



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
Mrs. Kathy Snyder - Director of Music
Ms. Diane V. Hafer - Office Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Jordan - Christian Ed. Director
Mrs. Melissa Kerber—Sexton

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 1, 2024

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made!
Congregation: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

PRELUDE MUSIC Selections by the Mount Laurel Christmas Brass

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

C Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #438 *My Lord, What A Morning*

GREETING

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

ADVENT HYMN ELW #257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* — stanza one

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C Amen.

The first candle is lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLEThe Rev. Richard Bardo

FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-10 *read responsively*

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!



**POINSETTIAS
TO BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY**



Please fill out the order form below. Please place the completed form and your payment in one of the green "special" envelopes in your packet or use one of the envelopes in the pew pocket and mark it "seasonal flowers." Please place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

The deadline for ordering plants is Sunday, December 15.

Plants may be picked up on Sunday, December 29, after the worship service.

_____ (cut) _____

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin—names only, please)

6 1/2" pot - \$10.00 each _____ #

8" pot - \$30.00 each _____ #

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Envelope # _____



Foods Needed for the Little Free Pantry

Fall weather has arrived, and we are able to place a greater variety of foods in the Little Free Pantry. Acceptable food items include:

soup ready-made meals apple sauce canned meats
canned fruit peanut butter jelly canned vegetables
beans rice oatmeal boxes of cereal pasta juice boxes

You will find a collection box for your items in the Narthex. As always, thank you for supporting this ministry.



CHRISTMAS AT SCHWARZWALD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00 PM

*Exeter Township Senior High School musicians
present a festive community celebration of carols, readings
and holiday music in our Sanctuary.*

OFFERING ENVELOPE MAILINGS FOR 2025

Beginning in January 2025, the offering envelope packets will be delivered quarterly. The Jan/Feb/Mar envelope pack should be delivered by the end of December.

⁸**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Richard Bardo

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

#435 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

A brief silence.

Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday in Advent / Advent Festival

11:45 a.m. - Light Lunch / Advent Festival (see prior page)
1:15 p.m. - Advent wreath lighting (outdoors)

Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Advent Wreath Lighting and brief service (outdoors)

Friday, December 13 - Toy Give!

In our Fellowship Hall (see next page)

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday in Advent

Christmas Pageant/Cookie Celebration

10:30 a.m. - Christmas Pageant / Cookie Celebration
5:00 p.m. - Advent wreath lighting and brief service (outdoors)

Thursday, December 19 - Exeter High School Christmas Concert

7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Advent Wreath Lighting and brief service (outdoors)

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

2:15 p.m. - Special Music begins
3:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
6:30 p.m. - Special Music begins
7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 29 - First Sunday after Christmas

10:30 a.m. - Service of Lessons and Carols

**Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
250 Church Lane Road
Reading, PA 19606**

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Church Office Fax 610-779-2777

Website www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

9th Annual Toy Give for the Children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry

Distribution will take place at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church December 13, 2024

We are so thankful to all the individuals and organizations that helped to make last year's event a great success. Over 340 children ranging in age from birth to 18 years received gifts to make their Christmas morning memorable. Too many local families are still struggling to make ends meet. We are expecting a very large number of them to be registering for toys again this year.

It takes ALL of us to make this event a success for our children.

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider purchasing a toy or toys for children aged **BIRTH THROUGH 13 YEARS OLD**. This can include toys, games, puzzles, dolls, cars, trucks, building sets, art supplies, Barbies, Legos, etc.

FOR THE TEENAGERS 14-18

We would appreciate the purchase of gift sets: Make-up sets, Nail Care Sets, Shaving Sets, Cologne Sets, Perfume Sets, Hand Cream and Body Wash Sets, Adult Art Sets, (Fine tip markers, graphic pencils, colored pencils) etc. The Amazon Wish List below will include examples of these sets. They are available in many stores during the Christmas season. Teenagers will also receive a gift card to purchase something they would like from our generous partner, Hack Away at Hunger.

Donations of hats, socks, gloves and scarves for ALL AGES are also appreciated. Donations of gently read CHILDREN's and TEEN's books that you no longer need are welcomed.

New books are also appreciated.

All of these items can be placed in the collection box or you can deliver them to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church. There will be two collection boxes in the breezeway near the church office. The box is emptied daily.

