



To all the saints of Schwarzwald Lutheran Church,



Grace to you all, and peace.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19f)

Let me begin by saying that this is the Easter story that has been on my mind since mid-March, those heady days when we were told the world would return to normal by mid-April. I wondered how you would all react to hearing this Easter evening story in place of one of the traditional Easter morning texts. As days passed and deadlines changed, however, the appointed texts for each Sunday and each day of Holy Week felt so appropriate, as if chosen for this time. I will never hear the dry bones of Elijah the same way again.

That said, while I'm glad that stories fell into place as they did, the story of the disciples behind locked doors is the one I find I keep coming back to. If it were just being hidden behind locked doors out of fear, that would be enough. But how many times did Jesus tell them he would die, and be raised? How many times did he try to prepare them for what was coming? And yet, when confronted with the immediacy of the situation, the immediacy of Jesus' death, all we read of is a lot of running and hiding.

For many years now, I have dedicated one of my monthly newsletter columns to the same subject: funeral preparations. Whether death comes suddenly or after a protracted illness, or upon reaching a certain age, there is a degree of surprise to death when it finally comes. Despite its inevitability, people often feel like "there is always time to talk about it later." Then later comes, as it will for all of us, and family members can feel an unnecessary guilt over not knowing a loved one's favorite Bible passages or hymns, or other meaningful wishes.

In light of the Coronavirus, I thought about postponing this annual tradition. After all, there is enough concern about death and dying to go around right now. But as I thought further, I realized that this is not about concern as much as preparation, for a day that could come tomorrow, in a year, or in decades. Like Jesus preparing the disciples, we know the day will come. Now is when we have the opportunity to share our faith. Why this biblical passage? Why these hymns? **"Because this is what God means to me."**

So in this time when we have a different amount of time on our hands, and a very different perspective, I encourage you to sit with the enclosed pages (beginning on the next page), to make sure that family or close friends get a copy, to send a copy to the church. When that day comes, share the Good News that you have known in your life.

God is all in all,

Pastor Steve

The information sheets below were referenced in Pastor's article on the previous page.

Personal Preplanning Funeral Form

Share this form with your pastor and loved ones to make planning your funeral easier.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I, _____, request the following at the time of my death.
sign here

For the service witnessing to the resurrection (funeral)

____ I do not wish to have a funeral or memorial service.

____ I would like a funeral or memorial service as detailed below.

1. I would like the following Scripture read. (Choose up to four passages.)

2. I would like the following hymns sung.
(List up to three hymns. You only need to provide titles.)

Participants to ask

3. I ____ would ____ would not like to have the Lord's Supper celebrated at this service.

The Lord's Supper can be a great source of strength and consolation to the grieving, and makes the communion of the saints a visible reality.

4. Do you have any stories of your life or faith that you would like to have shared at this service?
(Use a separate sheet if necessary.)

5. Is there anything that you would like people to know as they worship at this service?
(Use a separate sheet if necessary.)

Does your family know of your last wishes? If not, you may wish to address the following. Please note that this is not a legal document, but a record to convey your final wishes. One copy should be given to family or friend and one copy to the church.

1. Name(s) of preferred individuals(s) to assist in arrangements (relative, friend, pastor, attorney):

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

2. Clergyperson to be called:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

3. Mortician to be called:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please check the following if it is your desire

4. Treatment of my body

☐ That my body be sent to such medical, social, or scientific center as will accept it
(It is my responsibility to choose the institution or up to those who make my final arrangements.)

☐ That my body be made available for autopsy

☐ That my body be cremated ☐ with embalming ☐ without embalming

5. Funeral home, Funeral, Memorial Service

☐ That there ☐ will be a viewing ☐ will not be a viewing

☐ That a ☐ public ☐ private funeral be held at ☐ church ☐ funeral home

☐ That I have discussed/instructed my family/friends as to the kind of casket and other arrangements and cost (limit)

☐ That a memorial service (i.e. body not being present) be held at _____

☐ That neither a funeral nor memorial service be held

6. Final disposition

☐ That my ashes be preserved or disposed of in the following manner and place: _____

☐ That my body be buried in the following location _____

☐ It is my wish to donate whatever organs/parts of organs that are useful to the living

7. Contributions/Flowers

☐ Flowers are desired

☐ Organizations to which contributions may be sent _____

I understand that these are my instructions to my family and friends. I recognize my own responsibility for advance consultation with the minister or mortician of my choice.

