



# 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

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD      JANUARY 11, 2026      10:45 A.M.**

**HYMNS ON THE CARILLON**

**CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE** *Praeludium* . . . . . Sechter

**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.**

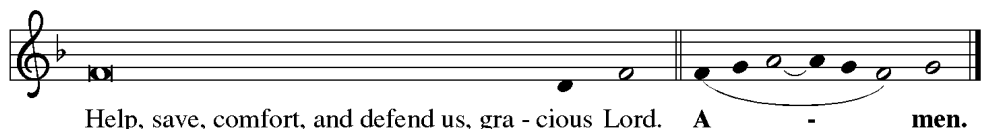
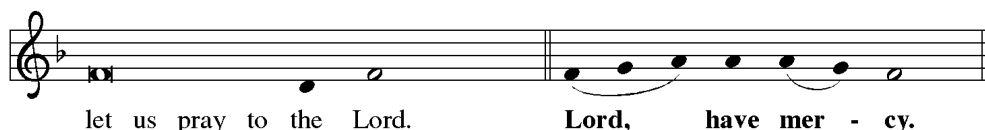
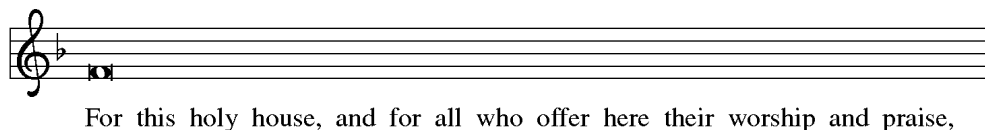
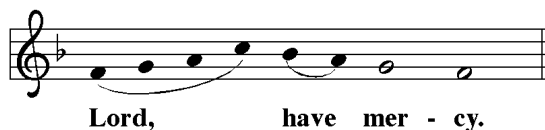
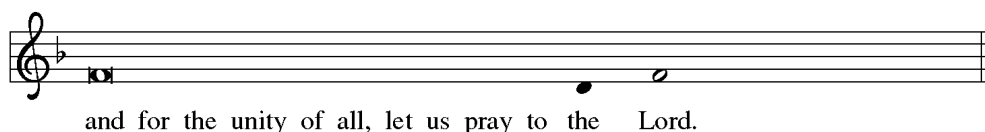
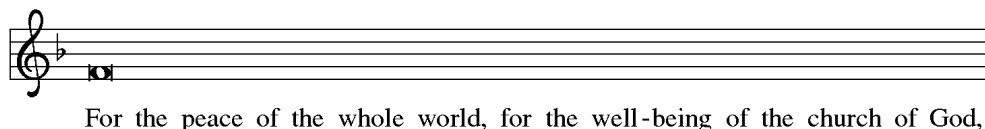
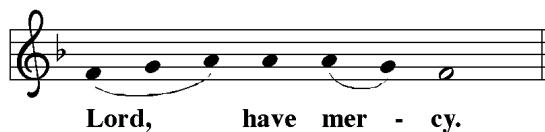
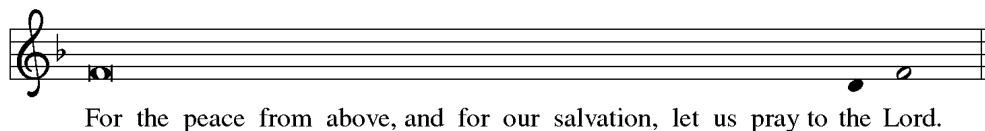
**GATHERING HYMN** #310 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

## 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 Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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.*

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

**FIRST READING    Isaiah 42:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.  
<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 29** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl  
and strips the forest bare,  
and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

<sup>11</sup> May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

**SECOND READING Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

SERMON . . . . . The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

*Please stand.*

HYMN #487 *What Feast of Love*

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 As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

A Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. 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. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. 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 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. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill, especially:

Miles Brumbaugh

Russ Frey

Gwen Kauwell

Walt Smithson

Jayne Phillips

Mark & Lin Tiderman

Clyde Feick

Barbara Hafer

Mary Phillips

Pat Weiser

Tracy Rohrbach

Jim & Lauri Walker

Cindy Fliegel

Ruth Hoover

Denton Quick

Debra Hoerner

Betty Scollick

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

*Silent Prayers*

Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus 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** *God's Hand Is There . . . .* unknown  
Patty Schmeer, soloist

*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



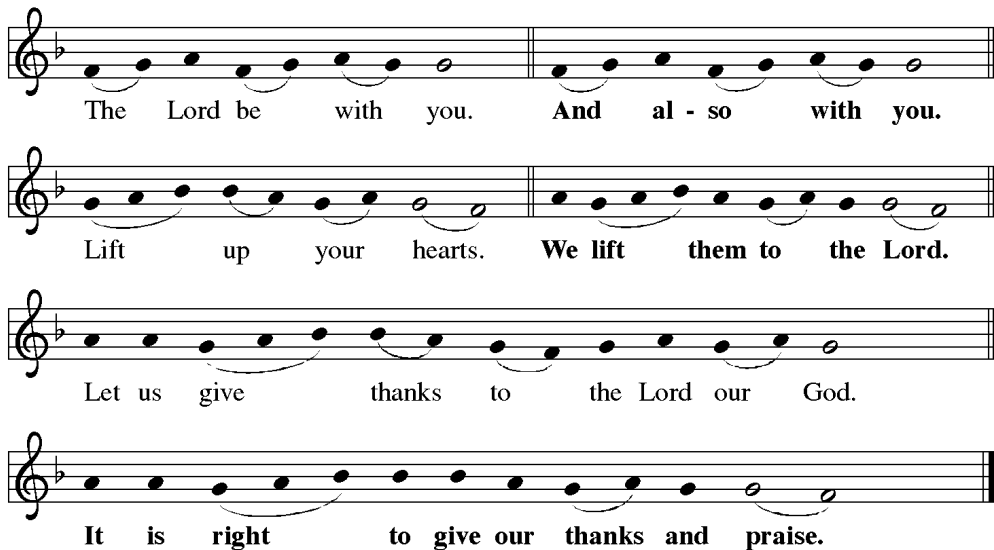
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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:

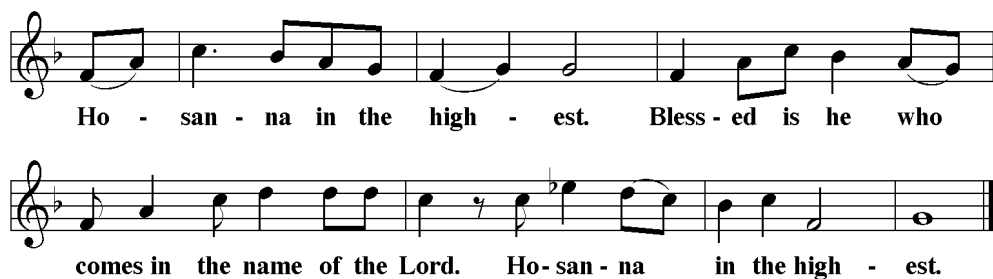
## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

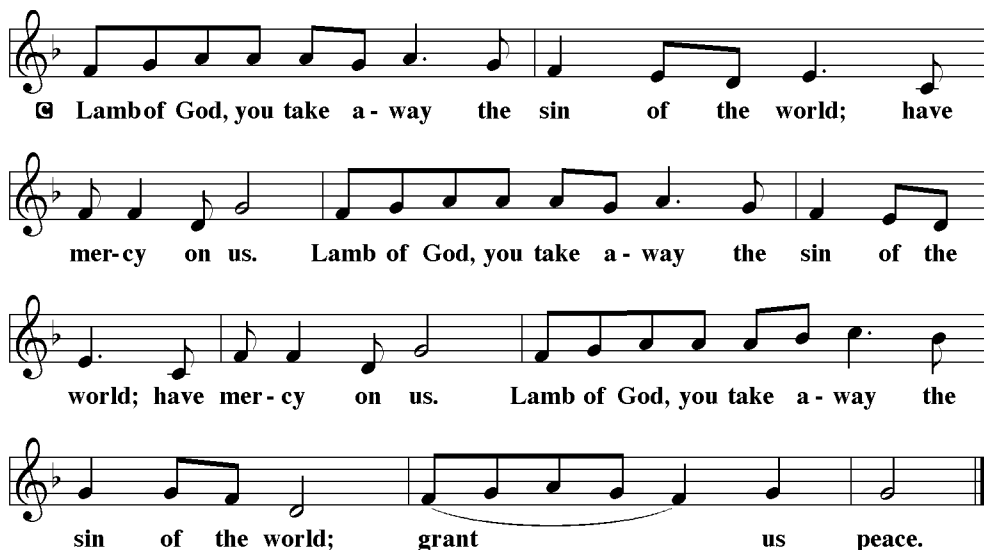
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*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 the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

## 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 #697 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

*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 Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

**BLESSING**

**P** May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
✚ bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**SENDING HYMN** #576 *We All Are One in Mission*

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** *Allegro* . . . . . Stanley

**In case of inclement weather:**  
**CANCELLATION INFORMATION**

**Please check your email**  
(please be sure the church office has your current email address),  
**our website ([www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org](http://www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org)),**  
**Facebook page (Schwarzwald Lutheran Church),**  
**Channel 69 — WFMZ-TV Stormcenter,**  
**or our answering machine (610-779-3480).**

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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  
Denton Quick . . . . .Usher Team Captain  
Judy McLain, Jesse Gibney, Barry Hoover . . . . .Communion Assistants  
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Emma Dickerson, Ian Carr . . . . .Carillonneurs  
Bob Rutherford . . . . .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!

**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.

**A Church-time Nursery room** 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.

The **Jan/Feb/Mar issue of *Christ in Our Home*** is available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule. Please help yourself to these daily devotional guides.

**Altar flower (\$25) and bulletin sponsors (\$14)** are needed for the remainder of January and all of February. 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!

## BREAKFAST BUNCH

(please note date change)

**Thursday, January 15, 9:00 a.m.**

at Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue.

All are welcome!



## **GREETERS / PARLOR COFFEE CAFÉ SNACKS**

Scan the QR code above 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**

See last page for additional information.

## **LUNCH FOR PR. STAUB**

Our former Pastor has recently retired. We have scheduled a lunch for **Wednesday, January 28**, at noon at Regal Buffet (located in Muhlenberg Shopping Plaza) to wish him well. Please call the church office if you would like to attend so we can make the reservation.

## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

The class will be held on **Sunday, February 1**. We will meet in the church kitchen at noon. Please call the church office to reserve a spot for your child/children.

## **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.

The gala will be held at  
BlackJax Restaurant and Event Center, Douglassville.

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



## Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Presented by the Exeter Township Lions Club "WE SERVE"

**Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**4pm – 7pm**

**Schwarzwald UCC Church**

**75 Church Lane Road, Jacksonwald**

**SNOW DATE: Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### Includes:

**Salad**

**Spaghetti w/ Meatballs**

**Italian Bread**

**Drinks – Coffee, Ice Tea,**

**Lemonade and Ice**

**Cream Cup**

**Adults: \$12.00**

**Children 4-12: \$6.00**

**Children under 3: FREE**

**(TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE)**

Additional baked goods will  
be available for an  
additional charge.

Tickets available through your  
favorite Exeter Township Lions Club  
Member and at the door.



**Collecting Used Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids,  
Soda Tabs, Cancelled Stamps, and New  
or Gently Used Baseball Caps.**

**Contact Lion Linda for weather related information at [lindaslong27@gmail.com](mailto:lindaslong27@gmail.com) or 484-955-0413**

*April 11 - 12, 2026*

ECTIVES • BUILD COMPASSION • UNDE

RAISE AWARENESS • CHANGE PERSP

# BOX CITY

*Youth Event*

STAND BETTER • SEE DIFFERENTLY

*Christ Lutheran - Harleysville*

A SEPA multi-congregation event hosted at

Christ Lutheran Church, Harleysville

For Youth Grades 6-12 • Friends Welcome!

Learn • Raise \$ • Play Games • Worship

Details on Website <https://bit.ly/boxcity26>

Registration opens Jan 2, 2026

## What is Box City?

Box City is a social justice learning experience designed for youth in grades 6-12. The event combines education, empathy-building, and community action by simulating aspects of homelessness and food insecurity. Participants engage in lessons and discussions that highlight real-world challenges faced by unhoused individuals, reflect on the social and economic factors contributing to poverty, and learn how they can make a difference through advocacy and service.

By spending the night outdoors (weather permitting) and raising funds for a local shelter, youth gain a deeper understanding of compassion and community responsibility.





## **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.

**Schwarzwald Lutheran Church  
250 Church Lane Road  
Reading, PA 19606**

**The Rev. Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:**

pastorjimsmc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278

**The Rev. David Blitch, Visitation Pastor:**

upsygrad@msn.com

**Church Office Phone** 610-779-3480

**Church Office Fax** 610-779-2777

**Website** [www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org](http://www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org)

**Office e-mail** [administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org](mailto:administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org)

**Director of Music** 484-794-1214 (text)

**Emergency** 610-914-8257