

CALENDER FOR LENT

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays — March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 — 7:00 p.m.

We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer Service*

Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. on **March 12 and April 9.**

So, what is Lent? Lent is the season of preparation leading up to Easter. It commemorates the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. We use these forty days to contemplate our relationship with Christ and the call that He has for each of us.

People celebrate Lent with different practices: fasting, prayer, self-denial, and almsgiving. Self-denial could include giving up certain activities or luxuries, or maybe favorite hobbies for the season, And Almsgiving is all about living a generous life. But, be especially generous during Lent - maybe give to the church's **LENTEN SELF-DENIAL campaign**. You will find special **Lenten Self-Denial Envelopes** in the Narthex. Please use these envelopes to add a special and additional offering to your normal weekly or monthly offerings. This year, the Lenten Self-Denial Offering will go to support the Veteran's Stand Down in Pottstown which supports homeless veterans and veterans in need in the Pottstown area. Veterans receive hot food and can participate in a special clothing closet and food pantry just for Vets. They also can talk to providers for services and benefits and spend some fellowship time with fellow vets.

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.

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Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

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

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

Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025 7:00 PM

Please enter in silence tonight.

PRELUDE *Largo* G. F. Händel

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO LENT

A Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey. It is a most solemn day with a mood of penitence and reflection on the quality of our faith and life. Participants may receive a cross of ashes on their forehead or hand. The ash comes from the burning of palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration. We remember how Christ was betrayed, how we betray others, and how our earthly bodies will betray us. We hear the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." We put on the ashes of mortality. The ashes are a visible sign of human frailty, repentance and renewal. It is made available to all.

Silence

Please stand.

HYMN #712 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

GREETING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Assisting Minister. Mark Hoover
Usher Team Captain. Bob Rutherford
Imposition of Ashes Barry Hoover
Communion Assistants . . . Terry Jenkins, Mark Hoover, Susan Johns, Judy McLain
Acolyte Charlie Brumbaugh
Zoom Master Kevin Kennedy
Accompanist Peg Gumpert
Carillonners Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We welcome Peg Gumpert as our accompanist this evening.

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. 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 **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Carolyn Woodford in memory of her father, Lee Werley, beloved Dad and Pappy.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by The Quicks in prayer for our Congregation.

Large print bulletins and hearing receivers are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY / WORK GROUP - 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall every Tuesday. Please join us!

The **March issue of the *Pulpit and Pew*** is available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule entrances.

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

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BEGINS AT 2:00 AM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9.
BE SURE TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS **AHEAD** ONE HOUR
BEFORE GOING TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 8!

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 from the basket at the bottom of the ramp. Please complete the card and place it in the plate in the Narthex 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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

BLESSING

P God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

HYMN #793 *Be Thou My Vision*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

DEPART IN SILENCE

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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.

² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

A The word of the Lord.

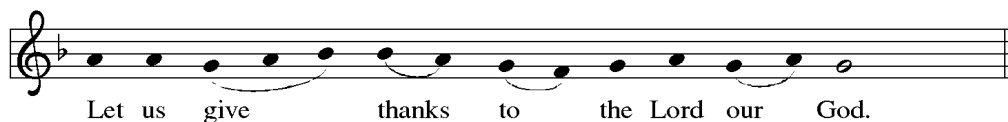
C **Thanks be to God.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

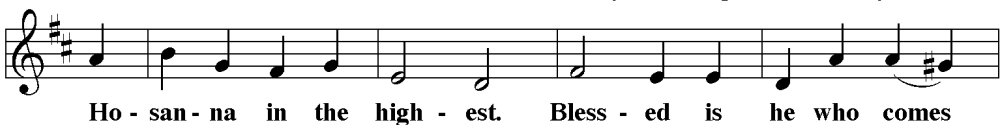
C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

LENTEN VERSE

C **Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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 #328 *Restore in Us, O God.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most holy and merciful God...

C **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Please be seated.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes, please come forward. Ashes are applied to the forehead or hand of each person with the words: *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

Please stand.

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

C **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.**

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM *Ash Wednesday Hymn.* Ken Bible

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bles-sing. 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 dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.