

Serve Boldly! The name of the organization our youth used for our recent Youth Mission Trip to Nashville, but also a call that would seem to have come from Martin Luther, if not Christ himself.

Our youth just came back from a week-long mission trip to Nashville. The drive was long, but the destination was wonderful. We used the First Lutheran Church of Nashville as our home base for the week. We slept on air mattresses and cots in their Fellowship Room, all 37 participants for the week shared one shower in the church, and most of our meals were cooked in the church's kitchen. It was NOT a luxury trip.

The youth prepared and served meals to the hungry, sorted medical supplies being shipped to hospitals and clinics in Africa, and sorted shoes to be sent to needy countries. They pulled weeds, harvested crops, made flower arrangements, and planted new crops at local farms supporting area food pantries. They worked directly with clients and local food pantries, and they talked with and prayed with some of the homeless in Nashville. They also sent postcards out to some Berks County Youth serving in the military. And after the work day was over, they gathered with Lutheran youth from Nebraska to hold worship services in the church's chapel and to discuss activities and emotions from the work of the day. They did indeed Serve Boldly!

Now, they are looking forward to attending the ELCA Youth Gathering June 27-July 2, 2027, in Minneapolis.

But let's get back to Serve Boldly. This isn't just the name of an ELCA Youth Mission Trip organization. It is a call from Luther and from Christ to do the work of the church. Luther may have told us to sin boldly because, by the grace of God, our sins are forgiven through faith in Christ. But, I think more important than that, we should serve boldly - serve Christ, serve the church, serve the world boldly because Christ calls us and sends us to do just that. And we know that when we are out there serving others, Christ is indeed with us. Not only do we represent him in our service, but he is also standing right beside us in our service. Knowing that, how can we NOT SERVE BOLDLY? Our youth are leading the way in this service, and we need to follow their lead as a church. Let's get out there. Let's find ways to serve Christ - in church and in the world. Let us be bold and unafraid in our service. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Jim





SUNDAY, JULY 26TH

AT 11:00 A.M.

(This will be in place of our regular worship service at Schwarzwald)

Schuylkill River Parish

Worship Service and Picnic

Schwarzwald, St. Mark's, Reformation and St. Paul's will join together for this special outdoor service to be held at

Rustic Park (please note change of venue)

1314 Haycreek Rd, Birdsboro, PA

Pavilion #3

PICNIC WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP!

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be provided.

Please a covered dish to share.

Please bring lawn chairs.

If you have lawn games, please bring them as well.

This is a great opportunity for our church families to get to know each other.

Saturday evening services

Pastor Jim will lead us in a monthly Saturday evening service at 6:00 p.m. in the pavilion on July 18, and August 8. For those who are able, we will then share a meal together at a local restaurant.



In Memoriam

Patricia A. Weiser

May 17, 1934 – June 2, 2026

Patricia A. Weiser, 92, of Reading, passed away peacefully in her home on Tuesday, June 2, 2026. She was the widow of Charles "Chuck" H. Weiser, who passed away on October 22, 2021.

Born in Boyertown to Charles P. Pfautz and Edith I. Kirkhoff, Pat graduated from Penn-Bernville High School in 1952. She graduated from the Reading Hospital School of Nursing, commencing her lifelong career as an RN.

Pat retired as the Reading Hospital Nurse Manager of the Protocol Office (cancer clinical trials) after 30 years of service. She previously had worked at the University of Chicago Hospital, where she began her career in oncology.

Her faith was very important to her, which she loved to express through music. She served as an organist and choir director for many churches, beginning with Friedens Lutheran Church, Bernville and ending with her home church, Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Exeter.

Left to treasure Patricia's memory are her children: Jennifer Roth of Philadelphia; Beth Roth, wife of Verine Davis, of Indianapolis, IN; Eric Weiser, husband of Brooke, of Wyomissing; and Karen Lerch, wife of Kevin, of Muhlenberg; grandchildren Blake, Christian, Chadd and Jonathan; great grandchildren Jakob and Elijah; and great-great grandchildren, Valerie and Luna

We are thankful for her many years of service to Schwarzwald Lutheran.



The Exeter Area Food Pantry is requesting donations of school supplies to distribute to its families in August: **backpacks, binders, pencils, boxes of 24 crayons, glue sticks, 2-pocket folders, 1-subject notebooks, highlighters, rubber erasers, and colored pencils.** Please have your donations at church by July 26.

HEART AND “SOLE” SHOE COLLECTION—Mary’s Shelter is hosting a shoe drive this summer to benefit their clients, as well as the surrounding community. We will have a collection bin in the Narthex through July 12. **NEW and GENTLY-USED** shoes for children, women, and men should be placed in bags and deposited in the marked bin. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause. **GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS.**

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!



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! . . .

.. **from** the Property Committee—Please take a moment to thank Lori and Mark Bauer for their hard work in helping to keep our property looking beautiful. They worked very hard to clean up the flower beds next to the pavilion. They did extensive weeding and weedwacking, trimmed a large shrub, mulched the flower beds and rearranged the river rock in one of the beds. - from Kevin Kennedy, Chair

.. **from** Opportunity House—Thank you so very much for your recent donation to Opportunity House. Your contributions have a lasting impact on the lives of the individuals, families, and veterans we service. Because of your generosity and dedication to our mission, we can continue to feed, house, employ, and empower the neediest members of our community to stand on their own feet. Thank you for being such a special part of our shelter family.

YOUTH MINI-MISSION TRIP

The Schuylkill River Parish will sponsor a 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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
JULY 2026			1 7:00pm NA Meeting
5 9:00am Worship Service (S) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	6 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	7 11:00am Prayer Group (FH)	8 7:00pm Church 7:00pm NA Meeting
12 9:00am Worship Service (S) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	13 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	14	15 11:00am Exeter (FH) 6:30pm Lions Club 7:00pm NA Meeting
19 9:00am Worship Service (S) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	20 6:00pm Girl Scout meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	21 11:00am Prayer Group (FH)	22 7:00pm NA Meeting
26 11:00am Outdoor Worship Service at Rustic Park in Birdsboro 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	27 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	28	29 7:00pm NA Meeting

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Meeting (SR)	2	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
Council (FH) Meeting (SR)	9:00am Breakfast Bunch (BH) 6:00pm Girl Scout meeting (FH)	10	11
Senior Citizens Club meeting (FH) Meeting (SR)	16	17 2:00pm Exeter Area Food Pantry (EAB)	18 6:00pm Saturday evening service in the pavilion (PV)
Meeting (SR)	23	24	25
Meeting (SR)	30	31	

or Coffee Cafe **PV**—Pavilion **S**—Sanctuary **P**—Parlor **N**—Narthex **K**—Kitchen **Z**—Zoom
 op Instruction Room **SCA**—Schwarzwald Cemetery Assoc. **YR**—Youth Room **CO**—Church Office

Welcome to our New Members!



Joann Lott

Joann has shared that she enjoys walking her dogs, having pool parties for her turtles and swimming.

She has also joined the SLC Bell Choir and is a new and dedicated helper at the Exeter Area Food Pantry!



Bev & Chip Pauley

Chip retired in 2015. He enjoys spending time with his three grandsons and his wife of 50 years! He also likes tinkering with his 3 vintage John Deere garden tractors.

Bev retired in 2020 after 40 years in Insurance Customer Service. She has one daughter and three grandsons whom she adores. She enjoys reading, listening to audio books and birdwatching.



Scott & Amanda Sensenig & Ashley

Scott and Amanda were both born and raised in Berks County. They moved to St. Lawrence in the summer of 2018 and were married in October of 2020. In 2023, they were blessed with the arrival of their daughter, Ashley.

In addition to becoming new members, Ashley was baptized at SLC on May 31st. They are excited to be here at Schwarzwald!

Also, please welcome **Robert Loughery!**

He is the father of Thomas Loughery, who joined SLC earlier this year.



Community Refrigerator
Dedicated to the Memory of
Marlene Harlow

Have you seen the new additions to the breezeway?

After noticing that our “Little Free Pantry” was being visited quite often, Social Ministries decided to enlarge the pantry and move it to a sheltered location. Having done this means we do not have to worry as much about overheating and freezing food due to exposure.

At that time, we reached out to the Harlow family to see if they might be interested in continuing Marlene’s support of SLC food ministries by using donated Memorial Funds to purchase an outdoor refrigerator. They very happily agreed!

We now can serve our neighbors on many levels by providing shelf stable foods, as well as refrigerated and frozen items.

We have had quite a few visitors already! A few have even used the table to rest and eat.

Feel free to add food to the pantry and refrigerator when you have items to share. Garden produce is also welcomed.

We are excited about this new SLC Ministry!!!

Summer Early Service

For the summer, our worship services will begin at 9:00 a.m. The Coffee Café will open at 8:30 a.m. The worship services will be led by Chaplain MaryAnn Farnsworth. The 3rd Sunday of each summer month will be led by Seminarian Tina Andrews. This is in place of the regular 10:45 a.m. worship time.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Karysa Karas
- 6 Chris Cupitt
- 7 Addie Devage
- 10 Kelli Hoch, Dane Rigg, Brandt Burkhardt
- 11 Tricia Cupitt, Marisa Tran, Kolsen Guziak
- 12 Codey Fayewicz
- 13 Lawrence Billman, Sr.
- 14 Jeremy Cataldi, Austin Cataldi
- 15 Sara Billinger, Bryan Schmehl, Riley Bauer
- 16 Felix Carr, Jr., Ashley Zerwick
- 17 Kirsten Weaver, Melissa Karas
- 19 Adaly Darlington
- 21 Thomas Chobot
- 23 Kelly Kline-Carr, Linda Hughes, Sue Jackson, Shelley Fayewicz
- 24 Paul Toaldo, Jr., Brandy Karas, Gavin Zackon
- 26 Carol Godshall, Dennis Ruffner
- 28 Julie Dickerson, Linda Rowe, Christy D'Angelo, Deanna Felder
- 29 Ashley Giannotti, Zachary Werner
- 31 Jacob Bauer, Margot Wegman



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

NEXT SOUP GROUP

Wednesday, August 5

beginning at 10:00 a.m.

in Fellowship Hall Kitchen



The Prayer Group meets every other Tuesday at 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. The July dates are the 7th and 21st. Please contact Joanne Rutherford for additional information at 610-406-9355 or jmr14290@gmail.com.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (May)

The Property Committee had a planned maintenance clean-up.

Tower Genius – It is recommended to move forward with the cell tower buyout. We are not committed until the document is signed. Tower Genius' fee is 4% of the lump sum.

Mission trip fundraiser—On 5/31, they will set up outside the Narthex after worship serving hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, chips. A free will offering will be taken.

8/23 Festival – tickets will be needed for the chicken BBQ at \$10 / ticket. Free ice cream will be served. A QR code will take you to the google doc order form or you can call the church office to order tickets. A “bounce house” will be rented for the kids.

Synod Assembly – Katie Rosales and Rochelle Chelius are registered for Synod Assembly and have a room booked for the two-night stay.

Scholarships – applications will be sent to the committee for review. Scholarship checks will be presented on 5/31.

Food Truck Festival at Exeter Sr. High School—Evangelism Committee will have a tent set-up at the festival.

Relocation of Little Pantry - It is in need of repair and it is too small. We have a really nice Rubbermaid cabinet with double doors that we will use in the breezeway.

Schwarzwald Cemetery is its own entity. At the last cemetery board meeting, it was discussed that since they cannot find people to join the Board, what will happen to the cemetery as the Board members age out. We would like to explore if our congregation would be interested in obtaining it.

Needy family staying at Best Western – The check was written and delivered. The family is still there but looking for housing in the Exeter area.

We had one of the best Youth Sundays ever! Kudos to the youth!

We will form an ad-hoc committee to review the security plan and handbook so we can move forward.

The Knox Box has been rekeyed and repaired by Kevin.

Budget Information—Monthly totals (May)

Income:

Budgeted Income	\$ 20,697 (Current envelopes)
Actual Income	\$ 16,350 (Current envelopes)

Expenses:

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 28,649 (Amount includes a full-time pastor salary)
Actual Expenses	\$ 22,108

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Join our family, share God's love.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pulpit and Pew

JULY 2026