Signed: _____

Witness (preferably next of kin): _____

The following information is required for the death certificate. By filling this form out now, spare your family an additional responsibility at the time of your death.

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Social Security #: _____ Sex: ___M ___F Race: _____

Date of birth: ___/___/___ Citizen of what country: _____

Birthplace: _____ Armed Services: _____

___ Married ___ Never Married ___ Widowed ___ Divorced

Usual residence: _____
City County State Country

Current street address: _____
Street City State

Type of work done during working life (even if currently retired): _____

Father's name: _____

Mother's maiden name: _____



Schwarzwald is now set up with PayPal.

When making a donation from your PayPal account,
(connected to your checking account),

please use "Friends and Family" and

send your contribution to SchwarzwaldOffering@gmail.com.

(If your PayPal account is connected to a debit/credit card, there will be a fee to you.)

The Worship Service Must Go On!

Thank you to Melissa Crotty for contributing her musical gifts to our weekly worship! If you have musical talents that you would like to share, please contact Ben at bendannibale@gmail.com or call the church office. We realize that your technological know-how may not match your musical gifts, but Ben may be able to help, and many will appreciate!

REMEMBER

On Sundays at 10:30am, we will gather in spirit, if not body, to worship together. Remember, you can watch the videos at any time, or join others by watching at the posted time, via YouTube's "Schwarzwald Lutheran Church" channel and our Facebook page. If you have a friend who you know doesn't have a computer, call them up to see if they would like you to call and share the service by phone. Or share the links with friends who might benefit. And watch for other opportunities to gather and worship.

If You're Asking "What can I do...?"

By now you've probably gotten a phone call from the church, someone asking "How are you doing, do you need anything, and please know that you are being prayed for." A gracious team of Schwarzwald folks have been making those calls, which are appreciated by many recipients and have led to some wonderful exchanges. ***Thank you to our callers!*** (If you haven't received a call, it means we do not have your current phone number. Please call the church office with your land-line phone number or your cell phone number. Thank you!)

As the situation continues to evolve, some of our callers are finding that their life's circumstances have changed as well, leaving them with less time or energy for this important ministry.

- If you like (or at least don't mind) talking on the phone; and
- If you have time to call about 15 people over the span of a few weeks ***please let us know***. Call the church office to be put on our list for future calling.

A new **EXETER CARES website** has been established, at www.exetercares.net If you need help, or if you can give help (including donations), go here!

The **Exeter Area Food Pantry** served 384 different households once this month, 576 families served this month, 169 new households, 763 children, 919 adults, 401 seniors for a total of 2,083 people. What an amazing thing this is! The plan for May is to continue 2 gives, May 6th and May 20th. Looking for a way to contribute to the Exeter Area Food Pantry? Call the office to purchase a Giant gift card that will then be donated to EAFP to stock its shelves. Call the church office for more information. Thank you all for supporting this effort!

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 we had to postpone the Schwarzwald blood drive until later this summer. In the meantime, it is more important now than ever to donate. There is an increasing need for healthy people to donate to maintain the nation's supply during the pandemic. If you are able and healthy, please contact the Miller Keystone Blood Center at 800-223-6667 and schedule an appointment to donate. Donating blood at their center is safer today than it has ever been before. Please mention that you are donating on behalf of Schwarzwald Lutheran Church. Thank you!

All events, activities and functions are cancelled
until further notice.
Please be sure to check the SLC website and emails
for further announcements.

The **Blood Drive and Yard Sale** scheduled for May have been postponed
until a later date. Keep collecting things for the yard sale, and if you can,
make an appointment to donate blood! When asked to designate an
organization, tell them "SLC"!

You can give now, and you may be able to give at the drive!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30 AM "Watch Party" via YouTube or Facebook
(or you can watch them anytime!)

**The worship service link is sent to your email address,
usually on a Friday.**

**If you would like to be added
to the email list, please call the church office.**



SLC Scholarship Fund

SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church will award two \$500 scholarships to applicants (graduating high school seniors) planning to continue 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 email the church office for an application. The completed application, along with your transcript, must be returned by Tuesday, May 5, 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.



