

YOUTH SUNDAY!



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

10:45 A.M.

**SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Veggie Tales Theme Song* Vischer/Nawrocki/anonymous

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 #836 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

GREETING

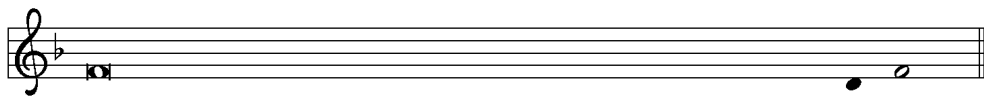
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.


KYRIE



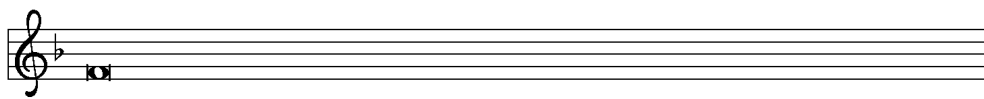
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



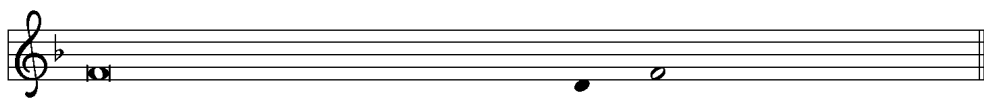
P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.



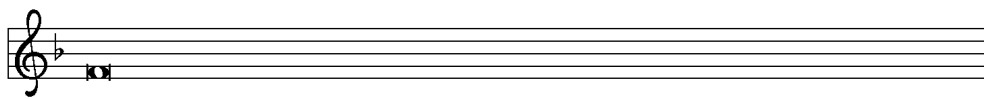
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



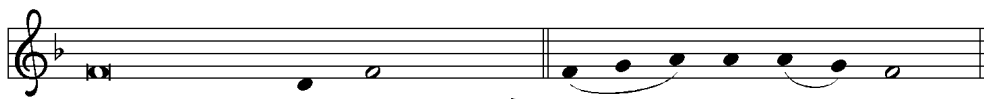
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



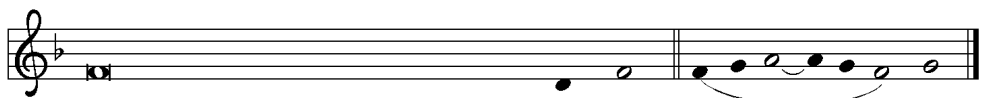
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S CIRCLE Kailey Batzel and the 7th - 8th grade class

SPECIAL MUSIC *I’ve Got Peace Like A River.* . . Children -- Birth to 6th grade
Kailey Batzel, leader Crystal Jordan, piano

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47 Cara Dobbins, Reader
⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *read responsively* Cadance Werner, Reader

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19-25 Emma Dickerson, Reader

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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. John.

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

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:1-10 Colette Jordan, Reader

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not

listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON Joshua Kerber

Please stand.

HYMN #671 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

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 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 Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured, especially:

Clyde Feick	Cindy Fliegel	Susan Hinkley
Ruth Hoover	Susan Johns	Gwen Kauwell
Betty Neiman	Mary Phillips	Barb Quick
Denton Quick	Walt Smithson	Pat Weiser
Curt Wittman	Barb Bardo	Stephanie Boone
Sandy Chupkai	Debra Hoerner	Jayne Phillips
Tracy Rohrbach	Richard Schmeer	Betty Scollick
Suzanne Trigg	Jim & Lauri Walker	

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

Silent prayers.

Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

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 *That's Who I Praise* Lake

Kailey Batzel, vocal
Scarlet Jordan, guitar
Matt Thren, guitar
Jesse Gibney, drums

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.

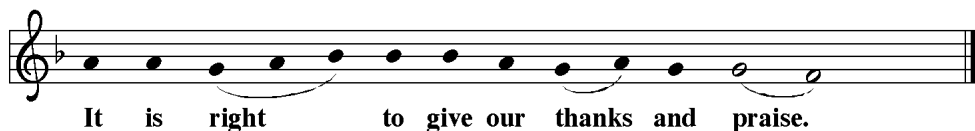
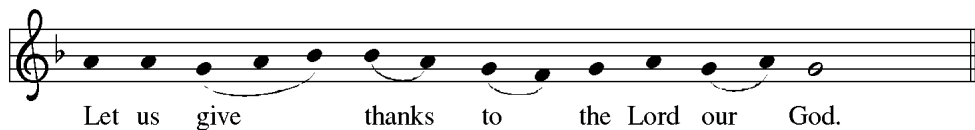
OFFERTORY PRAYER

A 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



PREFACE

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 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.

HYMN SUNG DURING DISTRIBUTION

#471 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

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 #866 *We Are Marching in the Light*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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

POSTLUDE *How Great is Our God* Reeves/Tomlin/Cass

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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
Dylan Thren, Abigail Thren, George Gibson, Arabella Ninni, Giovanna Ninni, and Tyler Thompson	Greeters
Michael Jordan	Youth Volunteer Coordinator
Shane Moyer	Usher Team Captain
Seth Moyer, Josh Nase, Vinnie D'Angelo, Sean Livingood	Ushers
A. J. Batzel, Layla Gibney	Acolytes
Joshua Kerber, Jeremy Kerber, Emma Dickerson	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Emma Dickerson	Carillonneurs
Kevin Kennedy	Zoom Master

Special thanks to the following adults for overseeing the coordination efforts of our BFF group: Sarah Gibson, Rochelle Chelius. **Additional adults** involved with the music include: Peg Gumpert, Matt Thren, Jesse Gibney, and Crystal Jordan.

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 1) by Susan and Dave Johns in memory of Susan's mother and in praise and thanksgiving for their grandson, Ben, and 2) by Dennis and Pat Ruffner in memory of Tom Bowersox.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by The Quick's—God is great!

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!

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.

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.

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.



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.

BREAKFAST BUNCH

The monthly **Breakfast Bunch** will meet on
Thursday, May 14, at 9:00 a.m.
at the Breakfast Hut Restaurant
on Perkiomen Avenue.

Please join us! All are welcome!



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

TODAY! 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 11:00 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICE w/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!

**SPONSOR RED GERANIUMS
FOR PENTECOST
SUNDAY, MAY 24**

6" pot \$6.50 per plant

10" pot \$12.00 per plant

Please fill out the form below and place it in one of the pew envelopes or use one of the green envelopes from your envelope packet and mark it "Seasonal Flowers" and place it in the offering plate.

The geraniums may be picked up after the 10:45 AM worship service on May 24.

Order deadline is May 17.

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Geranium Order Form

Name _____
(As you wish it to appear in the bulletin—names only, please)

Env. # _____

_____ Geraniums 6" pot \$ 6.50
#

_____ Geraniums 10" pot \$12.00
#

\$ _____ Total amount enclosed



SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Statement

We are a family of faith called to do God's will by inspiring Christian life through teaching and sharing His unconditional love for all.

Vision Statement

To encourage growth of our faith family through community outreach and engaging youth to serve God.

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

Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257