

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 Worship Service 8:00 A.M. Eucharist Worship Service 9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M.

MARCH, 2014

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

Staff:

Ministers

Congregation

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis L. Trout

Adm. Assistant

Judith L. Sauder

Organist/Choir Director

Susan Kreitz

Sexton

Matthew Lewandowski

Officers of Council

David Kupp, President

Lori Gockley, Vice Pres.

David Sauder, Secretary

Steve Young, Financial Sec.

Guy Templin, Treasurer

Jim Kidwell, Asst. Treasurer

Congregational Council

Roslyn Bansner

Melissa Beard

Lori Hagy

Randy Krater

Tom Laudenslager

Don Risser

Heather Weaver

Ray Weitzel

Scott Zook

I am often asked about the after life. The Lutheran ran an article this February 2014 that was very good. I'd like to share it with you.....

Sorting out heaven and hell: Heaven is about God, not us, and is more than getting our needs satisfied.

If I were to share a playful image of heaven and hell, I would go straight to a Gary Larson "Far Side" cartoon. In one of his best, he draws a split screen with heaven on top and hell on the bottom.

The top sketch has folks lined up at the pearly gates. An angel hands each fresh entrant a harp: "Welcome to heaven. Here's your harp."

The bottom sketch depicts the devil giving an accordion to each person lined up on the edge of the burning cauldron: "Welcome to hell. Here's your accordion."

If you asked me to be more serious and offer up some guidance for how to converse helpfully about heaven and hell, I would start by re-examining a few popular assumptions.

If we assume heaven is nothing more than a place of reward for good behavior, God might as well be Santa Claus. Santa is a pretty reputable accountant, after all, faithfully rewarding good deeds with a prize.

If we assume hell is primarily a place of punishment, God might as well be a cop. This cop can use one hand for writing down your three unforgivable strikes, and the other hand for gripping the key to that prison called "Permanently Out."

The only problem is that the Bible does not portray God as Santa or a cop.

What if we were to love God for God's own sake, and not because of some perceived punishment and reward system?

Continued on Page 2

There is a beautiful prayer with the same idea: "Loving God, if I love you for hope of heaven, then deny me heaven; if I love you for fear of hell, then give me hell; but if I love you for yourself alone, then give me yourself alone. Amen."

The best kind of love in every relationship is one that simply loves another for who he or she is, not for what we can get out of that person.

Most people imagine heaven as some continuation of their present circumstances, only better. Grandma will still bake chocolate chips cookies for me, but now in endless fashion and with more chocolate. Brother Bob and I will get to reconnect, only now without the nuisance of him dying early on me.

Let's hope heaven is more than just a validation, or a slight patching up, of our old life. A domesticated view of heaven sees it as that prime opportunity to love people we already know. A more expansive take would have us loving everyone we meet. Heaven had better be something greater than getting our needs satisfied. It is about God, not about us. God is at the center.

The self is at the center in hell. Hell is not God's choice; it is ours. There we can live with as much self-absorption as we want, choosing a fixed existence of unending separation from God. No faith, no hope, no love. As the poet Dante conceived it, the door of hell is locked from the inside, not from the outside.

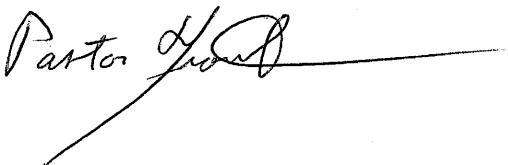
Since the biblical witness only drops hints about heaven, and because Jesus speaks so seldom of hell, we'd be smart to limit our wildest speculations. When engaging imagination, arrogant certainty is not a virtue. Who can really know what it means to be overwhelmed by the glory of God? Or whether the heavenly feast will contain trans fats? Isn't heaven worthy of accordion music too?

What we do know is that "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love God" (1 Corinthians 2:9). The excitement within that claim is enough to inspire us to live the most faithful lives we possibly can.

By Peter W. Marty

Sincerely,

Rev. Dennis L. Trout



Swamp Cookbook

Please reserve the number of cookbooks you desire. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex, social hall, and the bulletin board in the Sunday School wing.

The proceeds of the sale of cookbooks will go to help the hungry.

Sally



Lilies

Easter-Lilies 5-6 Blooms - \$6.25 per plant

Orders are being taken for lilies that will be placed in our church April 20, 2014. Place your order with Joyce Stoner, 720 S. Cocalico Road, Denver, Pa 17517 or phone 717-336-7077.

Name _____

Phone # _____

Number of plants _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

**Last day to order is Sunday
March 16, 2014**

(Must be paid when ordered)

Thank you!



MARCH:

HELEN DAVIES 3/07
138 MEADOW COURT
SINKING SPRING, PA 19608

EDWIN KRAMER 3/10
GARDEN SPOT VILLAGE
E-216 SUMMERFIELD
433 S. KINZER AVENUE
NEW HOLLAND, PA 17557

JOSIE REITZ 3/10
46 BROOKFIELD DRIVE
EPHRATA, PA 17522

MICHAEL MILLER 3/15
65 NORTH MAIN STREET
PO BOX 210
REAMSTOWN, PA 17567

CHARLES BOYER 3/16
90 BLUE LAKE ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

DR. DALE REINECKER 3/22
DENVER NURSING HOME, RM. 101
400 LANCASTER AVENUE
STEVENS, PA 17578

RAY SHOWALTER 3/23
110 NORTH RIDGE ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

THE REV. JAMES B. MILLER 3/25
200B N. RIDGE ROAD
REINHOLDS, PA 17569

MILDRED BLASZUK 3/29
264 PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD
EAST EARL, PA 0233

Just a few lines to let you know, I am very grateful for when you come to see me in the hospital and all your concern for me. With you and everyone's prayers, it sure did help. When I am a lot better, I will be back. Again, thank you to everybody who has been praying for me.

In Christ,
Jacqueline Kramer

Thank you so much for your support and care for our family with the loss of my sister. We were comforted by your message of hope and kindness.

Warm regards,
Lisa "Miller" & Kevin Rathman

We would like to thank the members of Swamp Church for the box, the many Christmas cards, phone calls and visits.

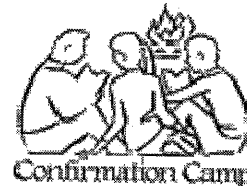
Thanks again,
Grant & Marlene Boyer

Sorry I took so long in thanking you for your kindness. The gift certificate for Weaver's Store was wonderful. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much. I also wish to thank the ones who came to my door with lots of groceries after you were here. They were all so kind and generous. If you know who they were, please thank them again for me. Thanks again and may God Bless.

Martha Leed.



March 9, 2014



The dates for Confirmation Camp are June 15 – June 21. There will be more information coming at a later date. The camp is for children going into 6th, 7th & 8th grade

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

MARCH

Bread and Wine Donor:

March Randy and Lori Gockley
 April Michael and Kathleen Fink
 May Guy and Sue Templin

Altar Guild:

March Judy Habecker, Kaye M

Communion Assistants:

March 2
 8:00 AM Linda Ream, Judy Habecker
 9:00 AM Larry Kramer, Greg Diestel,
 Karen Krater, Michael
 Wargo

March 5 Bonnie Oplinger, Connie Taylor

March 9
 8:00 AM John Frantz, Missy Beard
 9:00 AM Guy Templin, Jonathan Templin,
 Greg Diestel, Jake Hill

March 16
 8:00 AM Michael Wargo, Guy Templin
 9:00 AM Connie Malafarina, Jan Risser
 Bonnie Oplinger, Connie Taylor

March 23
 8:00 AM Rachel Young, Missy Beard
 9:00 AM Jake Hill, Debbie Carvell,
 Guy Templin, Anita Kupp

March 30
 8:00 AM Danielle Witmer, David Borrell
 9:00 AM Michael Wargo, B. Wargo
 Connie Taylor, Janet Krater

Hunger Appeal:

March Hunter Leisey, Cody Leisey,
 Ryan Sandherr, Sarah Zook

Flower Delivery:

March 2, 9 Jim and Kathy Hickernell
 March 16, 23 Ralph and Dottie Good
 March 30, April 6 Michael and Julie Witmer

Ushers, 9 AM:

March 2 Randy Krater, Heather Weaver
 March 5 Council Members
 March 9 David Kupp, Tom Laudenslager
 March 16 Don Risser, David Sauder
 March 23 Lori Hagy, Lori Gockley
 March 30 David Kupp, Scott Zook
 April 6 Don Risser, Tom Laudenslager

Banner Bearer

March 2 Brett Kupp
 March 5 Jake Hill
 March 9 Jonathan Templin
 March 16 Pam Lied
 March 23 Taylor Weaver
 March 30 Sarah Zook

Bible Bearer:

March 2 Guy Templin

Crucifer:

March 2
 8:00 AM Chris Zander
 9:00 AM Michael Wargo

March 5 Deb Sweigart

March 9
 8:00 AM John Frantz
 9:00 AM Leslie Diestel

March 16
 8:00 AM Michael Wargo
 9:00 AM Connie Malafarina

March 23
 8:00 AM Missy Beard
 9:00 AM Anita Kupp

March 30
 8:00 AM Guy Templin
 9:00 AM Michael Wargo

Lector:

March 2 Bonnie Oplinger
 March 5 Deb Sweigart
 March 9 Greg Diestel
 March 16 Lowell Haws
 March 23 Jake Diestel
 March 30 Jenny Weitzel

Acolytes:

March 2
 8:00 AM Rachel Young
 9:00 AM Nathan Keppley, Austin Sweigart

March 5 Cody Leisey, Hunter Leisey

March 9
 8 AM Danielle Witmer
 9:00 AM Jolynn Lied, Hunter Leisey

March 16
 8:00 AM Noah Roseboro
 9:00 AM Madison Weaver, Taylor Weaver

March 23
 8:00 AM Rachel Young
 9:00 AM Ryan Sandherr, Brett Kupp

March 30
 8:00 AM Danielle Witmer
 9:00 AM Megan DeBock, Matt DeBock

Greeters, 8 AM:

March 2 Lori Hagy, Lori Gockley
 March 5 Council Members
 March 9 Ray Weitzel, Scott Zook
 March 16 Missy Ragan, Roslyn Bansner
 March 23 Randy Krater, Heather Weaver
 March 30 Ray Weitzel, Missy Ragan
 April 6 Roslyn Bansner, David Kupp

Torch Bearers:

March 2 Samantha Donmoyer, R. Young



Nursing Home

Earl & Marion Basehore

John Dillon

Richard Eckenroad

Edwin Kramer

David Maxey

Dale Reinecker

Alice Schannauer

Lela Trout

Charles Weitzel

Maryanne Weitzel



Marlene & Grant Boyer

Dolores Becker

P. Casey Coble

Troy Ulrich

Anna Mae Moyer

Fern Frantz

Betty Hornberger

Linda Martzall

Josie Reitz



Our congratulations to Sarah Ann "Whitaker" and Kyle Nelson Weitzel upon their wedding on February 9, 2104. The service was held at Stokesay Castle in Reading.



Ed Hainley – Conestoga View, Room 806

Susan Levan

Richard Eckenroad-Hospice Unit-VA Hosp., Bldg. 1

Sue Kittler—Hershey Med Center

David Mohn

Teddy Elmer – 2 yr. old with brain cancer

The Family of Elmer Kopp

Dane Crowther

Casey Coble

Matthew Uibel – Friend of Sue Kreitz

Emma Sue – Cousin of Katie Koehle

John Maicher – Friend of Connie Taylor

Frank Acri – Friend of Judy Habecker

Roger Martzall – Friend of Joyce Stoner

Fred Mack & Family – Step-father of Marie Smith

Vern Yeagley

Patricia Hyde- Friend of Barbara Nicholas

Carol Jenkins – Sue Kreitz

Frank Snead – Cousin of Vicki Mayhew

Leonard Gehman – Father of Sarah Zimmerman

Ken & Kathryn Sweitzer –Sister & Brother-in Law of

Charles Boyer

(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).



