

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 WELCOME 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. Benjamin 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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 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.

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 and front entrance. 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

Usher Team Captain.....Walt Smithson
Acolyte..... Nathan Morgan
Greeters..... The Rutherford Family
Cantor..... Russ Frey
Carillonneur..... Sally Kennedy
Nursery Attendant..... Bev Brightbill

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Kevin Kennedy in honor of Sally’s birthday.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by Dori Russo in celebration of Jenna Russo’s 14th birthday, and 2) by Sarah Gibson in celebration of her 7 year wedding anniversary.

ACOLYTES FOR 12/22—Harry Brumbaugh and P. J. Dalton

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

NAME TAGS

When you arrived this morning, you were invited to fill out a lanyard-type name tag and wear it. If you didn’t do so, please fill one out after worship this morning or next week when you come to church. After worship today, please remove your name tag and place it in the file box in the Narthex or Vestibule. Each week when you arrive, you will have the opportunity to find your name tag in the file box and wear it during worship. This invitation is intended to help Pr. Steve, as well as members of the congregation who don't always know each other's name.

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.

DECEMBER 15 through DECEMBER 22

Sun 12/15 11:30 AM Christmas Cooke Celebration in Fellowship Hall
3:00 PM Ringgold Band Concert
5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #1779
5:30 PM Dinner (Confirmation)
6:00 PM Confirmation Class
8:00 PM AA meeting
Mon 12/16 5:30 PM Exercise class
8:00 PM AA meeting
Tue 12/17 10:00 AM Bible Fellowship / Action Team
11:00 AM Worship and Music Committee meeting
6:00 PM Prayer Group
Wed 12/18 12:00 noon Exeter Senior Citizens
5:30 PM Exercise class
6:00 PM Weight Watchers meeting
Thu 12/19 12:00 noon Breakfast Bunch lunch at Yellow House
6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #1909
7:00 PM Sr. Choir rehearsal
Fri 12/20 2:00 PM Exeter Area Food Pantry
Sat 12/21 8:00 AM Exercise class
Sun 12/22 9:15 AM NO Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
8:00 PM AA Meeting

UPCOMING DATES
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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 (no church-time nursery)
January 26—Annual Congregational Meeting
February 26—Ash Wednesday

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



**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
TO WORSHIP!!!!**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Afternoon Service with Holy Communion **4:00 PM**

Family Candlelight Service with Holy Communion **7:00 PM**

HANDBELL CHOIR rehearsals will resume on Thursday, January 2. We are in need of some additional folks to play in the choir. If you are interested in joining the bell choir, please see Ben after worship today.

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.

CANCELLATION INFORMATION

If any services or events being held at the church are cancelled, please check our website (www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org), Facebook (Schwarzwald Lutheran Church), Channel 69 — WFMZ-TV Stormcenter, or our answering machine (610-779-3480) for cancellation information.

Looking for something fun to do this holiday season?

The Reading Public Museum has free admission passes for any and all SLC members who want them. The pass is valid for one adult admission through January 5, 2020. Current special exhibitions at The Museum include, *CUT! Costume and the Cinema*, *Arthur's World* (the beloved children's TV show character!), and *Yuletide Around the World*, as well as permanent collection galleries of Arms & Armor, North American Indian, Animal Habitats, PA German, among many others. Be sure to visit The Museum Gift Shop and Neag Planetarium while you're there! Feel free to pick up as many passes as you need; stacks are located in the Narthex and Vestibule. Enjoy your visit to RPM!

WORSHIP SERVICE

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE *Luke 2:15*

[The] shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

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 As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

C we open our hearts to you, O God.

Search us and know us.

Reveal all that we keep inside.

**To you, O God, we confess our sins,
known and unknown.**

Forgive us, renew us,

and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.

Make us reflections of the radiant love

of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS


GATHERING HYMN *Hark the Glad Sound* #239

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.

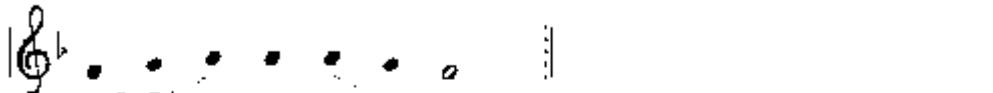
KYRIE




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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. The congregational meeting will be held after lunch.



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 # _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEEDED! Altar flower sponsors (\$25) are needed for December 22 and bulletin sponsors (\$14) are needed for December 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.

12TH NIGHT

Free tickets for the *12th Night* celebration at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown for Thursday, January 9th, at 7:00 PM, are available from Pastor Simmons at 484-332-2734 or opaps@hotmail.com.



SOUPER BOWL

We will again be taking part in the *Souper Bowl of Caring* program. All of our collection will be provided to the Exeter Area Food Pantry.

Souper Bowl Sunday is 2/2/20,
where we will be collecting monetary donations after the worship service.

The Sunday School contest will start on Sunday 1/5/20 through Sunday 2/2/20, where we will be collecting soup brought in by the various Sunday School classes.

The winning class earns a DONUT PARTY.

If we lose a Sunday due to weather,
the collection will be extended by a week.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Barry and Mark Hoover

R ...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 5 and 6

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

PSALM 146:5-10 (read responsively)

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
 whose hope is in the LORD their God,
⁶**who made heaven and earth,
 the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**
⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
 who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
 The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
 the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
 he upholds the orphan and the widow,
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰**The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
 Praise the LORD!**

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

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

Family, friends and loved ones:

Julianne Arnold	Jonathan Bortz	Kathy Carri
Jeannie Crass	Caden Davis	Linda Dean
Jon Dillon	Larry Galloway	Pearl Garman
Barry Hecker	Wil Herb	Elaine Lutz
Connie Marx	Joe Plank	Chloe Potthoff
Lucile Reynolds	Rosemary Roe	Brittany Schmehl
Bobbie Searle	Joan Sehl	Joseph Smith
Bobby Tadley	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**

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**

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *People Look East* #248

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Sonata in A minor, D. 784 II. Allegretto quasi Andantino...* Schubert

CHRISTMAS COOKIE CELEBRATION IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

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INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING *Sonata in A minor, D. 784, III. Allegro Vivace* Shubert

Please stand.

OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart. O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Splr - it from me. Re-store to me the
Joy of your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Splr - it.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

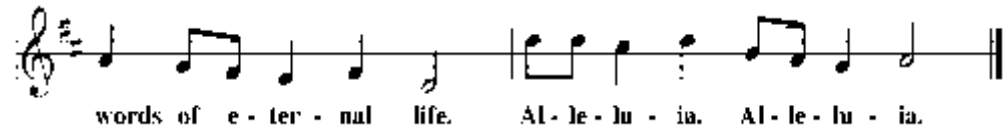
A brief silence.

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	Tony D'Angelo	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
Ron Slepecki	Becky Thren	Geraldine Wagner



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Please be seated.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Director: Crystal Jordan

Cast:

Star – Jay Worrall
Narrator 1 – Michael Jordan
Narrator 2 – Jillian Crotty
Narrator 3 – Kinley Guziak
Narrator 4 – Lynkyn Harlow
Mary – Emma Dickerson
Joseph – Nolan Fayewicz
Wiseman 1 – Grayson Morgan
Wiseman 2 – Taylor Mack
Wiseman 3 – Rylan Oldham
Gabriel – Joshua Kerber
Gabriel's Assistant – Cadence Werner
Head Shepherds – Vincent D'Angelo and Colette Jordan
Silent Night soloist – Samantha Kerber

Shepherds (Grades 3 – 5)

Charles Brumbaugh
Adam Crotty
Alexa Cupitt
Cara Dobbins
Kolsen Guziak
Jeremy Kerber
Taylor Mack
Shane Moyer
Kaitlynn Rutter
Karlee Rutter
Connor Strain
Zachary Strain
Brayden Zackon

Angels (Parent & Me and Ages 4 – K)

Charlotte Bryant
Evan Carson
Evelyn Claus
Cody Fayewicz
Whitney Fayewicz
John Gibson
Caleb Hoch
Jaxon Hoch
Weston Hoch
Scarlet Jordan
Jack Murphy
Quinn Robinson
Karley Seidel
Margaret Anne Worrall
Gavin Zackon

Animals (Grades 1 & 2)

Miles Brumbaugh
Abigail Bryant
Scarlet Jordan
Seth Moyer
Tenley Oldham
Emma Scalese
Trevor Seidel
Zachary Werner

Chorus (Jr. & Sr. High)

Harrison Brumbaugh
Chase Cupitt
Anthony D'Angelo
Patrick Dalton
John Dobbins

Ashley Doll
Hannah Houp
Jay Houp
Kaiden Killoran
Lucas Kohler
Andrew Kowalski
Matthew Kowalski
Riley Mack
Cody Morgan
Nathan Morgan
Brody Oswald
Jenna Russo

Teachers/Helpers

Susan Bryant
Rochelle Chelius
Christy D'Angelo
Jeff Dobbins
Shelley Fayewicz
Sarah Gibson
Beth Guziak
Mike Jordan
Melissa Kerber
Stephanie Kohler
Jennifer Morgan
Stacey Oldham
Greg Pomian
Dave Scalese
Linda Strain
Laurie Vlasak
Jenny Weikel
Clara Worrall

We are very thankful to have so many of our children participate in today's pageant. We wish everyone could attend the performance, but we realize uncontrollable circumstances prevent some children from doing so. The children listed are active members of our Sunday School and have participated in pageant rehearsals.

Schwarzwald's Christmas Cookie Celebration will take place in Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service this morning. Come celebrate the Christmas season with us! We hope all members of the Schwarzwald family and their guests will attend. We are looking forward to a festive event that will allow us to celebrate Christ's upcoming birth together.