



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Children of the Heavenly Father* hymn
The B-I-B-L-E hymn
Youth Choir Chimes

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 #367 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*


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.**


The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

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

C  **Lord, have mer - cy.**

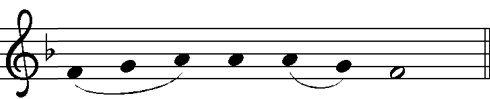
The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

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.**

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

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.**

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

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

C  **A - men.**

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE The Rev. David Blitch

FIRST READING Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 *read responsively*

¹In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

²**Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.**

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

⁴**take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**

⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸ and "A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMONThe Rev. David Blicht

Please stand.

HYMN #619 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!* stanzas 1 to 4

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 God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick, especially:

Clyde Feick	Cindy Fliegel	Susan Hinkley
Mark Hoover	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

Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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.**

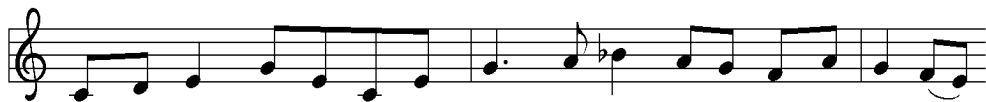
P Let us share God's peace with one another.

Please be seated.

OFFERING / ANTHEM *Simple Gifts* Shaker Hymn Handbell Choir

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

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.**

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

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 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

#542 *O Living Bread from Heaven*

Please stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A 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 #881 *Let All Things Now Living*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *The Acts of God are Righteous* Krebs

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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.

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

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The Rev. David Blitch, Visitation Pastor:
upsygrad@msn.com

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Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Christy D'Angelo	Assisting Minister
Denton Quick	Usher Team Captain
Christy D'Angelo, Peg Gumpert, Doris Jaeger	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Emma Dickerson	Carillonneurs
Bob Rutherford	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 Bill and Doris Jaeger in celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary.

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.

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

YOUTH CHORUS - Final rehearsal before summer, Thursday, 5/7 at 6:00 p.m.

SPRING CLEAN-UP - Saturday, May 9 at 8:00 a.m. (weather permitting). Your help would be much appreciated!

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!

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.

WEAR RED for Pentecost—Sunday, May 24

We could use your help on Saturday morning, May 23, at 8:45 a.m.
to help unload the Geraniums from the delivery truck
and help with decorating the sanctuary for Pentecost.
MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP 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.



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.

We invite you to join us!

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

August 23, 2026

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Outdoor worship
beginning at
11:00

★ service music by:
THREFOOLD BLESSING

★ post-service entertainment by:
THE HAPPY DUTCHMEN

Kauffman's BAR-B-QUE
12:00-2:00

order your tickets online, or contact:
administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org



Get your
chicken!



Get your ice
cream!



**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

