



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
The Rev. Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor
The Rev. David Blicht, Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Kathy Snyder - Director of Music
Ms. Diane V. Hafer - Office Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Jordan - Christian Ed. Director
Mrs. Melissa Kerber—Sexton

SUMMER FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 23, 2026

11:00 A.M. IN THE PAVILION

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *Breathe*

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence
Living in me

This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very Word
Spoken to me

And I, I'm desperate for You
And I, I'm lost without You

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence
Living in me

This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very Word
Spoken to me

And I, I'm desperate for You
And I, I'm lost without You
And I, I'm desperate for You
And I, I'm lost without You

I'm lost without You
I'm lost without You

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 *You Say*

I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough
Every single lie that tells me I will never measure up
Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low?
Remind me once again just who I am, because I need to know
Ooh, oh

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
And you say I am held when I am falling short
And when I don't belong, oh, You say I am Yours
And I believe (I), oh, I believe (I)
What You say of me (I)
I believe

The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me
In You, I find my worth, in You, I find my identity
Ooh, oh

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
And you say I am held when I am falling short
When I don't belong, oh, You say I am Yours
And I believe (I), oh, I believe (I)
What You say of me (I)
Oh, I believe

Taking all I have and now I'm laying it at Your feet
You have every failure, God, You'll have every victory
Ooh, oh

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing
You say I am strong when I think I am weak
You say I am held when I am falling short
When I don't belong, oh, You say I am Yours
And I believe (I), oh, I believe (I)
What You say of me (I)
I believe

Oh, I believe (I)
Yes, I believe (I)
What You say of me (I)
I believe

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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
 he will comfort all her waste places
 and will make her wilderness like Eden,
 her desert like the garden of the LORD;
 joy and gladness will be found in her,
 thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴ Listen to me, my people,
 and give heed to me, my nation,
 for a teaching will go out from me
 and my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
 my salvation has gone out,
 and my arms will rule the peoples;
 the coastlands wait for me,
 and for my arm they hope.
⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
 and look at the earth beneath,
 for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
 the earth will wear out like a garment,
 and those who live on it will die like gnats,
 but my salvation will be forever,
 and my deliverance will never be ended.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 138 *read responsively*

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
 before the gods I sing your praise;
² **I bow down toward your holy temple
 and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
 for you have exalted your name and your word
 above everything.**
³ On the day I called, you answered me;
 you increased my strength of soul.
⁴ **All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
 for they have heard the words of your mouth.**
⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
 for great is the glory of the LORD.
⁶ **For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
 but the haughty he perceives from far away.**
⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
 you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
 you stretch out your hand,
 and your right hand delivers me.
⁸ **The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
 your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
 Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

SECOND READING Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts

that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Please be seated.

SERMONThe Rev. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Good God Almighty*

I can't count the times I've called Your name some broken night
And You showed up and patched me up like You do every time
I get amnesia, I forget that You keep coming around
Yeah, ain't no way You'll ever let me down

Good God almighty, I hope You'll find me
Praising Your name no matter what comes
'Cause I know where I'd be without Your mercy
So I keep praising Your name at the top of my lungs

Tell me, is He good? (He's good) Tell me, is He God? (He's God)
He is Good God almighty

You say Your love goes on forever, that Your mercy never stops
So why would I assume You'll be somebody that You're not?
Like sun in the morning, I know You're gonna be there every day
So what on Earth could make me be afraid?

Good God almighty, I hope You'll find me
Praising Your name no matter what comes
'Cause I know where I'd be without Your mercy
So I keep praising Your name at the top of my lungs

Tell me, is He good? (He's good) Tell me, is He God? (He's God)
He is Good God almighty

Praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noon time
Praise Him when the sun goes down
Love Him in the morning, love Him in the noon time
Love Him when the sun goes down

Good God almighty, I hope You'll find me (I hope You'll find me)
Praising Your name no matter what comes (No matter what comes)
'Cause I know where I'd be without Your mercy
So I keep praising Your name at the top of my lungs

Tell me, is He good? (He's good) Tell me, is He God? (He's God)
He is Good God almighty

Jesus in the morning, Jesus in the noon time
Jesus when the sun goes down
Jesus in the morning, Jesus in the noon time
Jesus when the sun goes down

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 God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day, especially:

Mark Bauer
Rosalie Heller
Mary Phillips
Walt Smithson
Scott Gumpert
Sean Miller
The Reilly Family
Patricia Schonour
Paula Shirk

Carol Burkhardt
Ruth Hoover
Denton Quick
Jonathan Bortz
Michelle Haak
Kelly Ringler-Nguyen
Tracy Rohrbach
Betty Scollick
Jim & Lauri Walker

Cindy Fliegel
Betty Neiman
Keith Schmehl
Sandy Chupkai
Karin Kohl
Jayne Phillips
Richard Schmeer
Melissa Scollick

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 You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. 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

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

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Continuous Communion
Grape juice is available.
For gluten free wafers, please ask the Communion Assistant.

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.

SENDING HYMN *Yes, I Will*

I count on one thing
The same God that never fails
Will not fail me now
You won't fail me now
In the waiting
The same God who's never late
Is working all things out
You're working all things out

Yes I will, lift You high in the lowest valley
Yes I will, bless Your name
Oh, yes I will, sing for joy when my heart is heavy
All my days, oh, yes I will

I count on one thing
The same God that never fails
Will not fail me now
You won't fail me now
In the waiting
The same God who's never late
Is working all things out
You're working all things out

Oh, yes I will, lift You high in the lowest valley
Yes I will, bless Your name
Oh, yes I will, sing for joy when my heart is heavy
All my days, oh, yes I will
For all my days, oh, yes, I will

And I choose to praise
To glorify, glorify
The Name of all names
That nothing can stand against
And I choose to praise
To glorify, glorify
The Name of all names
That nothing can stand against
And I choose to praise
To glorify, glorify
The Name of all names
That nothing can stand against
And I choose to praise
To glorify, glorify
The Name of all names
That nothing can stand against

Oh, yes I will, lift You high in the lowest valley
Yes I will, bless Your name
Oh, yes I will, sing for joy when my heart is heavy
All my days, oh, yes, I will
For all my days, oh, yes, I will
For all my days, yes, I will

DISMISSAL

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *To Not Worship You*

I'm losing sight of all that matters
Blinded by questions I can't answer
I'm paralyzed by what I don't know
Doubt holds me hostage and won't let go

Breathe out, breathe in
Raise my hands and remember

You're the one, You're the one
Who makes mountains move
Stars will not shine
Unless You tell them to, tell them to
Conquered the grave
To make all things new
So, who am I, who am I
To not worship You?

Ooh-oh-oh-oh
Who am I, who am I
To not worship You?

Remind me who I am because of You
Tell me I'm not the man I once knew
'Cause I still feel so undeserving
What could You see in someone like me?

Breathe out, breathe in
Raise my hands and surrender

You're the one, You're the one
Who makes mountains move
Stars will not shine
Unless You tell them to, tell them to
Conquered the grave
To make all things new
So, who am I, who am I
To not worship You?

Ooh-oh-oh-oh
Who am I, who am I
To not worship You?

Holy, holy, You are God Almighty
Who was and is and will always be
Holy, holy, You are God Almighty
You are my song, You are my hope, my strength
Holy, holy, You are God Almighty
Who was and is and will always be
Holy, holy, You are God Almighty
You are my song, You are my hope, my strength
Let everything that breathes sing

You're the one, You're the one
Who makes mountains move
Stars will not shine
Unless You tell them to, tell them to
Conquered the grave
To make all things new
So who am I, who am I
To not worship the one
Who makes mountains move?
Stars will not shine
Unless You tell them to, tell them to, oh-oh
Conquered the grave
To make all things new
So, who am I, who am I
To not worship You?

Ooh-oh-oh-oh
Who am I, who am I
To not worship You?
Ooh-oh-oh-oh
Who am I, who am I
To not worship You?

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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

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Mark Hoover. Assisting Minister
Jeff Schmehl Usher Team Captain
Mark Hoover Lauren Batzel, Susan Johns, Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Emma Dickerson, Ian Carr Carillonneurs

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!

A special thank you to *Three-fold Blessing* for serving as our guest musicians this morning.

The congregation is invited to the wedding of Thomas Loughery and Andrea Garcia Borjas to be held here at Schwarzwald in the Sanctuary on Monday, September 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

HELP WANTED

We are in need of a leader to oversee the many tasks that are necessary to keep our worship services running smoothly. All of the people who actually take care of these responsibilities are already in place. They know their jobs and they do them well. They form the basis for the Worship and Music Committee.

This position entails learning what needs to be done and how these pieces fit together. The committee meets 6 times a year - the first Thursday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Please join us and learn what goes on "behind the scenes." Thank you.

Dates For Your Calendar — Music Ministry

We will have open rehearsals for Adult Choir during the month of September. PLEASE feel free to join us!

We DO need your help, even if you can't commit to every Sunday.

August 30th — Adult Choir will rehearse following the service

September 6th — Open Adult Choir rehearsal following service

September 10th — Open Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal @ 6:30 p.m.

September 13th — Youth Chimes rehearsal @ 9:00 a.m. (grades 3 and up are welcome to attend if they have some music reading skills)

September 13th — Open Adult Choir rehearsal following service

September 17th — Open Adult Handbell Choir rehearsal @ 6:30 p.m.

