



# 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

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY      FEBRUARY 1, 2026      10:45 A.M.**

**HYMNS ON THE CARILLON**

**CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE** *Organ Piece . . . . . Hesse*

**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 #520 *Dearest Jesus, At Your Word***

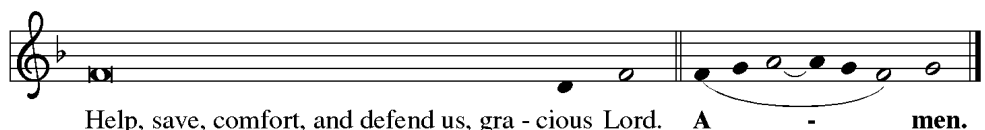
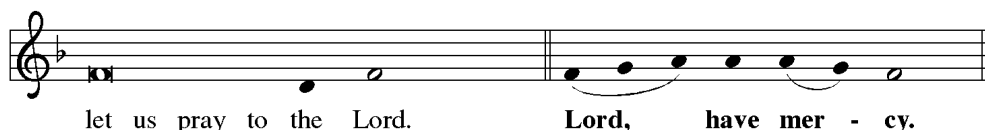
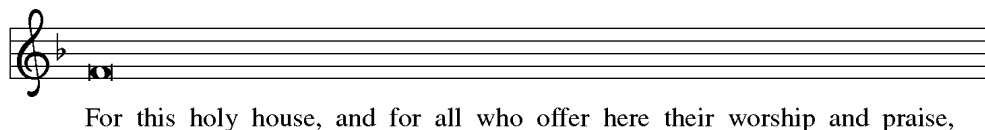
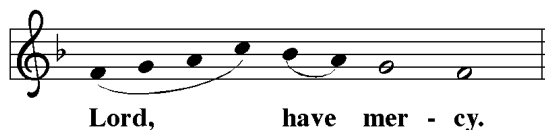
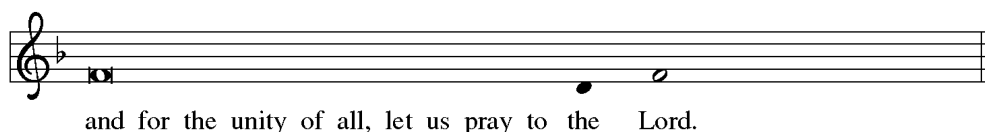
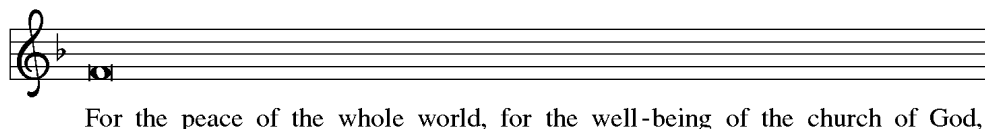
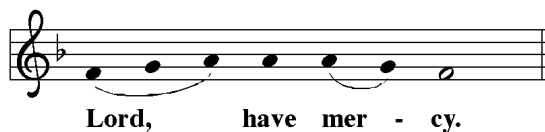
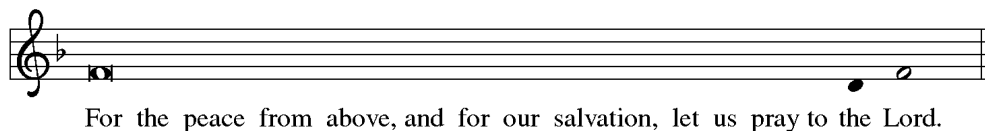


## GREETING

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.  
Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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

**FIRST READING Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the Lord says:  
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.  
<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.  
<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.  
<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”  
<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 15** *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> who do not slander with their tongue  
and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

<sup>4</sup> **in whose eyes the wicked are despised  
but who honor those who fear the Lord;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

<sup>5</sup> who do not lend money at interest  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

**SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

<sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

<sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**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 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:  
<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON . . . . .The Rev. Jim Farnsworth**

*Please stand.*

**HYMN**  
#754 *Jesus, the Very Thought of You*

## 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** God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. 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** God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

**A** God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. 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 God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way 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	
The family and friends of Curtis Prince, Sr., in their grief		

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 God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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**

**VOCAL SOLO**

*The Truth* . . . . . Woods  
Kailey Batzel, 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 . . .  
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 Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

## LAMB OF GOD



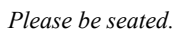
☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



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



## 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.*

#542 *O Living Bread from Heaven*

*Please stand.*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

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.**

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 #551 *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Fuga in C major*. . . . . Buxtehude

**PLEASE HEAD OVER TO FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR LUNCH  
AND THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.**

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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.

## **TODAY AFTER WORSHIP**

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

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

## SERVING AT WORSHIP

Peg Gumpert . . . . .	Assisting Minister
Fred Mohr / Youth . . . . .	Usher Team
John Gibson . . . . .	Acolyte
Peg Gumpert, Joshua Kerber, Judy McLain . . . . .	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Emma Dickerson, Ian Carr . . . . .	Carillonneurs
Rochelle Chelius . . . . .	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 **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by the Dickerson Family in honor of Anita Heydt’s birthday.

**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.

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

The **February issue of the *Pulpit and Pew*** is available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule entrances.

**Annual Reports** are available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule and will also be available at the meeting today.

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

**BREAKFAST BUNCH** will meet on Thursday, February 12 at 9:00 a.m. at the Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. Please join us! 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>



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!

## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

The class will be held on **Sunday, February 15**. We will meet in the church kitchen at noon. Please call the church office to reserve a spot for your child/children.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 18

1:00 — 3:00 p.m. “Drive-thru” Imposition of Ashes  
Front driveway near the office

7:00 p.m. Worship Service in our Sanctuary with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

## **MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

Wednesdays — February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 — 7:00 p.m.  
We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer Service*

## **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.

*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>

## 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.

**Registration is open now!**



# *Pasta Dinner*



## **FUNDRAISER**

To support the  
**Schwarzwald Lutheran Church's**  
**Youth Mission Trip**

**Friday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**5 pm – 6:30 pm**

**Schwarzwald Lutheran Church**

**250 Church Lane Rd**

**Reading, PA 19606**



**A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN.**