

Stewardship September

September is a great month to talk about stewardship. The summer has come to an end, and as you would guess, giving has been down. Families have been on vacation and busy with other activities, and many have fallen behind on planned giving. But the mission and work of the church have continued on without a break. Services have not stopped. The staff has not taken the summer off. The outreach and youth ministries have been as busy as ever. The expenses of the church have continued, but the income has declined.

Thank God the fall has come. Now is the time that many people catch up on their giving, and I urge you to please do so. I also ask you, if you can, to increase your giving so that the church can do more, have a bigger impact on our community, reach more folks through our outreach programs, have more youth activities, and simply grow as a church.

It is also important to find other ways to support the church. We actively look at outside grants to fund projects and expansion – grants from the synod, the mission district, the government, and outside sources who can partner with us to do the work of God in our community.

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? Do you have Action Teams that could be used by the church? These are \$250 micro-grants that can fund a project, meal, or event at the church. Each qualifying member gets two of these Action Teams per year. If you have unused Action Teams, please let us know. Also, don't forget to designate your Thrivent Dollars to the church. You must get on the Thrivent website and direct those dollars to the church. Don't let either of these opportunities go unused.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Qualified charitable distributions (**QCDs**) are a tax-efficient way for eligible individuals to support designated charitable organizations while satisfying IRS required minimum distributions (**RMDs**) from their Individual Retirement Accounts (**IRAs**).

A QCD distribution/donation allows individuals, age 70½ or older, to transfer funds directly from their IRA to a qualified charitable organization. The church is a qualified charitable organization. When correctly completed, the amount donated through a QCD can count toward the individual's required minimum distribution (**RMD**) and is generally exempt from their taxable income.

Let's also talk about being good stewards of ourselves – our time, our skills, and our abilities. We need YOU. Can you help with worship services? Can you sing in the choir? Can you help with youth activities? Can you lead or help with outreach projects and community meals? Can you help with property maintenance and upkeep? Can you spend a few hours a week at church or in the community doing God's work?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Zachary Hoover
- 2 Barry Ruppert, Larry Yoder, Amanda Giannotti
- 3 Shannon Darlington, Emma Scalese, Adam Crotty, Jillian Crotty
- 4 Joshua Boone, Crystal Jordan, Frank Kerber
- 5 Michael Jordan, III
- 7 David Johns, Ryan Fayewicz, Thomas Loughery
- 9 Richard Sassaman
- 15 Janice Stanislaw, Iris Ringler
- 16 Fred Mohr, Jr., Jennifer Oswald, Jordyn Shaffer
- 17 Mary Phillips
- 18 Marcia Holbrook
- 19 Cynthia Mohr, Diane Cataldi, Gannon Harlow
- 21 Kaila Zenger, Thomas Herb
- 22 Barbara Herbst, John Dobbins
- 23 Amy Schaeffer, Tanner Karas
- 24 Jennifer Strausser, Steven Moyer
- 26 Karen Darlington, Lori Bauer
- 27 Courtney Marquard, Edward Kroznuski
- 28 Dennis Karas
- 29 William Jaeger, Brian Crotty

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

**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.

PRAYER GROUP

The September meeting dates
for the Prayer Group are
the 1st, 15th and 29th at
11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall.
Please contact Joanne Rutherford
for additional information at
610-406-9355 or jmr14290@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

. . .

. . from Charlie Brumbaugh - Thank you for the sponsorship to Bear Creek Camp! I had a really fun time. I am looking forward to going back next year.

. . from Miles Brumbaugh - Thank you for the support to go to Bear Creek this year. I really love going. This year was great. My favorite time was the overnight.

. . from Inside Out Church – We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your partnership in the “No More Trash Bag” campaign. Because of your generosity, foster children in our community will no longer have to carry their belongings from home to home in trash bags. Instead, they will have sturdy, dignified luggage of their own! Together we collected over 1,500 pieces of luggage. Your congregation’s donations, prayers and volunteer support made this possible. Thank you for being the hands and feet of hope for these children.

. . from Mary’s Shelter - Thank you for your support and donation. This is a wonderful time of year to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of the young people we serve. This year alone, we celebrated eight senior class trips, ten proms and most importantly, ten high school graduations. Many young people enter our program feeling exhausted, defeated and hopeless. They often believe they will never graduate from high school, pursue a career or build a future worth planning. At Mary’s Shelter, however, we see potential – not problems. Thank you for supporting Mary’s Shelter as we celebrate the achievements of the young people in our programs. Together we will continue changing lives, creating opportunities and brightening futures.

News and Notes from the Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee has not been on vacation this summer. Oh, yes, we may have taken trips, had picnics, visited family and friends, and participated in all sorts of summer activities. In addition, we sponsored a shoe collection for Mary’s Shelter, a bookbag and school supply drive, two Soup Team events, and continued to restock the food cabinet and refrigerator to supplement our neighbors with food inequalities

Looking ahead to September, our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9 at 10:00 in the fellowship hall. On September 16, we will be hosting a picnic luncheon for the Exeter Senior Citizens. Then, on September 23, we will gather in the kitchen to prepare soup for the New Journey Soup Kitchen. A donation, taken from the committee’s budget, will help support the Exeter Area Food Pantry.

We want to thank SLC’s members for their continued support. For instance, we were able to purchase foods for the food cabinet because of the generosity you showed on November’s Thank Offering Sunday. The remaining gift cards from that event have just recently been used. Members have continued to donate food items by placing them in the shopping cart in the Narthex or putting items directly into the cabinet, as well as the refrigerator. Hats off to everyone who has donated items for the monthly Soup Team events.

Please know, that we welcome anyone to our meetings and Soup Team events. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work.” We are always happy to answer any questions you may have.

God’s Work, Our Hands.

CALLING ALL 9+ AGED STUDENTS! COME AND LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!!

Pr. Jim and Susan Johns 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) at 12:00 noon (following worship)
It should take 20 -30 minutes in the Chancel/Choir Pews area.

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

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

HARVEST HOME MUMS

Please help us decorate our sanctuary for HARVEST HOME by sponsoring mums. The cost is \$7.00 per plant for a 9" pot. You may take the plants home after the service on Harvest Home Sunday which is OCTOBER 18.
There will be an assortment of colors to choose from at that time.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR BRING IT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY OCTOBER 11.

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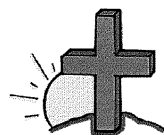
MUM ORDER FORM



_____ x \$7.00 = _____
Total enclosed

Name _____

Env. # _____



Christian Education Update

It's go time! Our children have had many opportunities to experience God over the summer and represent SLC at various camps and events. It is time to come back to our Sunday School classes and recharge together.

We will kick off our Sunday School year with Rally Day! We would like all of our youth, birth through the BFF group to attend this event. Make sure to register and participate in all of the activities. There will be lawn games, carnival games, candy scrambles, food, crafts, and more. We will also have our balloon maker join us once again to make balloon items for each child and do the fun balloon pop activity to help us learn our Bible verse. This year's Bible verse is "Let your light shine before others," Matthew 5:16.

Children will report to their regularly scheduled classes on September 20th. This year we encourage children to bring their regular offering, and they will be collecting money to support the Sunday School service project - raising funds to for the Heifer International Project.

Upcoming Events

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! Blessing of the Back Packs! (see below)

Potato Project - September 20

Calling all French fry lovers! This event is organized by the West Berks Mission District and will take place in Hamburg from 1:00 - 5:00. It is open to children in grades 7-12. See Crystal or Pastor Jim if interested.

Line Dancing Class - October 2

Our youth know how to line dance...and they love it! They will be teaching line dances to anyone who attends on October 2 from 6:00-8:00 in Fellowship Hall. It is meant to be a fun event open to all ages. No charge, just fellowship. Food will be provided!

Trunk or Treat - October 18

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

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 with Roo Hoo Boutique. 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!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS — SEPTEMBER 13

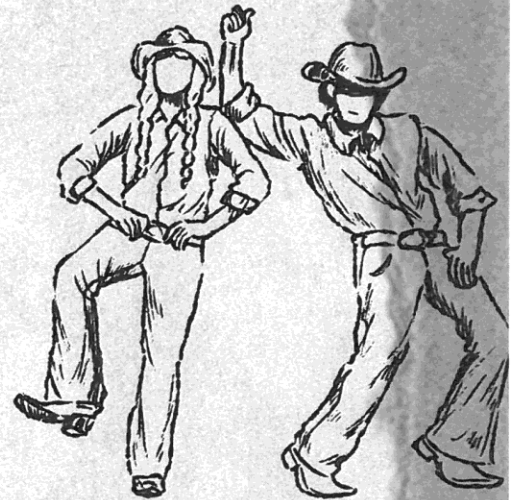
Preschool through 7th grade students are asked to bring their backpacks to the worship service! The Blessing of the Backpacks and of our students is meant to highlight the work they do all week in school and to bless and pray for them in that work.



Line Dancing

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

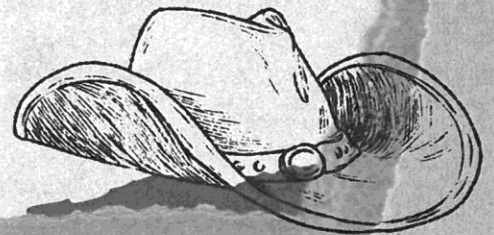
Grab a friend and come join the
fun. We need YOU there to
make it a night to remember!



When: October 2nd, 2026

6-9 pm

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



Music Ministry

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and I extend my sincere gratitude to Clara and Peg for doing an amazing job covering the service music for me this summer! We are so blessed at SLC to have such an amazingly talented group of people in our congregation!

If you were one of the people who received a personal invitation from one of our choir members this summer, OR, if you simply want to give one of our musical groups a try, we will have open rehearsals 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.

Below I have included the basic schedule for the month of September and the first week of October. We hope to see some new faces! YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

SEPTEMBER 2026

August 30th - the Adult Choir will rehearse following the service

September 6th – Open Adult Choir rehearsal following service

September 10th @ 6:30 - Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal (open rehearsal)

September 13th - Open Adult Choir rehearsal following service

- Adult Choir Anthem TBD

- First Youth Chimes rehearsal @ 9:00

(grades 3 and up are welcome to attend if they have some music reading skills)

September 17th – Open Adult Bell Choir rehearsal @6:30

September 20th – Kathy will push-in to SS to rehearse Youth Chorus at beginning of SS

- Youth Chimes rehearsal @ 9:00

- Open Adult Choir rehearsal following service

- Adult Bell Choir will have anthem TBD

September 24th – Alternate Youth Choir rehearsal (for those who are not able to attend SS) at 6:00

September 27th – Kathy will push-in to SS to teach song.

- Youth Chimes rehearsal @ 9:00

- Open Adult Choir rehearsal following the service.

- Adult Choir Anthem TBD

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

October 4th – Youth Chimes rehearsal @9:00

- Kathy will push-in to the beginning of SS to do final rehearsal of song for the service

- Youth Chimes rehearsal @ 9:00

- 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!



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!

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (July)

Council Officers: Doris Jaeger, President
Chris Thompson, Vice President
Scot Griesemer, Treasurer
Chuck Heydt, Corporate Secretary

Members: Mark Bauer, Sarah Gibson, Barry Hoover, Elizabeth Kennedy, Joanne Rutherford,
Janice Stanislaw, Chris Thompson, Carolyn Woodford, Larry Yoder

Pastor Report

- Youth are back from their mission trip to Nashville with no issues. Youth worked hard from early morning to late at night.
- Youth Gathering 2027 – We need to start advertising and fund raising.
- By the end of September 2026, we will need to know who is going next year from grades 9 through 12. Early bird registration is \$450, plus airfare.

Treasurer's Report

- Finance Committee did not meet in June or July. The May financials have been reviewed and approved by the committee. Envelope giving is down because of summer.
- If we get the tower buyout money, the Finance Committee will recommend to council, which has the final say.

Old Business

- Security Grant update – It has been 10 months since we applied for the 2025 grant and have heard nothing. They have now opened up the 2026 grant window. We will go through the whole application process again so we don't miss the deadline.
- Downstairs room update – We received the WBMD grant along with the Synod grant. The work has begun by the Property Committee. The moisture and mold will be mitigated. New floor, sink, and countertops will be installed.
- Air Conditioner update - Fellowship Hall a/c is fixed and a new a/c was installed in the Sanctuary.
- The Food Pantry fridge is going remarkably well. We get fresh food from the Morgantown Walmart that goes in the fridge every Thursday.
- Tower update on the buyout of the telecom leases by Wireless Propco: Following the congregation's approval of Wireless Propco's buyout offer, Wireless Propco commissioned a title search and in mid-June sent someone to inspect the facilities on site. We received a draft Easement and Assignment Agreement at the end of June. It was reviewed and our comments were sent to them. We are now in waiting mode once again.
- Schwarzwald Cemetery Association – SLC is willing to move forward with talks and negotiations.
- We are scheduled to host breakfast at the St. Paul's (Perkiomen Avenue) Hospitality Center on September 5.

BUDGET INFORMATION (July)

Monthly totals

Income:

Budgeted Income	\$16,558	(Current envelopes)
Actual Income	\$11,694	(Current envelopes)

Expenses:

Budgeted Expenses	\$36,636	(Amount includes a full-time pastor salary)
Actual Expenses	\$23,008	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 30	31	Sep 1 11:00am Prayer Group (FH)	2 7:00pm NA Meeting (SR)	3	4	5 7:00am Hospitality Breakfast at St. Paul's, Perkins Ave.
6 9:00am Worship Service (S) 11:00am Wedding Rehearsal (S) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	7 OFFICE CLOSED - LABOR DAY 11:00am Wedding (S) 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	8 6:00pm Pagoda Service Unit Meeting (FH)	9 10:00am Social Ministry Committee mtg. (FH) 7:00pm Church Council (FH) 7:00pm NA Meeting (SR)	10 9:00am Breakfast Bunch (BH)	11	12
13 9:30am RALLY DAY (SS) 10:45am Worship Service (S) 11:45am Acolyte Training (S) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	14 6:45pm Girl Scouts #11135 (CR / FH) 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	15 11:00am Prayer Group (FH)	16 11:00am Exeter Senior Citizens (FH) 6:30pm Lions Club meeting (FH) 7:00pm NA Meeting (SR)	17	18 2:00pm Exeter Area Food Pantry (EAB)	19
20 9:30am Sunday School (SS / FH) 10:45am Worship Service (S) 5:30pm Sinfonia rehearsal (FH / S) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	21 6:45pm Girl Scouts #11135 (CR / FH) 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	22	23 10:00am Soup Group (FH / K) 7:00pm NA Meeting (SR)	24	25	26
27 9:30am Sunday School (SS / FH) 10:45am Worship Service (S) 5:30pm Sinfonia rehearsal (FH / S) 7:00pm AA meeting (SR)	28 6:15pm Girl Scouts #1909 (SS) 7:00pm AA mtg. (SR)	29 11:00am Prayer Group (FH)	30 7:00pm NA Meeting (SR)	Oct 1	2	3



Schwarzwald
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving and Loving Christ Since 1737

250 Church Lane Road

Reading, PA 19606

Phone 610-779-3480

Fax 610-779-2777

Website: www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Office e-mail: administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Join our family, share God's love.

*Pulpit
and
Pew*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

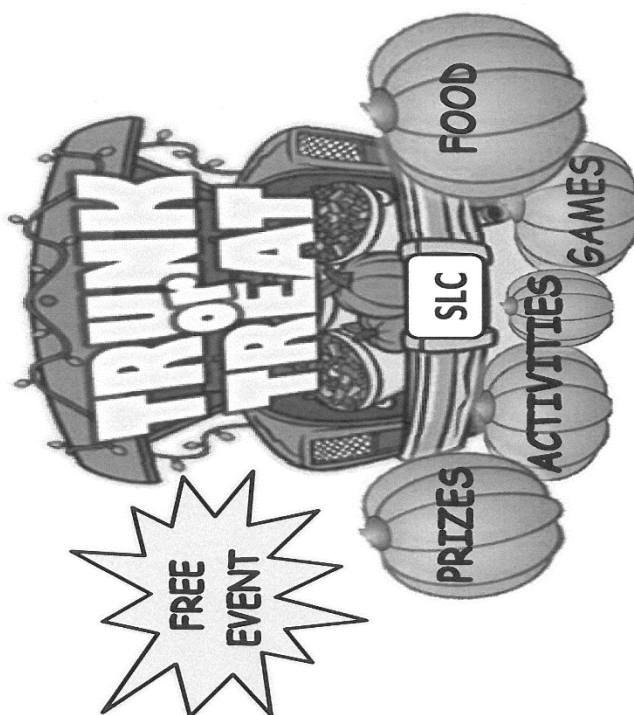


SEPTEMBER 2026

Join us for a night of family fun at

SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN CHURCH

250 CHURCH LANE ROAD, JACKSONWALD



(RAIN OR SHINE)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

(SET UP 3:00-4:00 PM)

 **COME IN COSTUME!**  **DECORATE YOUR TRUNK!**
 **CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.**

**RESERVE A SPACE USING THE SIGN-UP SHEET AT CHURCH
OR CALL 610-779-3480 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**