Our condolences to the family of Elmer Kopp. Elmer died Sunday morning, February 9, 2014. The service was held on Friday, February 14, 2014 at Swamp Lutheran Church.

Our condolences to the family of Ray L. Long. Ray's viewing and service was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at Swamp Lutheran Church.

Our condolences to the family of Debra "Miller" Styer. Debs funeral was held Monday January 27, 2014 at Swamp Lutheran Church.

Our condolences to the family of Beatrice Hoover. A viewing and service was held Wednesday evening January 29, 2014 at the Roseboro/Stradling Funeral Home.

SWAMP EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
Treasurer's Report by Major Group

January of Fiscal Year 2014

Responsibility: All

Fund: 01 - CHECKING ACC'T

	January Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Percent of Budget
Income				
REGULAR	18,739.18	18,739.18	0.00	0.00%
Total Income	18,739.18	18,739.18	0.00	0.00%
Expense				
Group 00	2,083.37	2,083.37	2,333.33	89.29%
LEARNING	0.00	0.00	179.17	0.00%
WELCOME	3,533.64	3,533.64	120.83	2,924.47%
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
SERVICE	0.00	0.00	20.83	0.00%
WORSHIP	9.95	9.95	241.66	4.12%
PROPERTY	156.00	156.00	683.33	22.83%
YOUTH MINISTRY	0.00	0.00	66.67	0.00%
REIMBURSED EXP.	234.00	234.00	0.00	0.00%
REBUILDING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
THROUGH STAFF	9,651.00	9,651.00	10,636.41	90.74%
BENEFITS	4,533.04	4,533.04	4,271.50	106.12%
ADMINISTRATION	1,660.95	1,660.95	1,512.51	109.81%
OPERATIONS	2,488.36	2,488.36	2,875.00	86.55%
INVESTMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
RESTORATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Expense	24,350.31	24,350.31	22,941.24	106.14%
Income Less Expense	-5,611.13	-5,611.13	-22,941.24	

MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord (White) 8 a.m. Eucharist Service 9 a.m. Eucharist Service 10:30 Sunday School	3 Scouts 6:30 Chancel Choir 6:45p.m.	4 Service Mtg. 7pm Welcome Mtg.7pm	5 Ash Wednesday Dinner 6 p.m. Swamp Church Service 7:30 p.m.	6	7	1 Safe Haven Seminar 8-3:30 (Social Hall)
9 1 st Sunday of Lent (Purple) 8 a.m. Eucharist Service 9 a.m. Eucharist Service Girl Scout Sunday 10:30 Sunday School Daylight Saving Time Begins	10 Scouts 6:30 Chancel Choir 6:45p.m. HandBells 7:30p.m.	11 Bible Study 7 p.m.	12 Lenten Service Faith United Church (Denver) Service 7 p.m.	13	14	15 Senior Citizen Banquet 12 p.m. Scouts setting up for Sunday 4 p.m.
16 2 nd Sunday of Lent (Purple) 8 a.m. Eucharist Service 9 a.m. Eucharist Service 10:30 Sunday School Scout Banquet/lunch	17 St. Patrick's Day Scouts 6:30 Chancel Choir 6:45p.m. HandBells 7:30p.m.	18 Church Council 7 p.m.	19 Lenten Service St. Paul's Church (Adamstown) Service 7 p.m.	20 Spring Begins	21	22
23 3 rd Sunday of Lent (Purple) 8 a.m. Eucharist Service 9 a.m. Eucharist Service 10:30 Sunday School	24 Scouts 6:30 Chancel Choir 6:45p.m. HandBells 7:30p.m.	25 The Annunciation of Our Lord	26 Lenten Service St. John Center Church (E. Earl) Service 7 p.m.	27	28	29 Can Collection (all day)
30 4 th Sunday of Lent (Purple) 8 a.m. Eucharist Service 9 a.m. Eucharist Service 10:30 Sunday School	31 Scouts 6:30 Chancel Choir 6:45p.m.			February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	