



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737
Join our family, share God's love.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

3:00 PM / 7:00 PM

Pre-Service Music 2:30 PM

Various Christmas Selections

Mount Laurel Brass

The First Noel 17th c. English Carol
Nolan Fayewicz, Clarinet

Away In a Manger trad.
O Little Town of Bethlehem trad.
Youth Chorus



Pre-Service Music 6:30 PM

Christmas Processional Kellner
Away In A Manger Murray
Still, Still, Still Moldebust

Handbell Choir

Jingle Bells trad.
Annalynne Thompson, viola

What Child Is This?16th Century English melody
Kailey Batzel, vocal soloist

O Come, All Ye Faithfultrad.
Youth Chimes

O Holy Night trad.
Jillian Crotty, French Horn
Melissa Crotty, Piano

Away In A Manger trad.
Youth Chimes

Peace Has Come Down Tonight Besig/Price
Adult Choir
Christy D'Angelo, Flute

Christmas Sanctus Dengler
Run, Shepherds Johnson
Adult Choir

WORSHIP SERVICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

Please stand.

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P The light shines in the darkness,

C and the darkness has not overcome it.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have beheld Christ's Glory.

P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #283 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE #289 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLEThe Rev. David Blitch

FIRST READING **Isaiah 9:2-7**

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96 *read responsively*

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
² **Sing to the LORD,**
bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
⁴ **For great is the LORD,**
and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
⁶ **Honor and majesty are before him;**
strength and beauty
are in his sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD,
O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD
glory and strength.
⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD**
the glory due his name;
bring an offering,
and come into his courts.
⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰Say among the nations,
**"The LORD is king!
 The world is firmly established;
 it shall never be moved.
 He will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens be glad,
 and let the earth rejoice;
 let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²**let the field exult, and everything in it.
 Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

¹³before the LORD; for he is coming,
 for he is coming to judge the earth.
 He will judge the world with righteousness,
 and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (1st stanza)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do

not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

GOSPEL RESPONSE

#270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (3rd stanza)

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. David Blitch

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY #274 *On Christmas Night*

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.

 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling especially:

Miles Brumbaugh
Barbara Hafer
Mary Phillips
Pat Weiser
Tracy Rohrbach
Jim & Lauri Walker

Clyde Feick
Ruth Hoover
Denton Quick
Debra Hoerner
Betty Scollick

Cindy Fliegel
Gwen Kauwell
Walt Smithson
Jayne Phillips
Mark & Lin Tideman

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

Silent Prayers

Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

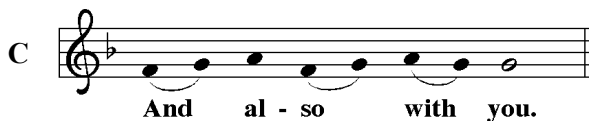
C Your mercy is great.

P With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

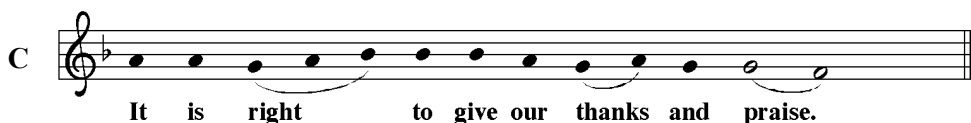
P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.

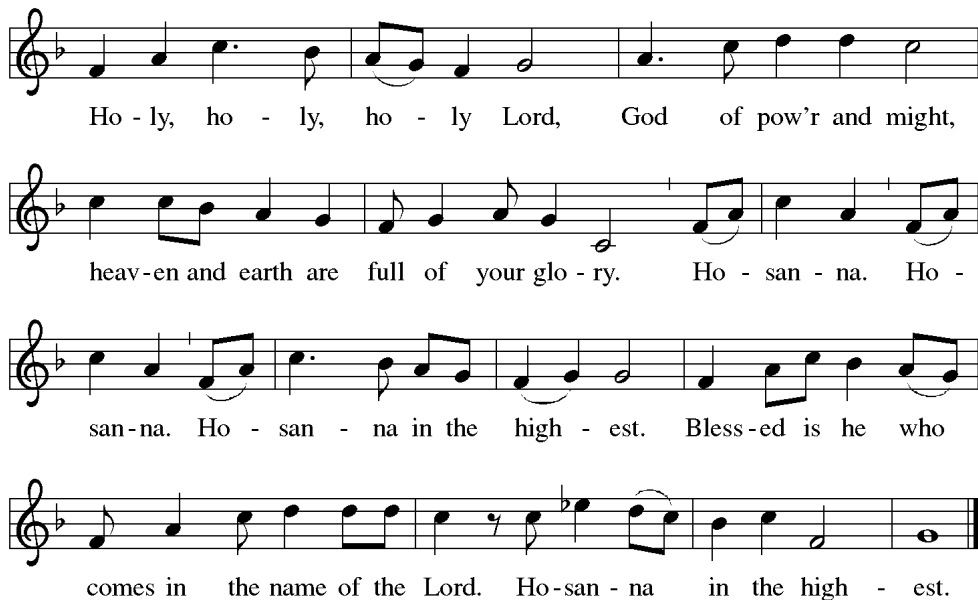


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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

Please be seated.

OFFERING

When directed by an usher, please come forward using the center aisle and place your offering in the manger. Then proceed to the altar to for Holy Communion.

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 God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!

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.

