

RINGGOLD BAND
CONCERT
AT SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN
CHURCH
 250 Church Lane Road, Exeter Township
SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 3PM
CALL 610-779-3480 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

A FREE WILL OFFERING
 WILL BE TAKEN

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Dr. Steven H. Shussett - Pastor
 The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
 Mr. Ben D'Annibale - 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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2019



WELCOME!

**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 turn 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
Acolytes Brody Oswald and Cody Morgan
Greeter Bill and Doris Jaeger
Cantor Russ Frey
Carillonneur Judy Ney
Communion Assistants Denton Quick, Judy McLain, Ginni Frey, Peg Gumpert
Nursery Attendant Sarah Gibson

The **altar flowers** are sponsored by Bev Brightbill to the glory of God .

The **communion wine** is sponsored by Robert and Cecelia Erisman in memory of Robert L. and Grace A. Erisman.

ACOLYTE FOR 12/8—Noelle Rutherford

CASH FOR CAUSES—The Giant gift cards will be available for purchase in the Narthex after worship today. Please see Walt Smithson.

↓ **THIS AFTERNOON** ↓



READING CHORAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Under the direction of Dr. Graham Bier

December 1, 2019, 4pm

Muhlenberg High School Auditorium

RCS will be joined by soloists, Muhlenberg Camerata Choir & Orchestra

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at door, \$10 Students



Reading Choral Society
Enriching the Community through Music since 1875

To purchase tickets contact:
RCS Phone: 610.898.1939
www.readingchoral.org

DECEMBER 1 through DECEMBER 8

| | | | |
|-----|------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Sun | 12/1 | 8:00 PM | AA meeting |
| Mon | 12/2 | 1:30 PM | Fellowship Hall in use |
| | | 5:00 PM | Sanctuary in use |
| | | 5:30 PM | Exercise class |
| | | 8:00 PM | AA meeting |
| Tue | 12/3 | 10:00 AM | Bible Fellowship / Action Team |
| | | 6:30 PM | Prayer Group |
| Wed | 12/4 | 5:30 PM | Exercise class |
| | | 6:00 PM | Weight Watchers meeting |
| Thu | 12/5 | 6:00 PM | Girl Scout Troop #1909 |
| | | 7:00 PM | Sr. Choir rehearsal |
| Sat | 12/7 | 8:00 AM | Exercise class |
| | | 9:15 AM | Fellowship Hall in use |
| Sun | 12/8 | 9:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | | 10:30 AM | Worship Service |
| | | 8:00 PM | AA Meeting |

UPCOMING DATES
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 13—Toy Drive

December 15—Sunday School performance, 10:30 AM

December 15—Ringgold Band Concert, 3:00 PM

December 22 —No Sunday School

December 24—Christmas Eve services at 4:00p and 7:00p

December 25 and 26—Church Office closed—Limited church office hours
between Christmas and New Year. Please call first.

December 29—No Sunday School; 10:30 AM Worship Service of Lessons and
Carols

January 26—Annual Congregational Meeting

February 26—Ash Wednesday



POINSETTIAS
TO BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY
SPONSOR A POINSETTIA

The cost per plant is \$6.00

Use the envelope in the pew racks and mark it **SEASONAL FLOWERS** or send it to the church office. Please indicate your name (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin), or use the form below.

The deadline for ordering plants is **December 15, 2019**

Plants can be picked up **December 29, 2019**

POINSETTIA SPONSOR

Name _____

Number of plants _____

Amount enclosed _____

Envelope # _____



WORSHIP SERVICE

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Kevin Kennedy, Church Council President

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE *Romans 13:11-12*

...you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers...

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

Please stand.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the parent who rouses us from slumber,
the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain,
the deliverer who sets us free.

C **Amen.**

P Let us come before the living God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of the future,

C **you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors, abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

GATHERING HYMN *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy

2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and



peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us

yet a king; born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy



find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -

gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal



la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, dear de -

Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine



sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

all - suf - fi - cent mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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.**

You do not need to sign up to volunteer, but it would be helpful to have an idea who is planning to attend. Please email bdj43077@msn.com or text 610-780-9825.

A special thank you to our Toy Drive partners: Reformation Lutheran, Schwarzwald UCC, Community UCC, Bethany Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, Pennside Presbyterian, North Star UMC, St. Catharine of Siena, Rotary Club, Lions Club, St. Lawrence Women's Club, Exeter Women's Club, Team Mimi, Exeter Area Food Pantry, Girls Scout Troop 1145, Girl Scout Troop 1126, Thrivent Financial, Diamond Federal Bank, Vist Bank, Effie's Charcoal Chef, Breakfast Hut, Musso's, Martin Appliance, Boscov's, Giant, Hafer Equipment, Spine and Wellness Center, Girl Scout Troop #1779, Fairlane Gardens and Jake's of Mt. Penn.

God loves the little children, all the little children.

Sarah Gibson is looking for nursery helpers to provide nursery coverage every Sunday.

Your kids are important to us. Let us take care of them together.

If you benefit from nursery during worship,
remember those days with little ones,
or just want to give others the chance to worship,
please consider joining our team.

We are hoping you would only be scheduled to help out every few months.

Don't forget: It takes a VILLAGE.

ERIC'S ANGELS

Beth Robbins, Education Director at Reformation Lutheran, has asked our congregation to join in supporting Eric's Angels. This organization was started to honor the memory of Beth's brother, Eric, who served in Afghanistan. Eric returned from his tour of duty suffering from PTSD. Unfortunately, Eric did not receive the support he needed to deal with his problems and consequently died due to suicide in 2009. Beth and her mother developed this program to help others who may be suffering. Eric's Angels families are fully vetted and chosen through Military Family Services at the National Guard base located on River Road, which serves wounded/disabled veterans.

Eric's Angels provides Christmas meals and presents to the families selected. This year more than 50 families are in need. To help, there will be an angel tree set up in our church. We ask that you take an angel wing from the tree, fulfill the request and return the item(s) to the church. Items should NOT be wrapped. Each angel wing represents one person, either an adult or a child. An adults' wish list may request 1-3 items, a child's may request 3-5 items. If you cannot fulfill all the wishes on an angel, feel free to team up with others.

We hope you will help provide a happy, blessed Christmas to those who sacrificed for our country.



Fourth Annual Toy Drive for the Children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry

Plans are well under way for our 4th Annual Toy Drive!

We have been blessed with tremendous support from our neighboring churches, businesses and civic groups. Collection boxes were wrapped by the Tuesday Morning Group and have been distributed throughout the community.

It is truly a joy to see an entire community come together to help our children!

Now it is time to fill the collection boxes.

Please consider a contribution of a toy, puzzle, game, doll, truck, book or any toy that your own child/grandchild would be excited to see on Christmas morning. The age range for gifts is infant to 18 years. We are also collecting hats, gloves, scarves and warm socks. If you cannot shop but would like to participate, you may place a check or cash in an envelope marked "Toy Drive".

Important dates:

Last day to donate toys is Sunday, December 8th.

Set up for the Toy Give is Thursday, December 12th beginning at 10:00 AM at Reformation Lutheran Church

Toy Give – December 13th – 11 AM to 5 PM at Reformation Lutheran Church

Volunteer opportunities for the Toy Give:

Thursday, December 12, 2019 beginning at 10:00 AM until completion at Reformation Lutheran Church

Friday, December 13, 2019 beginning at 10:30 AM until 6:00 PM

These times include final set-up and tear-down.

Come as you can....stay as long as you wish.

Don't forget your smiles. Its going to be an amazing day! (cont'd.)

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

for this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - - - - - men.

