### *PULPIT AND PEW*

#### OCTOBER 2025

Volume 63. Issue 10

What is forgiveness? At the memorial of her husband, Charlie Kirk's wife, Erika, stated that she has already forgiven the person who killed her husband. Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. But what does this mean? And, do we really mean this? Do we really mean that we forgive those who have sinned against us? I think most of us do but there are some who just don't understand. They just don't get it. They don't understand what the consequences are if we do not forgive those who sin against us.

To answer that question, we need to first understand what forgiveness is. Forgiveness is a conscious decision to let go of the resentment and anger that we have against those who have hurt us or wronged us. It is a conscious decision not to seek any kind of revenge or vengeance against them. Many people think forgiveness is about the other person, but it really isn't. It is about us. Forgiveness is about our internal resolution to let go of the anger so that we can heal. It is about our inner peace and well-being. Forgiving gives us peace. It gives us healing. It makes us whole. It allows us to move forward from the hurt and pain that we are suffering.

Forgiving is not about forgetting. It is not about condoning the activity that hurt us. It is not about reconciling with the person and making your previous relationship (if there was one) whole again. It is not about releasing the other person from accountability or punishment.

It is about releasing ourselves from the hurt. It is about releasing ourselves from the oppressive grief we are suffering. It is about letting go of the anger that is drowning us. It is about allowing ourselves to heal spiritually and emotionally and restoring our mental and spiritual health.

We need to learn to practice active forgiving. When someone wrongs us, we need to learn to forgive them. When someone hurts us, we need to learn to forgive them. We are called by God to forgive and love our enemies, not to seek revenge or retribution on them, or to wish evil or bad things on them.

WE need to lead by example here, teaching our children how to forgive those

who they feel have wronged them. We need to encourage our neighbors to forgive those who have wronged them. This needs to be taught, not only in church, but in school, in places of work, in politics, in leadership, and on social media. Our leaders need to stop spouting hatred against each other and learn to work together for the well-being of our communities and our nation. And we need to demand this from our leaders. We need to stop spewing hate on those who don't agree with us on social media. We need to teach tolerance, acceptance, and love for each other. It starts with us and our remarks in our homes, in our places of work, in our places of worship, and when we are out with friends. If we don't do it, who will? If we don't do it, as people of God, WHO WILL?

I leave you with a prayer from St. Francis...

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

Yours in Christ, Pastor Jim



# Join us for a night of family fun at SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN CHURCH

250 CHURCH LANE ROAD, JACKSONWALD



(RAIN OR SHINE)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

4:30 PM-6:30 PM

(SET UP 3:30-4:30 PM)

COME IN COSTUME! DECORATE YOUR TRUNK!
CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

RESERVE A SPACE USING THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT CHURCH OR CALL 610-779-3480 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



- .. to Lauren Batzel, Cindy Diehl, Peg Gumpert, Heather Hafer and Evie Claus, Sue McDevitt, Cindy Mohr, and Janice Stanislaw for preparing savory vegetable soup for the New Journey soup kitchen and to the Quicks for delivering it.
- . . to Annalynne Thompson for making potholders for the church kitchen.
- .. from Safe Berks—Thank you for your generous gift. With your help, we can continue our mission of supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Berks County.

#### SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a special congregational meeting held on Sunday, October 5, 2025. The short meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a fire protection proposal for the church building.



## Flower Delivery

Won't you please consider helping? We need a few folks to help deliver altar flowers to our sick and shut-in members.

This is a super easy job. Anyone can do it.

Please consider taking one or two Sundays a year to spread some cheer and share God's love.

Please call the church office if you can help.

610-779-3480

If you already deliver flowers and can take one more Sunday a year....it would be appreciated.

## HARVEST HOME SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5





#### **PRAYER GROUP**

The October meeting dates for the Prayer Group are the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall.

Please contact Joanne Rutherford for additional information at 610-406-9355 or jmr14290@gmail.com.



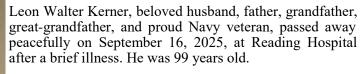
#### **REMINDER FOR YOUR CALENDAR!**

Daylight Savings time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2.

Set your clocks <u>BACK</u> one hour at bedtime on Saturday night, <u>November 1</u>.

# In Memoriam

LEON KERNER March 18, 1926—September 16, 2025



Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, on March 18, 1926, Leon was the son of Charles D. Kerner and Edith L. Guard. He attended Reading High School until 1943, when he left to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Navy during World War II. He served with honor as an electrician aboard the submarines USS Sea Cat and USS Cutlass in the Pacific Theater.

After the war, Leon continued his naval service on submarines based out of the Panama Canal Zone, New London, Connecticut, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In 1950, he was part of the historic crew of the USS Pickerel, which traveled 5,280 miles submerged using snorkel technology from Hong Kong to Pearl Harbor in 21 days—a record at the time.

In the late 1950s, he served as lead electrician aboard the USS Tang, the first in a new class of high-speed attack submarines. Commissioned as an officer in 1960, Leon served as Electrical Officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga, participating in the Cuban Missile Blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He retired from the Navy in 1967 with the rank of Lieutenant after 24 years of distinguished service.

Leon began a second successful career at American Bank, later Meridian Bank, ultimately retiring as Vice President of Meridian Properties in 1990.

In 1954, Leon married the love of his life, Betty—affectionately known as "his Honey." Their love story was long and devoted, and he never quite recovered from her passing in 2011. They shared a life filled with love, faith, family, and laughter.

Leon was a devoted member of Schwarzwald Lutheran Church. He will be remembered as a kind and generous soul, a man of quiet strength and deep integrity, and someone whose love for his family, faith, and country was unwavering.

He is survived by his children: Daniel Kerner and his wife Yvonne, Erma Michalak and her husband Jim, and Sandra Myers; his grandchildren: Bryan, Stephany, Megan, Lauren, Julia, Kamryn, Barry, Justin, Nick, and Rick; and eleven great-grandchildren, each of whom brought him immense joy and pride.

#### OCTOBER 2025 MUSIC MINISTRY

I want to begin this article by thanking the few people who have come forth during the month of September to help with the various musical performing groups in our church. Your willingness to participate is a real blessing and I know I speak for everyone when I say you ARE appreciated!! WE STILL NEED MORE OF YOU TO SUPPORT THESE GROUPS! If you are not able to support them with your time or talents, perhaps you can support them with your seasonal donations via the envelopes provided for special music. That is always a huge help especially during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Below is the basic schedule for October:

**10/2** – 6:30p Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal (*When I Survey*)

**10/5** – 9:00a Youth Chimes Rehearsal

9:30a Kathy teaches songs to SS

10:15a Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal (When I Survey)

Note: Youth Chimes may perform as Prelude IF they are ready.

10/12 - 9:00a Youth Chimes Rehearsal

10:15a Special Combined Anthem Rehearsal (*Our God Is An Awesome God*), Crotty Family will perform Offertory.

10/19 - 9:00a Youth Chimes Rehearsal

10:15a Adult Choir Rehearsal (We Are One, Lord)

10/26 – Kathy vacation – NO REHEARSALS – Mount Laurel Brass Quintet will cover music for this service and Peg Gumpert will cover the liturgical responses.

**10/30** – 6:30p Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal – to start rehearsing music for November/December

Musical Blessings! Kathy Snyder



#### **Christian Education Update**

Sunday School started off well with Rally Day and some very busy classrooms! I have the privilege of working with the children and popping my head in every class each week. Wow! Our teachers are fabulous, and our children are soaking it all in. They are learning how to live like Jesus through music, the Bible, peer & adult interactions, and prayer. It is beautiful to watch.

We would like to spread God's Word by inviting other friends and family to join us. There is no better way to start than by inviting them to Trunk or Treat! Everyone is welcome at this event. Please invite everyone you know, and sign up to decorate a trunk! We encourage people of all ages to decorate the a trunk. We will provide candy or you may bring your own.

I can't wait to see all of our beautiful children, teachers, and new friends at our upcoming events.

Love, Mrs. Jordan

#### **Upcoming Events & Info**

#### **Trunk or Treat - October 19**

Trunk or Treat is back! It's easily our biggest outreach event of the year. The event will take place from 4:30 - 6:30. Sign up to decorate a trunk! The sign-up sheet is on the Youth News board. Need some decorations? Talk to Crystal. We have a few pre-made options. Set-up begins at 3:30.

#### **Youth Chimes & Choir**

Youth chimes will rehearsal in the sanctuary every Sunday at 9:00. All youth grades 4 and up OR who have learned to read music are welcome to join us! Our children will perform on October 12th during worship.

#### Nashville Youth Mission Trip - June 2026 (registration due 11/1)

Our youth will be traveling to Nashville from June 13-19, 2026. Each day consists of service work, devotion, fun activities, and much more. Children from multiple churches in our area are combining and will travel together to Nashville. Registration is due November 1st.

#### SEPA Youth Retreat at Bear Creek - November 8-9

Check out this new opportunity for our youth. Registration is open but spots are limited so they will close it once they meet that. St. Marks is attending and would love for you to join them. Please respond ASAP if you are interested!

#### **Coffee Parlor**

The coffee & hot chocolate parlor is open to our youth after Sunday School with the exception of our post-confirmand Sunday School class who will meet there at 9:30. Parents, please grab a drink and snacks from the coffee parlor at any time!

#### **Confirmation**

Confirmation classes are underway. They are the 4th Sunday of every month. The next class is October 26. Students will meet in Fellowship Hall from 12:00 - 2:00. Are you able to provide a meal for our confirmands? If so, please let Crystal know your preferred month. The October meal is covered!

#### Fall Event - November 16

Ready for a unique Bible-based learning event? This is it! Students in grades 4 and younger will work with Amy from Mindful Spirits Yoga. Students in grades 5 and up will work with Painting with a Twist (RSVP required). We are excited to welcome both back to SLC!

#### **Advent Festival - November 30**

Our adult Sunday school class will be hosting an Advent Festival immediately following the worship service. Crafts will be available for all ages, and lunch will be served. More info coming!

#### **Christmas Pageant & Cookie Celebration - December 14**

Our treasured pageant is back. The pageant will take place during the worship service. The Christmas cookie celebration will occur in Fellowship Hall at the conclusion of the worship service. Bring some cookies to share!

#### **Sneak Peak**

January 4: Party - Happy (belated) Birthday, Jesus!

February 1: Sunday School Breakfast

January 11 - February 8: Souper Bowl of Caring

February 15: Mardi Gras/Lent Intro

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESD	
CANCELLATION INFORMATION  Please check your email, our website (www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org), Facebook page (Schwarzwald Lutheran Church), Channel 69 — WFMZ-TV Stormcenter, or our answering machine (610-779-3480).				
5	6	7	8	
9:15am Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30am Sunday School (SS) 10:45am Harvest Home Worship 11:45am Special Congregational 11:45am Sr. Choir reh. (FH) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 1867 (FH) 5:45pm Brownie Troop 11135 (FH or S5) 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop 1909 (SS) 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	10:00am Tuesday morning Bible Study / Work Group (FH)	6:30pm Lyons 0 7:00pm Church 7:00pm NA Me	
12	13	14	15	
9:15am Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30am Sunday School (SS) 10:45am Worship Service (S) 11:45am Sr. Choir reh. (FH) 5:30pm Sinfonia Rehearsal (FH) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	10:00am Tuesday morning Bible Study / Work Group (FH) 11:00am Prayer Group (FH)	7:00pm NA Me	
9:15am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Sunday School (SS) 10:45am Worship Service (S) 11:45am Sr. Choir reh. (FH) 4:30pm Trunk or Treat 5:30pm Sinfonia Rehearsal (S) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	20 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 1867 (FH) 5:45pm Brownie Troop 11135 (FH or SS) 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	21 10:00am Tuesday morning Bible Study / Work Group (FH)	22 12:00pm Exete (FH) 7:00pm NA Me	
26	27	28	29	
9:15am Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30am Sunday School (SS) 10:45am Reformation Worship 11:45am Sr. Choir reh. (FH) 12:00pm Confirmation Class (FH) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	5.45pm Brownie troop 11135 (FH or SS) 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	10:00am Tuesday morning Bible Study / Work Group (FH) 11:00am Prayer Group (FH)	Z-00pm NA Mee	

EAB—Exeter Schools Admin. Bldg. SS—Sunday School room(s) PL—Parking Lot LGI - Large Group

ΑY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ub meeting (FH). ting (SR)	2 2:00pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting (FH)	3	4 9.00am Decorating (S)
ub Meeting (C8) Council (FH) Ling (SR)	9 9:00am Breakfast Bunch (BHut)	10	11 3.00pm Fellowship Hall in use by Girl Scouts (FH)
ting (SR)	16	17 2:00pm Exeter Area Food Pantry (EAB)	18
ienior Citizens ing (SR)	23	24	25
ting (SR)	30	31	OCTOBER 2025

#### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Charlotte Jeschonnek
- 2 Sarah Gibson, Sharon Lessig
- 3 Diane Whitehead, Leigh Urwiler
- 4 Susan Gross
- 5 Carl Bieber, Jon Correll, Sawyer Schaeffer
- 6 Laurie Vlasak, Bob Fliegel
- 7 Cathy Tice
- 8 Michael Trexler
- 11 Mark Hoover, Tammy Schmehl
- 12 Mike Gumpert
- 13 Evan Carson, Shaun Schweitzer
- 14 Dorothy Hoerr, Jacob Thomas, Azlyn Ramus, Stacey Bossler, Gwendolyn Kauwell
- 15 Michael Gallagher, Heather Reidinger
- 16 Virginia Frey, Stephanie Hafer Shaak, Whitney Fayewicz, George Breidegam
- 19 Dennis Moser
- 21 Margaret Bieber
- 22 Heather Doll, David Scalese
- 23 Jill Hafer Linsenbigler
- 24 Allison Correll
- 25 Scarlet Jordan
- 26 Lynkyn Harlow, Craig Houp
- 27 Lori Mack, Bradly Shollenberger
- 29 Michael Billinger
- 30 Sandra Ruppert
- 31 Heather Hafer, Kay Oswald

If your birthday is in October and is not listed here, please call the church office, 610-779-3480, with your full birth date

610-779-3480, with your full birth da M/D/Y. Thank you.





The Exeter Area Food Pantry (EAFP), distributes food monthly to local residents in need. We continue to witness the growing need in our community. EAFP serves an average of 250+ families per month, so we need more volunteer support, including bilingual (spanish/english) volunteers.

The pantry is open the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month located at Exeter Twp School District Administration Bldg, 200 Elm Street (Former Lausch Elementary School). Volunteers are needed for food distribution/clean-up from 12:45-6:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday and also for setup on the Thursday prior from 8-11am. Partial hours are fine!

To volunteer or learn more, simply contact <a href="mailto:eafpvolunteers@gmail.com">eafpvolunteers@gmail.com</a>



## YOU CAN HELP MAKE TRUNK OR TREAT A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY OUTREACH!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR TURN IT IN AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

I am wil	ling to help at Trunk or Treat in t	he following way(s )
	donate candy	
	donate money	
	decorate my car trunk	
	donate my time to help:	
	games	
	face painting	prayer tent
	set up	clean up
name(s)		phone number

COME, GATHER, PREPARE

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,

#### 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!

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

#### 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.

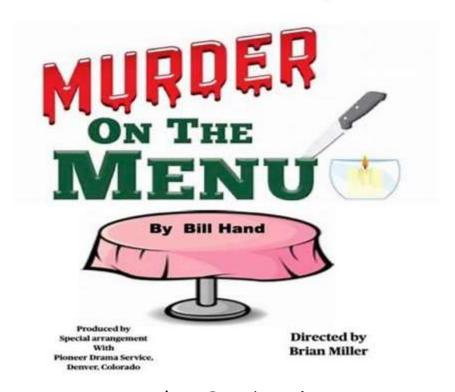
#### https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/305TZ4QONCJV3?ref =wl share

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 <a href="mailto:bdf43077@msn.com">bdf43077@msn.com</a>. You may also call the Schwarzwald Lutheran Church office at 610-779-3480.