September 20th — Youth Chimes rehearsal @ 9:00

Push-in to Sunday School to rehearse Youth Chorus

Adult Bell Choir will have Anthem

Open Adult Choir rehearsal following service

September 24th — Alternate Youth Choir rehearsal @ 6:00 p.m. (for those who are not able to attend SS)

September 27th — Youth Chimes rehearsal @ 9:00

Push-in to Sunday School

Open Adult Choir rehearsal following the service

October 1st — Alternate Youth Choir rehearsal @ 6:00

*October 4th — Youth Chimes rehearsal @ 9:00

Push-in to the beginning of Sunday School

Adult Choir rehearsal following service

***PLEASE NOTE:** This will be the first service where the Youth Chorus and the Youth Chimes will perform. Please mark on your calendars so we can showcase our talented youth!



Oley Valley Community Fair

2026 Refreshment Stand Help

Schwarzwald's time slot is

Thursday, September 17

1:00 — 5:00 p.m.

If you would like to be a volunteer helper at one of the food stands,
please call the church office, 610-779-3480

CALLING ALL 9+ AGED STUDENTS!

Pr. Jim and I are calling all girls and boys 9-years-old or older
to come to a refresher and training session for acolytes, old and new.
(Parents are welcome also.)

Jesus said, “ I am the Light!”
While Jesus’ spirit is always with us, I think of acolytes as bringing real light
into the sanctuary as we prepare to worship.

The refresher course is for students who are already acolytes.
The new acolytes will learn what these duties are
and have a chance to practice them.
They will also be demonstrating how to perform their duties.

WE WILL BE DOING THIS ON....

Sunday, September 13, 2026

(Rally Day)

12 noon

(following worship)

It should take 20 -30 minutes in the Chancel/Choir Pews area.

Pr. Jim and I invite you to come and join us,
even if you are just curious to see what happens.

COME AND LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!!

Please call Susan Johns at 610-777-8981 with questions.

Thanks,
Pr. Jim and Mrs. Johns

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday School Rally Day - September 13

Nothing beats kicking off a Sunday School year with a carnival! Our children will enjoy carnival games, crafts, snacks, and more. The lawn games and candy scrambles are available to all of our children, including our oldest youth!

Trunk or Treat - October 18

Start gathering ideas for your trunk! Our biggest outreach event of the year will be epic with your creativity.

Sunday School Fall Event - November 15

This is a youth-favorite. Our youngest children will participate in Christian-themed yoga while the oldest youth will do a more in-depth craft. More info coming!

Christmas Pageant & Christmas Cookie Celebration - December 13

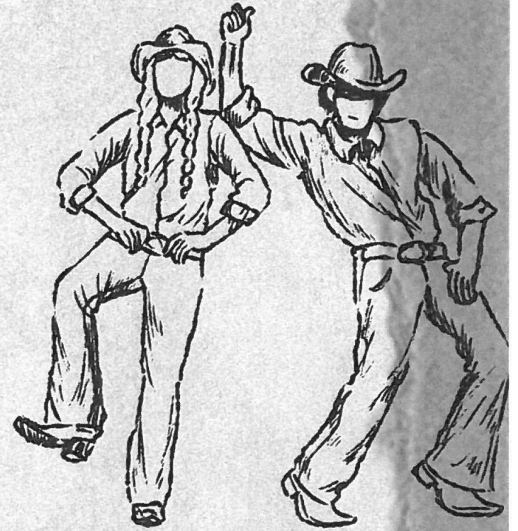
Our classic Christmas pageant will take place during worship and will be followed by our churchwide Christmas Cookie Celebration. We're hoping for no snow this year!



Line Dancing

Learn the steps, follow the beat,
and line dance your way to a great
time!

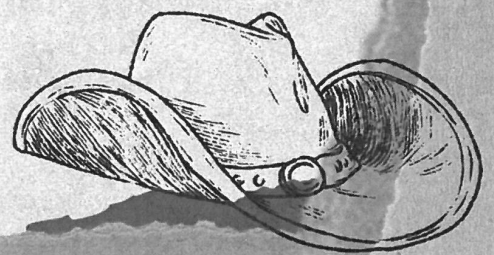
Grab a friend and come join the
fun. We need YOU there to
make it a night to remember!



When: October 2nd, 2026

6-9 pm

Where: Schwarzwald Luthern Church
250 Church Lane Rd, Reading PA, 19606



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**

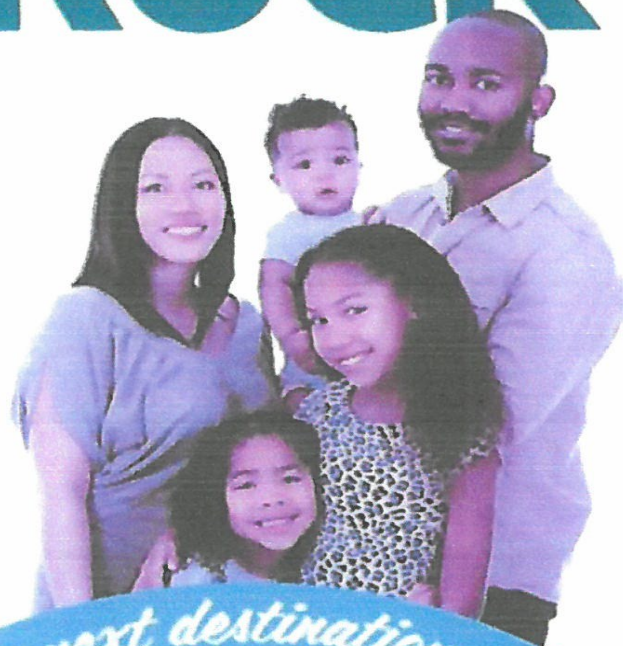
**3670 Perkiomen Ave
Reading, PA 19606**

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.

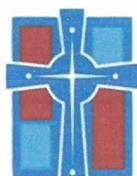
“Fill the Truck” helps replenish essential supplies for Opportunity House that helps families as they work to rebuild their lives. Community members donate **non-perishable food items — including canned goods, beans, pasta, cereal, and juice — as well as gently used furniture, clothing, and household 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!

House is your go-to organization to give your treasures a new life. We are honored to take the items you treasured and cared for over the years.

Do you pick up donations? Yes, we do.

1. Call us at 484-957-3861 or email us at walvardo@opphouse.org to schedule a pickup at your home. We recommend giving 7-10 business days' notice for pick up.
2. Clothing should be bagged or boxed. Items like books, media, housewares, and knickknacks should be boxed. Appliances must be in working condition.
3. Have all your items in one area and close to the door.

Is there a charge for pick up?

We do not charge to pick up your items. We welcome your donation to offset our cost and focus our funds on reducing homelessness.

Where can I take my donations?

Donations are accepted Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm at the rear of OppShop at 3045 Fifth Street Highway, Temple, Pennsylvania.

Tips to make your donations as easy as possible:

- All electrical equipment must be tested before loading it onto the truck.
- If in doubt about a donation, send a photo and we'll review it before scheduling a pickup.
- Our team reserves the right to decline any donations not suitable for our purposes.

SOFAS AND CHAIRS:

- Solid colored sofas and chairs are the most desirable.*
- We generally do not accept sofas that are wood or have wooden trim, plaids or large floral patterns.*
- No rips, stains, tears, smell or visible animal or human hair on chairs or sofas.
- All cushions must be included. Sectionals must include all pieces. All legs must be attached.
- Leather and vinyl must be in good condition with no tears, cracking, stains or noticeable wear.
- If a sofa or chair has electrical components, it must work. All electric items must be tested before being loaded onto the truck.
- Recliners must be in good working condition.

SOFA BEDS:

- The mattress must be stain-free, without any rips, tears or exposed springs. The mattress must be included.*

KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM SETS:

- We welcome regular-sized kitchen and dining room tables with chairs. We do not take tables without chairs.
- The chairs must be in a usable condition without excessive wear.

BEDS:

- We accept beds and bunk beds that include a bed frame, mattress and box spring.
- No rips, stains, tears, smells, or excess animal or human hair.
- Please include all pieces of the frames and/or headboard/footboard sets, including the screws, nuts, and bolts.
- We do not accept hospital beds or water beds.

**Please send photos prior to scheduling your pickup.*

BEDROOM FURNITURE:

- All drawers, doors, hardware, shelving, and glass must be in place.
- No broken legs, wear or staining on the wood. No damage to the back or sides of the furniture.
- Armoires must have shelves or closet space and an area for a television.

APPLIANCES:

- No visible rust or wear.
- Refrigerators/freezers must get cold and be working.
- Washers and dryers must work. This includes 220 v washer/dryers.
- All electrical appliances must be tested prior to loading on the truck.
- We accept microwave ovens, small appliances, air fryers, hair dryers, and InstaPots® that are clean, at in working order.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

- Must be in working condition with no torn tracks, ripped seats, loose wires, disconnected parts. Electrical equipment must be tested before being loaded on the truck.
- We accept small weightlifting benches and other smaller exercise equipment in good condition.
- We do not take home gyms.*

ITEMS WE DON'T ACCEPT:

- Large entertainment centers
- Televisions other than flat screen televisions
- Computers
- Broken furniture or appliances
- Incomplete items with missing parts
- Building materials
- Cribs, car seats, and highchairs.