

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE PAVILION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

6:00 P.M.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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.

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 mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

P For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13 *read responsively*

⁸ Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹ **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

¹² The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.**

SECOND READING Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMONThe Rev. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

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 With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer, especially:

Mark Bauer	Cindy Fliegel	Carol Gunzelmann
Janet Hafer	Rosalie Heller	Ruth Hoover
Betty Neiman	Mary Phillips	Denton Quick
Keith Schmehl	Walt Smithson	Jonathan Bortz
Sandy Chupkai	Michelle Haak	Karin Kohl
Sean Miller	Kelly Ringler-Nguyen	Jayne Phillips
The Reilly Family	Tracy Rohrbach	Richard Schmeer
Patricia Schonour	Betty Scollick	Melissa Scollick
Paula Shirk	Jim & Lauri Walker	Marty Wegman

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 For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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 your seat.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

LAMB OF GOD

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

Please be seated.

OFFERING / DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

As you come forward for Communion, please place your offering in the plate. Then proceed to the altar for Holy Communion.

Continuous Communion

Grape juice is available.

For gluten free wafers, please ask the Communion Assistant.

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 to the altar for communion, the Pastor will bring communion to you at your seat.

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 Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely,
as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

A Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C **Thanks be to God.**

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Susan Johns Assisting Minister and Communion Assistant

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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. 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!



AT HOME YOUTH MINI-MISSION TRIP

The Schuylkill River Parish will sponsor an
At-Home Youth Mini-Mission Trip

Monday-Tuesday, August 10 –11

For youth going into grades 7 to 12

Parent drop-off at 8:30 a.m.
each day at St. Mark's, Birdsboro

Lunch will be provided each day

Youth will participate in service activities
(i.e. cooking and serving a meal,
helping at a food pantry distribution,
working in a garden, etc.)

Youth will travel to Reading on Tuesday to serve a taco Tuesday meal.

Parent pick-up at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mark's each day

To register, please contact St. Mark's Lutheran Church,
Birdsboro, at 610-582-8167.

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

250 Church Lane Road

Reading, PA 19606

Pastor Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor pastorjimsmc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278

Pastor 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

We invite you to join us!

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

August 23, 2026

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

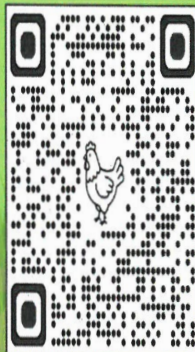
Outdoor worship
beginning at
11:00

★ service music by:
THREEFOLD 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!



FILL *the* TRUCK

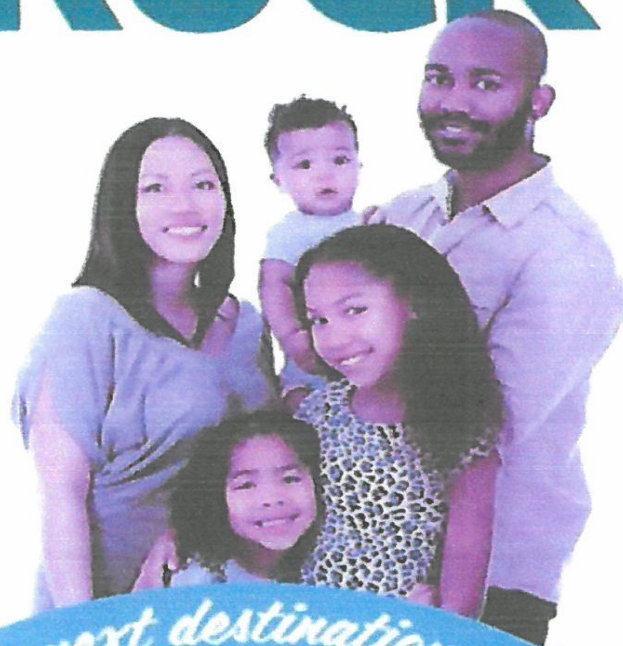
and

HELP OUR NEIGHBORS

Help us fill the truck with furniture, clothing, and household items to help families get back on their feet after experiencing homelessness.

Electronics and baby furniture are not accepted.

Scan
to Donate:



Find us at our next destination:

**Reformation Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

3670 Perkiomen Ave

Reading, PA 19606

Drop Off/Donations

12 Sept 11 AM - 3 PM

13 Sept 12 PM - 3 PM

Rear Parking Lot



**Opportunity
House**



“Fill the Truck”

1. **Decrease land fill waste and help reduce the carbon foot print**
2. **Give life and continued use to old household items**
3. **Donate nonperishable food items to help nourish needy families**
4. **Provide used clothing, of all sizes and ages, to keep families warm and clothed**
5. **Provide lightly used furniture to furnish apartments and homes**

This year Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church, located in Reading, is partnering with Opportunity House to successfully provide essential items for displaced and needy families and individuals. The goal is simple; just fill their box truck with useful and needed items, new or used.

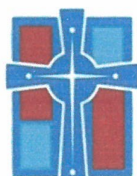
“Fill the Truck” helps replenish essential supplies for Opportunity House that helps families as they work to rebuild their lives. Community members donate **non-perishable food items — including canned goods, beans, pasta, cereal, and juice — as well as gently used furniture, clothing, and household items. [Dressers, kitchen tables with chairs, beds, and sofas are some of the most needed items.] Clothing** is always needed for the over **500** people who walk through the doors at Opportunity House each year. All donations directly benefit families in Berks County.

Location: Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
3670 Perkiomen Ave
Reading, PA 19606

Donations/Drop Offs: 12 Sept 11 AM – 3 PM
 13 Sept 12 PM – 3 PM
 Rear Parking Lot of the Church



Opportunity
House



Reformation
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

You are always welcome here!