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church and

READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS presents



Saturday, October 4 at 5 Brooke Manor, Birdsboro Doors open at 4:30 pm and show starts at 5 pm

Tickets are \$30 including a 3 course Italian Buffet and the show. Tickets are limited. This event is open to the public. Tickets are on sale in office. For more information call 610-582-8167 or email: secretary@stmarkbirdsboro.org

## 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

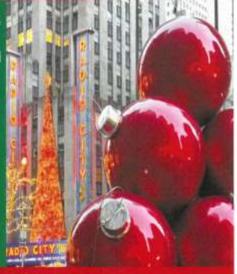
10/30AM to 8PM

Depart from NYC @ 8:00PM

\$75/person

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

Due by Oct 31st

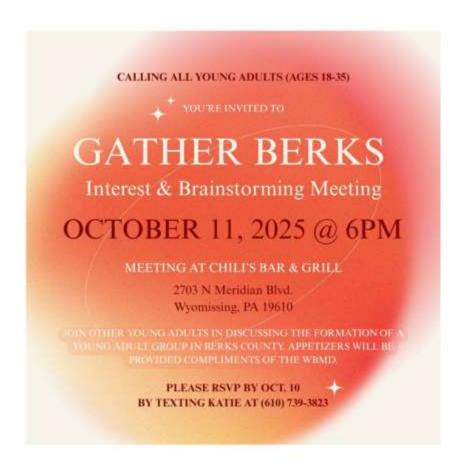


SHOP! - SEE A SHOW! - BE A FOODIE! - SIGHTSEE!

Name(
-------

# of Seats:\_\_\_\_

Total Due: \$\_\_\_\_



#### Penn State Extension webinar on food safety for volunteers

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

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

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.



#### COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (August)

Council Officers: Doris Jaeger, President

Chris Thompson, Vice President Scot Griesemer, Treasurer

Chuck Heydt, Corporate Secretary

Members: Mark Bauer, Lynne Cover, Sarah Gibson, Barry Hoover,

Elizabeth Kennedy, Joanne Rutherford, Janice Stanislaw,

Carolyn Woodford, Larry Yoder

Chas Andrews, council representative from Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) spoke to the council about the possibility of being a charter partner. The council will reach out to our members who are scouting families to ask their opinion.

#### Old Business

Security and lighting vendors - Once all the bids are received, we will add the bid information into the grant process.

Security grant update – We are ready to apply when it opens up for submitting applications. The cap is \$200,000.

Oley Fair - 5 to 10 people will work at the food stands on Thursday, September 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.

#### New Business

Secretaries' seminar – The Executive Committee approved Diane going to the seminar in October.

Insurance benefit – Dorace Harding life insurance policy – SLC was the beneficiary of \$7,718.

Schuylkill River Parish – A meeting was held to discuss a partnership with St. Mark's, Birdsboro, St. Paul's, Douglassville, and SLC.

Coffee Bar / Sunday School – The Sunday School staff has decided to ban Coffee Bar refreshments for kids until after Sunday School. The start time for Sunday School is 9:30, instead of 9:15. The new Sr. High group will meet in Coffee Bar Parlor with Sarah Gibson and Rochelle Chelius teaching the class.

## **Budget Information**

#### **Monthly totals (August)**

#### Income:

Budgeted Income \$20,192 (Current envelopes) Actual Income \$18,996 (Current envelopes)

#### Expenses:

Budgeted Expenses \$34,852 (Amount includes a full-time pastor salary)

Actual Expenses \$20,877



# Schwarzwald

Serving and Loving Christ Since 1737

250 Church Lane Road Reading, PA 19606

Phone 610-779-3480 Fax 610-779-2777

Website: www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Office e-mail: administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join our family, share God's love.

OCTOBER 2025