

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.

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

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES: January 12, 19 and 26 and February 2, 9, 16 and 23. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

TWELFTH NIGHT TICKET INFORMATION

Performance at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 West Hamilton Street, Allentown January 10, 11, or 12 — Go to www.christ-atown.org/twelfth-night-festival Find the “reserve seats” section and click the button.

Some of **Schwarzwald’s carillon and handbell music** will be aired every Wednesday in January at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on: Comcast Channel 15, Service Electric Channel 19, BCTV.org. The day after airing, it will be on YouTube at: BCTV.org international folkshowsite.youtube.com - playlist



SLC 2025 Souper Bowl of Caring

To Benefit the Exeter Area Food Pantry

THE CHALLENGE IS ON!! JANUARY 5— FEBRUARY 9

BRING IN THOSE SOUP CANS. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE COMPETING TO SEE WHICH CLASS BRINGS IN THE MOST SOUP! THE WINNING CLASS WILL WIN A PRIZE!

IF YOU WISH TO HELP A CERTAIN CLASS TO WIN.....MARK YOUR DONATIONS WITH THE GRADE LEVEL OF THE CLASS.

PLEASE SEE OR CALL DAVE SCALESE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church 250 Church Lane Road Reading, PA 19606
The Rev. Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:
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Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)
Emergency 610-914-8257



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

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JANUARY 5, 2025

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 *Immanuel* Bober

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.

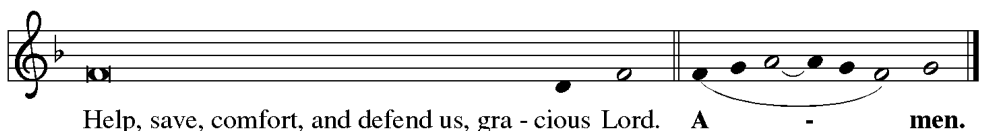
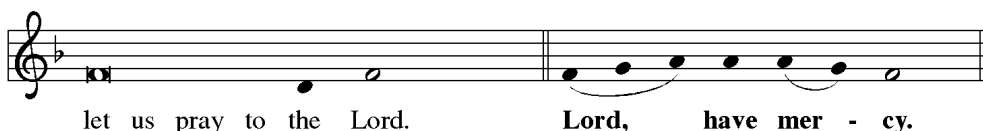
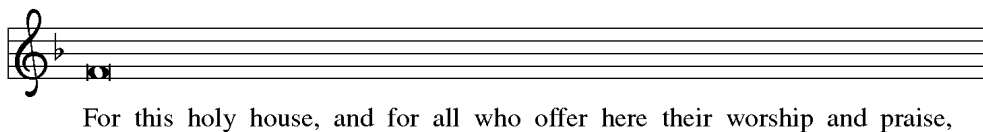
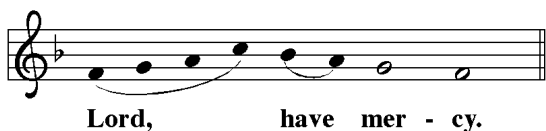
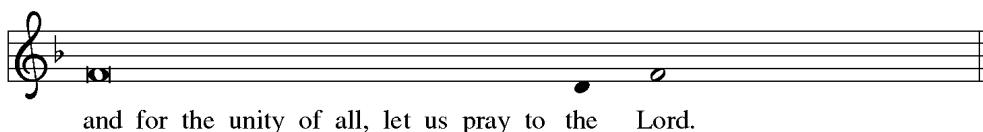
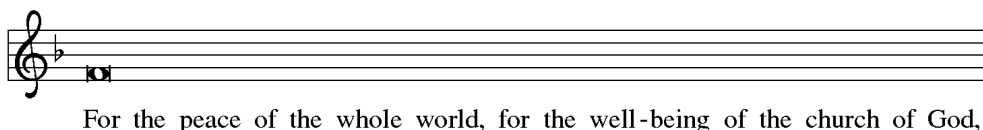
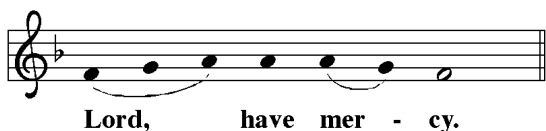
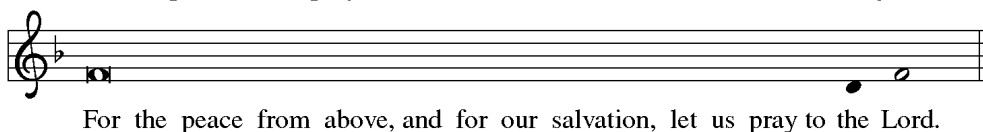
GATHERING HYMN #445 *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

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.**

KYRIE



SERVING AT WORSHIP

Barry Hoover Assisting Minister
Fred Mohr and Youth—Michael Jordan, Trevor Seidel, A. J. Batzel. . . . Ushers
Kailey Batzel Psalm Reader
Peg Gumpert, Susan Johns, Denton Quick, Barry Hoover . . . Communion Assist.
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr Carillonneurs
Dave Scalse 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. 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!

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by The Batzel Family for a peaceful and healthy New Year!

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

The January *Pulpit and Pew* and the Jan/Feb/Mar issue of *CHRIST IN OUR HOME* are available for pick-up in the Narthex, Vestibule and Coffee Café.

Last Sunday's Current Envelopes Offering:

Budgeted income \$4,038.00
Actual income \$5,808.00

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Following the worship service, lunch (spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and butter, beverages and ice cream) will be served in Fellowship Hall. The congregational meeting will begin immediately after lunch.

Please join us for a delicious spaghetti dinner immediately following worship on Sunday, January 26.



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 Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of love,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN #302 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Engel

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 *read responsively* Kailey Batzel Psalm Reader

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
² **May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**
³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound,
until the moon is no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.**

¹¹May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

¹²**For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence
he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

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.**

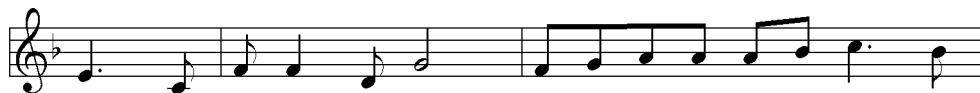
LAMB OF GOD



☪ 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.

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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.

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

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 #303 *Brightest and Best of the Stars*

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 Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

A Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you, especially:

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

We pray for all those concerns and people we quietly name. *(Silent prayers)*
Precious are they in your sight. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace,
C receive our prayer.

P We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 *Child of Peace* Price / Besig
Sr. Choir

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.