

ASH WEDNESDAY — March 5

2:00 — 3:00 p.m. “Drive-thru” Imposition of Ashes
Front driveway near the office — Pastor Jim Farnsworth

7:00 p.m. Worship Service in our Sanctuary with Holy Communion
and the Imposition of Ashes — Pastor Donald Simmons

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays — March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 — 7:00 p.m.
We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer* Service

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Thank you for your continued support of the **Little Free Pantry**. Due to your generosity, the pantry box has been filled throughout our cold winter days. The collection box for food may be found in the Narthex. Suitable cold-weather items include:

- Boxes of cereal (very welcomed), Ramen Noodles, Pasta,
- Dried Beans, Rice, Crackers, Dried fruit, Nuts,
- Ready-to-make meals, Mac and Cheese, Packets of Oatmeal

The ideal temperature for storing canned food is between 50°F and 70°F. However, if donated, these items will be saved for future use.

GODS WORK, OUR HANDS.

ZOOM MASTERS NEEDED—Providing an opportunity for our home-bound members to join in on our service is very important. It’s really not difficult and you can fully participate in worship while serving as Zoom Host. **Adults and teens are encouraged to consider learning this skill.** Please give the church office a call at 610-779-3480 if you are willing to serve in this capacity. Training will be provided.

RAISE AWARENESS • CHANGE PERSP
 ACTIVITIES • BUILD COMPASSION • UNDE
 STAND BETTER • SEE DIFFERENTLY

BOX CITY
Youth Event

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

Deadline to register: March 1

March 22 - 23, 2025



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
 The Rev. Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor
 Mrs. Kathy Snyder - Director of Music
 Ms. Diane V. Hafer - Office Administrator
 Mrs. Crystal Jordan - Christian Ed. Director
 Mrs. Melissa Kerber—Sexton

7TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 23, 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 *Motet* anonymous

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 #707 *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Peg Gumpert Assisting Minister
 Denton Quick. Usher Team Captain
 Joshua Kerber Psalm Reader
 John Gibson Acolyte
 Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney Carillonneurs
 The Kerber Family Zoom Masters

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 Heather Hafer, Stephanie Hafer Shaak and Jill Hafer Linsenbigler in memory of their Daddy, and 2) by Diane Hafer and family in loving memory of Scott Hafer.

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.

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS for March 5, 9, 16 and 23 and all of April.

WE ARE IN NEED OF BULLETIN SPONSORS for all of March and April. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

BREAKFAST BUNCH will meet on Wednesday, March 12, at 9:00 a.m. (please note date change for March) at Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. All are welcome!

Thrivent Choice Dollars—Thank you to those who have Thrivent products and have designated Schwarzwald Lutheran Church as a recipient of funds. Continue to check on your accounts! You can access your account on the computer at Thrivent.com/choicedollars or call a representative at 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt. **March 31 is the deadline to designate 2024 Choice Dollars.**

Last Sunday’s Current Envelopes Offering:

Budgeted income	\$ 4,038.00
Actual income	\$ 5,505.00

SENDING HYMN #510 *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live in hope.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Toccata in G minor* Pachelbel

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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.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S CIRCLEThe Rev. Richard Bardo

FIRST READING Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 *read responsively* Joshua Kerber Psalm Reader

¹Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,

²**for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.**

³Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

⁴**Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.

⁶**He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

⁷Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

⁸**Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret — it leads only to evil.**

⁹For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

¹⁰**Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

³⁹**The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

⁴⁰The LORD helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



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.**

A We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care especially:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Joan Garipoli | Barbara Hafer |
| Bob Pendi | Janice Smithson |
| Tom Bowersox | Brett Montag |
| Jayne Phillips | Tracy Rohrbach |
| Suzanne Trigg | Jim and Lauri Walker |
| The family and friends of Alice Specht in their grief | |

We pray for all those concerns and people we quietly name.

(Silent prayers)

God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us especially Alice Specht. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. 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 *God's Hand Is There* anonymous
Patty Schmeer, soloist

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 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Richard Bardo