For those who prefer a monetary contribution, please send a check made payable to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church (marked "Toy Give") and send it to 250 Church Lane Road, Reading, PA 19606

Below you will find a link to an Amazon Wish List with suggested items you may purchase for the children. Any item purchased from this list will be shipped directly to Schwarzwald. You can copy and paste the link in your browser or email me to have a link sent to you. You can also search for the list named **Exeter Toy Give for the Children of the Exeter Pantry 2024** under accounts and lists, search for a list on the Amazon home page.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2GKV6D9ENXIZV?ref=wl_share

If you prefer to shop online at any other store website, the items can be shipped directly to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, 250 Church Lane Road, Reading Pa 19606

If you have questions, please contact Doris Jaeger at 610-780-9825 or bdj43077@msn.com. You may also call the Schwarzwald Lutheran Church office at 610-779-3480. We welcome volunteers from other organizations.

A God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially:

Barbara Hafer

Joan Smith

Tom Bowersox

Tracy Rohrbach

Barry Hoover

Janice Smithson

Barry Hecker

Deborah Saint

Bob Pendi

Alice Specht

Jayne Phillips

Jim and Lauri Walker

We pray for all those concerns and people we quietly name who we hold in our hearts.

(Silent prayers)

In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of our Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Share the peace with one another.

Please be seated.

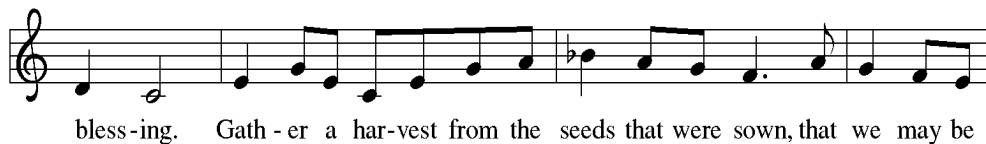
OFFERING

ANTHEM

Selection by the Mount Laurel Christmas Brass

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



COME, GATHER, PREPARE

Advent FESTIVAL

TODAY!

(following worship)

11:45 AM-1:45 PM in FELLOWSHIP HALL



11:45 — 12:15 Light lunch — pizza , veggies

12:15 — 1:15 Crafts and activities

1:15 — 1:45 Lighting of the outside Advent wreath,
gather for crafts and dessert

PIZZA LUNCH

MUSIC

CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ADULTS

**+ A SPECIAL "PREPARE & SHARE" TABLE FOR OLDER KIDS AND
ADULTS TO MAKE DECORATIONS FOR SHUT-INS**

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST OUTDOOR ADVENT CANDLE

Invite your friends and come for an afternoon of fellowship as we
prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child!

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Denton Quick Assisting Minister
Jeff Schmehl. Usher Team Captain
Vinnie D'Angelo Acolyte
Peg Gumpert, Christy D'Angelo, Denton Quick, Barry Hoover . . Comm. Assist.
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr Carillonneurs
Dave Scalese Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome **The Rev. Richard Bardo** as our supply pastor this morning.

We welcome the **Mount Laurel Christmas Brass** to our service this morning and thank them for sharing their music with us today! We look forward to hearing them again at our 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service and pre-service music.

Trumpets: Chip Strunk and Mike Gumpert
French Horn: Kathy Snyder
Trombone: Will Shaffer and Mark Rentschler
Tuba: Tim Simmons
Baritone/Guitar: Mike Byrne

If you are a visitor, a special welcome to you, and if you are without a church home, we invite you to join our fellowship. You are also encouraged to sign our guest register with your preferred contact information. If you do not have a Bible at home, please take one from the welcome table. Visitors who are communing members of other Christian congregations are cordially invited to receive the Sacrament with us. Welcome to the Lord's table where we are one with Christ!

Church-time Nursery is available downstairs in the "Parent and Me" room with plenty of toys and books for toddlers and youngsters.

Large print bulletins and hearing receivers are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

Children's toys, games, puzzles and books can be found in the Narthex.

The December ***Pulpit and Pew*** is available for pick-up in the Narthex.

Please be advised that all of our worship services are broadcast live via zoom to anyone who possesses the meeting passcode as well as recorded for subsequent distribution via email to members of the congregation and posted on the church's Facebook page.

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALTAR FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORS!!!

\$25 per flower sponsor and \$14 per bulletin sponsor
(2 sponsorships available per week for each)
There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Thank you!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Continuous Communion

Grape juice is available at the top of the steps.

For gluten free wafers, please ask the Communion Assistant.

If you are unable to come to the altar for communion, the Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

After receiving communion, please pick up a communion card at the bottom of the ramp. Please complete the card and place it in the basket in the Narthex or vestibule after worship.

Please stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
+ bless and keep you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN #244 *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Selection by the Mount Laurel Christmas Brass

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