Communication, Directory

Sue Ellen Knauer —
Constitution; Service;
Personnel, Generosity

Denise Kidwell — Disaster
Response, Kitchen Krew

Guy Templin — Finance;
Worship

Deb Sweigert — Cocalico
Builders of Hope

Lee Showalter — Property

Pam Leisey — Learning

George Philippopoulos—
Safety & Security

Jen Weitzel - Welcome

Alan Worley –Youth Ministry



Have you updated your will and remembered the ministry of Christ at Swamp Lutheran?

Swamp Lutheran Church can be named a beneficiary in your will and/or in your life insurance policy.

**Give a gift that celebrates
your life and commitment to
Christ!**

Jennifer Custer's Birthday Blood Drive

(Terri Renninger's daughter)

Celebrate Jennifer in a meaningful way—by donating blood to help patients in need. We hope you can stop by and be part of this special tribute!



Jennifer Custer's Birthday Blood Drive

Gouglersville Fire Company No.1

Social Hall
475 Mohns Hill Road
Reading, PA 19608

**Saturday, August 8, 2026
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The heat is on to find lifesaving donors! Come to give blood in August and get a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/August for details.

2026-APL-0233

Schedule your appointment today!

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), visit RedCrossBlood.org
or use the Blood Donor App and enter sponsor code: **Jennifers Bday**
Or you can contact Jennifer via email: jennifer.custer@redcross.org
Or text/call 717-673-1845



**American
Red Cross**

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Blood Donor App

© 2026 The American National Red Cross | 418001-12

2026 Acts of Love



FREE **SUMMER** **MEALS** **PROGRAM**

A gift from area churches
and community organizations
for children in the Cocalico community!



Not affiliated with the Cocalico School District

Meals will be available at:

ADAMSTOWN GROVE

339 W. Main St. Reinholds, PA
DENVER PARK

801 W. Main St. Denver, PA
REAMSTOWN PARK

E. Church St. Stevens, PA
REINHOLDS PARK

5 E. Main St. Reinholds, PA



These Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30

JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 AUGUST 5, 12

Meals will vary each week with some options available

QUESTIONS?

CALL REAL LIFE AT:
717-336-7797 EXT 204

Fuel your summer with good food! If you are in need of additional food assistance this summer, please reach out to Ephrata Area Social Services at 717-733-0345 or Real Life Community Services at 717-336-7797

NO COST. NO SIGN-UP. JUST SHOW UP!

Join us for an afternoon of great food, live music, and community at Jan's Circle of Friends: BBQ, Brew & Band!

 **17** Saturday, August 29

 4:00 PM

 Reinholds VFW Grove

 Rain or shine

Enjoy live music by Resin8 while spending time with family, friends, and neighbors in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere.

Your \$20 ticket includes:

 Chicken BBQ  Hot dogs  Sides  Dessert  Beer  Soda & water

BYOB if you prefer.

Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and settle in for an afternoon of delicious food, great entertainment, and celebrating our wonderful community.

We hope you'll join us for this fun-filled event. We can't wait to see you there!

Tickets: \$20 per person

 Get your tickets today! Ask a Board Member.

Warmly,

Jan's Circle of Friends  

 **17** Save The Dates!

8/29 BBQ at Reinholds VFW Grove

10/10 Daisy Dash at CHS Track

11/5 Grant Distribution at Bear Mill Estate

3/20/27 Gala at IronSpire Complex

Follow us on social media:

Facebook: @janscircle

Instagram: @janscircleoffriends

<https://janscircleoffriends.org/>



Good Food.
Cold Drinks.
Great Friends.

BBQ BREW & BAND

*August 29
4pm-10pm*

Band plays at 7pm

 \$20

*Reinholds VFW
Grove*



**77th semi-annual
ST. PAUL'S
ADAMSTOWN
FREE**



COMMUNITY OUTGROWN EXCHANGE

Clothing for all ages – plus some other items see below

***DATES TO DONATE & COME SHOP
WEEK OF September 21-26***

Come and get items but we also will be taking donations of clean items on all the days except as listed below. You do not need to drop off to come get items. Donation & shopping days are as follows.

– ONLY ACCEPTING: Clothing (including shoes & coats), linens, toys, games, puzzles, books, purses NO household items, VHS, DVD's, Car Seats, Electronics

DONATION ONLY DAYS

Monday, September 21 — 9 am—1 pm (donation only)

Tuesday, September 22 – 5 pm – 8 pm (donation only)

Wed., September 23 & Thursday, September 24— 9 am to 1 pm (donation only)

SHOPPING DAYS ONLY

Thursday, September 24 – 5 pm -7 pm (NO DONATIONS)

Friday, September 25 – 9 am – 1 pm (NO DONATIONS)

Saturday, September 26 – 8 am – 11 am (NO DONATIONS)

Follow the QR code to our Facebook page

No Public bathroom usage
Left over items will be
donated to various charities
We can limit the number of
children's items you take
No charitable donation forms



**St. Paul's Lutheran
80 E. Main Street
Adamstown, PA 19501
For more info:
717-484-4885**

2026 Reinholds Community Vacation Bible School was a huge success!

July 12-16, 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Reinholds Carnival Grounds.

Swamp Lutheran partnered with 6 area churches to provide a fun-filled and faith-centered fun experience for the children and youth of the Reinholds area. Our theme was Emerald Crossing, an Irish inspired curriculum based upon Psalm 23.

We reached 104 families and had 203 children registered, 7 of whom were from Swamp Lutheran.

Each evening involved large group band-led singing as well as age group activities that included crafts, games, snacks, and Bible instruction. The fast-paced programming held attention while fostering faith formation.

A special thanks to the volunteers from Swamp Lutheran: Abbey Rineer, Katie and Dylan Koehle, Jenny Weitzel, Linda Preston, Sue Knauer, Bonnie Showalter, Chris Zander, and Pastor Scott. Also, thank you to all who donated items for the box dinners that were served each evening prior to VBS.



Desert Maze

Lead the Israelites through the desert maze.

