

The Social Ministry Committee invites **YOU** to participate in our **\$1,000 Challenge for World Hunger**. The bulletin board in the Narthex explains our challenge and gives examples of various ways for you to participate.

Throughout Lent in our Sunday bulletins, we will be sharing stories like the one below describing how the ELCA works to end world hunger around the world .

Thank you for taking the **CHALLENGE!**



In the village of Uchire, Shadrack Esatimbera has been cultivating trees for two years, and the oldest are nearly ready to sell and transport. His nursery was made possible by a small business loan from the village savings and loan group, started by Evangelical Lutheran Development Services in Malawi (ELDS), supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. In addition to lending small business loans, like Shadrack's, ELDS trains farmers in crop diversification and increasing yields through new planting methods and the use of organic fertilizers.

In Uchire, as in a dozen or more rural villages in Malawi, many trees are cleared for farming and tree wood is used for crop restoration and to build thatch roofs and stoves that smoke more cleanly, allowing improved farming at the ELDS training school. Shadrack planted the first seedlings in his nursery, which has now grown to 1,000 trees, bringing from saplings to almost fully grown.

Caring for the land and saving lives are of the soil and guarding it for maturity. This work



connects Shadrack to the past, links him firmly in the present and into his vision for the future. And that you are wanted here is faith, not only in his personal prosperity but also in the prospering of his community.

"This land has been in my family for five generations," he said. "It is important for me to look after the land of my ancestors, and I want to pass this land to future generations."

The training he received, he will pass on to others. "I hope you realize that training will use it to heal the poverty and cause the people to increase jobs to send their children to school. The land that goes Shadrack, he and I have bonded well. He may be attracted by his three children who will receive it in a better way than I was raised



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737
Join our family, share God's love.

The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
The Rev. Donald C. Simmons - Interim Pastor
Mrs. Patricia A. Weiser - Director of Music
Ms. Diane V. Hafer - Office Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Jordan - Christian Ed. Director
Mrs. Rochelle Chelius - Youth Minister Leader
Mrs. Melissa Kerber - Sexton

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 17, 2019



**In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,
welcome to worship this morning!**

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. Please fill out the guest card in the pew rack and pick up a welcome packet from the stand in the foyer. If you do not have a Bible at home, please take one from the welcome table. 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!

For your assistance, comfort and safety, we have ushers on duty before, during and after worship today. Should you need any help, please look for any of the men and women with an "usher" badge. There will be at least one in the lobby during worship. Our ushers are also instructed to offer help to anyone who appears in distress. Restrooms can be found through the door on the left at the front of the church; either proceed downstairs or to the left into the Fellowship Hall. **Large print bulletins and hearing receivers** are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance. Please be sure to turn off the hearing receivers after the worship service.

For parents with small children: We are blessed to have so many children in our congregation. Our church family knows that teaching children to worship is simply one of our most important ministries. If there is a need, please take advantage of our nursery room available during worship with a changing table, plenty of toys and audio of our service. Please ask any usher in the foyer to help you find the nursery room. **Children's bulletins** for readers and pre-readers are provided each week. They can be found on clipboards in the marked milk crates in the narthex and vestibule. Storybooks are also provided there for children to enjoy.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Assisting Minister Denton Quick
Usher Team Captain Ken Bryant
Carillonneur Judy Ney
Acolytes. Jay Worrall and Harry Brumbaugh
Comm. Assistants . . . Denton Quick, Greg Pomian, Christy D'Angelo, Ginni Frey
Nursery Attendant Sarah Gibson
Greeter. Linda Rowe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by Dori Russo in celebration of Spring, and 2) by Jean and Bob Pendi in memory of family and friends.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Sandy Miller in memory of the wedding anniversary of her parents, William and Marjorie Yoder.

The **communion wine** is sponsored by Ellen Weaver.

NEEDED! Bulletin sponsors (\$14) are needed for March 24 and 31 and all of April. **Altar flower sponsors** (*\$25) are needed for March 31 and all of April. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. *Due to a change in florists (our previous florist is no longer providing fresh flowers), there is an increase in the altar flower sponsorship to \$25. If possible, please return the vases to the church office.

CASH FOR CAUSES—The Redner's and Giant gift cards will be available for purchase in the Narthex after worship today. Please see Scot Griesemer.

SPECIAL GUEST (re-scheduled) — Sunday, March 31st at 9:15 AM, Attorney Scott Hoh will make a presentation on “The Constitution, the Founding Fathers and Religion.” Join us for coffee and buns in Fellowship Hall as we learn about the roots of our nation in the 1700's.

TOWN HALL MEETING

with Bishop Zeiser

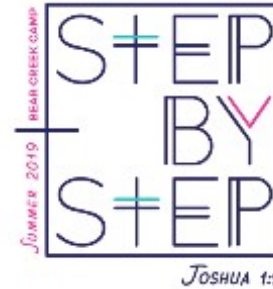
Thursday, March 28, 2019

7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Desserts and beverages will be available before the event at
6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to offer an opportunity to discuss the *Parish Study Report* and to have conversation that will help the Bishop discern the “right” candidate for Schwarzwald.

The Parish Study Report is available electronically or hard copy. Please call Diane in the church office to obtain a copy, 610-779-3480.



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. □—Joshua 1:9

God's love for us means so much for our lives. This summer we will examine what a relationship with God means for our daily lives and for the world. We can make a difference and have an impact because with God all things are possible. Join us for an amazing summer of friendship, fun and fellowship!

Questions on Summer Camp and Family Camp
Contact : Stephanie Kohler 484-706-1708

THRIVENT CHOICE POINTS

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who still have 2018 Choice Dollars[®] available, have until March 31 to direct them on-line or by phone. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to the organization of your choice (which can include Schwarzwald Lutheran!) See instructions below.

Online

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click "Get started now."
3. Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
5. Locate the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click "Direct Now" next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the "View activity history" link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click "Search."
6. Choose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

By phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice[®] program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

You have the power to recommend where Thrivent Financial gives back!

The Thrivent Choice[®] charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars[®] is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

We are a family of faith called to do God's will by inspiring Christian life through teaching and sharing His unconditional love for all.

Vision Statement:

To encourage growth of our faith family through community outreach and engaging youth to serve God.

WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT Annual Lenten Prayer Breakfast at 8:00 AM

Wednesday, April 17 at The Inn at Reading

1040 Park Road Wyomissing PA 19610

The Inn at Reading offers easy parking and is handicap accessible.

Cost is **\$18** for a breakfast buffet including:
breakfast pastries and biscuits, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs,
cinnamon French toast, red potatoes, bacon, coffee, tea and juice

**Our guest speaker will be The Rev. Steven Shussett on the topic:
"Spiritual Well-being: Becoming Who We Were Meant to Be"**

Join Marian and Pastor as we reserve a table of 8 for Schwarzwald.
Reservation money should be given to Diane
in the church office no later than April 7th.



If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please use the prayer request cards located in the pew racks or in the Narthex. Please place your completed card in the prayer box in the Narthex. Thank you.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP BOOK

As we prepare for the coming of a new pastor, it is imperative that we use the worship book that our candidate may be using in his or her parish. You can obtain an envelope in the Narthex or vestibule to make a contribution of one or more hymnals in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$25.00 per hymnal. Please mark your envelope as to how you wish the book plate to be printed in the hymnal(s) that you sponsor.

Schwarzwald Egg Hunt 2019



The Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 AM. **We are in need of candy!** All candy donations should be small enough to fit in plastic eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or given to Crystal Jordan or Linda Strain on a Sunday morning. Also, **we are looking for volunteers to run the flower activity and other craft areas at the egg hunt.** Please let Diane or Crystal know if you are able to help.

2nd Sunday Coffee House
Worship Service

Sunday, April 14

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Coffee 'n Chat starts at 6:00 PM



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
250 Church Lane Road
Reading, PA 19606

Church Office Phone 610-779-3480

Church Office Fax 610-779-2777

Website www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org

E-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Emergency 610-914-8257

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE CALENDAR

Wednesdays - March 20, 27, April 3, 10
7:00 PM Weekday Evening Lenten Services
Holden Evening Prayer Service

Sunday, March 17
2nd Sunday of Lent with Holy Communion
10:30 AM Worship

Sunday, March 24
3rd Sunday of Lent
10:30 AM Worship

Sunday, March 31
4th Sunday of Lent
10:30 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 7
5th Sunday of Lent
10:30 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

Sunday, April 14
Palm Sunday
10:30 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion
6:30 PM Second Sunday Coffee House Worship Service
(Coffee at 6:00 PM)

Thursday, April 18
Maundy Thursday
7:30 PM Holy Communion Service
Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 19
Good Friday
7:30 PM Worship Service

Alleluia!
He is Risen!
Sunday, April 21
Easter Sunday Festival Worship
8:00 AM Early Service with Holy Communion
9:00 to 10:00 AM Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM Festival Worship with Holy Communion

When given the bread, the Pastor will say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
Each person may respond: Amen.

Then proceed to the communion assistant, staying on the same side as you are seated in the church, to receive the wine. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled cups of grape juice are available at the top of the steps on each side in silver trays.

When given the cup, the communion assistant will say:
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Each person may respond: Amen.

If you wish to stay and reflect at the Altar, please move down the altar rail to allow others to receive Communion. Please return to your seat by way of the side aisle. Please fill out a communion card.

Please stand.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Tender and merciful one,
at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing,
turning our emptiness into joy.
Filled with your abundant grace,
send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,
mending broken hearts, working for justice,
and striving for peace among all people,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

BLESSING

P God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.
C Amen.

SENDING SONG, Faith of Our Fathers — LBW #500 (please use green hymnal)

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE, Marche Gothique Koury

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

LAMB OF GOD



□ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world: grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

(Continuous Communion)

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please come forward by way of the center aisle and take a cup from the tray. Approach the Pastor to receive the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available from the communion assistant who is standing behind the Pastor. If you are unable to come to the altar for communion, the Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church will award two \$500 scholarships to applicants (high school seniors only) planning on continuing their education beyond high school. Special consideration will be given to applicants whose faith and service to others has influenced their life and their plans for the future.

The applicant must be a member of Schwarzwald Lutheran Church and may attend any school district or be home-schooled.

Please pick-up an application in the church office. The application, along with your transcript, must be returned by Monday, April 22, 2019, either by dropping it off at the church office, Attention: Scholarship Committee, or e-mailing it to: administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org and placing "Scholarship Application" in the subject line.

If you have any questions, please call the church office, 610-779-3480.



SLC Scholarship Fund

MARCH 17 through MARCH 24

Sun 3/17	3:30 PM Confirmation class meets at church to travel to Muhlenberg College Chapel 6:00 PM Girl Scout troop #1779 8:00 PM AA meeting
Mon 3/18	5:00 PM Sanctuary in use 5:30 PM Exercise class 7:00 PM Exeter Community Chorus rehearsal 8:00 PM AA meeting
Tue 3/19	10:00 AM Bible Fellowship / Action Team
Wed 3/20	1:00 PM Exeter Senior Citizens 6:00 PM Weight Watchers meeting 7:00 PM Lenten Service
Thu 3/21	6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #1909 6:10 PM Cherub Choir rehearsal 6:30 PM Junior Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM NA Meeting 7:30 PM Senior Choir rehearsal
Fri 3/22	6:30 PM Girl Scout troop #167
Sat 3/23	8:00 AM Exercise class
Sun 3/24	9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Fellowship Hall in use 8:00 PM AA Meeting

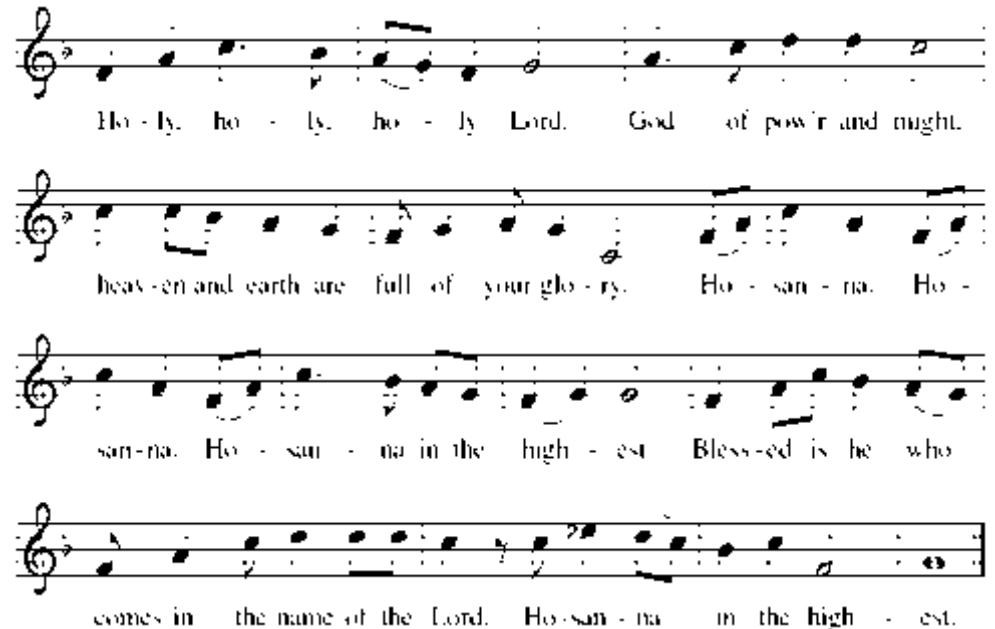
LOOKING AHEAD - Mark your calendar!!

(Please watch upcoming newsletters and bulletins for additional information.)

March 27	Lenten Service, 7:00 PM
April 3, 10	Lenten Services, 7:00 PM
April 14	Palm Sunday, 10:30 AM; Second Sunday service, 6:30 PM
April 18	Maundy Thursday, 7:30 PM
April 19	Good Friday, 7:30 PM
April 21	Easter, 8:00 and 10:30 AM; Continental Breakfast served between services from 9:00-10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
May 27	Memorial Day (Church Office closed)
June 9	Confirmation, 10:30 AM

we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us
through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- 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.

WORSHIP SERVICE

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE, *In Quietness and Confidence* J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,
anoint us, and make us new.

C **Amen.**

P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin,
and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God at the margins,

C **We have wandered far from your home;
again and again, we lose our way.
We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.
We forget that you have saved your people before
and promise to do so again.
Do not remember the deeds of our past,
but turn our faces toward the future,
where your forgiveness is sure,
your welcome is clear,
and your love overflows. Amen.**

P Like a hen who gathers her chicks,
God embraces you in tender care.
Like manna in the desert,
God feeds you with surprising mercy.
Like a loving parent,
God runs to meet you again this day,
forgiving your sins for the sake of ☩ Christ,
leading you from death into life.

C **Amen.**

HYMN, *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*
LBW #429 (please use green hymnal)



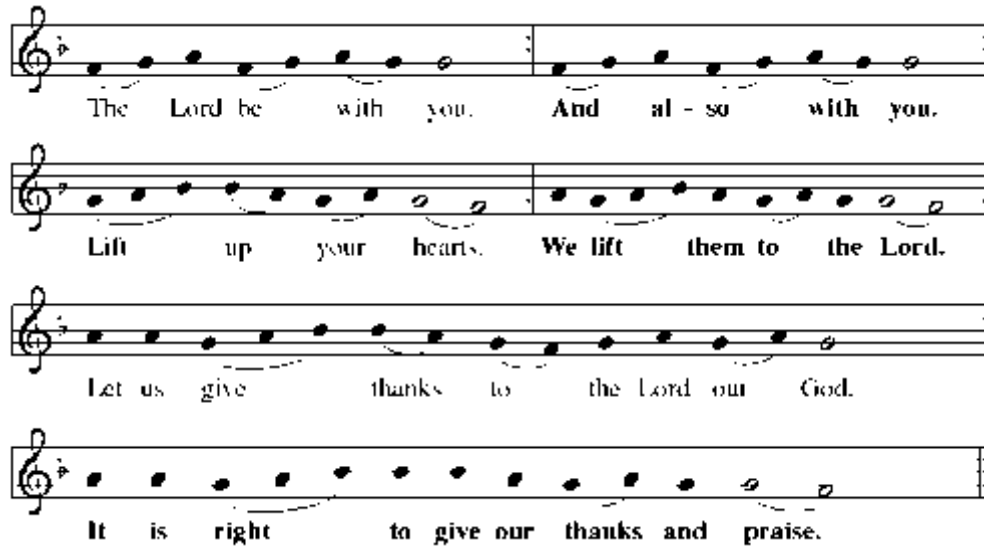
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Generous God,
you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

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

Leader

Offe nebesky, Svou tel' u sveta, Bo že, mi hij so nad na ut
1 O God, Father in heav en, have mer cy up on us
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer cy up on us
3 O God, Holy Spir it, have mer cy up on us

All

Vie me to, Pa ne Bo že mi, že so na
Your heart. O God, is grieved, we know, by ev'ry
Your arms ex tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O liv ish tiv er, come to aid the chil dren

mis hies mych bur mi, svet ti o tom smrt'
c vil, ev'ry wo, up on your cross for
death and grasp of grave: your seats be fore the
that you word has made Now make us grow and

ne mi na Evj ho je di ne ho Sv ut.
suk en Son our death is hind, and peace is won.
fa ther move his heart to mer cy at such love.
help us pray: bring joy and com fort. come to stay.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

Members:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Connie Brewer | Corinne Brumbaugh | Zena Burkert |
| June Collison | Delores Conrad | Diane Dinkelocker |
| Emmy Faber | Janet Griesemer | Marcia Holbrook |
| Cynthia Lott | Steve Marquard | Greg Pomian |
| Joann Rosales | Katie Rosales | Noelle Rutherford |
| Jeremy Schaeffer | Bob Schmehl | Ron Slepecki |
| Geraldine Wagner | | |

Family, friends and loved ones:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Julianne Arnold | Justin Baylor | Marilyn Becker |
| Si Boone | Jeannie Crass | Linda Dean |
| Jon Dillon | Judy Dorner | Bob Dries |
| Breanna Elison | Larry Galloway | Pearl Garman |
| Donald Gotshall | Emma Herb | Wilbur Herb |
| Elaine Lutz | Patsy Pierce | Joe Plank |
| Lucile Reynolds | Lou Rothermel | Bob Rutherford |
| Dick Sassaman | Elisabeth Scollick | Joan Sehl |
| Joseph Smith | | |

The prayers conclude:

P Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of our Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The minister and congregation greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these words: Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

ANTHEM, Taste and See Albrecht/Althouse
Sr. Choir

Please stand.

OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY, *One There Is, above All Others*
LBW #298 (please use green hymnal)

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.**

PRAYER INTRODUCTION

P Let us pray...

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Lord, send your Spir-it in this place.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. send us love, send us pow'r. send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God,
we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need,
and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

After each petition of the prayers:

- A Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

FIRST READING, Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27 (read responsively)

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
²**When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh —
my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.**
³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
⁴**One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**
⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me
under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.
⁶**Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**
⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
⁸**"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

⁹Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰**If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.**

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

¹²**Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have
risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.**

¹³I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

¹⁴**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!**

SECOND READING, Philippians 3:17--4:1

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God. For he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful. slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL, Luke 13:31-35

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

VERSE

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Please be seated.

SERMON