



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

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 18, 2026 10:45 A.M.

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Prelude* J. S. Bach

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,

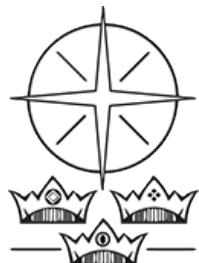
C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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 #715 *Christ Be Our Light*



GREETING

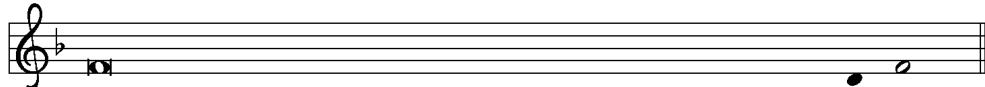
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE



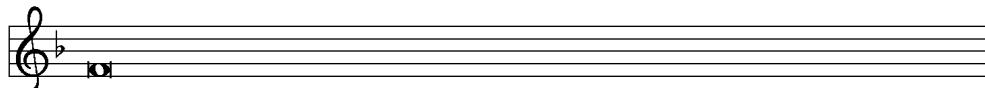
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - ey.**



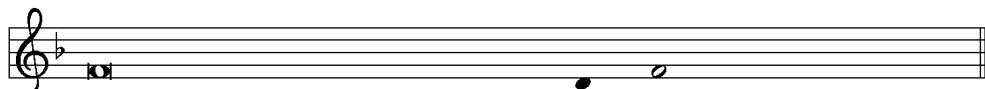
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - ey.



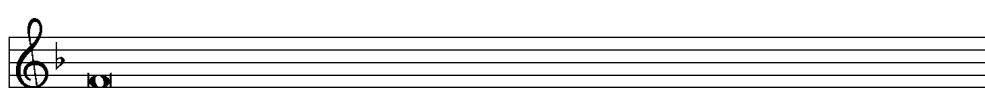
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



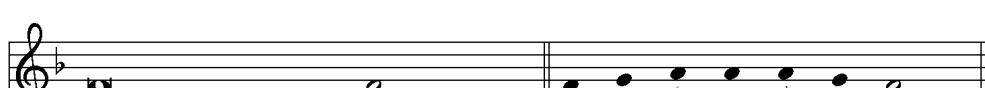
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



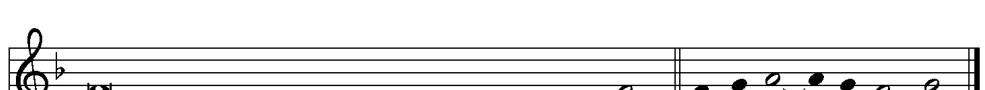
Lord, have mer - ey.



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. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

FIRST READING **Isaiah 49:1-7**

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord
and my reward with my God."
⁵ And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
⁷ Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 40:1-11 *read responsively*

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord;
 he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² **He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
 and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
 Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ **Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,
 who do not turn to the proud,
 to those who go astray after false gods.**

⁵ You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
 your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
 none can compare with you.
 Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
 they would be more than can be counted.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
 but you have given me an open ear.
 Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

⁷ Then I said, “Here I am;
 in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

⁸ **I delight to do your will, O my God;
 your law is within my heart.”**

⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
 see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;
 I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
 I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
 from the great congregation.**

¹¹ Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me;
 let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C 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. John.

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

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:29-42

²⁹[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’³¹I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

HYMN

#574 *Here I Am, Lord*

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 Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. 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 Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. 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 Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness especially:

Clyde Feick	Cindy Fliegel	Russ Frey
Johnny Gibson	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

Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. 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

Bread of Heaven Marc Jordan

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

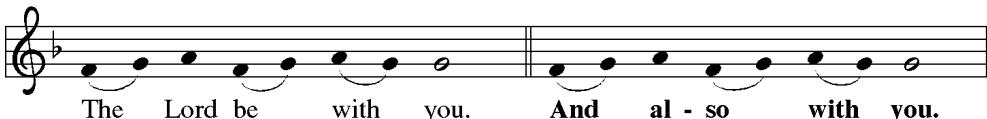
A God of majesty,

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.

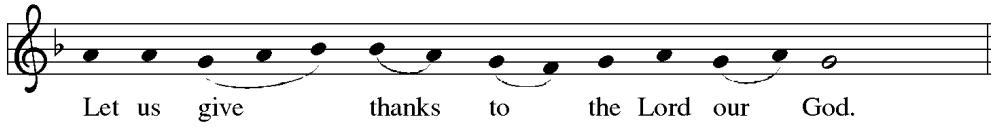
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

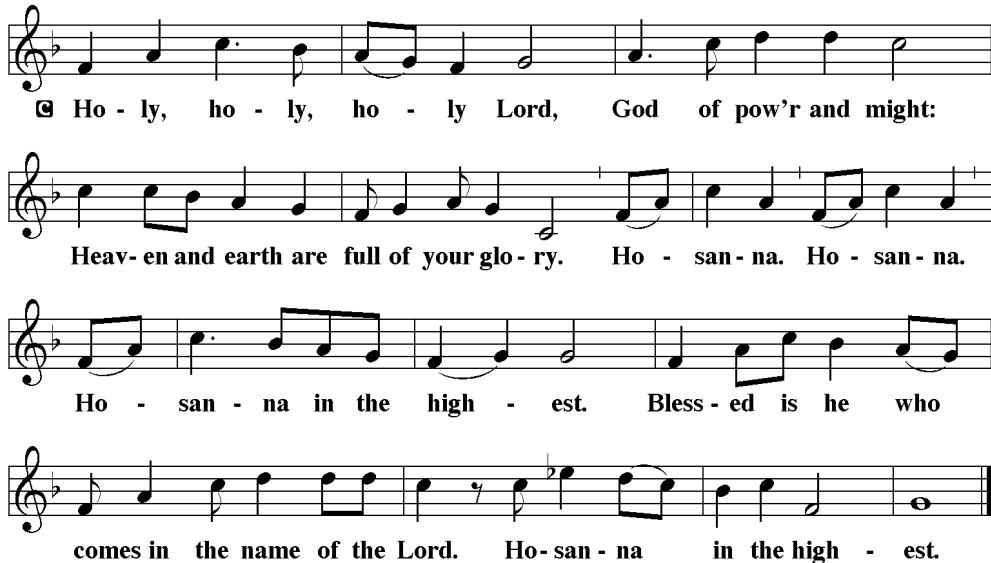


The Lord be with you. || And al - so with you.



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

C 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
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



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 #542 *O Living Bread from Heaven*

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 #677 *This Little Light of Mine*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Allemande.* George Frederic Händel

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 25, 2026

Immediately following the worship service,
lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall.

The congregational meeting will begin after lunch.

(The Annual Report is available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule.)

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

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pastorjimsmlc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278

The Rev. David Blitch, Visitation Pastor:

upsygrad@msn.com

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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

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Christy D'Angelo. Assisting Minister
Jeff Schmehl Usher Team Captain
Christy D'Angelo, Doris Jaeger, Mark Hoover Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Emma Dickerson, Ian Carr Carillonneurs
Dave Scalese Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Peg Gumpert as our supply pianist this morning.

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 Marcia Holbrook in memory of Walt Holbrook.

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 **Annual Report** is available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule. Please review the report prior to next Sunday's Annual Congregational Meeting.

Your 2025 Contribution Statements are ready for pick-up in the Narthex.

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 — 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!



The "Souper Bowl" collection is underway!!!
Our Sunday School classes are competing for the big prize.
Bring in those cans to benefit our local food pantry.
May the best class win!



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!

Tomorrow! Monday, January 19

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We will gather and make soup,
have some lunch, and package the soup
for distribution on this MLK Day of Service !!

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 24th, 2026

4pm – 7pm

Schwarzwald UCC Church

75 Church Lane Road, Jacksonwald

SNOW DATE: Sunday, January 25th, 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.

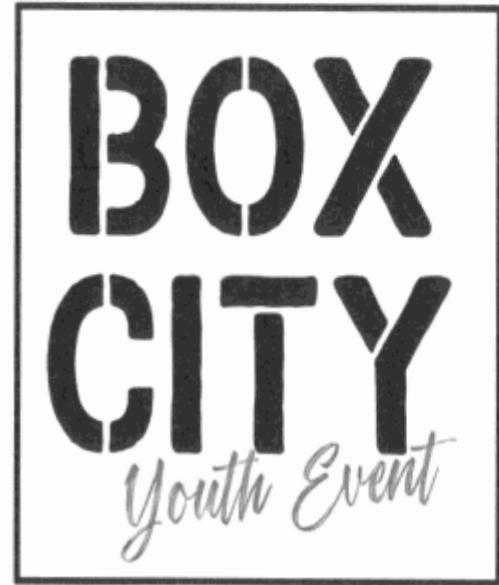
Tickets available through your
favorite Exeter Township Lions Club
Member and at the door.



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

Contact Lion Linda for weather related information at lindarlong27@gmail.com or 484-955-0413

RAISE AWARENESS • CHANGE PERSPECTIVES • BUILD COMPASSION • UNDERSTAND 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.