Stewardship 2019

With Glad and Generous Hearts

As the end of the year draws near, your Council must begin to plan for the year to come. Planning is a matter of thinking about what is required to achieve a goal. Our overall objective at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, as is true of every church and every Christian, is to love God and neighbor. But thinking about what we will do in pursuit of that goal, and how we will provide for it, depends on you, not only what you contribute, but that you are prepared to contribute it. For example, thanks to the Tuesday Group, we know that several people will give an hour a week to the church's needs. We don't pile up envelopes to stuff hoping someone will stop by; we know that by Tuesday afternoon that mission will be accomplished.

This year we will be returning to some familiar tools so that we can better plan for what God might be calling us to do. A Time-and-Talent sheet will be distributed, so you can tell us the skills and abilities that you are able to share. Pledge cards allow us to create a budget based on what we can anticipate. Please remember that pledge cards are a commitment to what you intend to give, not a contract of what you have to give. We understand that life's circumstances change, and your intention can't always be met. But, just as your family budget is easier when you have a pretty good idea of the funds coming in and going out, so it is for the church.

We'll be kicking things off with a series of Temple Talks highlighting the talents and mission this church can already celebrate. Then, on December 15, you will be asked to turn in your Time and Talent sheet and Pledge card, to help us in contributing to God's Kingdom in the future.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Advent means coming.
We are preparing ourselves for the days
when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

C Amen.

Candle is lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ADVENT HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #257 verses 1 and 2

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

FIRST READING **Isaiah 2:1-5**

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

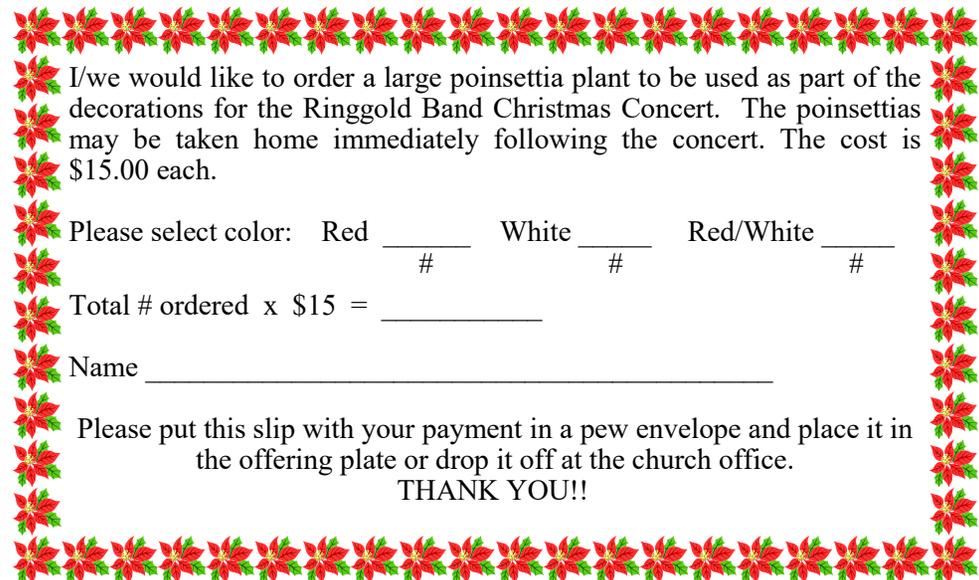
³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

A The word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**



I/we would like to order a large poinsettia plant to be used as part of the decorations for the Ringgold Band Christmas Concert. The poinsettias may be taken home immediately following the concert. The cost is \$15.00 each.

Please select color: Red White Red/White
#

Total # ordered x \$15 =

Name

Please put this slip with your payment in a pew envelope and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.
THANK YOU!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEEDED! Altar flower sponsors (\$25) are needed for December 22. Bulletin sponsors (\$14) are needed for December 8, 15, 22 and 29. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.



NEW COPIER - The church is in need of a new copier. The old one has over 1,000,000 copies on it and parts are no longer available. Please consider using your "Capital Fund" envelope to make a donation towards the purchase of a new copier. Please mark "copier" on the envelope and place it in the offering plate. **THANK YOU!**

NEW WI-FI PASSWORD:

Network name: SLC WIFI Guest
Network password: SLC1737!

COMMUNION WINE SPONSORS NEEDED - We are accepting names of volunteers interested in sponsoring the wine for our communion services for 2020. The cost is \$15 per month. If you are interested, please call Marcia Holbrook at (484)869-5585 to reserve the month you would like to sponsor.

NEED A GIFT FOR SOMEONE? We have SLC Christmas tree ornaments and also "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets available. Each are \$5.00. Please see Diane Hafer in the Narthex for purchase.

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.

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
Pastor's e-mail pastor@schwarzwaldlutheran.org
Church Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org
Emergency 610-914-8257

PSALM 122 (read responsively)

¹I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

²**Our feet are standing**

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem — built as a city

that is bound firmly together.

⁴**To it the tribes go up,**

the tribes of the LORD,

as was decreed for Israel,

to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵For there the thrones for judgment were set up,

the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**

"May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls,

and security within your towers."

⁸**For the sake of my relatives and friends**

I will say, "Peace be within you."

⁹For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good.

A The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

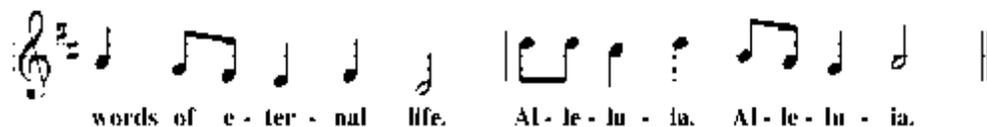
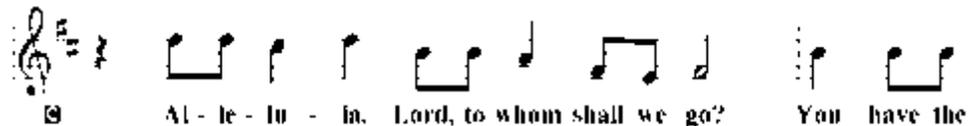
SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Gospel according to Matthew. C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* #242

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.**

After receiving the bread from the Pastor, 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.

If you wish to stay and reflect at the Altar, please move down the altar rail to allow others to receive Communion. Return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

(Communion cards will only be used on Easter, Pentecost, Reformation, and Christmas.)

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 God of abundance,
we give you thanks that in this holy meal
you have invited us to feast with you and one another.
May the taste of your love remain with us,
and may our words and our work in your name
invite others into your bountiful grace.
Send us from your table to proclaim your presence,
even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN *Soon and Very Soon* #439

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you. C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Keeping awake as we watch for Christ,
let us pray for the church,
the world,
and all in need.

A brief silence.

After each petition of the prayers:

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

Members:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Pat Arndt | Zena Burkert | June Collison |
| Delores Conrad | Diane Dinkelocker | Emmy Faber |
| Janet Griesemer | Megan Himmelreich | Marcia Holbrook |
| Larry Houp | Priscilla Houp | Andrew Kent |
| Stephanie Kohler | Cynthia Lott | Devon Messner |
| Glenn Miller | Greg Pomian | Joann Rosales |
| Katie Rosales | Noelle Rutherford | Jeremy Schaeffer |
| Shirley Schaeffer | Bob Schmehl | Marian Simmons |
| Ron Slepecki | Becky Thren | Geraldine Wagner |

Family, friends and loved ones:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Julianne Arnold | Jonathan Bortz | Jeannie Crass |
| Caden Davis | Linda Dean | Jon Dillon |
| Larry Galloway | Pearl Garman | Barry Hecker |
| Wil Herb | Elaine Lutz | Connie Marx |
| Joe Plank | Lucile Reynolds | Rosemary Roe |
| Brittany Schmehl | Bobbie Searle | Joan Sehl |
| Joseph Smith | Gary Tice | Bertha White |
| David White | Barbara Wolfe | |

The prayers conclude:

A You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord.
Fill us with hopeful expectation,
that in each day and hour
we may love and serve our neighbors,
in Jesus' name.

C **Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of our Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with a gesture of peace, saying **Peace be with you.***

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

Please stand.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing, Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

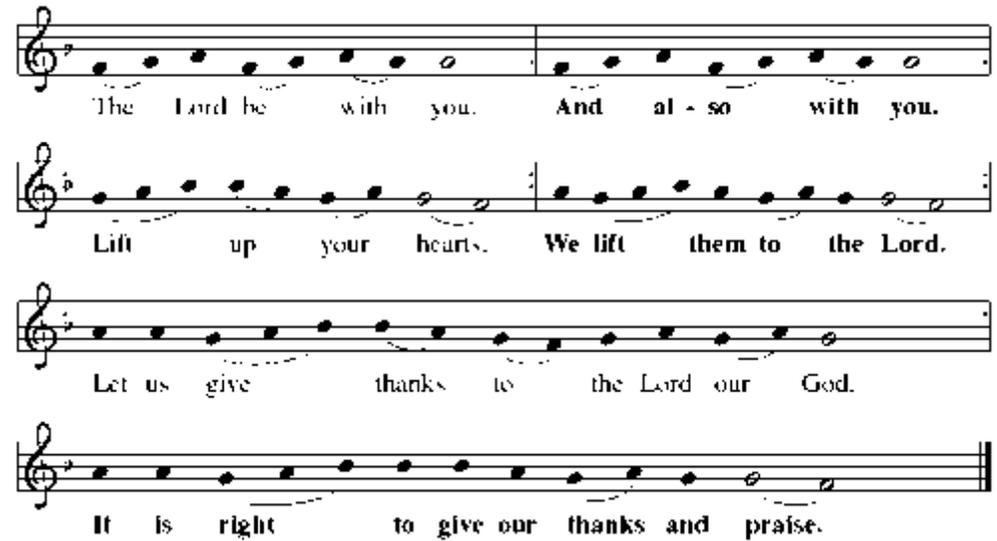
OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray...

Giver of every good thing,
we set before you the gifts that you have already given
to sustain our lives and to share with others.
Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it,
and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast
you prepare for all who hunger.

C Amen.

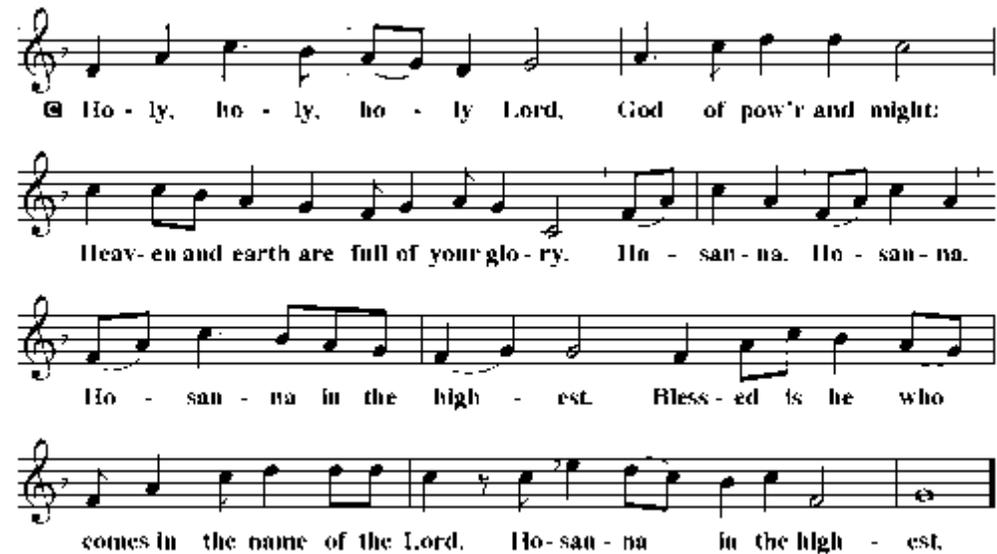
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 ...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r 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. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION