



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

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

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2025 10:45 A.M.

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *The Solid Rock* Berry

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 #883 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

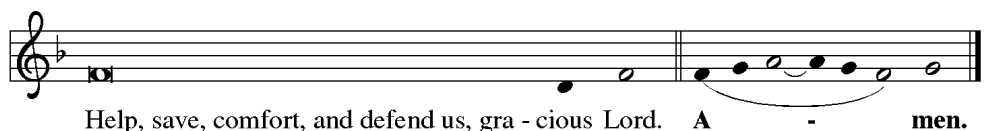
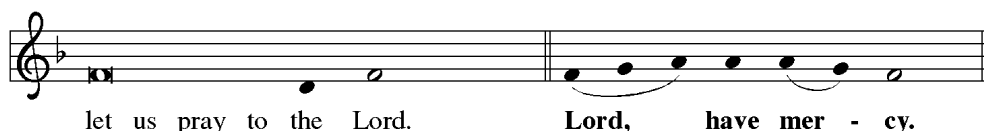
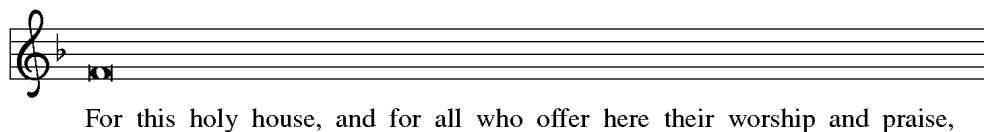
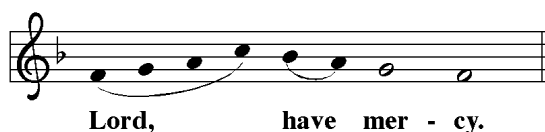
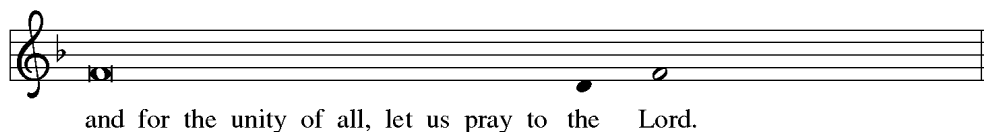
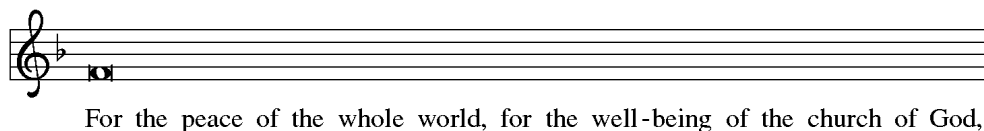
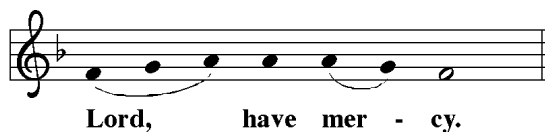
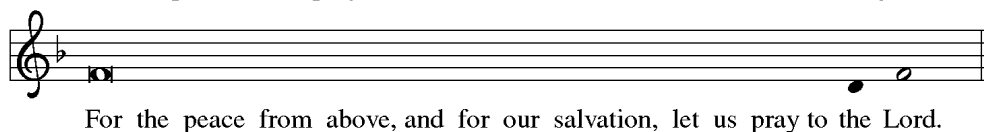


GREETING

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. O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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.

THANKOFFERING / CHILDREN'S CIRCLE . . . The Rev. Jim Farnsworth
Auntie Gayle

FIRST READING Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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.**

⁹ He 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.”**

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

SECOND READING Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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 Luke.

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

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast

lots to divide his clothing.”³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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
#408 Come, Thou Almighty King

APOSTLES’ CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. 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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. 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 our churches, our schools, and our communities in America that we may find your peace and end the devastation of gun violence in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick especially:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Barbara Hafer | Clyde Feick | Connie Harman |
| Ruth Hoover | Gwen Kauwell | Walt Smithson |
| Pat Weiser | 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.

Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God’s faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; 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.

P Let us share God’s peace with one another.

Please be seated.

OFFERING *Praise the Lord*Thompson
Handbell Choir

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



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



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



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



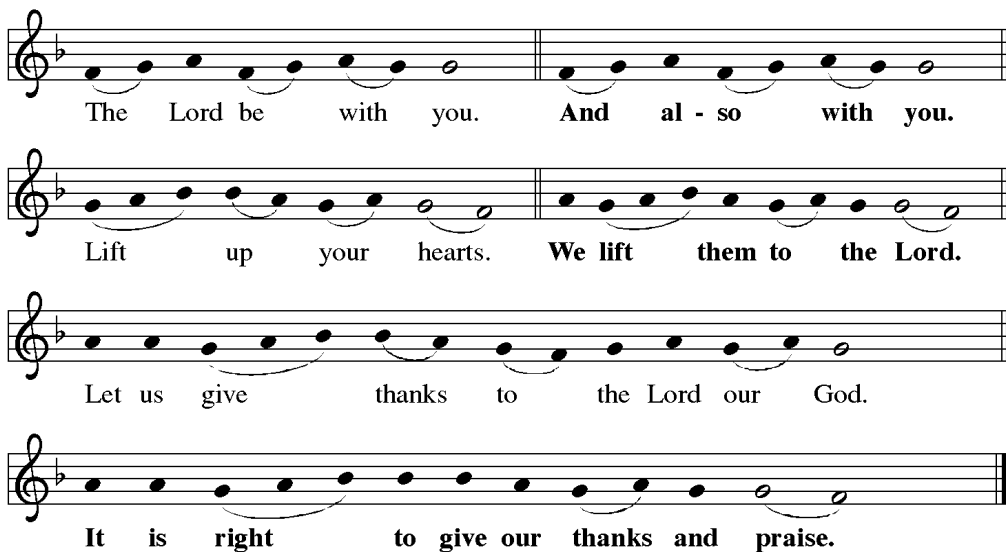
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever.

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.

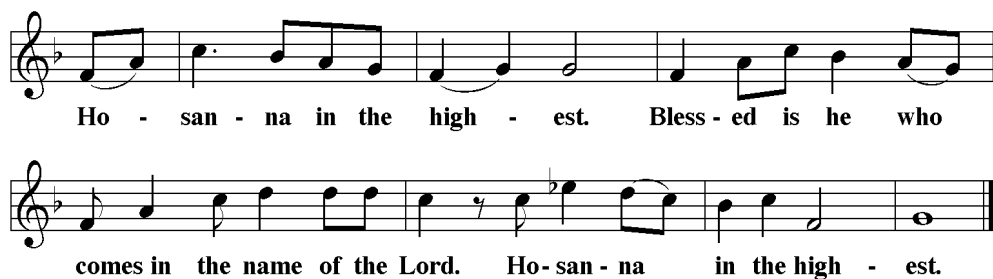
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



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

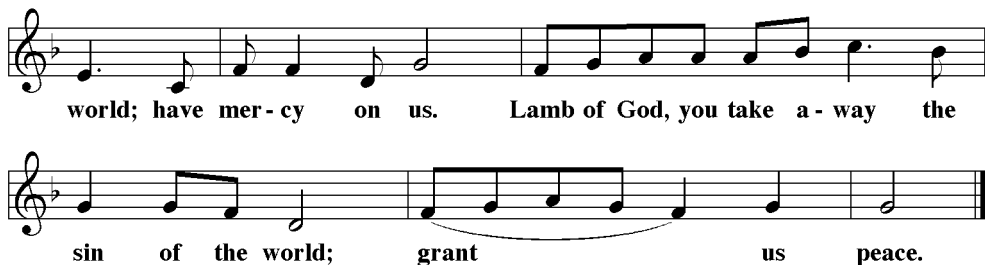
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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

When directed by the usher, 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.

HYMN SUNG DURING DISTRIBUTION #542 O Living Bread from Heaven

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 God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.
Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who
hunger and thirst,
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you +
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN #855 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Share the harvest.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Voluntary* Stanley

**HELP IS NEEDED TODAY immediately after worship
to help stage the Christmas decorations. Please lend a hand!**

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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

- Judy McLain Assisting Minister
- Jeff Schmehl Usher Team Captain
- Judy McLain, Doris Jaeger, Terry Jenkins Communion Assistants
- Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney. Carillonneurs
- The Kerber Family Zoom Masters

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
250 Church Lane Road 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Joann and Greg Lott in loving memory of Jean K. Ross-Hoffman, and 2) in memory of Janice Smithson by her family.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by The Quick's in celebration of family.

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 (\$25) and bulletin sponsors (\$14) are needed. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

COFFEE CAFÉ - Scan the QR code or use the Sign-Up Genius link to sign-up to bring a baked good for the coffee café on Sunday mornings: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4FA9AD2FA7FD0-60582416-schwarzwald>



Reminder ... if you or your child are planning to participate in either the afternoon or the evening pre-service music on Christmas Eve, please be sure to give your name, details, and musical selection (if applicable) to Kathy prior to 12/14.

WAYS TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS DEALING WITH FOOD INSECURITY

HERE AT SLC: PLACE YOUR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS IN THE SHOPPING CART IN THE NARTHEX.

DONATED ITEMS WILL STOCK OUR "LITTLE FREE PANTRY."

**OR WRITE A CHECK TO SLC, MARKED "LITTLE FREE PANTRY,"
AND WE WILL PURCHASE FOOD.**

IN THE COMMUNITY: DONATE FOOD TO THE EXETER AREA FOOD PANTRY. ITEMS CAN BE BROUGHT TO CHURCH IN A BAG MARKED "EAFP." WE WILL DELIVER THEM.

**OR WRITE A CHECK FOR THE PANTRY TO PURCHASE NEEDED ITEMS.
THE CHECK SHOULD BE PAYABLE TO REFORMATION LUTHERAN
CHURCH (they disperse the funds to the Pantry) AND MAIL TO:
REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
3670 PERKIOMEN AVENUE, READING, PA 19606**



**SCHUYLKILL RIVER PARISH
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, AT 7:00 PM
AT
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BIRDSBORO

THE REV. GREGORY FREY FROM ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH,
DOUGLASSVILLE, WILL BE PREACHING.



**POINSETTIAS
TO BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY**



Please fill out the order form below. Please place the completed form and your payment in one of the green "special" envelopes in your packet or use one of the envelopes in the pew pocket and mark it "seasonal flowers." Please place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

The deadline for ordering plants is Sunday, December 14.

Plants may be picked up on Sunday, December 28, after the worship service.

_____ (cut) _____

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____
(as you wish it to appear in the bulletin—names only, please)

6 ½" pot - \$10.00 each _____
#

8" pot - \$30.00 each _____
#



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/305TZ4QONCIV3?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.



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT — December 6

The Black Forest Fellowship (BFF) youth group is doing a fundraiser on December 6 — Parents' Night Out — from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The fundraiser will cost \$20 per child for the entire evening. If there is more than one child per family, there is a discount of \$5 for each additional child. When the kids get dropped off at SLC in Fellowship Hall, they will stay with the youth. We will have dinner, activities, and down time. Activities include crafts, movies, and games. It's a great way to be able to get some things done without the kids around. The kids will be in good company. Use the registration form and sign-up by November 30. There are limited spots!

To complete a Parents' Night Out Registration Form, please point your cell phone camera at this QR code.



CHURCH FAMILY

Game Day!

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON OF STRATEGY,
LAUGHTER & FRIENDLY COMPETITION.
BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOARD GAMES.
SNACKS & GOOD TIMES ARE GUARANTEED!

DEC 28TH, 2PM – 5:30PM
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | BIRDSBORO, PA

COME, GATHER, PREPARE *Advent* FESTIVAL

NEXT 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!