

# 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

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 EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 26, 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** *Moderato* . . . . . Grieco

**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.**

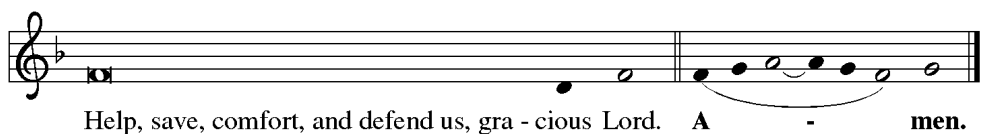
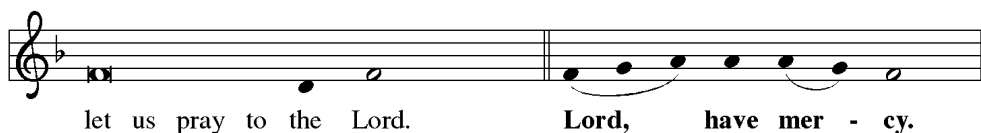
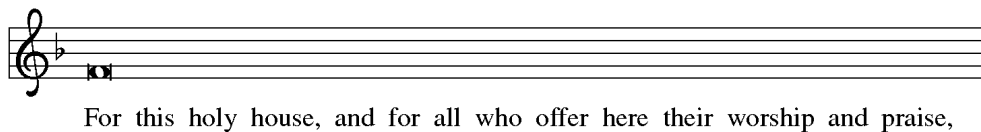
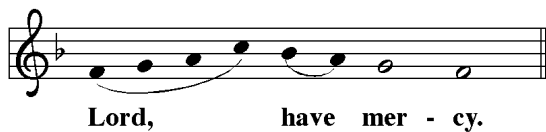
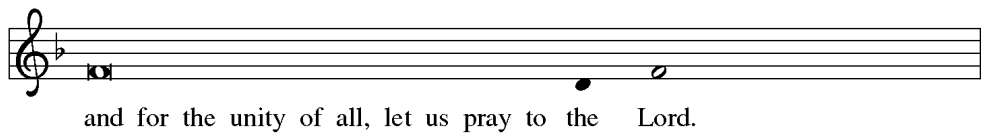
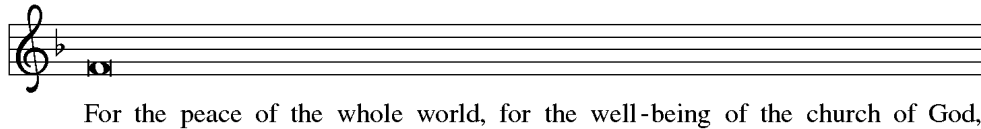
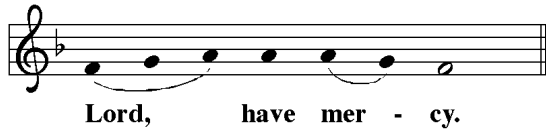
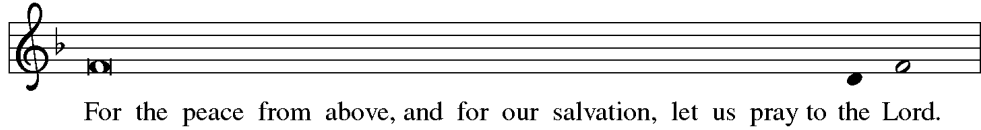
**GATHERING HYMN #308** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* verses 1, 2 & 3

## 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



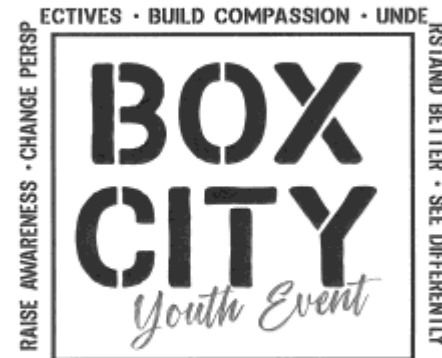
## Foods Needed for the Little Free Pantry

Colder 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.

# GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



March 22 - 23, 2025

A SEPA multi-congregation Event Hosted at  
New Hanover Lutheran Church • Gilbertsville, PA

For Youth Grades 6-12 • Friends Welcome!

Starts Saturday 4PM • \$30 per attendee

Camp • Learn • Raise \$ • Play Games • Worship



Details on Website [bit.ly/boxcity25](https://bit.ly/boxcity25)

Deadline to register: March 1

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church  
250 Church Lane Road  
Reading, PA 19606

Pastor Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:

[pastorjimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjimsmc@gmail.com) or 610-246-4278

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Church Office Fax 610-779-2777

Website [www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org](http://www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org)

Office e-mail [administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org](mailto:administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org)

Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257

**SERVING AT WORSHIP**

Judy McLain . . . . . Assisting Minister  
Jeff Schmehl . . . . . Usher Team Captain  
Emma Dickerson. . . . . Acolyte  
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr . . . . . Carilloners  
The Kerber Family . . . . . 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 loving memory of her brother, Richard C. Wentzel, and 2) by Bob and Jean Pendi in honor of Jean’s daughter, Tracy Rohrbach.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Heather Hafer, Stephanie Hafer Shaak and Jill Hafer Linsenbigler in remembrance of their Daddy’s birthday.

**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.

Your **2024 contribution statements** are available for pick-up in the Narthex.

Copies of the **2024 Annual Report** are available in the Narthex.

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 folkshowsites:youtube.com - playlist

**WE ARE IN NEED OF ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS** for February 2, 9, 16 and 23. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

**BREAKFAST BUNCH** will meet on Thursday, February 13, at 9:00 a.m. at Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. All are welcome!

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

Budgeted income \$4,038.00  
Actual income \$ 0.00

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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

**FIRST READING Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 19** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup>**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.  
<sup>6</sup>**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.**  
<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup>**the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;**  
<sup>9</sup>the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**  
<sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup>**But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**  
<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.  
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.  
<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

**SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then

**SENDING HYMN #310** *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Live in hope.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Sonata in A . . . . .* Gasparini

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**TODAY**, 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.  
The dinner is prepared  
by our Youth.**



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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.

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

*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 The Spirit of the triune God  
+ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.  
C Amen.

deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

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 4:14-21

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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**

#496 *One Bread, One Body*

**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 With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery especially:

- |                |                 |                      |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Joan Garipoli  | Barbara Hafer   | Bob Pendi            |
| Rita Seidel    | Janice Smithson | Alice Specht         |
| Fay Weaver     | Tom Bowersox    | Brett Montag         |
| Jayne Phillips | Tracy Rohrbach  | Deborah Saint        |
| Mark Tiderman  | Suzanne Trigg   | Jim and Lauri Walker |

We pray for all those concerns and people we quietly name. *(Silent prayers)*  
God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

A As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace,  
**C hear our prayer.**

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.  
**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**

*Let Us Serve Him* . . . . . Price / Besig  
Sr. Choir