

**Swamp Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**2011
CONSTITUTION**

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REVISION LOG

1/22/2011	<p>Updates found in yellow, deletes have a strike through Update Chapter 11 to include Financial Secretary as an officer, and state the Financial Secretary does not need to be a member of Congregation Council.</p> <p>Add By-Laws section to this Constitution Add Continuing Resolutions to this Constitution Add Synod Amendments to this Constitution (C6.06, C6.07, C9.05, C12.03, C15.02,C20.04)</p> <p>Constitution Committee: Pastor Dennis Trout, Council President Lori Gockley, Dave Sauder, Mike Mixell, Guy Templin, Bob Christy</p> <p>Constitution Committee Approval Date: 4/4/11 Congregation Council Approval Date: Congregation Adoption Date:</p>
3/21/2011	<p>Co-Treasurer updates Indemnification update Committee updates Incorporated Name update Property update Maximum number of committees update</p>
9/7/2011	<p>Update chapters 11 & 12 to reflect terms & replacement of Council Members & Co-Treasurers.</p>

PREAMBLE

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

C1.01. The name of this congregation shall be Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church of Reinholds R.D. 1, PA.

C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."

C1.11. This congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Chapter 2.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

***C2.01.** This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***C2.02.** This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

- a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
- b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- c. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

***C2.03.** This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.

***C2.04.** This congregation accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of this congregation.

***C2.05.** This congregation accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

***C2.06.** This congregation accepts the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.

***C2.07.** This congregation confesses the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scripture and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

Chapter 3.

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

***C3.01.** All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this congregation are to be carried out under his rule and authority.

***C3.02.** The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

Chapter 4.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

***C4.01.** The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

***C4.02.** To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:

- a. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
- b. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
- c. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

- d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
- e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

***C4.03.** To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:

- a. Provide services of worship at which the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered.
- b. Provide pastoral care and assist all members to participate in this ministry.
- c. Challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in their congregation.
- d. Teach the Word of God.
- e. Witness to the reconciling Word of God in Christ, reaching out to all people.
- f. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
- g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- h. Foster and participate in interdependent relationships with other congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. Foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with churchwide policy.

***C4.04.** This congregation shall develop an organizational structure to be described in the bylaws. The Congregation Council shall prepare descriptions of the responsibilities of each committee, task force, or other organizational group and shall review their actions. Such descriptions shall be contained in continuing resolutions in the section on the Congregation Council.

***C4.05.** This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

Chapter 5.

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

***C5.01.** The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.

***C5.02.** The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws.

***C5.03.** Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:

- a. call a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
- b. terminate the call of a pastor as provided in Chapter 9;
- c. call or terminate the call of associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers in conformity with the applicable policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- d. adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter 17, and amendments to the bylaws, as specified in Chapter 16.
- e. approve the annual budget;
- f. acquire real and personal property by gift, devise, purchase, or other lawful means;
- g. hold title to and use its property for any and all activities consistent with its purpose;
- h. sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or otherwise dispose of its property by any lawful means;
- i. elect a Congregation Council, and require them to carry out their duties in accordance with the constitution, and bylaws, and continuing resolutions; and
- j. terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as provided in Chapter 6.

***C5.04.** This congregation shall choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be chosen by the congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Chapter 6.

CHURCH AFFILIATION

***C6.01.** This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

***C6.02.** This congregation accepts the Confession of Faith and agrees to the Purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and shall act in accordance with them.

***C6.03.** This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in which:

- a. This congregation agrees to be responsible for its life as a Christian community.
- b. This congregation pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- c. This congregation agrees to call pastoral leadership from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with its call procedures except in special circumstances and with the approval of the bishop of the synod.
- d. This congregation agrees to consider associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers for call to other staff positions in the congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- e. This congregation agrees to file this constitution and any subsequent changes to this constitution with the synod for review to ascertain that all of its provisions are in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the constitution of the synod.

***C6.04.** Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be terminated as follows:

- a. This congregation takes action to dissolve.
- b. This congregation ceases to exist.
- c. This congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures for discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- d. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in *C6.05.

