



# 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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT    NOVEMBER 30, 2025    10:45 A.M.**

**HYMNS ON THE CARILLON**

**CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE**    Mount Laurel Brass

**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** #248 *People, Look East*



**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.

**ADVENT HYMN** ELW #257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* — stanzas 1 and 2

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

A Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting  
and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected  
times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We  
trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to  
gather all people to your peace.

C Amen.

*The first candle is lit.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful  
protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten  
our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S CIRCLE** . . . . .The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

**FIRST READING** **Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw  
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
<sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord!

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 122** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

<sup>2</sup> **Our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together.

<sup>4</sup> **To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

<sup>5</sup> For there the thrones for judgment were set up,  
the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls  
and security within your towers.”

<sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my relatives and friends  
I will say, “Peace be within you.”**

<sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek your good.

**SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

**HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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 #242** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**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** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. 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 hear our prayer.**

**A** God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. 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. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, especially:

Barbara Hafer	Clyde Feick	Connie Harman
Ruth Hoover	Gwen Kauwell	Denton Quick
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.*

Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.  
C **Amen.**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

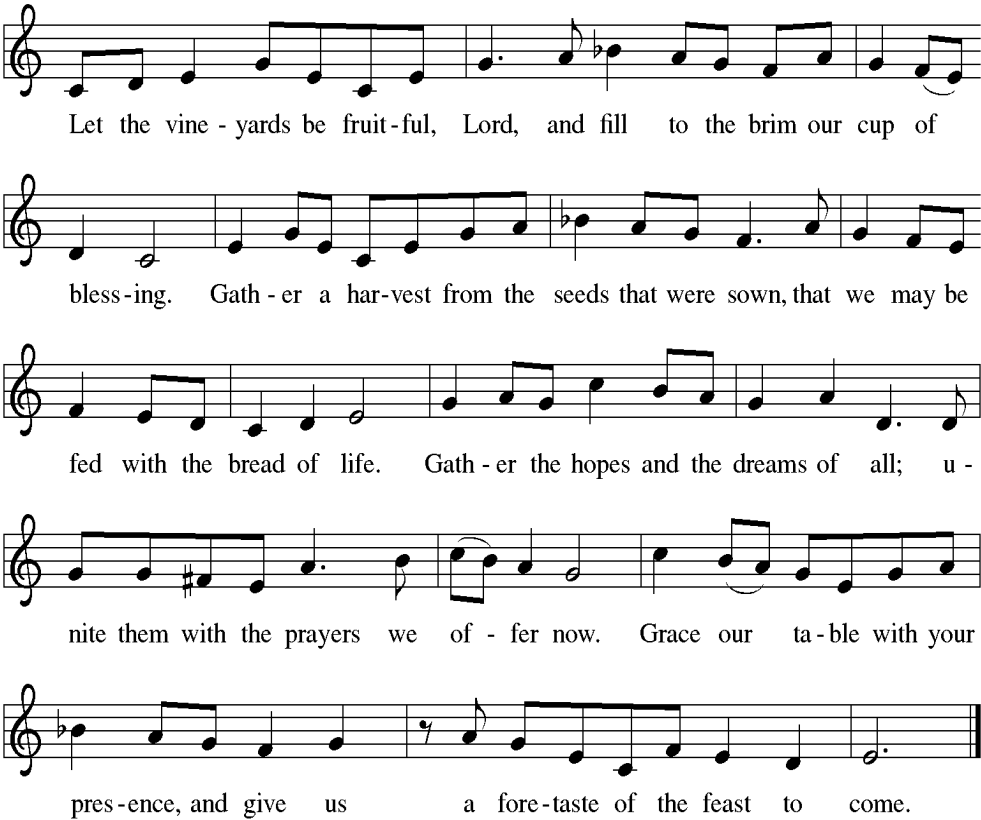
P The peace of our Lord be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Let us share God’s peace with one another.

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING** Mount Laurel Brass

*Please stand.*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** . . . . . Peg Gumpert, pianist



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.

