



Feb 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



Ash Wednesday Service February 18 at 7:00pm.
Joint service with Mellingers Lutheran including
imposition of ashes.
Pastor Tim Craven preaching;
Pastor Scott Brubaker presiding.
Supper by the Kitchen Krew 5:00-6:00pm.

Mid - week Lenten Worship

Date	Location	Preacher
Wed. Feb. 25, 7 pm	Faith United, Denver	Pastor Marissa Becklin
Wed. Mar. 4, 7 pm	Bergstrasse, Ephrata	Pastor Jim Goodyear
Wed. Mar. 11, 7 pm	St. Paul's, Adamstown	Pastor Sandy Gideon
Wed. Mar 18, NOON	Muddy Creek, Denver	Pastor Stacy Chavis
Wed. Mar. 25, 7 pm	Mellingers, Schoeneck	Pastor Tim Craven
Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ 7:30 pm	Swamp, Reinholds	Pastor Scott Brubaker
Good Friday, April 3 @ 8 pm	Swamp, Reinholds	Pastor Scott Brubaker
Thurs, May 14, 7 pm Ascension	Swamp, Reinholds	Pastor Scott Brubaker

Pastor's Message



As February arrives, the season of Lent draws near, inviting us once again into a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent is not meant to rush us toward Easter, but to slow us down—to help us notice where God is at work in our lives and where we are being called to return to the heart of faith.

Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday, a day that grounds us in honesty and hope. We hear the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” not as a message of despair, but as a reminder of our deep dependence on God’s grace. From dust God created us, and through Christ, God continually reshapes us with mercy and love.

This year, again, we at Swamp Lutheran have the privilege of hosting a joint Ash Wednesday service with our friends at Mellingers. There will be a light supper at 5 pm in the Social Hall. We are blessed to welcome Pastor Tim Craven as our preacher, while I will serve as presiding pastor. Sharing worship in this way reminds us that the body of Christ is larger than any single congregation—and that we walk this Lenten journey together.

As we enter Lent, I encourage you to consider how you might make space for God in these forty days. Whether through prayer, worship, acts of service, or moments of quiet reflection, Lent is an invitation to be honest about our need for God and open to the new life God promises.

May this season be one of gentle transformation for each of us, and may we walk the path to the cross trusting in the resurrection hope that lies ahead.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott



Generosity Minute

A Heart for Generosity

February often turns our hearts toward love—and as followers of Christ, we know that love is more than words or feelings. Love shows up in generosity. Scripture reminds us, “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). God’s generosity toward us is abundant, faithful, and never-ending, and we are invited to reflect that same spirit in our lives.

At Swamp Lutheran Church, generosity takes many forms. It’s seen in faithful giving that supports worship, education, outreach, and care for our neighbors. It’s felt in volunteered time, shared talents, prayers lifted, and kindness offered quietly. Every act—large or small—helps build God’s kingdom in meaningful ways.

As we enter the Lenten season, we invite you to prayerfully consider participating in our **Pick-Six Lenten Giving Program**. Through Pick-Six, members are encouraged to give an extra gift beyond their regular tithe during each of the six weeks of Lent—six special offerings that support ministry and mission both within and beyond our church walls. This practice is not about obligation, but about intentional generosity and trust as we walk with Christ toward the cross. Details forthcoming on this year’s Pick-Six program.

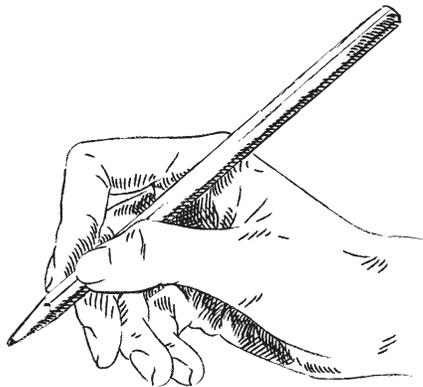
Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Pick-Six offers a tangible way to live out our faith, reminding us that generosity is a spiritual discipline that draws us closer to God and to one another.

Thank you for the many ways you support the ministry of Swamp Lutheran Church. Your generosity is a blessing to this congregation and to the wider community we are called to serve. May we continue to grow together as cheerful givers, rooted in Christ’s love.