Adopt-a-Bed Program Returns

Last year, we asked members of SLC to adopt a flower bed – to clean it up and plant some flowers. The program was very successful. We are repeating this program this year and need your help more than before because social distancing requirements prevent us from working at the church in larger groups. Thus, the Property Committee will NOT be organizing a formal Spring Clean-up effort as it has in past years. However, a pile of mulch was delivered to the church recently, and members of the property committee will gradually be working at the church, as individuals or family units, to do some of the traditional cleaning out of flower beds, by pulling weeds, picking up leaves and applying mulch. It will take time to get to all of the flower beds. If you desire to adopt a bed, you can either wait until the clean up of your flower bed has been completed or you can jump in sooner. The mulch pile is located on the side driveway in front of the church office garage door, near the trash cans. If you do pull out weeds and/or leaves from your flower bed, you may put them in piles for later pick up by a Property Committee member.

Please consider adopting a flower bed or even just part of one. With your help, we can keep the church grounds looking beautiful even during these challenging times. If you are willing to help, please contact Diane Hafer at the church office or Kevin Kennedy, property committee chair, to let us know which flower bed you would like to adopt. Thank you.

CHURCH OFFICE

The Executive Committee of SLC has determined that for the health and safety of everyone involved, until further notice, only employees of SLC should enter the church office unless an emergency situation exists. If you need to deliver something to, or obtain something from, the church office, please contact Pastor Steve or Diane in advance via telephone so that items can be placed in the breezeway for subsequent pickup. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

A LETTER FROM OUR FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thanks and blessings to our Schwarzwald family for faithfully continuing to pray for, support and contribute to the mission of Schwarzwald Lutheran Church. Our prayers, service and financial support have made it possible for us as a congregation, under the leadership of the Council and Pastor Shussett, to continue our programs and meet our overhead obligations. Your faithfulness is appreciated.

Looking forward to the time we will be meeting together in spirit and in our beautiful building.

Yours in Christ,

The Finance/ Stewardship Committee



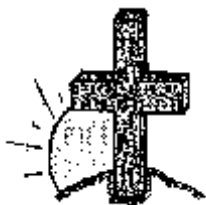
PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets via telephone every other Tuesday at 6:00 PM.

The May dates are the 5th and 19th.

Please contact Joanne Rutherford for additional information.

610-406-9355 or jmr14290@gmail.com



Calling all kids! Have your parents check their email for weekly Sunday School information and activities. Print the age-appropriate worksheet and enjoy some family time with some favorite Bible stories! Make sure to email Crystal some pictures of you with your Bibles, watching the children's sermon, singing along with the songs, or completing the activity sheets. Would you like to read your favorite Bible story for our Sunday School family? Email Crystal a video of you, your parent, or your whole family reading your favorite story. You could read a stand-alone story book or a chapter out of the Beginner's Bible. Your video will be included in the weekly email that goes out to all of the Schwarzwald Sunday School families! Reach out if you have any questions or if you know anyone who would like to be added to the weekly Sunday School email list.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

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

- 1 Melissa Crotty, Lila Gibson
- 2 Ashley Krommes
- 4 Christina Reinert, Nancy Hess-Smith
- 5 Gary Gilbert, Jay Houpp
- 6 Tyler Notario
- 7 Lisa Herbst, Elizabeth Meredith
- 8 Cynthia Shollenberger
- 9 Mary Brickner, Haley Readinger
- 10 Susan Moyer
- 11 Joe Tice
- 12 Caroline Obenski, Christy Schaeffer
- 13 Mark Neiman, Larry W. Houpp, Ashley Doll
- 14 Andrew Kent
- 15 Dustin Readinger
- 16 Mark Phillips
- 17 Juliana Schaeffer, Patricia Weiser
- 18 Carol Burkhart, The Rev. Alex Kennedy, Samuel Leone,
Michael Himmelreich
- 19 Jeff Schmehl, Joseph Staub, Chase Cupitt
- 20 Brayden Reinert, Penelope Zerwick
- 22 Floyd Burkhart
- 23 Amy Hoover, Martin Weaver, Jr., Sandy Miller, Margaret Mirenda,
Joshua Kerber
- 24 Kelsey Jackson
- 25 Dexter Kennedy, Ruthann Rutherford
- 26 Jamie Sgroi
- 27 Susan Johns, Jennifer Cataldi, Markus Jeschonnek
- 28 Courteney Keuscher, Brayden Karas
- 29 Stephen Herber, Melissa Kerber
- 31 Joel Hoover

THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! . . .

. . **from** our neighbor, Julie Huckleberry—Dear Schwarzwald Church, I have often wanted to write a note to you to let you know how much I enjoy your lovely chimes but never more than during this difficult time. Since we are all confined and cannot travel to our churches, your wonderful music provides an opportunity for independent worship and prayer. Thank you for sharing with the community. I look forward to Easter morning when I will hear God's music again.

. . **from** Ron Owens—I would like to thank Pastor Steve for coming to visit me at Berkshire Commons and for the care and many prayers. I also want to thank you for the beautiful altar flowers that I have enjoyed so much. They are simply beautiful and brighten my room and my heart. Thank you for all the care and prayers. I appreciate being remembered.

. . **to** Lori Bauer, Susan Bryant, Lisa Lutz, Beth Vought and Laurie Vlasak for preparing 10 tubs of alphabet soup for the New Journey soup kitchen.

. . **to** those who have made and been delivering Easter baskets to homebound members who have been unable to worship with us even before the pandemic. A special thanks to Judi Merkel for taking the lead on this.

. . **to** all those who purchased flowers for Easter and contributed to decorating around our sign. A special thanks to Sally Kennedy for taking the lead on this.

. . **to** Pastor Steve, Ben, and the soloists for their time and effort in recording the church services and to Diane for sending us the bulletins and hymns so we can have a part in worship.

. . **from** Dave Ullrich—Thank you so much for the Easter basket and for thinking of me.

. . **from** Exeter Area Food Pantry—Thank you for your continuous support of the EAFP! Your support allows us to continue to help our neighbors in need.



HOMEMADE MASKS

Sue Bryant, a member of Schwarzwald, is making homemade masks. If you or anyone you know needs a mask, please email Sue at corgisue@gmail.com.

Thanks, Sue!

Church Council Highlights: (March)

Treasurer's Report – Sue Bryant, Treasurer

Regular offering is over budget for the month and \$2000 over budget Y-T-D. The Fund Balance Report was reviewed.

Audit Committee – The committee made several recommendations: close the Petty Cash account, stop selling the Giant gift cards, and have the Endowment Fund records/reports for the Audit Committee to review. (Subsequently, the latter has been corrected.)

The council approved a request from the Bier, Brats and Bible men's group for \$125 for their ministries.

Old Business

We were approached several years ago by Unison to buy out our cell tower leases, which we declined at that time. We now have received another contact. After discussion, it was suggested we ask them for a written offer.

New Business

Coronavirus – We reviewed some suggested policies and procedures and will put them into action: if you're not feeling well, stay home; if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 virus or have been placed in quarantine because you came in contact with someone with COVID-19 virus, please let Pastor know; during the Sharing of the Peace, we will remain in our pews and glance at our neighbor and say peace without reaching out to touch; and keep our hands clean by using the hand sanitizers located around the church building. We will follow the public school schedule for our decision on when to close. Communion will be at your own risk. The Easter egg hunt has been cancelled. (Subsequently, all services, events and activities were cancelled.)

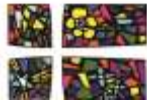
Sound System – We received a proposal from ESG for \$8,134, which includes new wireless mics, a new mixer, and the ability to adjust the system volume from an I-Phone. An extra \$1726 would give us 4 individual hearing units. The council would like to ask ESG what the price to have recording capabilities would be. Council agreed to move ahead with the sound system as proposed, and look into recording capabilities.

SLC Scholarships – Laurie Vlasak will be on the committee and will ask two others to help. The SLC scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior who is a member of SLC. The scholarship information will be in the Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters.

Social Ministry Committee – The Hope Rescue Mission has opened a new facility, The Lighthouse. Peg Gumpert would like to give a temple talk on June 7 and have a guest speaker and a display.

No one from Council has volunteered to attend the Synod Assembly in June. We will open it up to the congregation. (Subsequently, Synod Assembly 2020 has been postponed to October 22-24.)

Published monthly by



Schwarzwald LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving and Loving Christ Since 1737

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Join our family, share God's love.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pulpit and Pew

MAY 2020