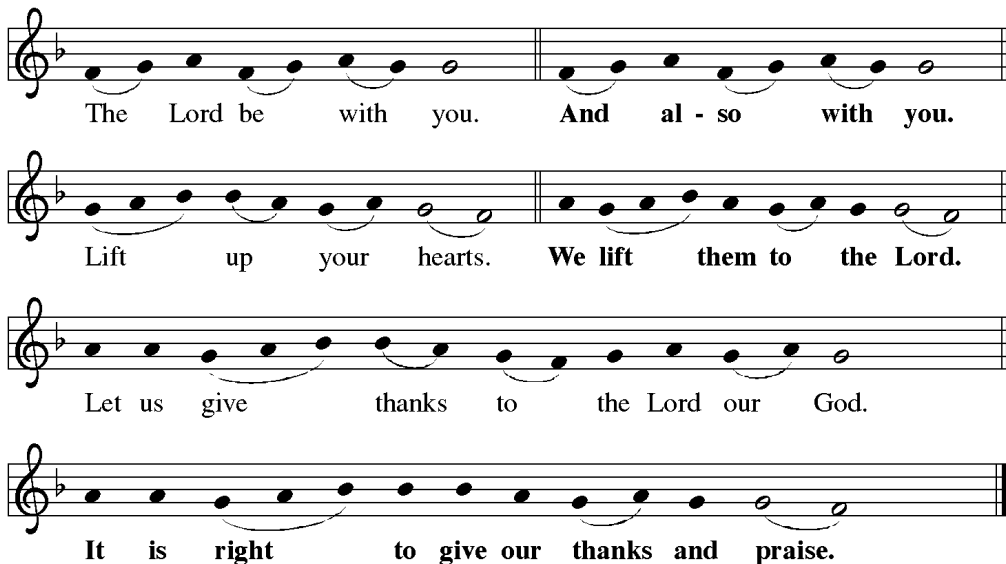
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
that we may rejoice and be for the world  
signs of your kingdom come.

**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.

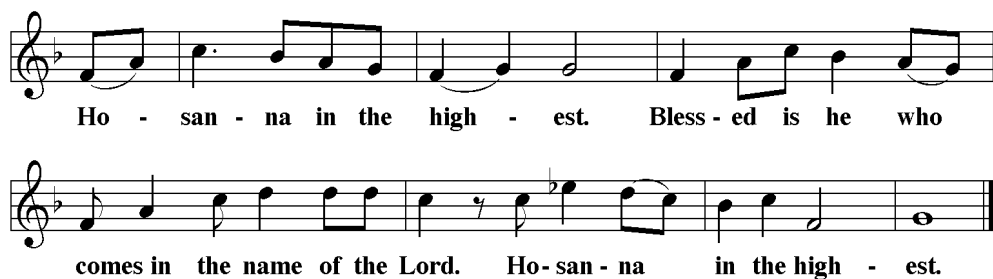
**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
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.

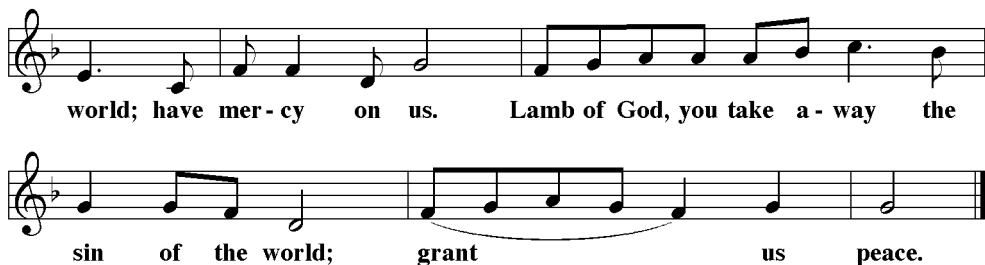
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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.

*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 our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**C Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**P** May God who comes among us,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN #249** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

## **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Mount Laurel Brass

# COME, GATHER, PREPARE *Advent* FESTIVAL

**TODAY!**

**(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!

**Please be advised** that all of our worship services are broadcast live via Zoom to anyone who possesses the meeting passcode as well as recorded for subsequent distribution via email to members of the congregation and posted on the church's Facebook page.

## **SERVING AT WORSHIP**

Denton Quick . . . . .	Assisting Minister
Larry Houp . . . . .	Usher Team Captain
Denton Quick, Peg Gumpert, Lauren Batzel . . . . .	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney. . . . .	Carillonneurs
Rochelle Chelius . . . . .	Zoom Master

**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

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

Chip Strunk, Mike Gumpert — Trumpet

Kathy Snyder — French Horn

Will Shafer, Mark Rentschler — Trombone

Mike Byrne—Baritone/Guitar

Andy Rowe — Tuba

**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 by Pat and Larry Yoder in thanksgiving for their families.

**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 for December. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

The **December issue of the *Pulpit and Pew*** is available for pick-up.

**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**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
#

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_



## PARLOR 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>



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## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

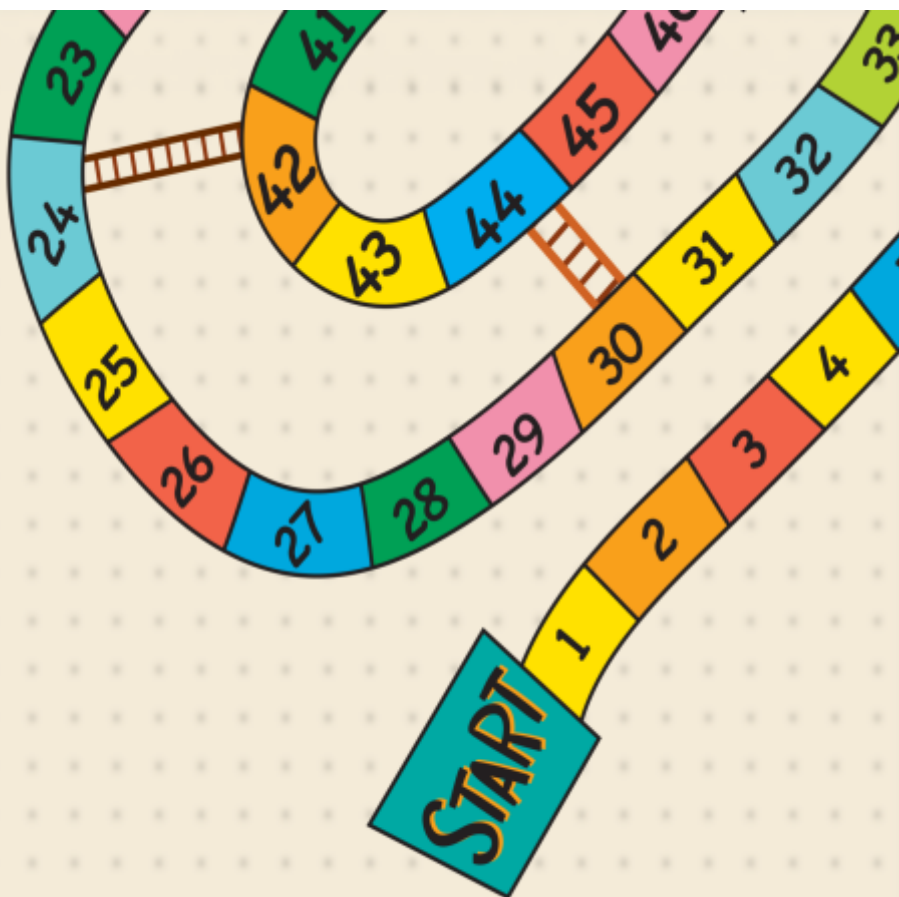
Saturday, December 6



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 the 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

**10<sup>th</sup> 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](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](mailto:bdj43077@msn.com). You may also call the Schwarzwald Lutheran Church office at 610-779-3480.