***C6.05.** This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:

- a. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.
- b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of this congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.
- c. The bishop of the synod shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least 90 days.
- d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.
- e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between this congregation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be terminated.
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.
- g. Since this congregation was a member of the Lutheran Church in America, it shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating its membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

***C6.06.** If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

***C6.07.** If this congregation considers developing an additional site to be used regularly for worship, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

Chapter 7.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

***C7.01.** If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to such charitable organizations or for charitable purposes in accordance with the Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation Law.

***C7.02.** If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.

***C7.03.** If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

***C7.04.** If a two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body, title to property of this congregation shall reside as determined by the vote of the congregation, subject to the approval of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County, if required by Pennsylvania law. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C7.05. Notwithstanding the provisions of *C7.02. and *C.7.03. above, where this congregation has received property from the synod pursuant to a deed or other instrument containing restrictions under provision 9.71.a. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, this congregation accepts such restrictions and:

- a. Shall not transfer, encumber, mortgage, or in any way burden or impair any right, title, or interest in the property without prior approval of the Synod Council.
- b. Shall—upon written demand by the Synod Council, pursuant to †S13.23. of the constitution of the Lower Susquehanna Synod -reconvey and transfer all right, title, and interest in the property to the synod.

Chapter 8.

MEMBERSHIP

***C8.01.** Members of this congregation shall be those baptized persons on the roll of this congregation at the time that this constitution is adopted and those who are admitted thereafter and who have declared and maintain their membership in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

***C8.02.** Members shall be classified as follows:

- a. ***Baptized*** members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.
- b. ***Confirmed*** members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.
- c. ***Voting*** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.
- d. ***Associate*** members are persons holding membership in other Lutheran congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, or persons who wish to retain a relationship with this congregation while being members of other congregations. They have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.

***C8.03.** All applications for confirmed membership shall be submitted to and shall require the approval of the Congregation Council.

***C8.04.** It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- a. make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. support the work of this congregation, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support as biblical stewards.

***C8.05.** Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action by the Congregation Council; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.

Chapter 9.

THE PASTOR

***C9.01.** Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by this congregation to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.

***C9.02.** Only a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended for the congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

***C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- a. Every ordained minister shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care; and
 - 5) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
- b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and

- 4) with the council, administer discipline.
- c. Every pastor shall:
- 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
 - 2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
 - 4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA.

***C9.04.** The specific duties of the pastor, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the pastor shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.

***C9.05.** a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:

- 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
- 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
- 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in the congregation in view of local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;
- 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
- 5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;
- 6) the dissolution of the congregation;
- 7) suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.

b. When allegations of physical or mental incapacity of the pastor or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office have come to the attention of the bishop of the synod, the bishop in his or her sole discretion may, or when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop shall, investigate such conditions personally in company with a committee of two ordained ministers and one layperson.

c. In case of alleged physical or mental incapacity, competent medical testimony shall be obtained. When such disability is evident, the bishop of

the synod with the advice of the committee shall declare the pastorate vacant. Upon the restoration of a disabled pastor to health, the bishop of the synod shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another field of labor.

- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of the synod together with the committee described in *C9.05.b. shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- e. If, in the course of proceedings described in *C9.05.d., the committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action to the synodical bishop, who may bring charges in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the constitution of this synod.
- f. If, following the appointment of the committee described in *C9.05.b. or d., it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint synodical and churchwide fund and with housing provided by the congregation(s).

***C9.06.** At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor shall be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.

***C9.07.** During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor.

***C9.08.** This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make

satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

***C9.09.** When a pastor is called to serve in company with another pastor or pastors, the privileges and responsibilities of each pastor shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the pastors, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.

***C9.11.** With the approval of the bishop of the synod, the congregation may depart from *C9.05.a. and call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of *C9.05.a.

***C9.12.** The pastor of this congregation:

- a. shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation;
- b. shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to the synod; and
- c. shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

***C9.13.** The pastor(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

***C9.14.** The parochial records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of the congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another field of labor or the granting by the synod of retired status to the pastor.

C9.20. Ecumenical pastoral ministry

C9.21. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synodical bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, an ordained minister of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between the congregation and the ordained minister in a form proposed by the synodical bishop and approved by the congregation.

Chapter 10.

CONGREGATION MEETING

C10.01. The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.

C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of the congregation upon the written request of 10 percent of the voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.

C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.

C10.04. Five (5) voting members shall constitute a quorum.

C10.05. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.

C10.06. All actions approved by the congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.

C10.07. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.

Chapter 11.

OFFICERS

C11.01. The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, financial secretary, secretary and co-treasurers.

- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
- b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- c. The Congregation Council will elect its officers and the president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council. If the financial secretary is not selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council, the financial secretary shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.

C11.02. The president, vice president, secretary & financial secretary shall be elected by the Congregation Council by written ballot and shall serve for one year. The term shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

C11.03. The Co-Treasurers shall be nominated by the Congregation Council, elected by the Congregation and shall serve a term of 3 years, beginning January 1st of their elected year. The Co-Treasurers shall serve no more than 2 consecutive terms, without a break of one year between future terms. For the initial Co-Treasurer election, one Co-Treasurer will be nominated for 2 consecutive terms, and the other for a single term so we will not have both Co-Treasurers leaving office at the same time. The Co-Treasurers shall have both voice & vote at meetings of the Congregation Council.

C11.04. Should a position of the Co-Treasurer become vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting. If the vacated position has remaining years on the term at the end of current year, at the next annual meeting, a successor shall be elected to complete the remaining term of the vacated Co-Treasurer position.

C11.05. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), and not more than 15 or fewer than 12 members of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause, or c) accepts the position of Co-Treasurer during his/her current term on Council. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council, except the pastor(s), shall be elected at a legally called meeting of the congregation during the month of December. Their term of office shall be for 3 years, with the term of office beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31. No member of the Congregation Council shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms, without a year off prior to starting another term. Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship the first Sunday of the New Year.

C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting. If the vacated position has remaining years on the term at the end of current year, at the next annual meeting, a successor shall be elected to complete the remaining term of the vacated Council position.

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

- a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of directors of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, except as otherwise provided herein.
- b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.
- c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$ 5,000 for items not included in the budget.
- d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than 5% in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.
- e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.
- f. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

C12.06. The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution, and its bylaws, and the continuing resolutions are carried out.

C12.07. The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.

C12.08. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the salaried lay workers of this congregation.

C12.09. The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.

C12.11. The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president, and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

C12.12. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor or interim pastor,

except when the pastor or interim pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council, following consultation with the synodical bishop.

Chapter 13.

CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

C13.01. The *Executive Committee* shall consist of the officers of the congregation and the Pastor.

C13.02. A *Nominating Committee* of four voting members of this congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. One of whom, if possible, shall be the outgoing Co-Treasurer. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

C13.03. An *Audit Committee* of three voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Term of office shall be three years, with one member elected each year. Members shall be eligible for reelection.

C13.04. A *Mutual Ministry Committee* (in the absence of a mutual ministry committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year.

C13.05. When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a *Call Committee* of six voting members shall be elected by the Congregation. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.

C13.06. Other committees of this congregation may be formed, as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council.

C13.07. Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in the continuing resolutions.

C13.08. The pastor of this congregation shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees and boards of the congregation. The president of this congregation shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees and boards of the congregation, except the Nominating Committee.

Chapter 14.

ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

C14.01. All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation's life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.

C14.02. Special interest groups, other than those of the official organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregation Council.

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

***C15.01.** Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps: a) private admonition by the pastor, b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and c) citation to appear before the Congregation Council. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a. and b. hereof, the president (if not the pastor) or vice president shall administer such admonitions.

***C15.02.** The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor, who shall advise the Congregation Council of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused. The written citation that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council and requests the presence of a member charged with the offense shall be sent at least ten days prior to the meeting. If the member charged

with the offense fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Congregation Council may proceed with the hearing and may pass judgment in the member's absence.

***C15.03.** Members of the Congregation Council who participate in the preparation of the written charges or who present evidence or testimony in the hearing before the Congregation Council are disqualified from voting upon the question of the guilt of the accused member. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Congregation Council who are not disqualified but who are present and voting, and renewed admonition prove ineffectual, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. censure before the council or congregation;
- b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
- c. exclusion from membership in this congregation.

Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.

***C15.04.** The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Congregation Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final.

***C15.05.** Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of a) evidence that injustice has been done or b) evidence of repentance and amendment.

***C15.06.** For disciplinary actions in this congregation, "due process" shall be observed as specified in 20.41.04. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

***C15.07.** No member of a congregation shall be subject to discipline for offenses that the Congregation Council has previously heard and decided, unless so ordered by the Synod Council after an appeal.

***C15.10. Adjudication**

***C15.11.** When there is disagreement among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of the synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

Chapter 16.

BY-LAWS

***C16.01.** This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

***C16.02.** Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.

***C16.03.** Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member provided, however, that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose and that the Congregation Council notify the congregation's members by mail of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting.

***C16.04.** Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

Chapter 17.

AMENDMENTS

***C17.01.** Unless provision *C17.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least 5 voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members by mail of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

***C17.02.** An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C17.01., shall:

- a. be approved at a legally called Congregation Meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting;
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.

***C17.03.** Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in *C17.01. and *C17.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The amendment shall become effective within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the synod unless the synod informs this congregation that the amendment is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the constitution of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA.

***C17.04.** This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*—as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly—by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council’s recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of 10 voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

Chapter 18.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

***C18.01.** The congregation in a legally called meeting or the Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.

***C18.02.** Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of a meeting of the congregation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

Chapter 19.

INDEMNIFICATION

***C19.01.** Consistent with the provisions of the laws under which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt provisions providing indemnification for each person who, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Congregation Council member, officer, employee, agent, or other member of any committee of this congregation, was or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding.

By-Laws

1. The annual congregational meeting shall be conducted on the second Sunday in December following the regularly scheduled worship service.
2. At the regular meeting of the Congregation Council in November, the Congregation Council shall nominate one nominee for each vacancy occurring in the Congregation Council. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual congregational meeting.

3. Church Mission Statement

To know GOD and make GOD known through:

- Daily committing our lives to Christ in Baptism
- Declaring the word by sharing GOD's promise and support
- Serving all people

Together as one in the spirit

4. Officers

- a) At its last meeting in each congregational year, the Congregation Council shall elect a president, a vice-president, secretary, co-treasurers and a financial secretary, who will serve both the council and the congregation in their several capacities.
- b) The president, vice-president & secretary shall be chosen from the membership of the Congregation Council.
- c) All officers shall be voting members of the congregation. If any of them ceases to be such, that office shall be declared vacant by the council, which shall fill the unexpired term.
- d) The president shall preside at meetings of the congregation, and the Congregation Council. In the event of the president's inability to serve, the vice-president shall preside.
- e) The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the congregation and of the council in a volume provided by the congregation, which shall be preserved permanently in its archives.
- f) The financial secretary shall receive and keep record of all income from contributing members and other sources.
- g) The treasurer(s) shall keep the books of account of the congregation; and shall receive (from the financial secretary) all funds and disburse them on

proper orders, making monthly remittance of benevolence receipts to the treasurer of the synod.

- h) The treasurer(s) and the financial secretary shall make a written report of all financial transactions to the Congregation Council monthly and to the congregation, together with satisfactory audit, at its annual meetings. All financial officers shall give corporate surety, in amounts determined by the Congregation Council, for which the premium shall be paid by the congregation. Fidelity coverage provided by the Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed fulfillment of this requirement.

5. Committees

No person shall serve on more than 3 committees of Swamp Lutheran Church at any one point in time, with the exception of ex officio members.

Continuing Resolutions:

Committees:

Boy Scout & Cub Scout Committee

Mission Statement:

To be a liaison between the sponsoring organization (Swamp Lutheran Church) and Troop 95 Boy Scouts and Pack 95 Cub Scouts. To assist these groups in a supportive manner so they can achieve their goal of teaching and preparing young boys for their futures.

Responsibilities:

- Church provides the building for the Boy Scouts to meet on a weekly basis
- Church pays electric and heating for scout building
- Contact the Scout Master and Cub Master to get an update of troop/pack activity
- Report to the Church and Council any fundraising or special needs of the troop/pack
- Give advance notice to the Scout Master requesting their help to mulch at the Church

Constitution Committee

Mission Statement:

To fully understand, maintain, make recommendations & safely store the Constitution, By-Laws & Continuing Resolutions of the Swamp Lutheran Church.