With generous hearts,

Swamp Lutheran Generosity Committee

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
Bobby Hershey
Marilyn Gelsinger
Edie Snyder
Teresa Sweigart
Mel and Troy Ulrich
Earl Myers
Elizabeth Sherman
Judy Habecker
AnnaRose Schannauer
Jerry Landis

Mary Beth Jenkins
Evelyn Gehman
Joan Leed
Ron Adams
Kevin Williams
Susan Levan
Larry Eberly
Janet Bingaman
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
Cody Leisey
Lowell Haws
Michelle Moyer
Janet Craley
Scott Zook
Clarice Haws
Lisa Evans
Dianna Becker
Laurie Sauder
Sue Templin
Clyde Showalter
Ashley Milosek
Dave Brown
Pat Miller
Brian Gress
Lucille Lorah
Casey Coble



**"The fewer the words,
the better the prayer".
Martin Luther**

February 10+ Birthdays

LUCILLE LORAH 2/1
236 FIELDCREST LANE
EPHRATA, PA 17522

KENNETH MARTIN 2/3
74 HAWK VALLEY LANE
DENVER, PA 17517

NANCY MCQUATE 2/6
423 SPRUCE STREET
DENVER, PA 17517

KAREN KLINGENSMITH 2/8
1329 MARTIN AVE
EPHRATA PA 17522

ANNA ROSE SCHANNAUER 2/10
65 FIELDCREST LANE
EPHRATA, PA 17522-2913



BARBARA MIZDAIL 2/20
107 MUSTANG TRAIL
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

ANN HILTON 2/22
220 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD
REINHOLDS PA 17569

CATHERINE STINE 2/24
500 KISSEL HILL RD
LITITZ, PA 17543

SUSAN KREITZ 2/28
PO BOX 76
REAMSTOWN, PA 17567

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 others born in February

Noah Weller 01
Maya Bingaman 03
Missy Ragan 05
Dan McQuate 08
Dakota Moyer 08
Patti Walmer 08
Nate Sauder 09
Stevie Posegay 09
Katie Krater 11
Lori Sauder 11
Missy Van Zant 11
Ros Bansner 12



Toni Showalter 12
Troy Ulrich 12
Janice Lorah 14
Josh Garrison 14
Tim Chynoweth 15
Cameron Hall 21
Stella Roseboro 22
Kendall Melcher 23
Gabe Leed 24
Tammy Higgins 26
Pastor Scott Brubaker 26
John Frantz 27

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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



Clyde Showalter Anna Adams
Mel & Troy Ulrich Edie Snyder
Michael A. Crowther John Elser
Earl Myers Marion Bergman
Clarice Haws Gary & Joan Reddig
Joyce Stoner Bobby Hershey
Harold Crills

Feb Sound System Schedule

01 Steve Laudenslager
 08 Steve Laudenslager
 15 Steve Laudenslager
 18 Steve Laudenslager
 22 Steve Laudenslager

March Sound System Schedule

01 Steve Laudenslager
 08 Steve Laudenslager
 15 Steve Laudenslager
 22 Steve Laudenslager
 29 Steve Laudenslager

Feb Vid Stream Schedule

01 Alan Worley
 08 John Frantz
 15 Josh Garrison
 18 John Frantz
 22 Alan Worley

March Vid Stream Schedule

01 John Frantz
 08 Josh Garrison
 15 Alan Worley
 22 John Frantz
 29 Josh Garrison

Feb Coffee Schedule

01 Ray Weitzel
 08 Pam Leisey
 15 Deb Sweigert
 22 John Frantz

March Coffee Schedule

01 Randy Gockley
 08 Pam Leisey
 15 Deb Sweigert
 22 Ray Weitzel
 29 Randy Gockley

Feb Greeters Schedule

01 Lee & Jodi Showalter
 08 Steve & Karen Laudenslager
 15 John & Sharon Levan
 22 Denise Kidwell

March Greeter Schedule

01 Glenn & Linda Beard
 08 Laura Vedder
 15 Pat Wenzel & Bill Knauer
 22 Bob & Linda Preston
 29 Gene & Heather Ferrari

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2	7:00pm	Bell Choir
February 3	6:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
February 3	7:00pm	Welcome Cmte
February 4	7:00pm	Choir
February 8	9:45am	Intergenerational Sunday School
February 9	7:00pm	Bell Choir
February 10	6:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
February 11	1-4:00pm	EASS Food Distribution
February 11	7:00pm	Choir
February 12	6:30pm	Learning Cmte
February 14		VALENTINE'S DAY
February 16		PRESIDENTS DAY - OFFICE CLOSED
February 16	6:30pm	Church Council Mtg
February 17	6:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
February 17	7:00pm	Council Mtg
February 18		ASH WEDNESDAY
February 18	5-6:00pm	Ash Wednesday Supper
February 18	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Services
February 23	7:00pm	Bell Choir
February 24	6:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
February 24	7:00pm	Cocalico Builders of Hope
February 25	7:00pm	Lenten Service at Faith United, Denver
February 28	12:00pm	Widow & Widowers lunch at Olde Lincoln House



In Case of Inclement Weather, notice of church cancellation will be shared via email to those who are signed up to receive church emails, posted on our website www.swamplutheran.org, posted on WGAL's website, and Swamp Lutheran's Facebook page.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!

