



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 21, 2025 10:45 A.M.

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Ave Maria*. Callahan



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 #250 *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

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 7 and 8

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son,
Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of
sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing
for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son’s birth his Spirit
might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.
C **Amen.**

The third candle is lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant
grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly
we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

YOUTH CHIMES *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* trad.
Away In A Manger trad.

CHILDREN’S CIRCLE The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

FIRST READING **Isaiah 7:10-16**

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be
deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not
put the Lord to the test.” ¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it
too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the
Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall
bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the
time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child
knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two
kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

A The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 *read responsively*

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

² **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts,**

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶ **You make us the scorn of our neighbors;**

our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ **But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,

³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

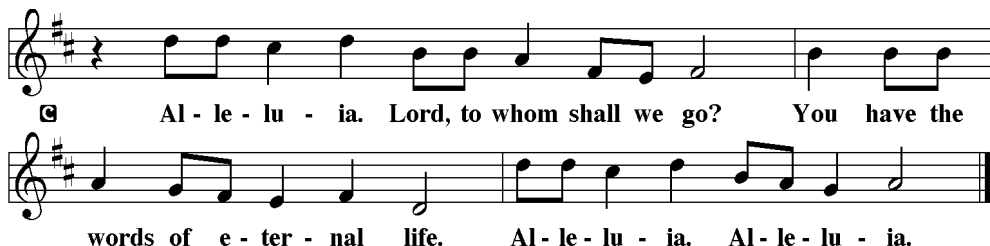
⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
²³“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

HYMN #251 *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

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 In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Sustain the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Bishops Yehiel and Christopher and all our local ministries that we may witness to your abundant love.

C hear our prayer.

A The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah’s coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. 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 When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill, especially:

Miles Brumbaugh	Clyde Feick	Barbara Hafer
Ruth Hoover	Gwen Kauwell	Mary Phillips
Denton Quick	Walt Smithson	Pat Weiser
Debra Hoerner	Jayne Phillips	Jackie Rohrbach
Tracy Rohrbach	Betty Scollick	Audrey Seltzer
Lin Tiderman	Jim & Lauri Walker	

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

(Silent prayers)

God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

A We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your in love. God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

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

OFFERING

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM *African Adventure Carol* Barrett
Mike Byrne, bass guitar

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.

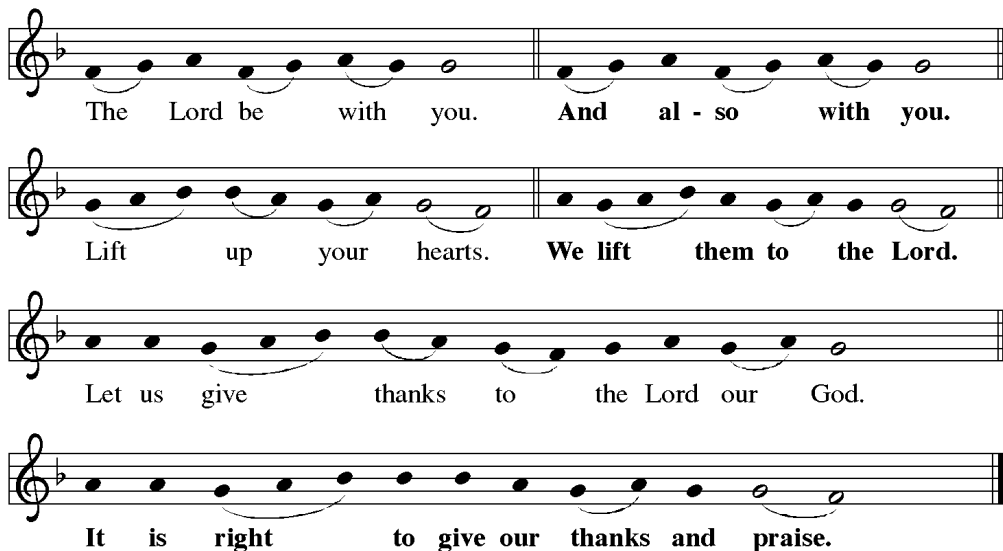
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

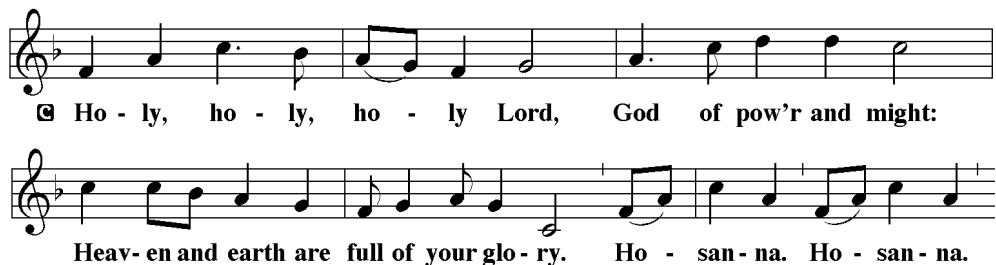
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

