



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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE MUSIC *Gloria* Dvorak
Salvation is Created Chesnokov
The Heavens Are Telling Händel

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 #400 *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind*

GREETING

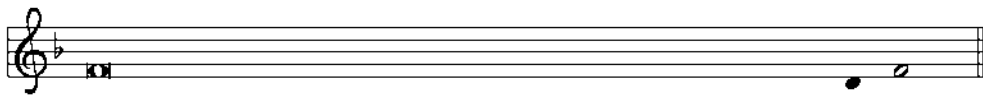
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



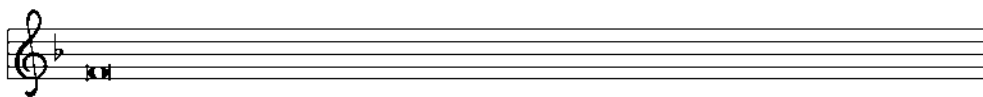
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **☩** Lord, have mer - cy.



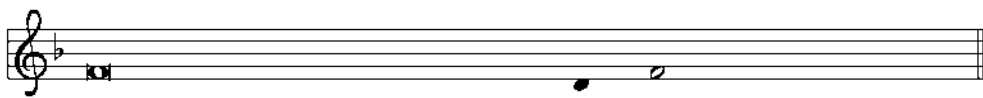
P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



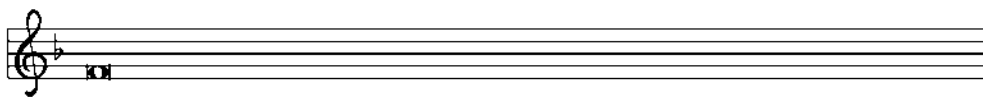
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



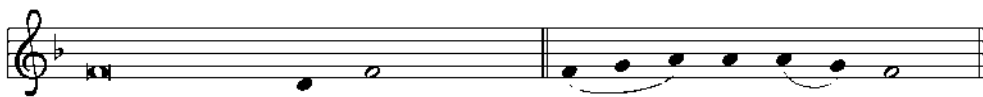
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



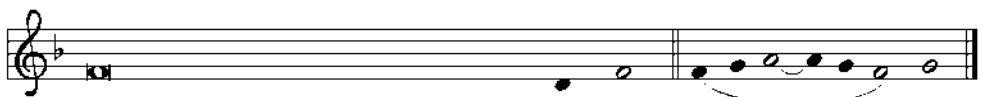
☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **☩** Lord, have mer - cy.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **☩** A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

FIRST READING Acts 1:6-14

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35 *read responsively*

¹Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.

²**As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.**

³But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.

⁴**Sing to God; sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—
his name is the Lord—
be exultant before him.**

⁵Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

**⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;

**¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord,

**³³ O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel
and whose power is in the skies.

**³⁵ Awesome is God in his sanctuary,
the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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 17:1-11

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

HYMN #396 *Spirit of Gentleness*

Please be seated.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (Confirmation)

Confirmands and Parents, please come forward.

Presentation of Confirmands

Vincent D’Angelo, Cara Dobbins, Colette Jordan, Jeremy Kerber

Congregation — Please stand.

Profession of Faith

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Please be seated.

Affirmation

P You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
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?

Each confirmand responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in:

Vincent D'Angelo, Cara Dobbins, Colette Jordan, Jeremy Kerber
the gift of your Holy Spirit;
confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life,
empower her/him in her/his serving,
give her/him patience in suffering,
and bring her/him to everlasting life. Amen.

The minister addresses the assembly.

P People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and
pray for them in their life in Christ?

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

Please stand.

P Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**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.**

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 O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick, especially:

Clyde Feick

Cindy Fliedel

Barry Hoover

Mark Hoover

Ruth Hoover

Susan Johns

Betty Neiman

Mary Phillips

Denton Quick

Dustin Readinger

Walt Smithson

Pat Weiser

Curt Wittman

Sandy Chupkai

Michelle Haak

Debra Hoerner

Jayne Phillips

Tracy Rohrbach

Richard Schmeer

Betty Scollick

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 love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. 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 *Amazing Grace* Newton

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

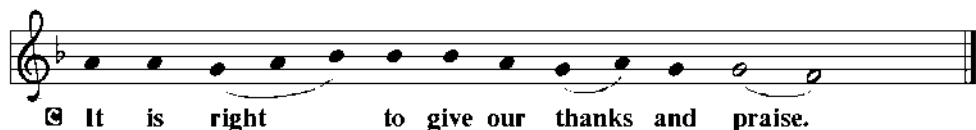
A Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

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.

PLAYED DURING DISTRIBUTION *On A Hymnsong Bliss/Holsinger*

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 #654 *The Church's One Foundation*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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

POSTLUDE *Achieved is the Glorious Work.* Haydn

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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

Peg GumpertAssisting Minister
Larry Houp Usher Team Captain
Peg Gumpert, Joshua Kerber, Terry JenkinsCommunion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Emma Dickerson Carillonneurs
Kerber Family Zoom Masters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special thank you to The Four Bones for sharing their time and talents with us this morning! - Jim Olson, Ron Evans, Will Shafer, Ruby Whitesell.

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 Fay Weaver to the glory of God, and 2) by Fred and Cynthia Mohr in honor of their grandson Vinnie D’Angelo’s confirmation.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Charles and Anita Heydt for the blessing of family.

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.

WEAR RED for Pentecost— Next Sunday, May 24

FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH MISSION TRIP

**On Sunday, May 31st
immediately after worship.
Please see the next page
for additional information.**

Fundraiser
Sunday May 31st -
immediately after worship

We're Having a
COCKOUT!



Enjoy a hamburger, hot dog, chips and
a drink - all for a Free-Will Donation
to support Schwarzwald's Youth
Mission Trip to Nashville.

Good food. Good people. Good Purpose.

SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
WORSHIP SERVICE

The meeting is being called to review
and discuss a proposed buyout of the
cell tower leases.

REMINDER:
THE WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS AT
9:00 A.M. ON JUNE 7!

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

**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.

TODAY is the deadline to order.

----- cut -----

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



SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you have pictures on your cell phone of SLC events? Please send them to the church office to be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages!
administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

HELP NEEDED!

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!

CALLING ALL COOKS!!!

Our next Soup Team event will be on Monday, June 1, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in SLC's kitchen. We'd love to have you join us as soup is prepared for the New Journey Soup Kitchen.
Thanks so much!

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 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.

PARLOR COFFEE CAFÉ / GREETERS

Scan the QR code or use the Sign-Up Genius link to sign-up to bring a baked good for the coffee café or to be a Greeter on a Sunday morning:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4FA9AD2FA7FD0-60582416-schwarzwald>





VBS 2026

June 8 - 12

Want to be a volunteer? Contact Ellen Focht!
elfocht@gmail.com
VBS Registration Form on next page!

"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.



VBS 2026

June 8 - 12

Registration Form

NAMES OF CHILDREN ATTENDING

AGE/GRADE COMPLETED

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PARENT NAME/NAMES: _____

WILL PARENTS BE HELPING AT V.B.S.? _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT (IF PARENT CANNOT BE REACHED)

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD: _____

PHONE: _____

ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS: _____

HOME CHURCH: _____

ANY OTHER SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

THIS FORM CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR EMAILED TO: administrator@schwarzwalddlutheran.org.

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:
THREIFOLD 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!

