

THE RISING N NEWSLETTER

SWAMP EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD , REINHOLDS, PA 17569

Church Telephone 717 -336-2849 Fax 717-336-2840 e-mail swampluth@dejazzd.com
Eucharist Service 8:00 a.m. Worship service 9:00 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m.

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 2

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of CALM 5 (Cocalico Area Lutheran Ministry). CALM5 is a cooperative ministry with Faith United Lutheran Church, Denver; PA; Mellinger's Lutheran Church, Schoeneck, PA; Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, Denver, PA & St. Paul Lutheran Church, Adamstown, PA

Staff:

Ministers

Congregation

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis L. Trout

Adm. Asst/Sec

Judith L. Sauder

Organist/Choir Director

Susan Kreitz

Sexton

Matthew Lewandowski

Officers of Council

Sue Knauer, President,
David Kupp , Vice Pres..
Abbey Stopper, Secretary
Steve Young, Financial Sec.
Guy Templin, Treasurer
Jim Kidwell, Asst. Treas.

Congregation Council

Glenn Beard
Lori Hagy
Randy Krater
Tom Laudenslager
Michael Mixell
Don Risser
David Sauder
Ray Weitzel
Michael Witmer

To the Congregation:

Thank you very much for the gift of a Hershey get-away package. Your loving care and concern for us is much appreciated. This will be a "sweet" break for us and will be enjoyed very much. Thank you again for your continued support and care. Our love to you all.

Bonnie and Denny

With these few words my wife accurately expressed what might have taken me half a page; she is good.

Council terms are upon us again and there are (3) positions coming to a close; Abbey Stopper, Michael Witmer and Michael Mixell have expiring terms. For many years now I find this to be difficult simply because working together develops connections that are hard to relinquish. These (3) individuals have worked well on behalf of this congregation and we appreciate their time, care, and talent. To be sure, this was a challenging time to be on council, rebuilding, rethinking and working through the maze of codes, etc. God bless them for there perseverance, it's been a privilege.

Pax
Pastor Trout
Pastor Trout



DECEMBER

JAMES R. WAGNER 12/2
35 WOODLYN ESTATES
MILLSBORO, DE 19966-9018

PAULINE WASSMER 12/5
585 N. RIDGE ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

EARL MYERS 12/6
1845 FURNACE HILLS ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

JOHN BERGMAN 12/6
7 RAY DRIVE
DENVER, PA 17517

PATSY GRESS 12/8
165 S. BLAINSPORT ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

HAROLD CRILLS 12/9
85 SWAMP BRIDGE ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

ALICE FASNACHT 12/11
1050 S. COCALICO ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

SYLVIA FETTER 12/14
360 SANDY HILL ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

EDGAR GRESS 12/14
155 S. BLAINSPORT ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

HELEN WERNER 12/19
125 S. BLAINSPORT ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

RAY HERSHEY 12/22
CONESTOGA VIEW, RM 405
900 E. KING ST.
LANCASTER, PA 17602

I want to thank the congregation and Pastor Trout for all the cards prayers, visits and phone calls I received while in the hospital and recuperating at home. God bless you all.

Gladys Hoover

We want to thank you for the cards flowers and prayers.

Grant & Marlene Boyer

Thanks to everyone who has supported the aluminum can collection for Relay for Life. It's easy to break off the tab and put it in your pocket but only a little more effort to give us the rest of the can to help the fight against cancer. If you've missed our collections and have cans, please call Sue Kittler at 336-3236. We need to get our money to Thrivent by mid December. If we can reach \$600.00, they will give us \$200.00 more.

The collection will continue next year. Our next collection date is December 29th – all day on the Galen Hall Rd. side of the Reinholds Ambulance Association.

Sue Kittler

7th NLC Conference Trip

Plans are underway for the 7th North Lancaster Conference Disaster Response Trip. The trip is tentatively scheduled for April 28th – May 4th. At an earlier planning meeting the group made the decision to return to Minot, North Dakota, where there is still about 3-6 years worth of rebuilding left following the devastating flood of 2011. Given the devastation wrought by Superstorm Sandy along the northeast coast of the US, that decision will be revisited at our next planning meeting. If you are interested in hearing more about our trip and how you can be involved please come out to our next planning meeting on Sunday, December 9th @ 2:00 P.M. AT Trinity Lutheran Church, New Holland.

“Look forward and be hopeful, look backward and be thankful, look down and be helpful, look up and be humble.”



EPHRATA
AREA
SOCIAL
SERVICES

November 9, 2012

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

Thank you:

On behalf of the board of directors of Ephrata Area Social Services, the staff and those we serve, I want to thank you for your generous contributions of **food**, for the EASS food bank.

We are grateful for the continued support shown for EASS and its mission. We are able to do what we do because of your faith and trust in us...

During October 2012, EASS distributed food to **246** families, helping **811** people. **367** people benefited from the Clothing Bank. We provided **157** rides through the Transportation Service. We also helped **28** New Families, having **79** members. **18** families (**47** family members) benefited from our *Emergency Financial Assistance Program (Discretionary Funds)* expending **\$1,286.33** in financial assistance to help with prescriptions, home heating fuel, **electric payments to prevent disconnections** and with emergency overnight lodging.

The mission of Ephrata Area Social Services is to *channel effectively community resources into a network of support for neighbors in need of Human Resources*. With your support we are able to continue meeting that challenge.

We invite you to take a look at our new web site: www.eassinfo.org

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Swalwell,
Executive Director, EASS

The donor received neither goods nor services in return for their donation.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

227 NORTH STATE STREET • EPHRATA, PA 17522 • 717-733-0345

Requests from the Office:

Please call the church at 336-2849 if:

***You are in the hospital or prior to going to the hospital (or have a relative call for you).**

***You are going to a rehab center or a nursing home;**

***You are confined to your home for an extended period of time because of illness or accident;**

***There is a change in your family status (birth, death, marriage or divorce);**

***You move to a new home, move out of the area, or go away to college or graduate school.**

Please inform the church office if your mailing address and/or telephone number have been changed or you have moved to a new address. The church is charged a fee of \$.75 for each piece of mail that is returned.

***** As you schedule a meeting or an event of a group, committee or task force of Swamp, please inform the Church Office. In an effort to be open and communicative with everyone we would like to include all scheduling on the Church Calendar and in the Weekly Bulletin. Changes to the routinely scheduled meeting should also be shared with the Church Office. We want everyone who checks out our bulletin or newsletter to see our activities.**

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RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

December 15, 2012

FOR

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Committee

- Sue Knauer, President – Youth Ministry & Learning
- David Kupp, Vice President – Scouts & Service
- Abbey Stopper, Secretary - Welcome
- Steve Young, Financial Secretary
- Guy Templin, Treasurer - Worship
- Jim Kidwell, Asst. Treasurer - Stewardship
- Glenn Beard – Helping Hands
- Lori Hagy - Finance
- Randy Krater - Property
- Tom Laudenslager - Property
- Michael Mixell - Constitution
- Don Risser - Property
- David Sauder – Love, Inc. & Constitution
- Ray Weitzel - Property
- Michael Witmer – Disaster Response

The pastor is now taking money for the Action Fund to help the needy at Christmastime. Pastor receives requests from families who ask for assistance to pay oil, electric, phone, food bills, etc. Thank you in advance for your donation.



December food donations will be distributed to our "Christmas Families". If you would like to donate money for turkeys and any extra food needed to complete a Christmas dinner, please give the donations to Jane Leshner. The Welcome and Service Committees will be delivering the food and gifts sometime in December. Thank you for making someone's Christmas a little happier this year.



Earl & Marion Basehore

Dolores Binner
Charles Boyer
Dorothy DeLong
John Dillon
Ray Hershey
Edwin Kramer
Caroline Leshar
Ray Long
Dale Reinecker
Alice Schannauer
Lela Trout
Walter Weinhold
Charles Weitzel
Maryanne Weitzel

Dolores Becker
Elmer Kopp
Anna Mae Moyer



Congratulations to Diane Balthaser & Robert Brown upon their marriage October 19, 2012.

Congratulations to Jessica Anderson & Matthew Jacobs upon their marriage October 28, 2012.

Congratulations to Gretchen High & Dr. Jeffrey Dever upon their marriage November 9, 2012.



Edgar Gress – VA Hospital, Lebanon
Arnold Krater – Father of Randy Krater
Karen Wellman
Robert Christy
Hunter Leisey – Hershey Medical Center, Rm 7265
Ray Hershey – Conestoga View, Lancaster, Rm. 405
Richard Eckenroad
John Levan
Ray Long
Charles Boyer
Elmer Kopp
Linda Martzall – LifeCare Nursing Home, Rm 411, Mechanicsburg
Caroline Leshar
Aunt Ruth Snead in Richmond VA –by Vicky; and also strength for her daughter Margie
Donald Strohl – Friend of the Crowthers
Robert Witmoyer – Nephew of Doris Kopp
Robert Lowrie – Hershey Med. Center - Friend of Connie Taylor
Becky Christman – Friend of Cindy Golden
Dorothy Loniak – Sister of Michael Wargo
Maria Re – Niece of the Wargo's
Bernard Re – Brother of Bernadette Wargo
John Maicher – Friend of Connie Taylor
Donna Schalata - Mother of Katie Koehler
Frank Acri – Friend of Judy Habecker
Fred Cook – Friend of Byron & Sheila Reedy
William Badedar – Friend of Byron & Sheila Reedy
Betty Snyder – Grandmother of Laurie Sauder
Jim Kilhefner – Brother-in-law of Ann, Jim & Jeff Hickernell
Ray Middleton – Brother of Bonnie Trout
Jim McGonnell – Brother of Karen Krater
Paul Lyons – Father of Anita Phipps & Brother of Janice Moyer
Roland "Tree" Mellinger
Gary McQuate – Relative of the Long Family

(Please let us know when we can remove people from the sick and shut-in list. We do not always get an update on their condition).

Students, Parents, and Teachers,

The holiday season is fast approaching! Here are some important dates to keep in mind.

Sunday December 9th – Hanging of the Greens We will start decorating during Sunday School. Please stay and help decorate your church with your church family. This is a great tradition to help celebrate Christmas.

Sunday December 9th –Hospitality Baskets The youth group will be packing and delivering fruit and personal care item baskets. We need your help in providing items for the baskets. Each student is asked to bring a few of the following:

- 1) Nursery –individual wrapped cracker packs or cookies
- 2) Pre k and kindergarten –individual boxes of cereal
- 3) 1st and 2nd grades – individual serving size canned fruit and pudding
- 4) 3rd and 4th grades – individual serving fruit juices and individual tissue packets
- 5) 5th grade – mini jars of peanut butter
- 6) 6th – 8th grades –individual tubes of toothpaste and individually wrapped toothbrushes
- 7) 9th – 12th grades – breakfast bars and individual packages of raisins
- 8) Adult class –individual hand sanitizer and mini jars of peanut butter

Due to the large number of baskets needed this year, we would like to open it up to the entire congregation. These donations can be brought in any Sunday until December 9th. Boxes will be placed at the front door for donations. We also need drivers to help deliver the fruit baskets.

Sunday December 9th Night of Music please plan on attending this program showcasing the musical talent of Swamp. Sure to put you in the holiday spirit.

Sunday December 23rd Children's Christmas Program This will be held during Sunday School starting at 10:30.

Sunday December 30th – Combined Sunday School. We will be showing a holiday DVD to the students.

Sunday January 6th – Regular Sunday school resumes 10:30 – 11:30.

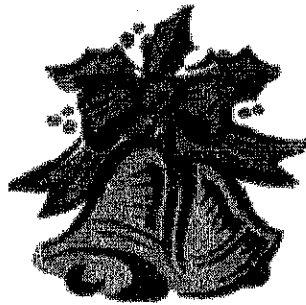
Same Tree - New Decorations
(please read)

Learning committee will again be placing a tree at the back door for donations of **underwear and socks** and canned goods. Ephrata Area Social Services have asked us to collect new underwear and socks this year. We have added canned goods to the donation list due to the economic climate. These items will be given to the Ephrata Area Social Services. This opportunity to share is open to all members of the congregation. Donations will be accepted until Sunday December 16th.

We hope you will join us in celebrating the Birth of our Savior through these activities and thank you for helping to make the winter a little warmer for those less fortunate.

Merry Christmas and God Bless,
Learning Committee

“Christmas Bells”



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

2012 TREASURERS REPORT

	October	YTD Total	Budget
INCOME			
ENVELOPE FUND AND SIMPLY GIVING	\$ 18,580.00	\$ 171,412.89	\$ 22,506.17
LOOSE OFFERING	\$ 2,348.75	\$ 24,018.63	
CHURCH SCHOOL	\$ 96.66	\$ 434.53	
TOTAL INCOME TOWARD BUDGET	\$ 21,025.41	\$ 195,866.05	\$ 270,074.00
DISASTER RESPONSE	\$ 1,099.41	\$ 4,947.00	
FLOWERS AND BULLETINS	\$ 231.00	\$ 1,959.75	
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS	\$ 2,107.00	\$ 9,593.04	
MEMORIALS		\$ 565.00	
MATCHING FUNDS & RETURNS	\$ 32.00	\$ 5,675.97	
DINNERS		\$ 1,635.00	
NONCASH CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 673.89	\$ 961.54	
FIRE DONATIONS		\$ -	
CAPITAL FUND DRIVE	\$ 65.00	\$ 6,511.00	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ 128.29	\$ 142,814.63	
INCOME TOTALS	\$ 25,362.00	\$ 370,528.98	
DISBURSEMENTS			
BENOVELENCE	\$ 2,083.37	\$ 22,033.70	\$ 25,000.00
SAMARITAN COUNCILING CENTER		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
LUTHERCARE		\$ 115.00	\$ 4,000.00
OTHER BENOVELENCES	\$ 875.47	\$ 2,679.12	\$ 3,390.00
LEARNING	\$ 86.33	\$ 5,345.69	\$ 7,100.00
WELCOME		\$ 978.96	\$ 1,200.00
STEWARDSHIP		\$ -	\$ 200.00
SERVICE		\$ 1,349.39	\$ 1,000.00
WORSHIP	\$ 586.77	\$ 4,293.57	\$ 5,395.00
PROPERTY	\$ 1,319.25	\$ 10,816.96	\$ 6,790.00
YOUTH MINISTRY		\$ 3,488.33	\$ 800.00
STAFF EXPENSES	\$ 10,390.29	\$ 100,089.29	\$ 123,530.00
STAFF BENEFITS	\$ 1,459.57	\$ 35,729.78	\$ 44,594.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$ 1,406.76	\$ 69,495.98	\$ 19,775.00
OPERATIONS OF PROPERTY	\$ 2,611.18	\$ 30,992.47	\$ 26,300.00
TOTAL BUDGETED ITEMS	\$ 20,818.99	\$ 288,408.24	\$ 270,074.00
UNBUDGETED DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE - ACTION FUND	\$ 100.00	\$ 965.00	
DISASTER RESPONSE	\$ 1,099.41	\$ 5,797.06	
MISCELLANEOUS NONBUDGETED		\$ 620.03	
MATCHING FUND PAYMENTS		\$ 1,640.00	
FLOWERS/ REIMB EXP	\$ 848.89	\$ 4,699.36	
RESTORATION/REBUILDING		\$ 38,657.87	
PAID MEMORIALS	\$ 4,102.08	\$ 4,102.08	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 26,969.37	\$ 344,889.64	
ACCOUNT BALANCE PREVIOUS MONTH	\$ 200,264.91		
TOTAL RECEIPTS CURRENT MONTH	\$ 25,362.00		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS CURRENT MONTH	\$ 26,969.37		
ACCOUNT BALANCE CURRENT MONTH	\$ 198,657.54		
This amount includes the following:			
Bible Study Group Money		\$ 78.00	
Personal Choir \$15.40 & Bell Choir Money \$26.32		\$ 41.72	
Memorials		\$ 72,172.72	
*TOTAL INCLUDED IN CHECKING		\$ 72,292.44	

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 21, 2012

Your Council met Wednesday, November 21, 2012. Highlights include:

Due to the church's participation in the PPL Power Savers program, we have received a check for \$500 from PPL. We will continue to participate in this program and receive an annual rebate.

Boy Scouts reported the food drive was very successful with over 2000 pounds of food being collected. Thanks to all donated.

Service committee reported that the December food collection will be given to the 5 families we have for Christmas. This food will be given to the families to help them prepare a Christmas meal. All donations can be placed on the table in the Narthex. Also, Noretta Burke is collecting empty one-gallon jugs to be used for luminarias on Christmas Eve. There is a box in the Narthex for their collection.

Love, Inc. reported that with the success of the Homes of Hope Auction, they have decided to make it an annual event. A new family moved into the Homes Of Hope house on October 27th, they have a 4 year old and are expecting a baby in January. The Homes of Hope committee is looking for finance and budget mentors to work with the families. If you are interested, please see Cindi Golden, Bob Christy or David Sauder for more information.

Welcome committee reported that they will be shopping the first week of December for the 5 families we have for Christmas. There are around 10 children between the 5 families. They will be holding a knitting/crocheting class at 6:00pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month before their meeting for all those interested in helping to make shawls for our prayer shawl ministry.

Property committee reported that the swale repair/replacement project with the neighbor has been completed to both parties satisfaction.

Worship committee reported that we will be having only one worship service on December 9th at 8:30am with the Congregational Meeting to follow immediately afterward.

Youth Ministry reported that they helped sort clothing at Peter's Porch at Zion Lutheran Church in Akron and will be making the hospitality baskets again this year for the sick and shut-ins. They will make them on December 9th. See the newsletter and bulletins for the list of items being collected. Anyone interested in helping to deliver baskets should see Sue Ellen Knauer or Jodi Showalter.

Learning committee reported that December 9th will be Hanging of the Greens (immediately following the Congregational Meeting). The annual Night of Music will be held in the evening on December 9th. The Children's Christmas Program will be held during the Sunday School Hour on December 23rd and there will be a combined Sunday School class on Sunday, December 30th. This year instead of hats and mittens, we are collecting donations of socks and underwear as well as canned goods for EASS. Donations can be placed on or under the tree at the back door through December 16th.

Finance committee reported that they are working on setting up an Investment Policy Statement in conjunction with the reinvestment of the monies received from selling the Fulton Bank stock. They presented the 2013 Spending Guidelines and after discussion the guidelines were amended and approved by Council to be approved by the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on December 9th. The 2013 Spending Guidelines will be printed in the December newsletter following this report. Any questions can be directed to Sue Ellen Knauer or Lori Hagy.

Nomination committee, in an effort to realign Council terms to having 4 members up for reelection or replacement every year presented the following members for election to replace outgoing members Abbey Stopper, Michael Witmer and Michael Mixell. The nominees and their term lengths are Roslyn Bansner (3 year term), Lori Gockley (2 year term) and Heather Weaver (1 year term). Each will be eligible for a second 3-year term.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on December 9, 2013 immediately after the 8:30 Worship Service.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

PROPOSED 2013 SPENDING GUIDELINE

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTE	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
MISSIONARY SUPPORT		
GETTYSBURG SEMINARY	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
MEALS ON WHEELS	\$ 440.00	\$ 440.00
LUTHERCARE	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
LUTHERAN CAMPING (UNDERPRI'	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
EPHRATA AREA SOCIAL SERVICE	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
LOVE INC	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
HABITAT HOUSE	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
MISSION (CAMP BUILDING)		\$ 1,000.00
SUMMER MEALS		\$ 600.00
REINHOLDS FIRE/AMBULANCE		\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	<u>\$ 33,390.00</u>	<u>\$ 36,990.00</u>
CONFIRMATION RETREAT	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,000.00
CURRICULUM	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
SPECIAL	\$ 450.00	\$ 300.00
CHRISTMAS PLAY	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
CHILDREN'S RUGS	\$ -	\$ -
TEACHER EDUCATION	\$ -	\$ -
MISCELLANEOUS LEARNING	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL LEARNING	<u>\$ 7,100.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,850.00</u>
SENIOR CITIZEN BANQUET		\$ 800.00
OUTREACH	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL WELCOME	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,800.00</u>
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
SENIOR CITIZEN BANQUET	\$ 500.00	\$ -
HANGING OF THE GREENS	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
EGG HUNT	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
LUTHER ACRES ACTIVITIES	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL SERVICE	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 400.00</u>
ORGANIST CONTINUED EDUCATI	\$ -	\$ 300.00
SUPPLY PASTORS	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
.MUSIC	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,050.00
SUNDAYS AND SEASONS	\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00
BULLETINS & CELEBRATES	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
ALTAR GUILD SUPPLIES	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
CERTIFICATES	\$ 125.00	\$ 100.00
SUPPLY ORGANISTS	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
CANDLES	\$ 100.00	\$ -
OIL FOR CANDLES	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
ACOLYTE PINS	\$ -	\$ -
DRY CLEANING	\$ 150.00	\$ 100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
TOTAL WORSHIP	<u>\$ 5,395.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,270.00</u>

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

SEXTON SUPPLIES	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
GROUND UPKEEP	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 5,500.00
PIANO TUNING	\$ 140.00	\$ 400.00
BUILDING MAINTAINENCE	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
PLAYGROUND UPKEEP	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	\$ 450.00	\$ -
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00
TOTAL PROPERTY	\$ 6,790.00	\$ 7,650.00
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
TOTAL YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
PASTOR'S SALARY	\$ 50,146.00	\$ 51,650.00
HOUSING	\$ 24,727.00	\$ 24,727.00
CONTINUED EDUCATION	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
SEXTON'S WAGES	\$ 11,146.00	\$ 11,480.00
SECRETARY'S WAGES	\$ 13,111.00	\$ 13,504.00
ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,150.00
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSES	\$ 123,530.00	\$ 125,911.00
PENSION	\$ 13,287.00	\$ 13,287.00
LIFE INSURANCE	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,700.00
MEDICAL INSURANCE (BLUE CRO	\$ 13,936.00	\$ 13,512.00
PASTOR'S FICA	\$ 9,980.00	\$ 11,685.00
STAFF FICA	\$ 3,691.00	\$ 3,760.00
TOTAL BENEFITS	\$ 44,594.00	\$ 45,944.00
POSTAGE	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,350.00
OFFERING ENVELOPES	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
MACHINE REPAIRS	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
MACHINE SUPPLIES	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00
MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIC	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
DISABILITY INSURANCE	\$ -	\$ -
AUTO EXPENSES	\$ 10,250.00	\$ 10,250.00
COMPUTER EXPENSES	\$ 425.00	\$ 425.00
SECRETARY CONT ED	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
VANCO FEES	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
COUNCIL RETREAT	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 19,775.00	\$ 18,225.00
FUEL OIL	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
ELECTRIC	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,500.00
TELEPHONE	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 3,000.00
PROPERTY INSURANCE	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
MAINTAINENCE	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL OPERATIONS OF PROPER	\$ 26,300.00	\$ 35,500.00
TOTAL PROPOSED GUIDELINE	\$ 270,074.00	\$ 285,540.00

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Bread and Wine Donor:

December Jim and Linda Beard
January Matt and Audrey Lewandowski

Altar Guild:

December J. Leshner, S. Kreitz,, N. Kulp

Communion Assistants:

December 2
8:00 AM Danielle Witmer, Connie Taylor
9:00 AM Wanda Maxey, Jan Risser, Guy
Templin, Debbie Sweigert
December 9
8:30 AM Connie Malafarina, Anita Kupp,
Debbie Carvell, Connie Taylor
December 16
8:00 AM David Borrell, Connie Taylor
9:00 AM Guy Templin, Anna Sweigart,
Michael Wargo, B. Wargo
December 23
8:00 AM Danielle Witmer,, John Frantz
9:00 AM Jane Leshner, Greg Diestel,, Leslie
Diestel, Guy Templin
December 24
Connie Taylor, Samantha Young,
Alex Kupp, Debbie Sweigert
December 30
Guy Templin, Janice Moyer

Crucifer:

December 2
8:00 AM Guy Templin
9:00 AM Anita Kupp
December 9
8:30 AM Eric Showalter
December 16
8:00 AM Chris Zander
9:00 AM Michael Wargo
December 23
Deb Sweigart
December 24
Connie Taylor
December 30
Kristn Gockley

IMPORTANT DATES:

Torch Bearer & Crucifer

Training : December 2, 10:30 AM
Christmas Eve Practice: Dec. 12,
11:30 AM

Money for Bread and Wine should be
given to Guy Templin

DECEMBER

Acolytes:

December 2
8:00 AM Allison Witmer, Danielle Witmer
9:00 AM Megan DeBock, Matt DeBock
December 9
8:30 AM Taylor Weaver, Sarah Zook
December 16
8:00 AM Samantha Young, Rachel Young
9:00 AM Jake Diestel, Brett Kupp
December 23
8:00 AM Dakota Moyer, Jonathan Templin
9:00 AM Austin Sweigart, Eric Showalter
December 24
Megan DeBock, S. Donmoyer
December 30
Jonathan Templin, Dakota Moyer

Banner Bearer:

December 2 Brett Kupp
December 9 Kristen Gockley
December 16 Taylor Weaver
December 23 Corinne Sweigart
December 24 Taylor Weaver, Brett Kupp
December 30 Megan DeBock

Lector:

December 2 Wanda Maxey
December 9 Sue Kittler
December 16 Greg Diestel
December 23 Jake Diestel
December 24 Lowell Haws
December 30 Connie Malafarina

Torch Bearers:

December 24 Rachel Young, Jake Hill

Bible Bearer:

December 24 Michael Wargo

Hunger Appeal:

December Eric Showalter, Noah Roseboro,
Brett Kupp, Matt DeBock

Greeters:

December 2 Glenn Beard, Lori Hagy
December 9 Abbey Stopper, Randy Krater
December 16 Ray Weitzel, Michael Witmer
December 23 Don Risser, David Kupp
December 24 Council Members
December 30 Sue Knauer, Michael Mixell

Flower Delivery:

Dec 2&9 Jim & Kathy Hickernell
Dec. 16&23 Michael & Kathleen Fink
Dec. 30, Jan. 6 Sally Hagy

**“Dealing with Today’s Teens”
Parenting Class / Support Group**

Adamstown Library
3000 N Reading Rd, Adamstown PA

Starting Thurs, Jan 3 7-8pm

“What Every Parent Needs to Know”

Topics Include:

- understanding your teen’s needs
- understanding your parenting role
- understanding your teen’s behavior
- understanding your relationship with them
- understanding the purpose of pain
- Developing boundaries for your teen
- Developing a belief system for discipline
- Dealing with control issues

The class runs 9 consecutive weeks. The cost of the class is FREE. However, you will need to purchase a workbook for \$15 (couples can share). And you will also need to pre-register.

A FREE introductory class will be held on Thursday, December 13 from 7-8pm .

“Kids are not as mature as they used to be. They show less respect for their parents and feel more entitled. It is not our job as parents to make sure our children are happy all the time, nor is it to make sure that they like us. Children need both; relationship and strong parental guidance.”

- Mark Gregston

To pre-register or for more information contact Rod Redcay @ REAL Youth Ministry
email rod@realym.org or phone 717-368-7133

Visit our website www.realym.org

Vicar's Voice from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Reading - December 2012

Dear Swamp Disciples:

Grace and peace to you from God our Parent and from our Lord Jesus Christ and the disciples of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Reading. I recently had to update my ministerial formation group at the seminary about my field education experience at St. Paul's and realized that what I shared with them might be of interest to you, too. Going from a rural congregation to an urban one has been exciting, eventful and a constant challenge to find a parking space. One realizes that the body of Christ contains both unity and diversity, not the least of which are its ministries.