CAROLS SUNG BY CONGREGATION DURING DISTRIBUTION:

- What Child Is This* #296 verses 1 and 3
- Away In A Manger* #277 verses 1 and 3
- The First Noel* #300 verses 1 and 5
- O Little Town of Bethlehem* #279 verses 1 and 4
- It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #282 verses 1 and 4

SPECIAL MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

O Holy Night Patty Schmeer, soloist trad.

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 Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.
C Amen.

BLESSING

P The triune God, glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
+ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CANDLE-LIGHTING

P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*As the candlelight is distributed, the carillon and organ will play
"Angels We Have Heard on High."*

Please tilt unlit candle towards lighted candle.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

#281 *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

DISMISSAL

A Glory to God in the highest!

C And peace to God's people on earth!

A Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C Thanks be to God.

Please extinguish your candle.

Depart in peace and have a blessed Christmas.

POSTLUDE

Selections by the Mount Laurel Brass

SERVING AT WORSHIP 3:00 PM

Peg Gumpert	Assisting Minister
Jeff Schmehl	Usher Team Captain
Trevor Seidel.	Acolyte
Nolan Fayewicz	Crucifer
Peg Gumpert, Terry Jenkins	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr, Emma Dickerson	Carillonners
Dave Scales	Zoom Master

SERVING AT WORSHIP 7:00 PM

Barry Hoover	Assisting Minister
Larry Houp	Usher Team Captain
Emma Dickerson and Hannah Houp	Acolytes
Vinnie D'Angelo	Crucifer
Barry Hoover, Christy D'Angelo, Judy McLain	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr, Emma Dickerson	Carillonners
Rochelle Chelius	Zoom Master

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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.

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Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by Kevin and Sally Kennedy in honor of their wedding anniversary, and 2) by Ginni and Russ Frey in honor of their anniversary.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by the Hoover Family in memory of Herb and Nancy Hoover, 2) by Mark, Marisa and Joshua Hoover in memory of their angel, Danelle Wagner.

Large print bulletins and hearing receivers are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

Children's toys, games, puzzles and books are available in the Narthex.

The **Jan/Feb/Mar issue of *Christ In Our Home*** is available in the narthex and vestibule entrances. Help yourself to these daily devotional guides.

NEEDED!! - ALTAR FLOWER (\$25) AND BULLETIN (\$14) SPONSORS for next year. If you would like to be a sponsor, please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

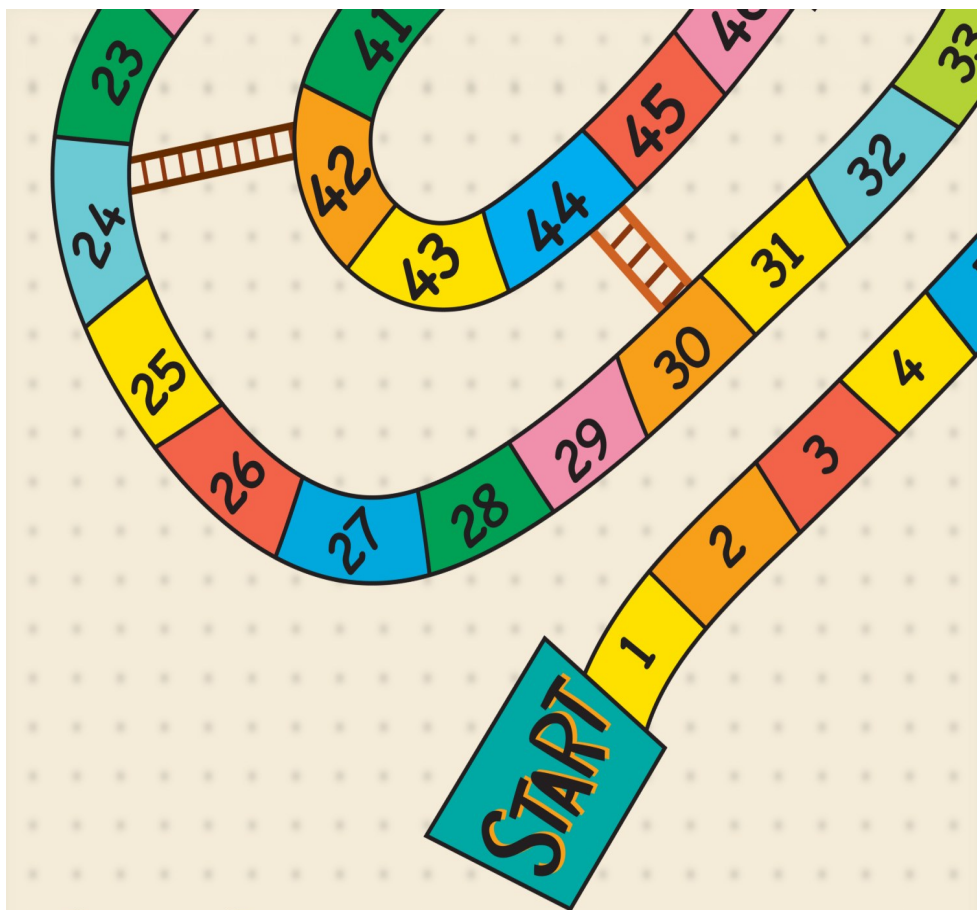
BREAKFAST BUNCH - Thursday, January 8, 9:00 a.m. at Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. All are welcome!

December 28 - Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:45 a.m.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — Sunday, January 25, 2026

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





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

**POINSETTIA
SPONSORS**

Ron and Lynne Cover

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Jennifer Reinert and Jack Murphy

Dennis and Pat Ruffner

Rita Seidel

Tyler, Stephanie, Kenton and Tenley Shaak

Fay Weaver

Joan Wegman and Family

