

Throughout the entire season of Lent, we looked forward to Easter Sunday. We were anticipating the celebration of the resurrection – the service, the music, the flowers, the meal after the service. We can't wait to see if the tomb is empty again. And we beam with excitement when we hear that yes, it was empty. Alleluia!! I think it is appropriate that when we hear the good news, we want to celebrate with a big meal. After all, we are Lutheran!

I mean, come on, the ham, scalloped potatoes, sauteed green beans, red beet eggs, the desserts. Oh, and then the sandwiches from the leftover ham. The empty tomb is certainly deserving of a big celebration. But now, the ham should be gone. We are down to the candy left behind – you know, the candy you don't really want but you will eat it. The decorations have been put away. So, now what? Now that Easter is over, what do we do?

Well, if we follow the Gospel readings, it's time to get to work as the church. After his resurrection, Jesus met with the disciples and sent them into the world. As I was sent, now I am sending you. So, I think the same message applies to us. The celebration is over, let's get to work. And this is for ALL of us. He is sending you. You just need to figure out where he is sending you and what he is expecting you to do.

Let's get out there and rebuild the church. Let's invite our friends, neighbors, and family back to the church. Let's bring the good news to the people through our services, our outreach, our ministries. Let's get to work making disciples – through our Sunday School, Youth Group, bible study, VBS, summer services – let's bring the people to their God. Let's teach them about God.

Let's bring hope and relief to the people who are struggling through our youth mission trip to Nashville, our mini-youth mission trip, and our social ministries. Let's get out there and fight some evil and replace it with Good. Let's shatter the darkness with the Light of Christ.

He is sending us, filled with the Holy Spirit, to be his church. Let's get to work.

Pastor Jim

MUSIC MINISTRY

We have just come out of a season of Lent and Easter! We have enjoyed the music of Trio Jolie, Centre Park Flutes, and Chris Thompson on Trumpet; we were graced by the music of all the choirs of SLC, and all of this helped to enhance our worship experience. Your generous donations to the SLC Music Ministry have been appreciated by many during this season.

Now, we move into May! General lineup for the May service music:

May 3rd Handbell Choir and the Youth Chimes choir will play

May 10th: The Adult Choir and the Youth Chorus will sing at this service to help us celebrate the many wonderful Mother's in our midst!

May 17th: We will be graced with the talents of a new group to our sanctuary, a trombone quartet!

May 24th: We will celebrate Memorial Day and the Adult Choir will sing an anthem that day.

May 31st: The Adult Choir will sing a lively anthem that day called "Promised Land"!

Again, I thank everyone for their continued support of the music ministry through their envelope donations! It REALLY helps!

Musical Blessings, Kathy Snyder

SPRING CLEAN-UP

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

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!**

Summer Early Service

Returning to Schwarzwald on Sunday, June 7th!

Services will begin at 9:00 a.m. each week

and will be led by Chaplain MaryAnn Farnsworth.

The third Sunday service of each month will be led by Tina Andrews.

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

Saturday evening services

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.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

. . **from** the Property Committee—Thank you to the following individuals for their hard work in cleaning out various storage areas throughout our building on two separate dates: John, Tony, and Vinnie D'Angelo, Diane Hafer, Chuck Heydt, Doris Jaeger, Frank Kerber, Jeremy Kerber, Chip Mohr, and Grayson Morgan, and a special thank you to Jeremy Kerber for using his large dump trailer to haul it all away. - from Kevin Kennedy, Chair

. **from** Hope Rescue Mission—On behalf of the more than 1,500 men, women and children whose lives are touched by the HRM each year, we offer our sincerest gratitude for your generous donation. Your kindness truly makes a difference.

. **from** Exeter Area Food Pantry—Thank you for your donation. Your generosity will help to make a difference in the lives of people in need in our community.

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

_____ Geraniums 6" pot \$ 6.50
#

_____ Geraniums 10" pot \$12.00
#

\$ _____ Total amount enclosed



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Melissa Crotty, Lila Gibson
- 2 Ashley Krommes
- 4 Christina Reinert
- 5 Gary Gilbert, Jay Houp
- 6 Tyler Notario
- 7 Lisa Herbst
- 8 Cynthia Shollenberger
- 9 Mary Brickner, Haley Readinger
- 10 Susan Moyer
- 12 Caroline Obenski, Christy Schaeffer
- 13 Larry Houp, Ashley Doll
- 14 Andrew Kent
- 15 Connie Harman, Dustin Readinger
- 16 Mark Phillips
- 17 Juliana Schaeffer, Patricia Weiser
- 18 Carol Burkhart, The Rev. Alex Kennedy, Samuel Leone,
Michael Himmelreich, Aspen Shaffer
- 19 Jeff Schmehl, Chase Cupitt, Melissa Thompson
- 20 Brayden Reinert, Penelope Zerwick
- 23 Amy McLeroy, Martin Weaver, Jr., Joshua Kerber
- 24 Kelsey Jackson
- 25 Dexter Kennedy, Ruthann Rutherford
- 26 Jamie Sgroi
- 27 Susan Johns, Jennifer Cataldi, Markus Jeschonnek
- 28 Courteney Keuscher, Brayden Karas
- 29 Stephen Herber, Melissa Kerber
- 31 Joel Hoover



If your birthday is in May
and is not listed here, please call the
church office,
610-779-3480, with your full birth date
M/D/Y. Thank you.

