



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

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

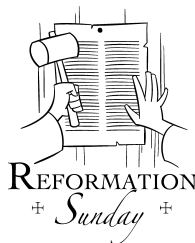
REFORMATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 26, 2025 10:45 A.M.

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Selection by Mount Laurel Brass Quintet*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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 Most 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.

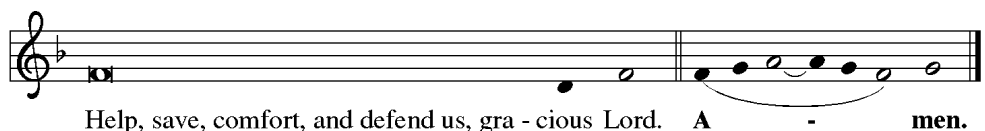
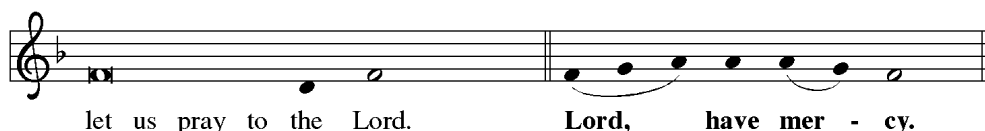
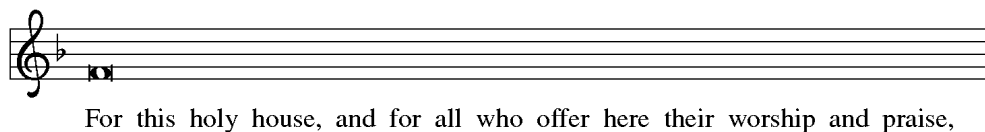
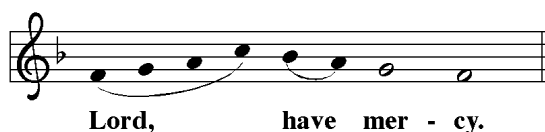
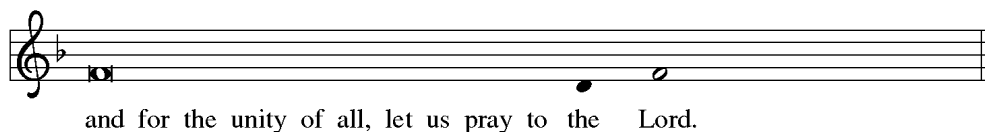
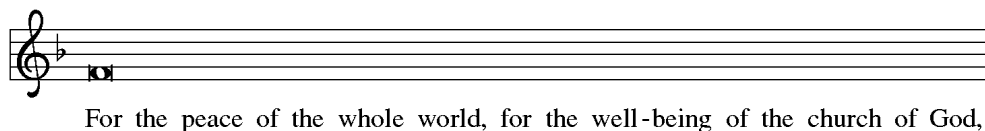
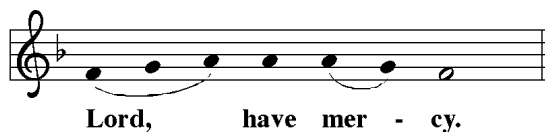
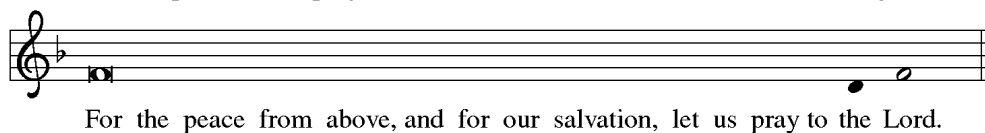
GATHERING HYMN #632 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

GREETING

P 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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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. Jim Farnsworth

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46 *read responsively*

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ²**Therefore we will not fear,**
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- ³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶**The nations are in an uproar,**
the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸**Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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 Holy Gospel according to John.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 8:31-36

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY #631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation. Please welcome The Rev. David Blitch, Anita Wentzel, Thomas Laughlin, Rebecca Ganster

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 Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

A Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. Sustain the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Bishops Yehiel and Christopher and for all our local ministries that we may all witness to your abundant love. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. We continue to pray for the people of the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia that they may be protected against the violence of war and find everlasting peace. We also pray for the churches, the schools, and the communities in America that we may find your peace and end the devastation of gun violence in our communities. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill, especially:

Ken Bryant	Bob & Cindy Fliegel	Barbara Hafer
Connie Harman	Barry & Ruth Hoover	Larry & Priscilla Houpp
Gwen Kauwell	Andy Kent	Mary Phillips
Zoe Schmaldinst	Walt Smithson	Pat Weiser
Pastor & Barb Bardo	Sarah Blatt	Debra Hoerner
Jayne Phillips	Jackie Rohrbach	Tracy Rohrbach
Betty Scollick	Audrey Seltzer	Jim & Lauri Walker

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

Silent prayers.

Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,
C **receive our prayer.**

P We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 *Selection by Mount Laurel Brass Quintet*

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.

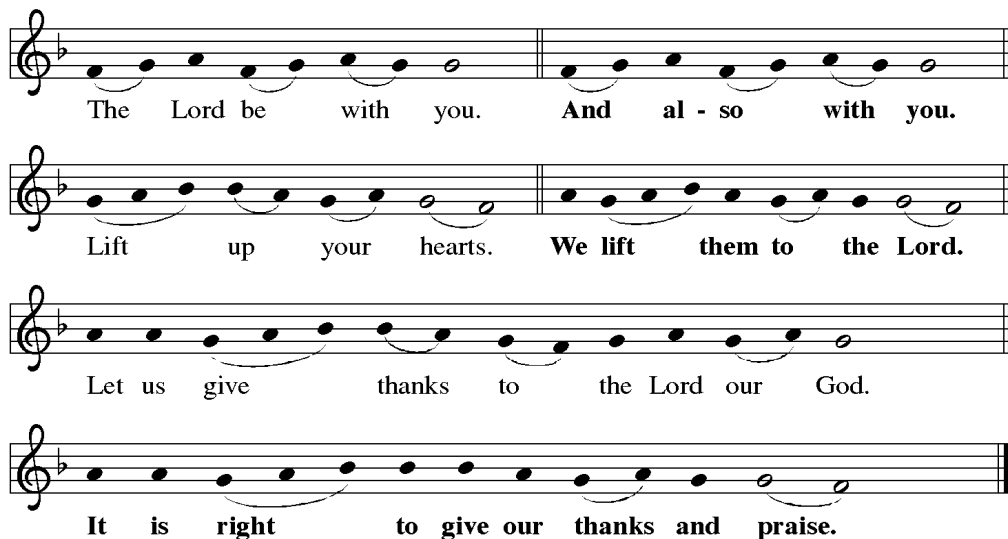
OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

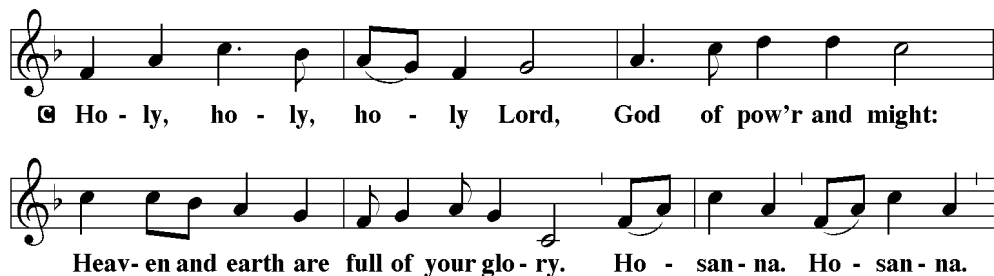
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

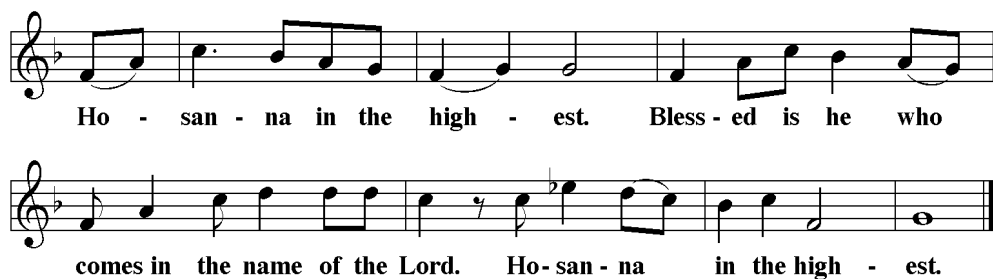
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of the reformers you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with Martin Luther and all of the Reformers, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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

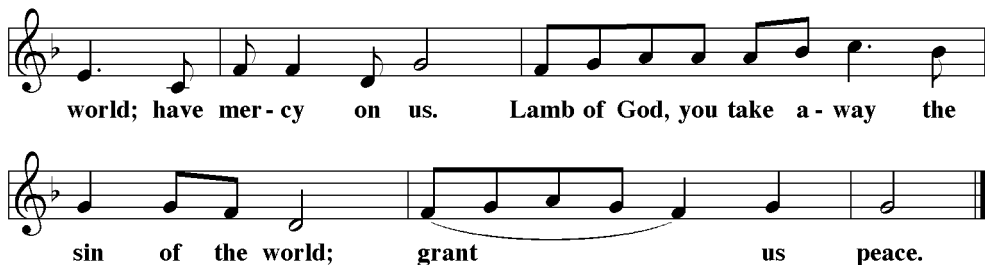
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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





Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Continuous Communion

Proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle.

If preferred, grape juice is available at the top of the steps.

For gluten free wafers, please ask the Communion Assistant.

After receiving communion, please return to your seat by way of the side ramps.

If you are unable to come to the altar for communion,
the Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

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

A O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN *We Gather Here* Sung to the tune of *A Mighty Fortress*

275th Anniversary Hymn for Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Text written by Patricia Weiser, July 4, 2011

1. (Present)

We gath-er here to wor-ship our God
And praise Him for His in-fin-ite Love,
He guards and guides as on we plod,
And leads us to our home a-bove.
He is our Strength and Shield,
To e-vil we won't yield,
We stand u-nit-ed, strong,
To fight a-gainst all wrong,
And we are His, for-ev-er sealed.

2. (Past)

We hon-or those who came be-fore,
They gave us an ex-am-ple true.
And as they did in days of yore
We en-ter here to praise a-new.
Their faith was strong in-deed,
And God was there to lead,
To guide them in their strife,
Sup-port them in their life,
And with His ho-ly man-na feed.

3. (Future)

O God of fu-ture, past and now,
We wor-ship and a-dore Thee,
Help us to show our chil-dren how
Your love has made, and keeps them, free.
En-ab-le them to know
Your love, and let them grow,
That there will al-ways be
A church to hon-or Thee,
And in Your Name good seeds to sow.

4. (Past, Present and Future)

We join with all the saints gone by
And those who fol-low af-ter us too
Our God to wor-ship and glo-ri-fy
In all we think and say and do.
Our Tri-une God we praise,
And loud our voices raise
To hon-or and a-dore
His throne we kneel be-fore
Now and for-ev-er, all our days.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Selection by the Mount Laurel Brass Quintet*

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SERVING AT WORSHIP

Denton Quick	Assisting Minister
Larry Houp	Usher Team Captain
Colette Jordan	Acolyte
Denton Quick, Susan Johns, Judy McLain	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney	Carillonneurs
Rochelle Chelius	Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Mount Laurel Brass Quintet as our guest musicians this morning:

Chip Strunk — Trumpet
Mike Gumpert — Trumpet
Kathleen Boyer — French Horn
Mark Brumbach — Trombone
Andy Rowe — Tuba

We thank Peg Gumpert for serving as our supply pianist 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 Rita Seidel in loving memory of Rock Seidel, and 2) by Anita Wentzel in memory of Marlene Harlow and in honor of Lynkyn Harlow's 16th birthday.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Dori Russo, and Gary and Scott Seidel in loving memory of Rock Seidel.

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.

Altar flower sponsors (\$25) and **bulletin sponsors** (\$14) are needed for all of November and December. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Handbell rehearsal—Thursday, October 30 at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Penn State Extension webinar on food safety for volunteers

Penn State Extension is offering a webinar on food safety for volunteers on November 6th at 6:00 p.m.

For more details and information, please visit their website —
<https://www.psu.edu/news/agricultural-sciences>

<https://extension.psu.edu/cooking-for-crowds-webinar>

Volunteers who help prepare and serve food for their nonprofit organization are encouraged to attend.

Penn State extension educators and faculty serve as instructors and are certified by the National Restaurant Association. All have received training on the most current food safety research.

Participants receive a certificate of completion after attending the program.

REMINDER

Daylight Savings time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2.
**Set your clocks BACK one hour at bedtime
this Saturday night, November 1.**



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
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Reading, PA 19606
Pastor Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:
pastorjimsmc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278
Pastor David Blitch, Visitation Pastor:
upsygrad@msn.com
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

COME, GATHER, PREPARE *Advent* FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

(following worship)

11:45 AM-1:45 PM in FELLOWSHIP HALL



11:45 —12:15 Light lunch — pizza , veggies

12:15 — 1:15 Crafts and activities

1:15 — 1:45 Lighting of the outside Advent wreath,
gather for crafts and dessert

PIZZA LUNCH

MUSIC

CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ADULTS

**+ A SPECIAL "PREPARE & SHARE" TABLE FOR OLDER KIDS AND
ADULTS TO MAKE DECORATIONS FOR SHUT-INS**

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST OUTDOOR ADVENT CANDLE

Invite your friends and come for an afternoon of fellowship as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child!

10th Annual Toy Give
for the Children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry
December 12, 2025
Distribution will take place at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

We are so thankful to all the individuals and organizations that helped to make last year's event a great success. Over **440 children** ranging in age from birth to 18 years received gifts to make Christmas morning memorable. Too many local families are still struggling to make ends meet. We are expecting a very large number of them to be registering for toys again this year.

It takes a village to make this event a success!

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider purchasing a toy or toys for children aged **BIRTH THROUGH 13 YEARS OLD**. This can include toys, games, puzzles, dolls, cars, trucks, building sets, art supplies, Barbies, Legos, etc.

FOR THE TEENAGERS 14-18

Please note that we **ARE NOT** asking for filled shoeboxes this year.

Instead, we would appreciate the purchase of gift sets: Make-up sets, Nail Care Sets, Shaving Sets, Cologne Sets, Perfume Sets, Hand Cream and Body Wash Sets, Adult Art Sets, (Fine tip markers, graphic pencils, colored pencils) etc.

The Amazon Wish List below will include examples of these sets. They are available in many stores during the Christmas season. Teenagers will also receive a gift card to purchase something they would like from our generous partner, Hack Away at Hunger.

Donations of hats, socks, gloves and scarves for **ALL AGES** are also appreciated.

Donations of gently read **CHILDREN's** and **TEEN's** books that you no longer need are welcomed.
New books are also appreciated.

All of these items can be placed in the collection box or you can deliver them to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church. There will be two collection boxes in the breezeway near the church office. The box is emptied daily.

For those who prefer a monetary contribution, please send a check made payable to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church (marked "Toy Give") and send it to 250 Church Lane Road, Reading, PA 19606

Below you will find a link to an Amazon Wish List with suggested items you may purchase for the children in case you are looking for a little help choosing. Any item purchased from this list will be shipped directly to Schwarzwald. You can copy and paste the link in your browser or email me to have a link sent to you. You can also search for the list named Exeter Toy Give 2025 under accounts and lists, search for a list on the Amazon home page.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/305TZ4QONCJV3?ref=wl_share

If you prefer to shop online at any other store website, the items can be shipped directly to Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, 250 Church Lane Road, Reading Pa 19606

If you have questions, please contact Doris Jaeger at 610-780-9825 or bdj43077@msn.com.
You may also call the Schwarzwald Lutheran Church office at 610-779-3480.

NYC BUS TRIP

WITH ST. MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Free Time
in the city!**

Benefits: St. Mark's
Youth Mission Trip

Saturday, December 6th, 2025

Depart from St. Mark's @ 7:30AM

Free time in NYC from

10:30AM to 8PM

Depart from NYC @ 8:00PM

\$75/person

Per Klein's - must be at least 4 yrs old

Due by Oct 31st



SHOP! • SEE A SHOW! • BE A FOODIE! • SIGHTSEE!

Name(s): _____

of Seats: _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Deadline to register
is October 31!