



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

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 8, 2026 10:45 A.M.

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Air from Overture in D.* J. S. Bach
Robin Lilarose, flute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made!
Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Please stand.

CONFESION 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 #673 *God, Whose Almighty 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

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

P 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.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE Collin Grooms
Executive Director
Bear Creek Camp

FIRST READING **Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]**

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

 Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
 to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
 and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
 they want God on their side.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?

 Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
 and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
 will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 112:1-9 [10] *read responsively*

¹ Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.**

⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

⁸ **Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

⁹ They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

^[10] **The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and
melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.]**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

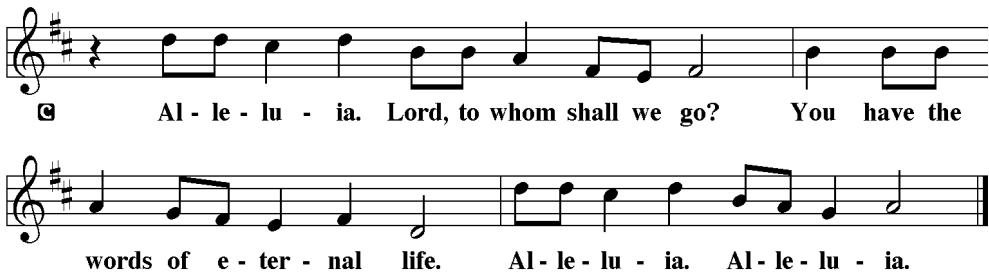
¹⁶ “For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”
But we have the mind of Christ.]

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 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Please stand.

HYMN #677 *This Little Light of Mine*

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 IS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, OUR
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Who was conceived by the
born of the virgin Mary.

born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate.

was crucified, died, and was buried:

Was crucified, died, and
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again:

On the third day he Rose he ascended into heaven

He ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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 Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. 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 Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving, especially:

Clyde Feick	Cindy Fliegel	Russ Frey
Johnny Gibson	Barbara Hafer	Ruth Hoover
Gwen Kauwell	Betty Neiman	Mary Phillips
Denton Quick	Walt Smithson	Pat Weiser
Debra Hoerner	Lori Long	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*

Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. 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 Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. 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.

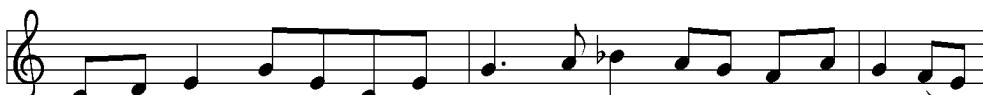
OFFERING

ANTHEM

Come Find Forgiveness and Love Price/Besig
Robin Lilarose, flute

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

P The Lord be with you.

C
 And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C
 We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C
 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

C 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

G 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.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Jesse Gibney	Assisting Minister
Kevin Kennedy	Usher Team
Emma Dickerson	Acolyte
Jesse Gibney, Lauren Batzel, Susan Johns	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Emma Dickerson, Ian Carr	Carillonneurs
Kevin Kennedy	Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special note of welcome and thanks to Robin Lilarose for sharing her time and talent with us 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!

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.

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!

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.

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
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The Rev. David Blitch, Visitation Pastor:
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Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)
Emergency 610-914-8257



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 runs through February 15. 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 next **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.

PIE FUNDRAISER FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

AVAILABLE FLAVORS ARE: APPLE LATTICE TOP - APPLE CARAMEL WALNUT - DUTCH APPLE CRUMB - HONEYCRISP APPLE - BLACKBERRY LATTICE - CHERRY LATTICE - COCONUT CUSTARD - PEACH - PUMPKIN (BAKED) - STRAWBERRY RHUBARB. The 9-inch pies are frozen, boxed, and labeled with baking instructions. The pies are made of real, fresh fruit. Every pie is free of trans fats, hydrogenated oils, and corn syrup. The cost is \$18 per pie. **Please see one of the youth or call the church office to place your order before February 22nd.**

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18

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

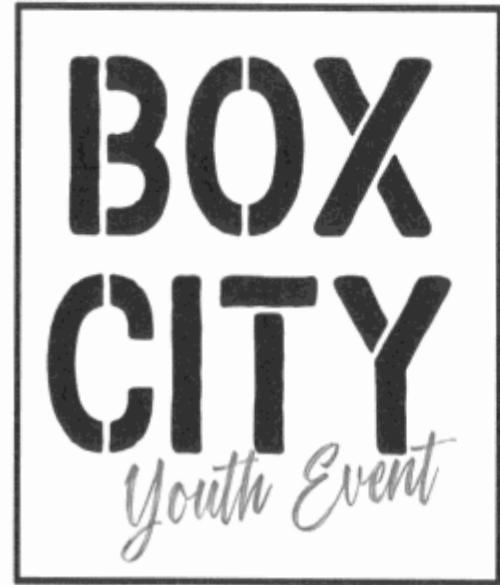
Save the date...

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.

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 is open now!

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.



Pasta Dinner



FUNDRAISER

To support the
Schwarzwald Lutheran Church's
Youth Mission Trip

Friday February 20th 2026

5 pm – 6:30 pm

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
250 Church Lane Rd
Reading, PA 19606



A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN.