

EASTER FLOWERS

The cost is \$11.00 per plant.

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, APRIL 13!

Please fill out the form below and place it with your payment in one of your green *Special Offering* envelopes from your packet or by using a pew envelope and mark it "Easter flowers."

Please place the envelope in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

----- cut -----

Easter Flower Sponsor

Name _____
(As you would like it to appear in the bulletin; names only, please)

Envelope # _____

Lily _____
 # x \$11.00 = \$ _____

Tulip _____
 # x \$11.00 = \$ _____

Hyacinth _____
 # x \$11.00 = \$ _____

Daffodil _____
 # x \$11.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 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 *Prelude* Wesley

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.

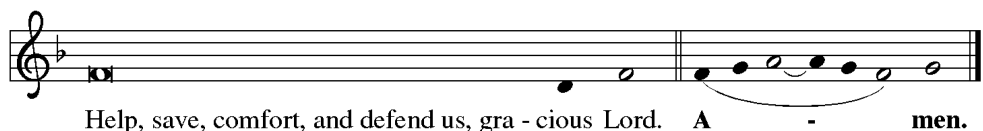
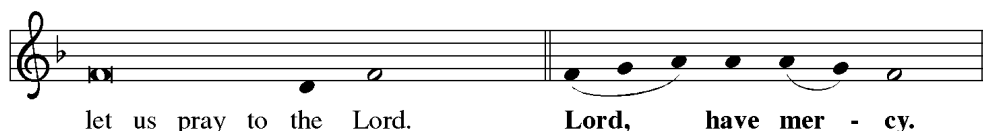
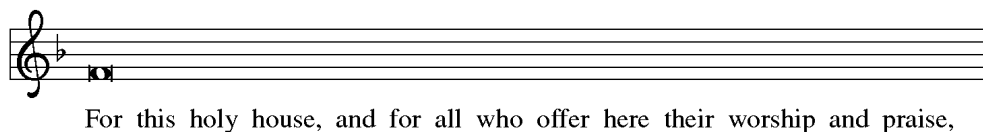
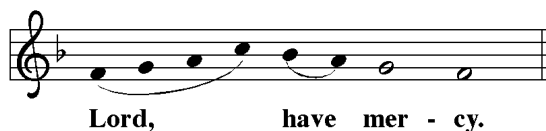
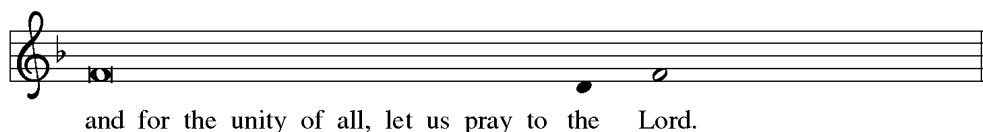
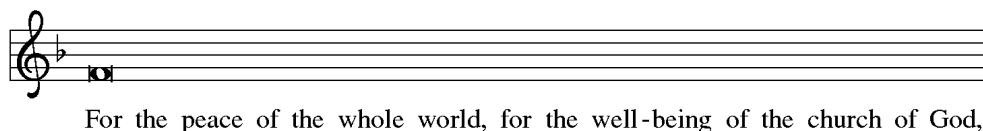
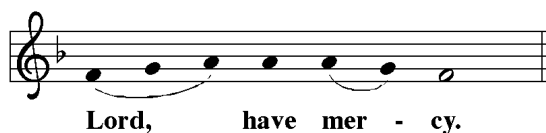
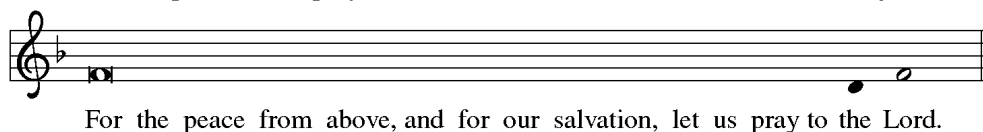
GATHERING HYMN #647 *Glorious Things of You Are Spoken*

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



RINGGOLD BAND



173rd Anniversary Spring Fundraising Concert

Come join the Ringgold Band and the Ringgold New Horizons Band for an enjoyable afternoon of concert band music at our new venue:

Muhlenberg High School, 400 Sharp Ave, Reading, PA 19605



Col. Timothy J. Holtan



Mr. Ariel Metzger

Our 173rd Anniversary Spring Concert will feature The Ringgold Band's talented musicians performing a variety of musical genres under the skilled direction of our conductor, Charles Ebersole. This year's featured guest is the Maryland

Winds conductor, Col. (ret.) Timothy J. Holtan. The band is also proud to feature our Ringgold Band Young Artist Award winner, Mr. Ariel Metzger on Marimba. You will also be treated to the exciting sounds of the Ringgold New Horizons Band.

