



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

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

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 4, 2026

10:45 A.M.

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *What Star Is This.* Berry



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made!

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Please stand.

CONFSSION 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 #302 *As with Gladness Men of Old*

GREETING

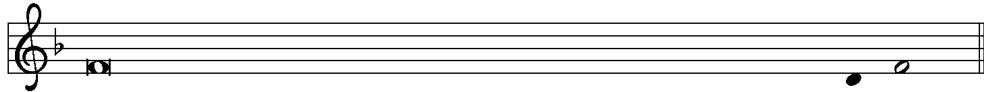
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE



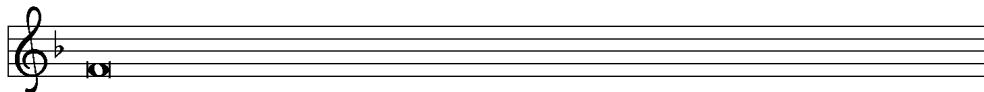
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - ey.**



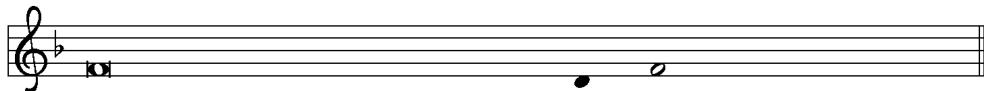
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - ey.



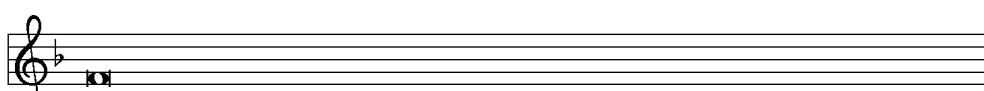
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



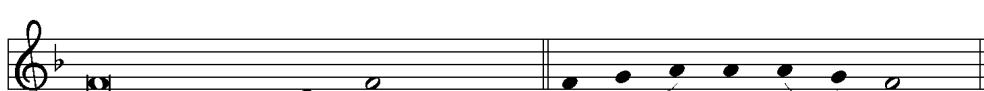
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



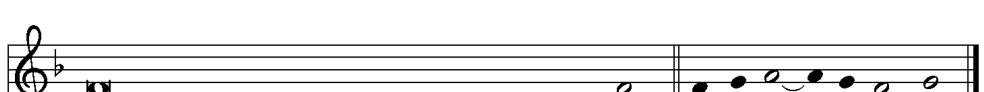
Lord, have mer - ey.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - ey.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

FIRST READING **Isaiah 60:1-6**

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 *read responsively*

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

² **May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.**

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶ **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

¹² **For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy
and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in G major and the bottom staff is in C major. The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple, with most notes being quarter notes and eighth notes, and a few sixteenth notes.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

HYMN #308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

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 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 Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will. 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 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 the churches, the schools, and the 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 Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for:

Miles Brumbaugh	Clyde Feick	Cindy Fliegel
Russ Frey	Barbara Hafer	Ruth Hoover
Gwen Kauwell	Mary Phillips	Denton Quick
Walt Smithson	Pat Weiser	Debra Hoerner
Jayne Phillips	Tracy Rohrbach	Betty Scollick
Mark & Lin Tiderman	Jim & Lauri Walker	

And for all those concerns and people we quietly name who we hold in our hearts. *Silent Prayers* Respond to any who call out in need this day. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us. 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.

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 / SR. CHOIR ANTHEM *Follow the Star* Schram

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 God of glory, great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.

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.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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.

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!

LAMB OF GOD

C Lam 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; 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 #532 *Gather Us In*

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.

SENDING HYMN #303 *Brightest and Best of the Stars*

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.**

POSTLUDE *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Burkhardt

**Following the worship service, we could use your help
to take down the Christmas decorations!**

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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

Joshua Kerber	Assisting Minister
Kevin Kennedy	Usher Team Captain
John Gibson	Acolyte
Josh Kerber, Terry Jenkins, Lauren Batzel	Communion Assistants
Peg Gumpert	Accompanist
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Emma Dickerson, Ian Carr	Carillonneurs
Kevin Kennedy	Zoom Master

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 **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by The Quicks — Happy New Year!

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.

The **January issue of the *Pulpit and Pew*** is ready for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule.

BREAKFAST BUNCH (please note date change) - Thursday, January 15, 9:00 a.m. at Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. All are welcome!

Altar flower (\$25) and bulletin sponsors (\$14) are needed for all of January. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Reminder that there are no Youth Chimes rehearsals during the month of January. Rehearsals will resume the first Sunday of February at 9:00 a.m. Any new members who might be interested in joining us are welcome and encouraged to attend at that time!

GREETERS / PARLOR COFFEE CAFÉ SNACKS

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



SOUP GROUP For all ages!

Monday, January 19 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We will gather and make two kinds of soup,
have some lunch, and package

the soup for distribution on this MLK Day of Service !!

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.

Save the date...

Friday, March 27, 2026 6:00-10:00pm

Pastor Jim's 60th birthday wake- a gala fundraiser for Hopewell Love Community Services and Food Pantry at BlackJax Restaurant and Event Center, Douglassville.

Tickets on sale soon. \$60 includes food, drinks, and entertainment. Cash bar available. Gift basket raffle.