The Body of Christ at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on the corner of 16th and Perkiomen Avenue in Reading offers many opportunities to show compassion to others. This is first of all modeled by Pastor Carol Kehler, the staff, the congregational council, other church leaders as well as the disciples who worship, learn and live their lives in concert with the Body of Christ. The opportunities that I have been given to witness this have occurred in a number of settings and experiences:

- a. In worship, all people are welcome to enter the door and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord. Children are welcome in the service of worship, and are given their own special message of the Gospel for the day. Only children five years of age and younger then are escorted to a nursery care setting at another location in the church. The Communion Assistants are all young people who are in catechetical class or have recently experienced their Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation). I personally had the experience of leaving the chancel area to sit with three children who were unaccompanied by an adult and dealt unobtrusively with one of the children who had successfully pulled a tooth from his mouth.
- b. There are several compassion responses by this congregation to the community which include a monthly food pantry distribution, a weekly bread distribution of left over bread from Panera's restaurant. One Sunday in October, there were 86 worshippers. Half of them (43) went in the afternoon to pick potatoes. They picked 4,000 lbs. of potatoes and brought back 1,400 lbs. for the food pantry. The custodian of the church works at a food market and will also bring produce from there for distribution. On the Feast of St. Francis, a service of blessing for animals was held and an invitation was extended for collections of pet food, towels, cat litter and other needs to be given to the animal shelter at the end of the month. The children of the church are invited once a month to see a movie replete with popcorn and donated candy for which a nominal price is asked. The money collected is donated to the Reading Public Library - a branch being located a block from the church. In Sunday Church School, the children's offerings are given to support a girl from Brazil so she is able to attend school.

There is a group of women who pray for the church once a month and then reflect on their prayers in a group discussion. One month the women walked a labyrinth at a rural church yard, then had fellowship including communion at the home of one of the prayers who lived nearby. It reminded me of the experience early Christians would have had in a "house church.

This church is located in a part of the city of Reading that sees more than its fair share of crime and many of the people living in this community are struggling to get by. The sanctuary

of the church is located on the second floor. For the safety of everyone on a Saturday night and Sunday morning when worship services are being held, there are three dedicated "shepherds" who are positioned strategically throughout the church who carry walkie-talkies and communicate with each other if there is a perceived problem. One shepherd is located in the choir loft at the front of the church (on the second floor); another shepherd is located in the back of the church on the "Amen pew." The third shepherd is located downstairs near the door where people may enter who wish to worship or pick up bread.

I see this action put in place to minimize misunderstanding, suffering and confusion.

I have found that people are cooperative in helping me to complete the goals of the field placement. The first Sunday I preached, the pastor rounded up 7 people to evaluate the sermon and the reading of the lessons. They met with me immediately after church and provided constructive feedback. I have engaged individuals, esp. the pastor, parish secretary, the financial secretary, and the entire congregational council in activities to help me complete the parochial report which is another of my goals. The pastor is an experienced "teaching pastor" who offers me many opportunities to participate in the life of the congregation that is comprehensive in scope. I have participated as a communion assistant, deacon, lector and preacher, thus far. In addition to that, I have participated in and/or witnessed a Quinceanera ceremony, a baptism, assisting with 2nd year confirmation class and have just begun working with a post-confirmation Sunday School class.

Last week, the Thursday Bible study class accompanied me to Lancaster Theological Seminary to participate in the Chapel service and my Old Testament class. They relished in shopping at the book store on campus and eating crepes @ Rachel's. The following evening we were inspired and sobered by participating in an interfaith Kristallnacht Service to remember "the night of broken glass" that ushered in World War II.

The church was started 113 years ago by 12 families who mortgaged their homes to establish the church. The current gothic building with beautiful stained glass windows belies the current financial struggles this church shares with many other urban congregations. St Paul's strength is its ministry fulfilling Jesus' commission to "go out into the world," but they struggle to maintain or expand those ministries because of financial constraints. What is most edifying is that you could ask almost anyone who comes to church or Sunday School, "What is the mission of St. Paul's?" And they would be able to tell you what it is because they study it in Church School.

"We as baptized children of God are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the administration of the sacraments, teaching, preaching, worshipping, and witnessing to others in love and faith with our families, congregation, community and the world."

Please keep St Paul's Lutheran Church in your prayers in the coming days and into the New Year. I feel so blessed to be working at this church. Thank you Jesus.

-Vicar Bonnie Oplinger

**HE shall be
the one of
PEACE.**

ARMY OF NINE



SWAMP EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE REV. DENNIS L. TROUT, PASTOR

OFFICE PHONE 717-336-2849

FAX NUMBER 717-336-2840

CHURCH E-MAIL swampluth@dejazzd.com

SWAMP WEB PAGE swamplutheran.org

December



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