Responsibilities:

- Discuss & recommend amendments to the Constitution, By-laws & Continuing Resolutions
- Discuss & recommend resolution to questions involving any matters of the Constitution, By-laws & Continuing Resolutions.
- Take amendment recommendations in front of the Congregation Council for approval
- Update Synod Amendments to the Constitution
- Keep the Constitution safely stored & readily accessible for the Congregation

Disaster Response Committee

Mission Statement:

To enable individuals, families and congregations impacted by disaster with their rescue, relief and recovery needs.

Responsibilities:

- Development and organization of ongoing congregational awareness and education programs on all types of disasters as well as preventive measures to be taken.
- The dissemination of information before, during, and after any type of emergency or disaster situations.
- Alerting the congregation to an impending disaster or potential crisis and the precautionary measures to be taken.
- Organize volunteer teams and coordinate resources when rendering assistance during a response effort.
- Be alert for local and nearby crises that present the church opportunities to witness and minister through disaster relief.
- Assist members with participation in relief / recovery trips; serve as liaison to Congregation Council for said members and coordinate their needs.
- Coordinate the congregation's participation in community aid efforts and CALM 5 projects. (i.e. Help Build Hope)

Finance Committee

Mission Statement:

Our primary responsibility is to take care of the assets entrusted to us by the congregation through good stewardship.

Responsibilities:

The annual budget (spending guideline) preparation is managed by the Finance Committee. The committee gathers the spending projections from each of the standing committees and assembles a proposed budget. Once it is approved by the committee, it is submitted to the Congregation Council for their approval. Final approval of the budget by the congregation is done in December.

The committee considers various expenditure proposals from both inside and outside the church. Those which are recommended are submitted to the Congregation Council for final approval.

The Finance Committee is responsible to see that an annual audit is done of the various church accounts as appropriate.

Review and make recommendations regarding internal controls and policies pertaining to the financial activities of the church.

Kitchen/Helping Hands Committee

Mission Statement:

This committee is primarily responsible for planning, preparing and serving foods, as needed, for a variety of church sponsored events (Lenten Breakfasts, dinners, funerals, etc.) and for maintaining the kitchen facilities.

Responsibilities:

- **Funeral Luncheons**
The kitchen committee will provide funeral luncheons for Swamp congregation families. If possible, the family of the deceased is expected to pay for actual cost of the food and supplies used in providing the luncheon. No other charges are applied but additional donations will be gratefully accepted.
- **Lenten Breakfast**
This event which has become a tradition at Swamp occurs Monday through Friday beginning at 6:00 AM each morning of Holy Week. Kitchen Committee members will assist in developing the menus and in preparing much of the food, but, it is expected that other congregation members will volunteer to assist. Men of the congregation will serve the Easter breakfast. Free-will donations will help to defray expenses incurred for these breakfasts.
- **Other Church sponsored events**
The Kitchen Committee will assist other Committees as requested in providing food service for selected events such as, Brunch with Santa, Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday dinners, etc.

- **Maintenance**
The Kitchen Committee assumes responsibility for payment of the church's trash collection services as well as payment of the propane used in the kitchen area. The committee is also responsible for maintaining an adequate supply of kitchen essentials including paper towels, detergents, dish cloths, spices, etc. In order to pay costs associated with these supplies, the Kitchen Committee will, at certain times during the year, sponsor fund-raising activities (soup sales, parties, etc.). It is hoped that congregational members will continue to support these events.
- **Food Handling Safety**
As appropriate, the Kitchen Committee will arrange for a food safety specialist to provide a short course on proper food handling. Certification will follow successful completion of such a course.

Kitchen Use

The kitchen is available to other committees of Swamp with prior notice to a Kitchen Committee member. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the kitchen.

NOTE: Funeral luncheons will pre-empt any other event.

The kitchen is also available to members of Swamp for private functions (family reunions, dinners, etc.) with prior notice to a member of the Kitchen Committee. A donation to the Swamp Kitchen Fund is expected when large amounts of supplies are used.

Learning Committee

Mission Statement:

Following Luther's catechetic example through Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, adult education classes, Bible Study, youth group activities and the church library. It is the mission of the learning committee to assist each child of God in strengthening their faith and understanding of God's word so they can spread the Gospel.

Responsibilities:

- Sunday School (staffing, curriculum, mission projects, teacher gifts, etc.)
- Vacation Bible School (staffing, curriculum, mission projects, etc.)
- Church Nursery Staffing

- Library and Media Room
- Confirmation Camp
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Brunch with Santa
- Age Level Recognitions
 - 1st grade Bibles
 - 3rd grade Bibles
 - 5th grade 1st Communion
 - High School, College and Military graduation

Love Inc. Committee

Mission Statement:

To support the ongoing mission of Love Inc (Love in the Name of Christ) and Homes of Hope helping people who are less fortunate than ourselves by providing temporary housing in the Cocalico home, financial counseling and personal and spiritual mentoring. Our goal is to give families an opportunity to put their lives in order and prepare themselves to provide for themselves in the future.

Responsibilities:

- Be a liaison between the Cocalico Love Inc Committee and the Church
- Provide yearly financial support along with other churches in the Cocalico area
- Report to the Church and Council special request and needs of the committee/family
- Provide manpower and resources to the committee/families i.e. move and/or collect furniture, collect food/supplies, help move a family in or out of the home, etc.

Property Committee

Mission Statement:

To maintain, repair and preserve the buildings and property owned by the Church, its contents and grounds.

To maintain a current list of all product suppliers, (i.e. light bulbs, air conditioner filters, etc.) repair companies & current telephone numbers. Two copies of this information shall be kept on file, one in the secretary's office and the other in the mechanical room outside the kitchen.

Service Committee

Mission Statement:

The Service Committee Mission is to extend Christian compassion and aid outside our congregation, to community members and organizations locally and abroad. To help with functions that include: food collection for EASS, birthday parties and bingo for residents at Luther Acres, bingo for residents at Wernersville State Hospital, Crop Walk for Hunger and to participate in Relay for Life fundraising projects.

Responsibilities:

- White gift Sunday
- Crop Walk
- Friends of Luther Acres
- Harvest Home
- Food for families at Christmas
- Food Bank
- Birthday Party (Luther Acres)
- Lutheran World Relief
- Bingo (Wernersville & Luther Acres)
- Pig Stomach Dinner
- Relay for Life
- Home of Hope
- Shopping for needy families (Christmas gifts, wrapping and delivery)

Stewardship Committee

Mission Statement:

To promote the expression of Christian faith in living, to teach the Christian use of money, to spread knowledge of the congregation's local, national and world-wide ministries and to lead all its members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work.

Welcome Committee

Mission Statement:

To share God's love, care, support and hope through various activities strengthening our special family relationships as children of God and followers of Christ Jesus.

Responsibilities:

- Cards for Prayer List
- Cards for sick and shut ins
- Bus Trips
- Cradle Roll
- Yard Sale
- Sports Trips (Reading Phillies, Reading Royals, etc.)
- Parents Night Out
- Game Night
- Graduates HS and College Dairy Queen Certificates
- Gift Baskets
- Cards for Birthdays
- Roses for visitors every Sunday
- Mother's Day/Father's Day
- Senior Citizens Banquet

Information Technology Committee

Mission Statement:

To help communicate the mission and activities of Swamp Lutheran Church to everyone.

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate with all the other committees at Swamp to maintain an updated and informative website.
- Maintain good and effective use of electronic media to spread the good news at Swamp Lutheran.

Worship Committee

Mission Statement:

To assure that worship is a unifying event in the life of the congregation at Swamp Lutheran. To worship and thank God for God's grace given to all in Word and Sacrament.

Responsibilities:

- Visioning (based on mutual learning and involvement in the worship life of the congregation)
- Policy making (including making recommendations to council)
- Evaluating regular liturgies and special events
- Receiving feedback from the congregation
- Training and coordination of particular ministries (lay assisting ministers, lectors, alter guilds, acolytes, etc)
- Planning worship
- Seasonal decoration

Youth Group Committee (SSYP)

Mission Statement:

To excite and inspire our youth through service based activities that plant the seeds of discipleship to help them grow in Christ and become active disciples of Swamp Lutheran Church.

Responsibilities/Service Projects

- Fruit Baskets (Sick & Shut-ins)
- “Soup”er Bowl Sunday (EASS can and \$1 collection)
- Thanksgiving meal for family in need
- Bulletin Recycling
- Monthly Disaster Relief Collection
- Twelve Days of Christmas for family in need
- Relay for Life Team