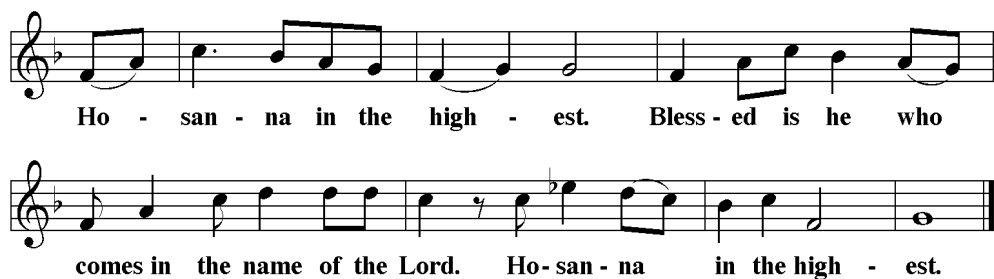
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when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

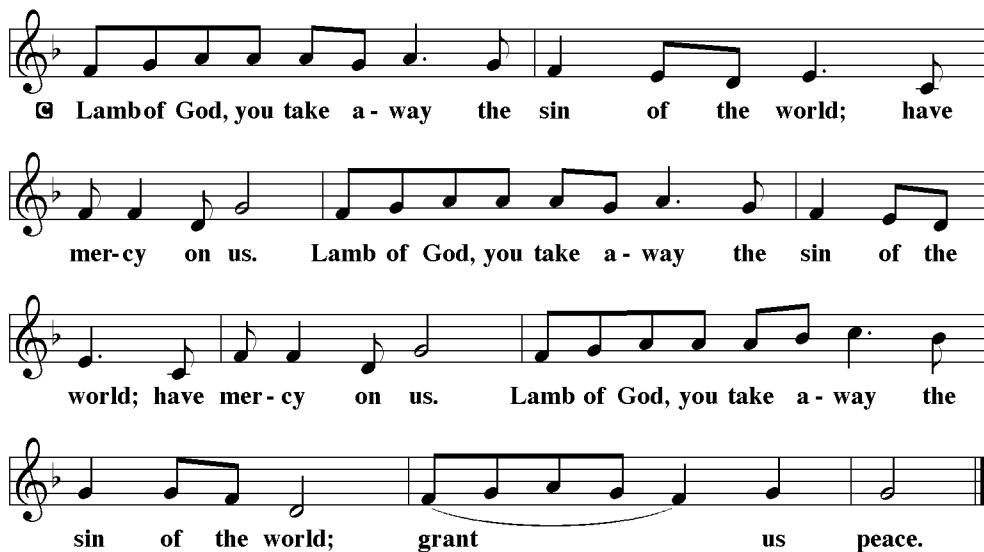
A Word of Welcome: The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the meal of the Church. All are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the gift of His body and blood. Children who have not yet received instruction for First Holy Communion are welcome to come to the altar to receive a special blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let the ushers know, and you will be served in the pew.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Here is life. God is with us.

C Come, receive what God has promised.

LAMB OF GOD



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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 the way of the side ramps.

HYMN SUNG DURING DISTRIBUTION

#854 Blessing and Honor

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 #631 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* Smith

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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

- Mark Hoover Assisting Minister
- Denton Quick Usher Team Captain
- The Kerber Family Greeters
- Emma Dickerson Acolyte
- Mark Hoover, Lauren Batzel and Judy McLain Communion Assistants
- Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Emma Dickerson, Ian Carr Carillonners
- The Kerber Family. Zoom Masters

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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 by Mary Phillips in loving memory of Kevin Phillips.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Kelli Gerth in memory of her mother, Barbara Gerth.

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 the remainder of December and all of January. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

The **Jan/Feb/Mar issue of *Christ In Our Home*** is available for pick-up.

GREETERS / PARLOR COFFEE CAFÉ SNACKS

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



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

2:30 p.m.—Special Music
3:00 p.m.—Worship Service
6:30 p.m.—Special Music
7:00 p.m.—Worship Service



Sunday, December 28, 10:45 a.m.—Worship Service of Lessons and Carols at Schwarzswald. That afternoon from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., St. Mark's will have a Church Family Game Day. Bring your favorite board games. Snacks will be provided.

LOOKING AHEAD **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Immediately following the worship service,
lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall.
The congregational meeting will begin after lunch.

**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.

**YOU CAN STILL ORDER!!
TODAY is the deadline!**

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 # _____

