



**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 ½" pot - \$10.00 each _____ #

8" pot - \$30.00 each _____ #

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Envelope # _____



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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 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 Selection(s) by Horn Quartet

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.

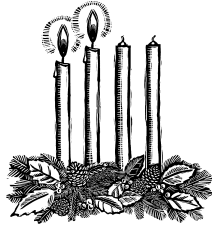
C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #239 Hark, the Glad Sound!

GREETING

P 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* — stanzas 3 and 4

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord’s way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C **Amen.**

The second candle is lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S CIRCLEThe Rev. Richard Bardo

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Luke 1:68-79 *read responsively*

⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people
and redeemed them.

⁶⁹**He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,**

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth
of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹**that we would be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.**

The Exeter Township Senior High School
Eagleaires, Chamber Strings, & Brass Ensemble
are proud to present:

Christmas at Schwarzwald



Thursday, December 19 at 7:00pm
*Come join us for a festive community celebration of carols,
advent readings, and holiday music*

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE.
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.
THE MEETING WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING LUNCH.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent

5:00 p.m. - Advent Wreath Lighting and brief service (outdoors)

Friday, December 13 - Toy Give!

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall

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 (see next page)

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

Schwarzwalder Lutheran Church
250 Church Lane Road
Reading, PA 19606
Pastor Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:
pastorjimsmc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278
Church Office Phone 610-779-3480
Church Office Fax 610-779-2777
Website www.schwarzwalderlutheran.org
Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwalderlutheran.org
Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)
Emergency 610-914-8257

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³**the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us**

⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵**in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.**

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷**to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

SECOND READING **Philippians 1:3-11**

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Gospel according to Luke.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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 #264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

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.**

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

**Distribution will take place at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
on Friday, 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.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Kelly Kline-Carr Assisting Minister
Larry Houp Usher Team Captain
Emma Dickerson Acolyte
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr Carillonneurs
Dave Scalse Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**We welcome the Horn Quartet as our special guest musicians this morning:
Sally Heist, Patricia Kline, Jillian Crotty and Kathy Snyder.**

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.

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by Susan and David Johns in praise and thanksgiving for Susan’s sister, Elaine, and 2) by Ruth and Barry Hoover for Sarah and Andrew Gibson’s 12th wedding anniversary.

Large print bulletins and hearing receivers are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance. **Children’s toys, games, puzzles and books** are available in the Narthex. **Church-time Nursery** is available downstairs in the “Parent and Me” room with plenty of toys and books for toddlers and youngsters.

Last Sunday’s Current Envelopes Offering:

Budgeted income \$4,038.00
Actual income \$3,548.00

Foods 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.

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.

A Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering, especially:

Joan Garipoli	Barbara Hafer	Barry Hoover
Bob Pendi	Joan Smith	Janice Smithson
Alice Specht	Tom Bowersox	Barry Hecker
Jayne Phillips	Tracy Rohrbach	Deborah Saint
Jim and Lauri Walker		

We pray for all those concerns and people we quietly name who we hold in our hearts. (*Silent prayers*) Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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.

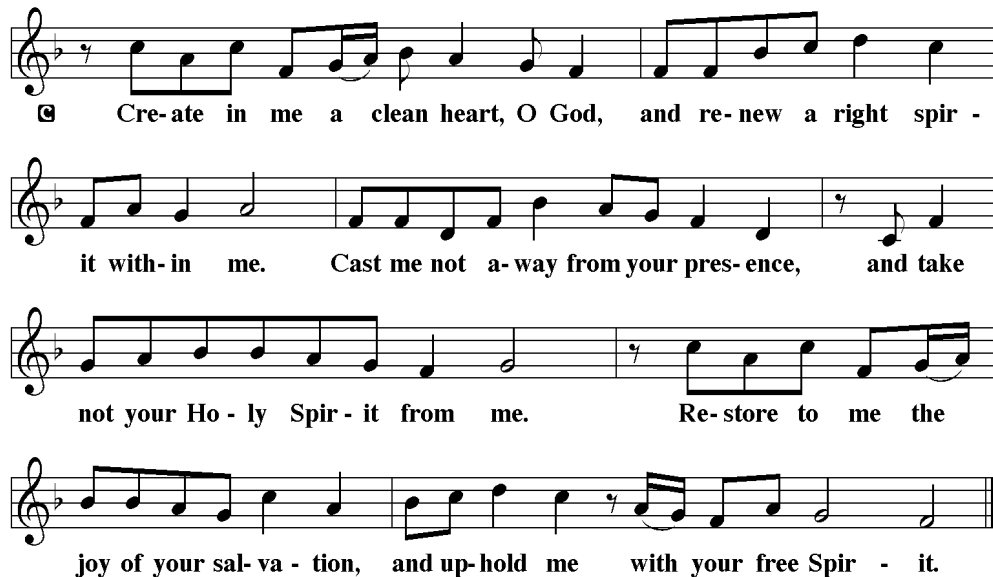
Please be seated.

OFFERING

ANTHEM Selection(s) by Horn Quartet

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

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

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 #248 *People, Look East*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Selection(s) by Horn Quartet

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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.

Follow us on Instagram for SLC's latest news and activities!
@schwarzwaldlutheranchurch

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

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
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Reading, PA 19606

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Church Office Fax 610-779-2777

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Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257