PRAYER GROUP

The May meeting dates for the Prayer Group are the 12th & 26th
at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Joanne
Rutherford for additional information at 610-406-9355 or
jmr14290@gmail.com.



News and Notes from the Social Ministry Committee - May 2026

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank those who donated clothing items during the month of April. After only one week, eight bags of clothing were donated for the Hope Rescue Mission. These donations will be given directly to the men who live “The Mission” and the women and children who reside at “LightHouse”. Your donations are always appreciated.

Soup Teams have continued to make monthly batches of soup for the New Journey Soup Kitchen. The ingredients for the soups have been donated by members of the congregation. Volunteers cook, package and freeze the soups in Schwarzwald’s kitchen, following recommended food safety procedures. Thanks to those who have donated ingredients and those who have volunteered their time to prepare the soups.

The SMC’s next meeting will be on May 11 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in planning and facilitating projects aimed at helping those in need are welcome to join us. **GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS!**

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, 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.



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship service. This		1	2
Pub. (FH) Singing (SR)	7	8	9 8:00am Spring Clean-Up
Council (FH) Singing (SR)	14 9:00am Breakfast Bunch (BH)	15 2:00pm Exeter Area Food Pantry (EAB)	16
Senior Citizens Hip. Hall in use Singing (SR)	21	22	23 8:45am Truck unloading (PL) 9:00am Decorating (S)
Singing (SR)	28	29	30

CANCELLATION INFORMATION

Please check your email, our website (www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org), Facebook page (Schwarzwald Lutheran Church), Channel 69 — WFMZ-TV Stormcenter, or our answering machine (610-779-3480)

Christian Education Update



How is it that we are in our final month of Sunday School? Rally Day seems like it just happened! Time passes quickly when an astronomical amount of activities are at our children's fingertips, both in and out of church. There is not much time to stop and reflect. We are not finished yet! We have a few more fun-filled weeks to go. Our special end of year events include our Mother's Day activities and the End-of-Year celebration. Many of our oldest youth will experience confirmation, too. We are so proud of all of our young children.

How can you get involved? Glad you asked! Sign up to volunteer for our VBS program in early June. Join our fabulously dynamic Sunday School team for 2026-2027 (you don't need a child in the program and you don't have to create any lessons!). Don't forget to check us out on Facebook, like a post, and leave a positive review so we can reach families who are not physically able to attend church or who are looking for a new church home.

Upcoming Events & Info

Youth Chimes & Choir

The final youth chime performance will be Sunday, May 3rd. The final youth choir performance will be on Mother's Day, May 10th. Both will take place during the worship service.

Confirmation

This year's confirmands are Vinnie D'Angelo, Cara Dobbins, Colette Jordan, and Jeremy Kerber. They will be confirmed on May 17th. Congratulations to these children!

End of Year Celebration - May 17

We made it! Join us on May 17th for our end of year Sunday School celebration! The festivities will include wrap-up activities, prizes & certificates, and snacks. The big reveal - our blue ticket raffle winner will be announced!

Vacation Bible School - 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.

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

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
10:45**

★ service music by:
THREFOOLD BLESSING

★ post-service entertainment by:
THE HAPPY DUTCHMEN



Get your
chicken!



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

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



Get your ice
cream!



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (March)

Cell Tower

We have received another cell tower buyout offer. These types of offers have come to council numerous times and have always been declined by council. We would also be giving up interest in our real estate. We should reach out to other companies for additional quotes/offers.

Christian Education

The suggestion from the Christian Education Committee is to increase our presence on social media so we might increase our numbers. Crystal explained the compensation proposal. After discussion by council, it is suggested that before we consider financially compensating someone to do social media, we should put a notice in the bulletin for folks to send photos to the church office so they can be posted to our Face Book and Instagram accounts.

Old Business

- Community meal on March 17 – A flyer was sent out to families through Exeter schools. We will prepare for 50. Schwarzwald UCC is donating desserts. We will meet at 2:00 p.m. to begin cooking.
- Security Grant – We still haven't heard from DHS, but everything is delayed because of DHS shut down.
- Security Team - The draft security team document needs legal advisement from an attorney. Their hourly rates are \$300. Chuck will be talking with the lawyer via Zoom.
- Church clean-up – Jeremy Kerber will be coordinating this as his confirmation project. Labor will be done by Jeremy along with using his own dump trailer for transporting to the landfill. We will pay for dumping of the trailer.
- Music – the old music will not be thrown out. It will be boxed and stored.

New Business

- Synod Assembly – Bishop election will take place this year. It will be held June 4-6 in Lake Harmony.
- Summer organist – Kathy will be off for the summer. Clara Worrall will do all services in June and July. Peg Gumpert will do first 2 weeks in August when Clara gets ready to go back to school.
- Broken window – Property Committee will move ahead with the repair as quoted.

Budget Information—Monthly totals (March)

Income:

Budgeted Income	\$ 20,697 (Current envelopes)
Actual Income	\$ 21,213 (Current envelopes)

Expenses:

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 28,662 (Amount includes a full-time pastor salary)
Actual Expenses	\$ 68,050 (Amount includes \$37,718 for the fire detection system approved by the Congregation)

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Schwarzwald LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving and Loving Christ Since 1737

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Office e-mail: administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Join our family, share God's love.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Pulpit
and
Pew*

MAY 2026