



*Third Sunday
of Easter*

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

10:45 A.M.

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

The Rev. Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:
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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

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE Selection by Mike and Will Duo

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 #361 *The Day of Resurrection!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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 Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:
³⁶ “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19 *read responsively*

- ¹ I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
- ² **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**
- ³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
- ⁴ **Then I called on the name of the Lord, “O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**
- ¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?
- ¹³ **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;**

¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ **Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.**

¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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. Luke.

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

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

HYMN #384 *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Please welcome JoAnn Lott, Robert Loughery, Bev and Chip Pauley, and Scott and Amanda Sensenig.

APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C 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.**

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

P In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

WELCOME

P Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

P We give you thanks for our new members, JoAnn Lott, Robert Loughery, Bev and Chip Pauley, and Scott and Amanda Sensenig, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick, especially:

Clyde Feick

Ruth Hoover

Betty Neiman

Denton Quick

Curt Wittman

Sandy Chupkai

Tracy Rohrbach

Suzanne Trigg

Cindy Fliegel

Susan Johns

Mary Phillips

Walt Smithson

Barb Bardo

Debra Hoerner

Richard Schmeer

Jim & Lauri Walker

Susan Hinkley

Gwen Kauwell

Barb Quick

Pat Weiser

Stephanie Boone

Jayne Phillips

Betty Scollick

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

Silent Prayers

Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying.
Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism.
Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your
name. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in
ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence.
Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good
news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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 40 — *U2* arr. Mike Byrne and Will Shafer

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. 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 Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor,

gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us,

a glimpse of that great day

when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



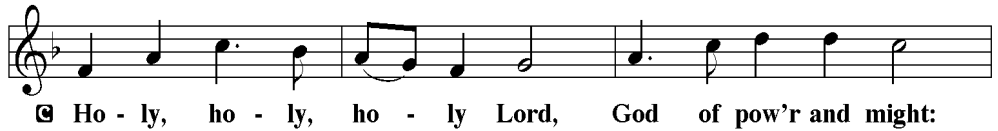
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



PREFACE

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,
for the glorious resurrection
of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb
who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels,
cherubim and seraphim,
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 Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

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.

DURING DISTRIBUTION

One Bread, One Body hymn tune arranged for Mike and Will Duo

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 Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

BLESSING

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN #380 *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE Selection by Mike and Will Duo

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Please be advised that all of our worship services are broadcast live via Zoom to anyone who possesses the meeting passcode as well as recorded for subsequent distribution via email to members of the congregation and posted on the church's Facebook page.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Joshua Kerber	Assisting Minister
Fred Mohr	Usher Team Captain
A. J. Batzel, Miles Brumbaugh, Vinnie D'Angelo	Youth Ushers
Joshua Kerber, Doris Jaeger, Lauren Batzel	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Emma Dickerson	Carillonneurs
Kerber Family	Zoom Masters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to extend a sincere thanks to Mike Byrne and Will Shafer for sharing their time and talents 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!

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by the Gibson Family in honor of John's 11th birthday, and 2) by the Gibson Family in honor of Ruth's (Grandma's) upcoming birthday.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Greg and JoAnn Lott.

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 May through August. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study - Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! Please join us!

NO rehearsals this week and **NO youth chimes rehearsal** next Sunday. Kathy will be away during the week/weekend.

Sunday, May 3 - adult **Handbell Choir** will rehearse at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 7th - 6:00 p.m. **Youth Chorus** will have their final rehearsal before summer.

YOUTH SUNDAY!



THE SLC B.F.F. GROUP IS PLANNING AND ORGANIZING THIS EVENT WITH THE INTENT TO INCLUDE ALL OF SLC CHILDREN (& FRIENDS) IN THE YOUTH-RUN WORSHIP SERVICE.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH

Updated List of Items Accepted by Hope Rescue Mission:

All seasons of men, women, and children's clothing, including hats, scarfs, coats, shirts, pants, dresses, belts, and purses, as well as backpacks, towels, sheets, blankets, socks, and new underwear.

Please bag all donations and place in the bin located in the Narthex.

Thank you.

God's Work, Our Hands!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning June 7,

our Sunday morning worship services will begin at 9:00 a.m.

for the summer and will be led by Chaplain MaryAnn Farnsworth.

The 3rd Sunday of each summer month will be led by Seminarian Tina Andrews.

This service is in place of the regular 10:45 a.m. worship time.

THE JANET GRIESEMER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Through Schwarzwald Lutheran Church,
two \$750 scholarships will be awarded
to applicants (graduating high school seniors only)
planning to continue their education beyond high school.
The applicant may attend any school district
or be home-schooled.

Scholarship Application Process

The application, which has 4 questions to answer and
may be obtained from the church office by calling or emailing.

The completed application, **along with your transcript**,
must be returned by Friday, May 8, 2026,
either by dropping it off at the church office,
Attention: Scholarship Committee,
or by e-mailing it to:
administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org
and placing "Scholarship Application" in the subject line.



Saturday evening services

For the summer, Pastor Jim will lead us in a
monthly Saturday evening service at 6:00 p.m.
in the pavilion on June 20, July 18, and August 8.

For those who are able,
we will then share a meal together at a local restaurant.



VBS 2026

June 8 - 12

Mark your calendars for this year's VBS!
Want to be a volunteer? Contact Ellen Focht!
More info will be coming as we get closer.

"Let the children come to me"

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR A WEEK FULL OF FAITH,
FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!**

AGES 4-12

DINNER WILL BE SERVED EACH EVENING

BEGINNING AT 5:45 PM.

THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE A GROUP OPENING, BIBLE STORIES, MUSIC
CRAFTS AND ACTIVE PLAY.

PICK-UP AT 8:00 PM.

THE CHILDREN WILL PROVIDE SHOWCASE OF THE LESSONS THEY HAVE
LEARNED ON FRIDAY, 6/12 AT 7:00 PM .

WITH AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL TO FOLLOW.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARTICIPANTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND CHURCH ON
SUNDY, JUNE 14TH SO THE CHILDREN CAN SHARE ALL THEY HAVE LEARNED WITH

OUR CHURCH FAMILY.



174th Anniversary Spring Concert



With the Ringgold Band and the Ringgold New Horizons Band

featuring **Ringgold Band Young Artist Award Winners**

Artemis Drake – Oboe and Rocky Rochlin – Alto Saxophone

and **Guest Soloist**

Master Sergeant J.G. Miller – French Horn



Master Sergeant J.G. Miller



Music that Celebrates America

Sunday, April 26, 2026 — 2:00 p.m.

Doors open at 1:00 p.m.

Muhlenberg High School, 400 Sharp Ave, Reading, PA 19605

Tickets \$15.00: available online at ringgoldband.com, from any band member, or at the door | **Students: Free**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Summer
CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

9:00 CHURCH SERVICE WITH THREE-FOLD BLESSING

(in the pavilion, weather permitting; indoors if not)

FOLLOWED BY A KAUFFMAN'S BARBECUE CHICKEN
LUNCH

(\$10/TICKET PURCHASED IN ADVANCE,
\$12 IF PURCHASED THAT DAY)

12:30 ENTERTAINMENT WITH THE HAPPY DUTCHMEN
and GAMES FOR THE KIDS

WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN
YOUR BULLETINS AND PULPIT AND PEW!