





# Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737  
*Join our family, share God's love.*

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

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

3:00 PM / 7:00 PM

**Pre-Service Music 2:30 PM**

Mount Laurel Brass  
Various Christmas Selections

Youth Choir Chimes  
*O Come, All Ye Faithful* . . . . . trad.  
*Away In A Manger* . . . . . trad.

Youth Chorus  
*We've Come To Tell You* . . . . . Snyder  
*Sing Al-le-lu!* . . . . . Snyder  
*Away In a Manger* . . . . . trad.  
*It's Almost C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S!* . . . . . arr. Snyder

*Jingle Bells* . . . . . trad.  
Annalynne Thompson, viola  
Chris Thompson, cello

*O Come All Ye Faithful* . . . . . trad.  
Nolan Fayewicz, clarinet

## POINSETTIA SPONSORS

*Bev Brightbill*  
*The Dickerson Family*  
*Bob and Helen Dries*  
*Dr. and Mrs. David H. Foster*  
*Diane Hafer*  
*Heather Hafer, Tommy Keating and Evelyn Claus*  
*Charles and Anita Heydt*  
*Marcia Holbrook*  
*Barry and Ruth Hoover*  
*Mark and Joshua Hoover, Marisa Tran*  
*David and Susan Johns*  
*Sally and Kevin Kennedy*  
*The Kents*  
*Fred and Cindy Mohr*  
*David L. Noecker*  
*Bob and Jean Pendi*  
*Mary Phillips*  
*Denton and Barbara Quick*  
*Jenna Russo*  
*The Rutherford Family*  
*Rita Seidel*



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by The Quick’s — “God Came Down,” and 2) by Kevin and Sally Kennedy in honor of their wedding anniversary.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by the Hoover Family in memory of Herb and Nancy Hoover, 2) by Mark, Marisa and Joshua Hoover in memory of their angel, Danelle Wagner.

**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.

The **Jan/Feb/Mar issue of *Christ In Our Home*** is available in the narthex and vestibule entrances. Help yourself to these daily devotional guides.

**NEEDED!! - ALTAR FLOWER (\$25) AND BULLETIN (\$14) SPONSORS**  
If you would like to be a sponsor, please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

**December 29 - Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:30 a.m.**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — Sunday, January 26, 2025**  
Following the worship service, lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall. The congregational meeting will begin immediately after lunch.

---

**Foods Needed for the Little Free Panty**

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.

***GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.***



**Pre-Service Music 6:30 PM**

Handbell Choir

- Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* . . . . . Germany Carol
- O Little Town of Bethlehem* . . . . . Redner
- Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* . . . . . French Carol

Adult Choir

- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* . . . . . Polish Carol
- Women’s Choir
- Come, See* . . . . . Schram
- Angels Lullably* . . . . . Gallina

- O Christmas Tree* . . . . . trad.
- Maggie Worrall, clarinet

- What Child Is This?* . . . . . trad.
- Kailey Batzel, vocal solo

- Christmas Medley.* . . . . . trad.
- Emma Dickerson, piano

# WORSHIP SERVICE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

*Please stand.*

### CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P The light shines in the darkness,  
**C and the darkness has not overcome it.**  
P The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**C and we have beheld Christ's Glory.**  
P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
**C In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #283** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

### 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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE #289** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

P The Lord be with you.  
**C And also with you.**  
P Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Please be seated.*

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

### FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,

## SERVING AT WORSHIP 3:00 PM

Barry Hoover . . . . . Assisting Minister  
Denton Quick . . . . . Usher Team Captain  
Trevor Seidel. . . . . Acolyte  
Nolan Fayewicz . . . . . Crucifer  
Peg Gumpert, Barry Hoover, Denton Quick, Kelly Kline-Carr . . Comm. Assistants  
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr . . . . . Carillonneurs  
Rochelle Chelius . . . . . Zoom Master

## SERVING AT WORSHIP 7:00 PM

Mark Hoover . . . . . Assisting Minister  
Jeff Schmehl . . . . . Usher Team Captain  
Vinnie D'Angelo and Miles Brumbaugh . . . . . Acolytes  
Charlie Brumbaugh . . . . . Crucifer  
Peg Gumpert, Mark Hoover, Susan Johns, Judy McLain. . . Communion Assistants  
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr . . . . . Carillonneurs  
Dave Scalese . . . . . Zoom Master

CCLI Streaming License #20780569

Copyrighted © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.  
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under License #SB094228.

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS025873.

OneLicense.net A-725571. All rights reserved.

CCLI License #11495603. All rights reserved.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**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.

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

**The Rev. Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:**  
pastorjimsmc@gmail.com / 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

**BLESSING**

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE CANDLE-LIGHTING**

P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*As the candlelight is distributed, the carillon and organ will play  
"Angels We Have Heard on High."*

*Please tilt unlit candle towards lighted candle.*

**RECESSIONAL HYMN . . . . . Rylan Oldham, guitar**

#281 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Silent Night, Holy Night!*

- 1) Sing once through in German — words are in the hymnal
- 2) Sing stanzas 1, 2 and 3 as printed in the hymnal

**DISMISSAL**

A Glory to God in the highest!  
C **Peace to God's people on earth!**  
A Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please extinguish your candle.*

*Depart in peace and have a blessed Christmas.*

**POSTLUDE**

Selections by the Mount Laurel Brass

you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

A The word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 96** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD,  
bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD,  
and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.**  
<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>**Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty  
are in his sanctuary.**  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD,  
O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD  
glory and strength.  
<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD  
the glory due his name;  
bring an offering,  
and come into his courts.**  
<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>Say among the nations,  
"The LORD is king!  
The world is firmly established;  
it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity."

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad,  
and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

<sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

<sup>13</sup>before the LORD; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

## SECOND READING Hebrews 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
<sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (1st stanza)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do

## OFFERING

*When directed by an usher, please come forward using the center aisle and place your offering in the manger. Then proceed to the altar to for Holy Communion.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous Communion)

*All are welcome at Christ's table, believing that Christ is truly present here.*

*We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.*

*Children of any age are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

*Please come forward by way of the center aisle and take a cup from the tray. Approach the Communion Leader to receive the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available from the communion assistant who is standing behind the Communion Leader. If you are unable to come to the altar, communion will be brought to you in your pew.*

*After receiving the bread, proceed to the communion assistant, staying on the same side as you are seated in the church, to receive the wine. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled cups of grape juice are available on each side in silver trays.*

*Return to your seat by way of the side ramp. Please pick up a communion card from the basket at the bottom of the ramp. Please complete the card and place it in the plate in the Narthex after worship.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

*O Holy Night* . . . . . Patty Schmeer, soloist . . . . . trad.

Christmas selections . . . . . Harrison Brumbaugh, Cello (7:00 p.m.)

## CAROLS SUNG BY CONGREGATION DURING DISTRIBUTION:

*What Child Is This* #296

*Away In A Manger* #277

*The First Noel* #300

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* #279

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #282

*Please stand.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

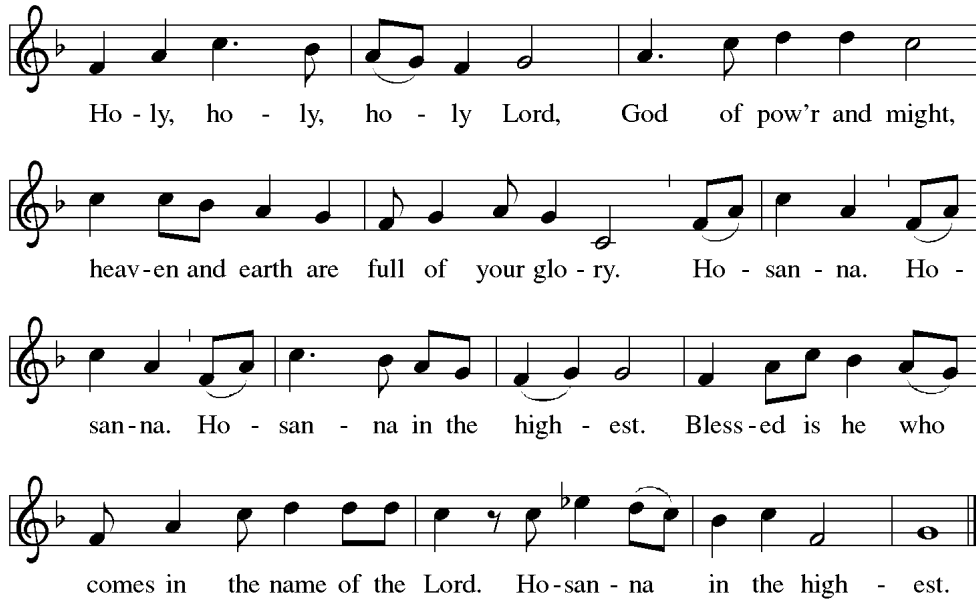
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

P We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

## 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

*Please be seated.*

not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

## GOSPEL RESPONSE

#270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (3rd stanza)

*Please be seated.*

SERMON . . . . . The Rev. Richard Bardo

*Please stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** #274 *On Christmas Night*

## THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

A Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain especially:

- |                |                      |                 |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Joan Garipoli  | Barbara Hafer        | Barry Hoover    |
| Bob Pendi      | Joan Smith           | Janice Smithson |
| Alice Specht   | Tom Bowersox         | Barry Hecker    |
| Bill Hedl, Sr. | Jayne Phillips       | Tracy Rohrbach  |
| Deborah Saint  | Jim and Lauri Walker |                 |

And for all those concerns and people we quietly name who we hold in our hearts.  
*(Silent Prayers)* God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.  
**C Amen.**

**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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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: