

## CHRISTMAS EVE and LESSONS AND CAROLS SCHEDULE



### Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

There will not be an outside service this evening.

### 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

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## REHEARSALS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

\*Youth chimes, youth chorus, and any youth soloists need to be here with their parents by 2:30 p.m.

\*Adult handbells need to be set up and ready to rehearse at 5:45 p.m.

\*Adult choir and any soloists will rehearse immediately after handbells are finished.

**Thank you to all who are participating in the  
pre-service music for Christmas Eve!!**



## 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

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**DECEMBER 22, 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!**



**CHORAL PRELUDE** *A Tiny Child Will Come* . . . Sr. Choir . . . Besig/Price

#### 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** #254 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#### 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 7 and 8

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son’s birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C **Amen.**

*The fourth candle is lit.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S CIRCLE** . . . . .The Rev. Richard Bardo

**FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM Luke 1:46b-55** *read responsively*

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

Cheerful and Warm greetings from Christ Church in Allentown!



The yuletide season is upon us, and we are in the midst of the pre-Christmas hubbub! Please accept this note as an invitation and/or reminder to make reservations to attend the **41<sup>st</sup> Twelfth Night Festival at Christ Church**. Shows are January 10 (7:30 p.m.), January 11 (1:00 & 4:30 p.m.), and January 12 (1:00 & 4:30 p.m.).

The process to reserve seats is similar and streamlined from last year. Reservations for up to **six** individuals can be made at one time. **Here’s what to do:**

- Go to [www.christ-atown.org/twelfth-night-festival](http://www.christ-atown.org/twelfth-night-festival)
- Find the “reserve seats” section and click the button
- Fill out the form that appears to make your day/time selection(s)
- When the form is complete, click SUBMIT at the foot of the page
- Your screen will show a confirmation, and you will receive a confirmation via the email you entered
- Arrive for the Festival on January 10, 11, or 12 and check in at the door using the name of the person that made the ticket reservation (*note we are \*not\* exchanging paper or digital tickets in any form*)

We are grateful for your ongoing support; many of you have been supporters of the Festival for decades! It is only through the support of our patrons and business donors that this celebration can continue to be shared in the Allentown community. If you find you cannot use the reservation you submit, please contact us ASAP so we can release those seats for others to use!

Celebrating the Festival each year is a privilege, and our reminder that the season and reason of Christmas does not end. It is left in our hands to carry on and share abundantly! **We look forward to seeing you at Thirteenth and Hamilton soon!**

Gratefully,  
The Twelfth Night Team  
at Christ Church

Please contact us at [info@christ-atown.org](mailto:info@christ-atown.org) or call the Twelfth Night Concert Line (610-433-1907) with questions or concerns.

The Jan/Feb/Mar issue of *Christ In Our Home* is available for pick-up in the Narthex, Vestibule and Parlor Coffee Bar.

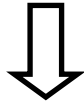
### OFFERING ENVELOPE MAILINGS FOR 2025

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 this month.

**BREAKFAST BUNCH** will meet on Thursday, January 9, at 9:00 a.m. at Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. All are welcome!

**Friends of the Exeter Police** are holding a fund raiser December 23-27 at the Chick-Fil-A in Exeter. Use the code word “police” when placing your order and a portion of your bill will go to help fund the Exeter Police Department.

**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.

### **Volunteer Reading Tutors**

#### Are needed for Ready.Set.READ! Program

Help make a difference in a child's life! Volunteers are needed to tutor 1st grade students who need extra support with reading at Stony Creek Elementary on Thursdays from 9 – 10 AM starting in January. No previous teaching experience is required. This opportunity is for anyone interested in volunteering weekly until the first week of May. Current background clearances are required prior to assignment.

Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way 610-685-4574 or [darbyw@uwberks.org](mailto:darbyw@uwberks.org).

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>**for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.**

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>**He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>**he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.**

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>**according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

### SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1:39-45 [46-55]**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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**

#265 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

**SERVING AT WORSHIP**

Jesse Gibney . . . . . Assisting Minister  
Kevin Kennedy. . . . . Usher Team Captain  
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr . . . . . Carillonneurs  
Kevin Kennedy. . . . . 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 Marlene Harlow in memory of her grandson, Dillon Grier Harlow, and 2) by Marlene Harlow in celebration of her granddaughter Kayla Harlow’s graduation from George Mason University.

**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.

**Last Sunday’s Current Envelopes Offering:**

Budgeted income \$4,038.00

Actual income \$4,426.00

**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.

**SENDING HYMN #279 *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE *Behold the Morning Star* . . . . . Ellacombe**

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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**  
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.schwarzwaldlutheran.org  
**Office e-mail** administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org  
**Director of Music** 484-794-1214 (text)  
**Emergency** 610-914-8257

**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.*

**A** God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

A God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill 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		

The family and friends of Dillon Grier Harlow in their grief

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 God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died especially Dillon, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. 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**

*Light an Advent Candle. . . . . Mayo Sr. Choir*

*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.**