Sunday, April 6, 2025 — 2:00 p.m.

Doors open at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15.00: available online at ringgoldband.com, from any band member, or at the door | **Students: Free**

EASTER BRUNCH DONATIONS

The brunch will be held April 20 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE ANY OF THE
FOLLOWING FOR THE EASTER BRUNCH, PLEASE
COMPLETE THE BOTTOM HALF OF THIS FORM
AND RETURN IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE BY APRIL 13.

DONATED ITEMS MAY BE PLACED IN THE
OFFICE BREEZEWAY, CHURCH KITCHEN OR
CHURCH OFFICE
BY SATURDAY, APRIL 19.

----- cut -----

BAKED GOODS DONATION

Name _____

_____ Bagels and Cream Cheese

_____ Muffins

_____ Coffee cake

_____ Fruit

_____ Cookies

_____ Danish

_____ Donuts

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLEThe Rev. Richard Bardo

FIRST READING **Isaiah 55:1-9**

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 63:1-8 *read responsively*

¹O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

³Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴**So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

⁶**when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

⁷for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

⁸**My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

LENTEN VERSE



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

10:00 A.M.

FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!

EGG HUNT

MUSIC

STORIES

CRAFTS

PRIZES





**DONATIONS OF CANDY FOR THE
EASTER EGG HUNT WOULD BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED. THE DONATED CANDY SHOULD BE
INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED AND SMALL ENOUGH
TO FIT INTO A PLASTIC EGG.
DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE CHURCH KITCHEN,
THE CHURCH OFFICE OR IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AREA.**



The Congregation is cordially invited
to an Easter Brunch
April 20, 9:00 A.M.
in Fellowship Hall



slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMONThe Rev. Richard Bardo

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY #733 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

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 Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion, especially:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Cindy Fliegel | Barbara Hafer |
| Janice Smithson | Tom Bowersox |
| Jayne Phillips | Tracy Rohrbach |
| Suzanne Trigg | Jim and Lauri Walker |

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

(Silent prayers)

Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

LENTEN SELF-DENIAL CAMPAIGN

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays — March 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 **April 9** (see previous page)



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.

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

Lenten Soup Supper



6 P.M.
April 9

**PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER
BEFORE OUR LENTEN SERVICE.
FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED.
A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN.
PLEASE HELP US PLAN BY TEXTING
610-780-9825 WITH YOUR NAME AND THE
NUMBER ATTENDING....OR CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE
AT 610-779-3480**

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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 *A Lenten Prayer* Powell
Sr. Choir / Christy D'Angelo, flute

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 -

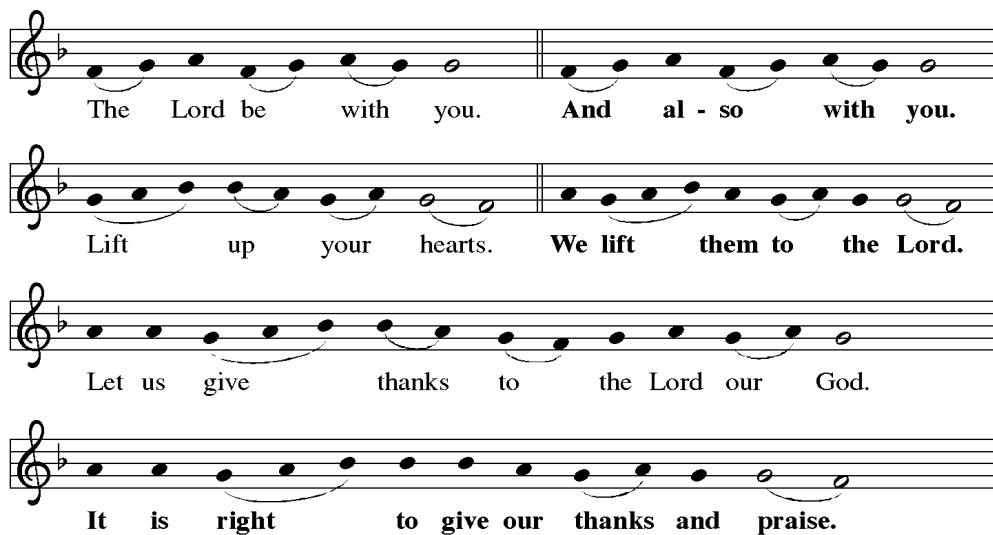


nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



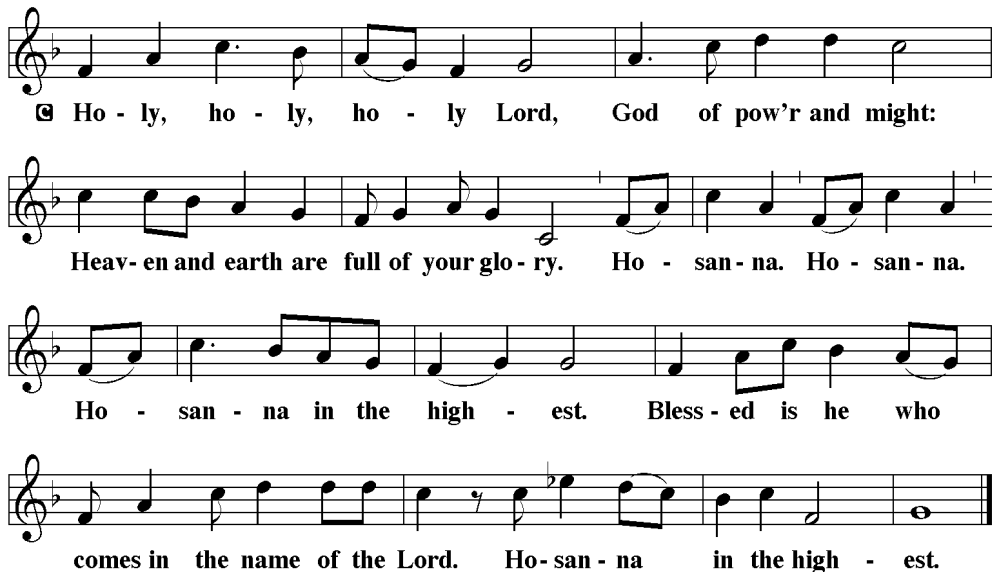
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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



CALENDER FOR HOLY WEEK / EASTER

PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion
Reading of the Passion

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17, 7:30 PM Holy Communion Service
Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18, 7:30 PM Worship Service

EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19, 10:00 AM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20

8:00 AM Early Service with Holy Communion

9:00 AM Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM Festival Worship with Holy Communion



The New Journey Soup Kitchen ministry has been part of our outreach for years. The need is greater than ever. So in an effort to increase the amount of soup we donate, we are modifying our on-call team and extending an invitation to everyone in the congregation. A list of everyone who is willing to make soup at least one month during the year will be compiled. Every month the recipe for that month's soup will be sent to the on-call team and to all the people on the new list, and they can choose whether or not to participate that month. (The existing teams will still prepare their recipes as always. If you want to participate more than that one month, have your name added to the new list.) If you participate, you will need to let Carol Gunzelmann or the soup team captain know your intention and have your labelled soup in the kitchen upright freezer by the middle of the month. 3-4 quart containers are available in the kitchen or can be purchased at the dollar store. Complete the form below to have your name added to the list. Contact Carol Gunzelmann 610-401-5731 or carolgunzelmann@gmail.com with questions.

----- CUT -----

I am willing to prepare soup for the New Journey soup kitchen at least one month of my choice.

NAME

E-MAIL

PHONE

Baptism

THE CONGREGATION IS CORDIALLY INVITED

to the baptism of Emily Elizabeth Miller,
daughter of David and Meghan Miller,
granddaughter of Pastors John and Amy Miller.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, AT 11:00 A.M.

here at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church.

There will be a luncheon following the baptism.

If you would like to stay for the luncheon,
please RSVP to the Church Office by March 31.

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.

thrivent *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.**

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.

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 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.

SENDING HYMN #623 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Musette* Boëllmann

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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.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Denton Quick Assisting Minister
Kevin Kennedy Usher Team Captain
Peg Gumpert, Christy D’Angelo, Denton Quick, Terry Jenkins . . . Comm. Assist.
Emma Dickerson Acolyte
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr Carillonneurs
Kevin Kennedy 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 altar flowers are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by Susan and David Johns in memory of Susan’s mother, Ethel, and in honor of their grandson, Ben, and 2) by Ruth and Barry Hoover, and Sarah, John, George, and Amy in memory of Ruthie’s parents, Frances and Ross Weaver.

The bulletins are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by Mark and Lori Bauer in prayer for our congregation, and 2) by Mark Hoover in honor of Leon Kerner’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 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.

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS (\$25) on April 6, 20 and 27. WE ARE IN NEED OF BULLETIN SPONSORS (\$14) for March 30 and all of April. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

The Apr/May/June issue of *Christ In Our Home* is available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule entrances.

BREAKFAST BUNCH will meet on Thursday, April 10, at 9:00 a.m. at the Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. All are welcome!

Last Sunday’s Current Envelopes Offering:

Budgeted income \$4,038.00
Actual income \$2,990.00