

# 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

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**APRIL 6, 2025**

## HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TEMPLE TALK / TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADER

Collin Grooms. . . . .Executive Director, Bear Creek Camp

**WELCOME** Denton: This is the day that the LORD has made!  
**Congregation:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**PRELUDE** *Adagio*. . . . . Corelli

## CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

*Please stand.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L 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.**

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

L 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.**

L God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By His grace you have been saved and your sins forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**



## GATHERING HYMN

#338 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

## GREETING

L 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

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all 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.*

## CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

Collin Grooms  
Executive Director  
Bear Creek Camp



# Sunday Sinfonia

Music is the Tie That Binds

**April 12, 2025**  
**3PM**  
**Bern Reformed UCC**  
3196 Bernville Rd (Rt 183)  
Leesport, PA

**April 13, 2025**  
**3PM**  
**Schwarzwald Lutheran Church**  
250 Church Lane Rd  
Reading, PA

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church  
250 Church Lane Road  
Reading, PA 19606

Pastor Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:  
pastorjimsmc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278

Church Office Phone 610-779-3480

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

# 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.

# TODAY — 2:00 p.m.

Doors open at 1:00 p.m.

**Tickets \$15.00:** available online at [ringgoldband.com](http://ringgoldband.com), from any band member, or at the door | **Students: Free**

### A **FIRST READING** Isaiah 43:16-21

- <sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### A **PSALM 126** *read responsively*

- <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup> **Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them."**  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.  
<sup>4</sup> **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**  
<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.  
<sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.**

## A SECOND READING Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

<sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## LENTEN VERSE



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



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

L The Gospel according to John.

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

## L HOLY GOSPEL John 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

## 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.

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## BAKED GOODS DONATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Bagels and Cream Cheese

\_\_\_\_\_ Muffins

\_\_\_\_\_ Coffee cake

\_\_\_\_\_ Fruit

\_\_\_\_\_ Cookies

\_\_\_\_\_ Danish

\_\_\_\_\_ Donuts

### **“The More the Merrier”**

As most of you know, when Pr. Jim begins his term as our Sunday minister on April 27, 2025, we will also begin having Communion every Sunday. For the Worship and Music Committee, this means we need to expand our Communion Team to include more Communion Assistants.

The main duty of an assistant is to pour the wine for each communicant. There are no recurring meetings to attend or any other responsibilities outside of Sunday mornings or a few special services such as Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday. We are asking each of you to give this opportunity some thought. You can call the church office, 610-779-3480, or myself, 610-777-8981. Diane or I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**I have scheduled a short meeting for after church on April 13, 2025, to explain fully what the job entails. We will meet in the choir room downstairs. Even if you only think you “might” be interested, please join us.**

I hope to see you there, Susan Johns, Chair

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### **THE JANET GRIESEMER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Through Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, two \$750 scholarships will be awarded to applicants (graduating high school seniors only) planning to continue their education beyond high school.

The applicant may attend any school district or be home-schooled.

#### **Scholarship Application Process**

The application, which has 4 questions to answer, may be obtained from the church office by calling or emailing.

The completed application, **along with your transcript**, must be returned by Friday, May 9, 2025, either by dropping it off at the church office, Attention: Scholarship Committee, or by e-mailing it to: [administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org](mailto:administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org) and placing “Scholarship Application” in the subject line.



<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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

*Please be seated.*

### **SERMON**

Collin Grooms  
Executive Director, Bear Creek Camp

*Please stand.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

#629 *Abide With Me*

### **L/C 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

L 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 The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need, especially:

Cindy Fliegel	Barbara Hafer
Kurt Schmaldinst	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)*

May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

# Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

**10:00 A.M.**

**FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!**

**EGG HUNT**

**MUSIC**

**STORIES**

**CRAFTS**

**PRIZES**



## LENTEN SELF-DENIAL CAMPAIGN

### Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays — April 9 — 7:00 p.m.

We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer Service*

**Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m.** (please see next 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.



A The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

L 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

L 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** *The Holy City* . . . . . Adams  
Patty Schmeer, soloist

*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.

**L/C 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**

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

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** #754 *Jesus, the Very Thought of You*

**DISMISSAL**

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Andante* . . . . . Telemann

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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.



**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 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

EMAIL

PHONE



Please place completed form in the offering plate or drop off at the church office.  
Thank you!



# 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**

### SERVING AT WORSHIP

Mark Hoover . . . . . Assisting Minister  
Jeff Schmehl . . . . . Usher Captain  
John Gibson . . . . . Acolyte  
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr . . . . . Carillonneurs  
Dave Scalese . . . . . Zoom Master

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome Collin Grooms, Executive Director of Bear Creek Camp in Wilkes-Barre, PA, as our worship leader 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 Ruth Hoover in memory of a dear friend, and 2) by the Seidel Family in memory of Frances Seidel on her birthday.

The **special flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Patty Schmeer in memory of her mother Annamay Schadler on her birthday.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Peg and Mike Gumpert in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

**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. **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** for April 27 and all of May. **WE ARE IN NEED OF BULLETIN SPONSORS** for all of April and May. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

The **April issue** of our *Pulpit and Pew* newsletter and the **Apr/May/June issue of Christ In Our Home** are 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 \$ 1,965.00

### **SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE**

During the month of April, the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting **clean, gently-used clothing** for the **Hope Rescue Mission**. Personal care items, such as razors, deodorant, body wash and shampoo, as well as new, packaged men's underwear is also welcome.

Place all donations in the marked bin found in the Narthex. The **final collection day will be Sunday, April 27.**

Thank you for your generosity and support!

**GODS WORK, OUR HANDS.**

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

### **CALENDER FOR LENT / HOLY WEEK / EASTER**

#### **MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

Wednesday — April 9 — 7:00 p.m.

We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer Service*

Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m.

*(see next page for additional information)*

#### **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 Brunch in Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM Festival Worship with Holy Communion