What: The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement across the nation working together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

When: Until Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026

Where: Bring canned soup and other nonperishable food items and place them beneath the goal post in the Narthex.

Who: Benefits Swamp Food Pantry



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

February
X

February 25 is the deadline for the March Newsletter.

Please reach out to Terri Renninger at 717-336-2849 or email secretary@swamplutheran.org

Your cooperation is appreciated. *Thank you!*



ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle in 2026, 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, spam, soup (not tomato), 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!



Knitters and Crocheters 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 church library where the shawls/blankets are being collected. We need more boy colors than girl colors.



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 Terri at the office to identify yourself as a willing volunteer driver. 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.



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.



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



Widow & Widowers Sat February 28th at 12:00pm plan to join us to enjoy a lunch only, no speaker, at the **Olde Lincoln House** at 1398 W. Main Street Ephrata. Seperate checks. Please invite widow or widower friends. We ask that you RSVP Terri at 717-336-2849 so we have a head count. We hope to see you and remember you are not alone! *Members of the Welcome Cmte.*

Next Council Meeting
February 17, 2026
7:00pm

Church Council Highlights

January 21, 2026

Meeting Highlights & Financial Updates

Carillon System: The council reviewed a \$8,000 quote from the Verdin company to replace the currently non-functional carillon system. The Worship Committee will discuss this further.

Attendance Growth: Christmas Eve attendance saw a significant boost with 255 attendees (60 more than last year). Efforts like "Christmas Evangelism" will be replicated for Easter.

Finance: An audit is scheduled for February. The committee is restructuring accounts to provide a more accurate picture of the church's true financial standing.

Approved Motions: Council unanimously approved the Action Fund Committee members and voted to purchase a \$50 ad in the Cocalico Middle School play booklet to support a youth member (cost donated by Denise Kidwell).

Ministry & Committee Reports

Vision: President Cody Leisey introduced "Whole Family Ministry," focusing on programs and activities that engage everyone from children to grandparents for the congregation as well as the community.

Outreach & Disaster Response: A disaster relief trip to Asheville, NC, is set for April 26 – May 2. The Kitchen Krew remains active, recently serving 49 families via the food bank and providing 80 community meals.

Youth & Learning: Six youth attended "Winter Fest" in early January. Upcoming events include Game Day (March 1) and VBS (July 12–16) with an "Emerald Isle" theme.

Property & Security: Spring projects include AC replacement, property cleanup, and fixing a leaking pipe. The Safety Committee is currently auditing cameras, badges, and first-aid kits (looking to add "Stop the Bleed" kits).

Worship: A combined Ash Wednesday service with Mellingers will be held on February 18, featuring a light meal and guest preacher Pastor Craven.

Upcoming Initiatives & Needs

Communication: 100 new directories have been ordered; updates to the website and social hall TV technology are being explored.

Fundraising: Looking at ideas to increase the general fund. Ideas include sub, soup, and baked good sales.

Community Engagement: The Welcome Committee is brainstorming new events, such as birdhouse building and craft fairs.

Volunteers Needed: Support is requested for the carillon and TV system upgrades, as well as VBS participation.

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!



Thank You

Heavenly peace
to you and yours!

Thank you to all who
gave their time to Swamp!

and
special Thank you to so
many for their prayers for
me during this year of my
accident and healing. I am
very grateful for all the
kind people @ Swamp.

Skip & Cathy Stine

Dear Pastor Brubaker,

Thank you for the support you
provided to our family during the
very difficult time of losing our
brother, Mike. Your messages during
the service were comforting and the
description of Mike was perfect.
Also, please thank the Kitchen Committee
for the great job they did with the luncheon.
With deep gratitude,
Chris Warner



Swamp Needs Your Help!

Tell Pastor Scott if you can help
or want to learn more
Most pressing needs include:

Communion Extender: We need helpers to take communion to our homebound members. Training provided.

Choir: We welcome singers for Swamp's Chancel Choir.

Bell Choir: Ringers needed for this music ministry.

Learning Committee: We could use new committee members interested in fostering the faith of our disciples, both young and old.

SLY: We need additional leaders on our team to guide this ministry.

Sunday School teachers: Helpers and teachers needed.

Worship Committee: We can always use fresh perspectives on worship.

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.).

Treasurers Report December 2025			
January 2025 - December 2025 / December			
	Dec 2025 Actual	This Year Budget	Year-To-Date Actual
Income	\$ 44,126.41	\$ 326,063.00	\$ 403,698.96
Expense	\$ 50,545.95	\$ 326,063.00	\$ 408,555.73
OPERATIONS	\$ 4,309.15	\$ 53,590.00	\$ 47,951.10
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 13,449.57	\$ 21,350.00	\$ 42,198.17
BENEFITS	\$ 3,535.56	\$ 36,435.00	\$ 42,684.09
THROUGH STAFF	\$ 11,637.34	\$ 146,148.00	\$ 141,167.35
REIMBURSED EXP.	\$ 1,976.37	\$ -	\$ 5,570.21
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ -
PROPERTY	\$ 2,321.68	\$ 18,050.00	\$ 21,706.08
WORSHIP	\$ 727.07	\$ 7,550.00	\$ 6,885.71
SERVICE	\$ 200.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 992.10
COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 25.82	\$ 750.00	\$ 832.79
GENEROSITY	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
WELCOME	\$ -	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 1,821.03
LEARNING	\$ 204.02	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 1,106.73
BENEVOLENCES	\$ 12,159.37	\$ 30,790.00	\$ 69,375.44
Insurance Claim - Broken Pipe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,264.93

WINTERFEST

Building Authentic Christian Community



(Left to right: Kristin Gockley, Haylee Martin, Beckah Koehle, Lillie Martin, Molli Smith, Macey Sheets, Brooke Koehle, Pastor Scott)

Better Together!

Swamp sent six youth and two adult advisors to Winterfest on January 2-4 at the Wyndham Lancaster Resort and Conference Center.

Winterfest is the Lower Susquehanna Synod’s high school youth event of the year.

Winterfest gathers youth in grades 9-12, college students on winter break, and their congregational advisors for a weekend immersion in Christian community, focused around a central theme. This year’s theme was Better Together which emphasized that, although we are not the same, we **are** better together in Christ and Christian community.

Large group gatherings featured keynote speakers and live music that introduced this theme and helped inspire youth and young adult attendees to think critically about how the theme intersects their daily lives. Small group conversations allowed participants to go deeper, and to explore the ways God may be speaking to them through the theme and the surrounding Christian community. Congregational advisors had the opportunity to meet with peers for continuing education, networking, and mutual support.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, our Youth and adults participated in a food packing service event on Saturday afternoon following lunch. We helped to pack over 30,000 meals for people living with the realities of food insecurity. Additionally, we enjoyed group worship and free time activities such as karaoke, dancing, and games.

SWAMP STUDENTS ENGAGED IN HIGHER EDUCATION AWAY FROM HOME

SEND THEM A CARD/NOTE TO LET THEM KNOW THEY ARE IN OUR PRAYERS

Alexander Fair	West Chester University	Music Education	211 Stone Fence Road West Chester, PA 19382
Kaitlyn Houck	RACC	Psychology – Social Work	15200 Kutztown Road Dixon Hall 135B Kutztown, PA 19530
Dylan Koehle	Penn State Berks	Kinesiology/Exercise Science	Penn State Berks Poplar 0230A 3501 Clary Drive Bldg 6 Reading, PA 19610
Cameron Nye	Yale University	Political Science	
Chace Smith	Penn State Williamsport	Sophomore	200 College Ave, Box 6872 Delaware Hall 106 Williamsport, PA 17701

2026 Pick Six Lenten Offering

This year, Swamp Lutheran will again offer a special giving opportunity for Lent: **Pick Six**. For the six weeks of Lent, we are encouraging you to give a special, weekly offering in addition to your regular giving. The benevolence giving options listed below are opportunities to give to ministries operating in or through our church.

Envelopes with these options listed on them are available on the table in the narthex or rear lobby. Please grab a pack of six envelopes (one for each week of Lent). Call the office if you need them mailed to you. Online Giving is an option too via our website. Giving to multiple options each week is encouraged.



Swamp Lutheran TLC: Contributions will help give our aging building some TLC (tender loving care) with needed upgrades, repairs, and replacements of aging pipes, windows, etc.



Community Meal: Contributions to this ministry support the purchase of food and supplies for the two, monthly community meals, each serving 70-100 persons, that Swamp prepares and delivers.



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Help bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the US and around the world.



**EPHRATA AREA
SOCIAL
SERVICES**
Celebrating 50 Years
1976-2026

Contributions help provide services to people in our community in the areas of food, clothing, fuel, transportation, and meals on wheels.

ELCA Youth Gathering: Contributions help cover the cost to send Swamp Youth and Advisors to the **2027 Youth Gathering** in Minneapolis, MN.



Swamp Food Pantry: Contributions support Swamp's monthly ministry of food provision to those challenged by food insecurity.



Cocalico Area Builders of Hope TL: Contributions provide housing, mentoring, and budget coaching to participants of this transitional housing program.



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Contributions to this ministry support the work to eradicate hunger in the US and throughout the world.



Jan's Circle of Friends: Contributions to this organization fund efforts to assist children coping with domestic violence and parental loss.



Non-designated Gift: Contributions will be used where needed most.

Fold the paper in half first, then cut on the dotted lines to form a card. Color or paint the front of the card, then sign and/or decorate the inside.

01/31/18



I give you a new command: Love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you must also love
one another. - John 13:34