



**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.

TODAY is the deadline for ordering poinsettias.

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024



HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Breath of Heaven*. Bober

WELCOME

Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made!

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

Please stand.

GATHERING HYMN #242 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

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 5 and 6

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, 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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-20

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing
- ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Isaiah 12:2-6 *read responsively* Kailey Batzel Psalm Reader

- ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
- ³ **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**
- ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.
- ⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**
- ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

and

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



Today - Third Sunday in Advent Christmas Pageant/Cookie Celebration

10:30 a.m. - Christmas Pageant

11:30 a.m. - Cookie Celebration after worship

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

2:30 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
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Reading, PA 19606

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Website www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Schwarzwald's Christmas Pageant 2024

Director—Crystal Jordan

We are glad so many of our children could perform with us in the pageant. The names listed are those who we expect to participate in the pageant. We know many children are unable to attend due to situations out of their control. We look forward to seeing them again in the new year!

Cast

- Mary – Karley Seidel
- Joseph – Zayn Schaeffer
- Gabriel – Nolan Fayewicz
- Gabriel's Assistants - Tenley Oldham & Cora Phillips
- Star – Maggie Worrall
- Camel - Scarlet Jordan & Anna Phillips
- Wiseman #1 – AJ Batzel
- Wiseman # 2 – Romeo Wesseh
- Wiseman # 3 – Evan Carson
- Head Shepherd – Trevor Seidel
- Sheep – Jack Murphy
- Narrator #1 – Scarlet Jordan, Anna Phillips & Maggie Worrall
- Narrator #2 – Layla Gibney
- Narrator #3 – Zachary Werner
- Narrator #4 – Seth Moyer
- Silent Night soloists – Jr. & Sr. High Class

Dancer

Colette Jordan

Mary Did You Know Vocalist

Kailey Batzel

Shepherds & Sheep

- Charlotte Bryant
- Eli Gibney
- John Gibson
- Jack Murphy
- Quinn Robinson
- Annalynne Thompson
- Romel Wesseh

Animals

- Codey Fayewicz
- Charlie Gibney
- Harper McCord
- Theo McDevitt
- Quinn Robinson
- Kenton Shaak
- Tenley Shaak
- Tyler Thompson
- Wynonna White

Angels

- Whitney Fayewicz
- George Gibson
- Liam Hetrick
- Roen McDevitt
- Arabella Ninni
- Giovanna Ninni
- Iris Peters
- Abigail Thren
- Dylan Thren

SERVING AT WORSHIP

- Christy D'Angelo. Assisting Minister
- Fred Mohr Usher Team Captain
- Charlie Brumbaugh, Vinnie D'Angelo, Michael Jordan, Trevor Seidel . . . Ushers
- John Gibson Acolyte
- Kailey Batzel Psalm Reader
- Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr Carillonneurs
- Rochelle Chelius Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 Mary Phillips in loving memory of Kevin Phillips, and 2) by Ruth and Barry Hoover in honor of Heather Hoover's birthday.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Rita Seidel in memory of loved ones.

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 \$3,030.00

Foods for the Little Free Pantry

With the cooler weather, 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.

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 #253 He Came Down

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Hail to the Lord's Anointed Burkhardt

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE CELEBRATION
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!
ALL ARE WELCOME!
PLEASE JOIN US!**

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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.

Chorus (Jr. & Sr. High students)

Kailey Batzel
Charles Brumbaugh
Miles Brumbaugh
Vincent D'Angelo
Emma Dickerson
Cara Dobbins
Kolsen Guziak
Lynkyn Harlow
Colette Jordan
Michael Jordan III

Jeremy Kerber
Joshua Kerber
Lillian McCord
Grayson Morgan
Shane Moyer
Joshua Nase
Rylan Oldham
Zoe Schmaldinst
Juryl Sele
Cadence Werner

A special thank you to all of the teachers who helped prepare their children for the pageant:

Susan Bryant
Christy D'Angelo
Julie Dickerson
Jeff Dobbins
Jenny Dobbins
Shelley Fayewicz
Ellen Focht
Sarah Gibney
Sarah Gibson

Beth Guziak
Stacey Oldham
Jennifer Reinert
Dave Scalese
Linda Strain
Christopher Thompson
Melissa Thompson
Steve Werner
Clara Worrall

An additional thank you to all of the people who worked behind the scenes to make costumes, prepare cue cards, move props, and more:

Diane Hafer
Michael Jordan Jr.
Lori Seidel
Carolyn Woodford

Joy to the World

Joy to the World, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ.

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove,

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.

Please stand.

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.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Callahan

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.

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 God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 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)*

Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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.