Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue
Reading, PA 19606
www.reformationlutheran.org
Office (610) 779-0534
Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

25th Sunday after Pentecost **November 15th, 2026**
A Service of Word and Sacrament **9:30 AM**



Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Gregory Stoddard
Director of Music:	Dr. Heidi Rochlin
Ushers	Pat and Kathy Austin
Reader	Jackie Morrissey
Assisting Minister	Jeanne Gochnauer
Acolyte	Brion Morrissey and Ethan Pasko
Altar Guild	Cynthia Smoker-Johnston and Steve & Elisha Barnett
Flowers	Rich & Karen Hawk and Sue & Mark Dobroskey - in honor of our grandchildren
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

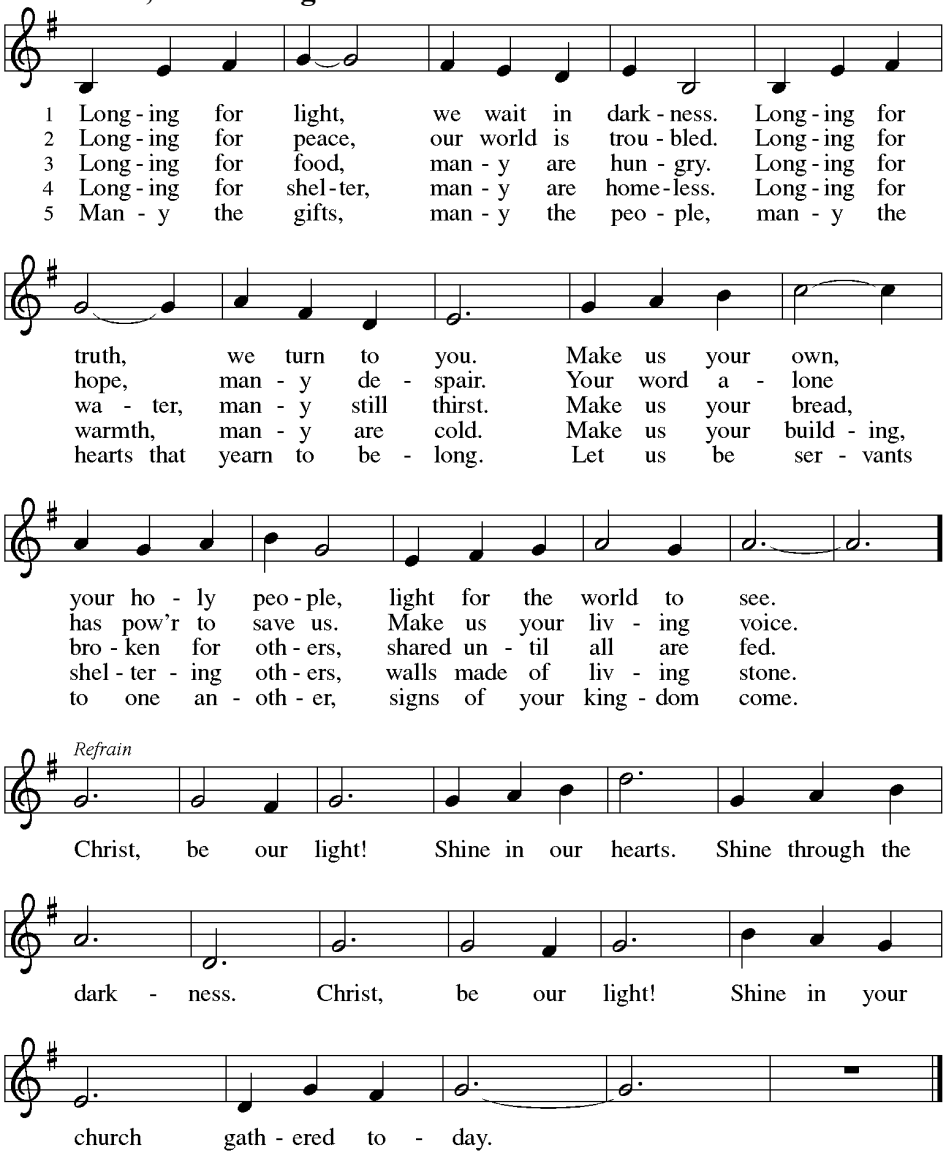
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: **ELW 715**

Christ, Be Our Light



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

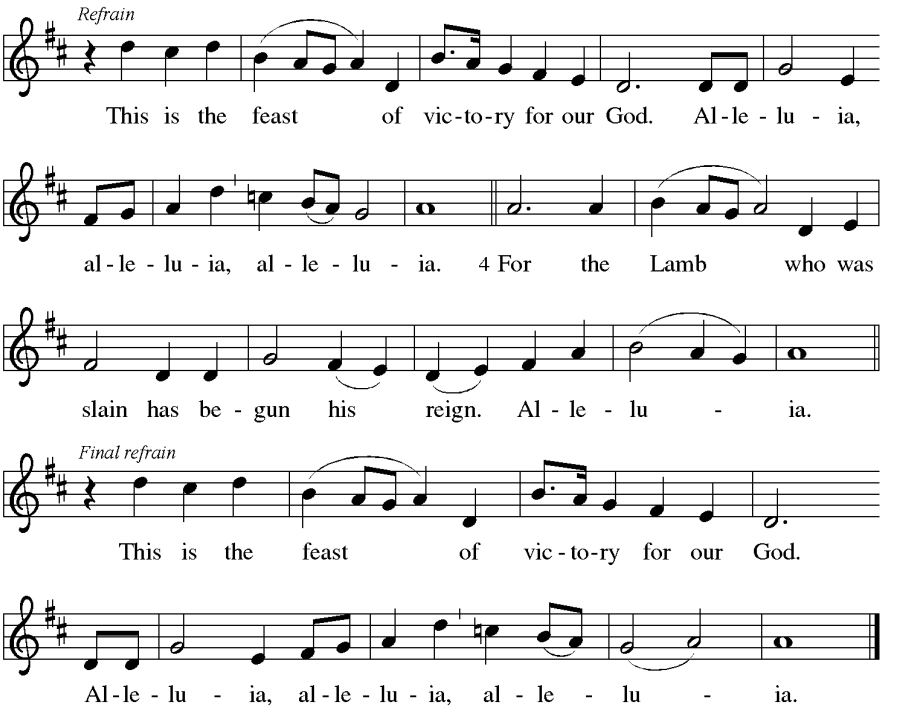
And also with you.

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.

THIS IS THE FEAST





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING – ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,

nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM 90: 1-8, 12 (This will be read in unison.)

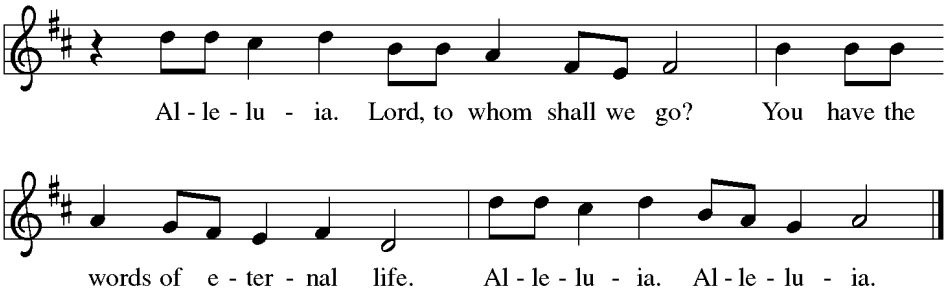
1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;

5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING – 1 THESSALONIANS 5: 1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you
do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves
know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a
pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and
sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;
5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of
the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do,
but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at
night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we
belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith
and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord
Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or
asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and
build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The assembly stands.



GOSPEL – MATTHEW 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he
gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to
his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the
five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more
talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug
a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time
the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then
the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five
more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I
have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done,
good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things;
I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying,
'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more
talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy
slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in
charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the
one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying,
'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not
sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I
went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'
26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did
you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter?
27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on
my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So
take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.
29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an
abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will
be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: **ELW 688**

Lord of Light



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.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING & ANTHEM

Wonderous Love, O My Soul, *by Mary McDonald*

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyard be Fruitful Lord ELW 182

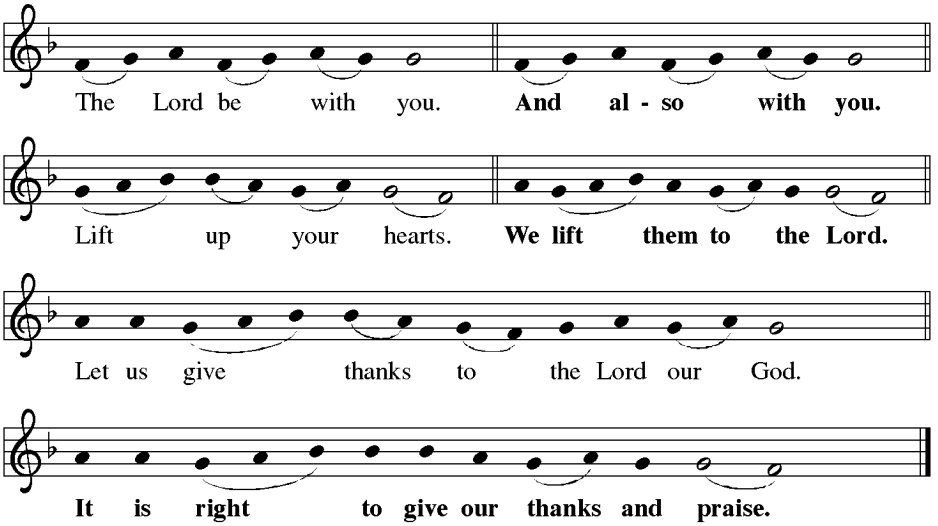


OFFERING PRAYER

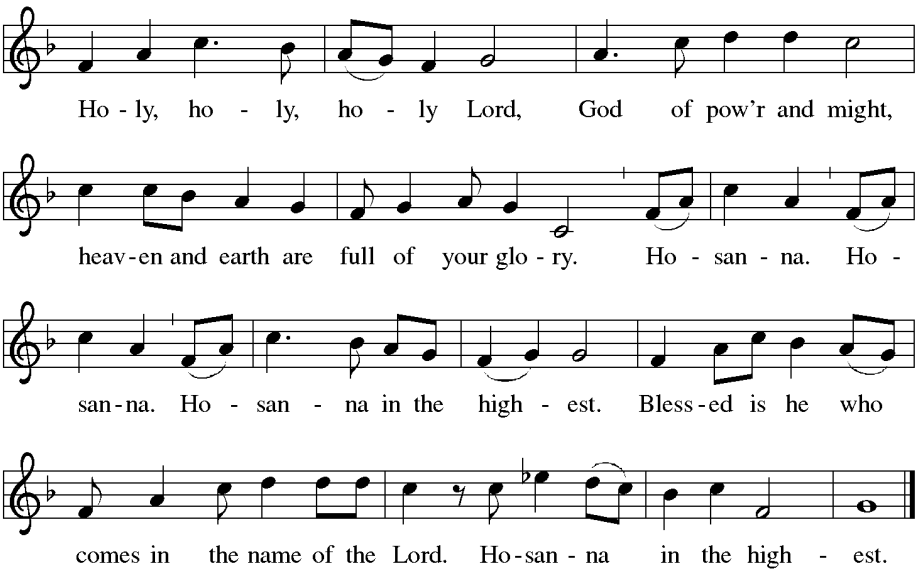
Let us pray:

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.
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:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

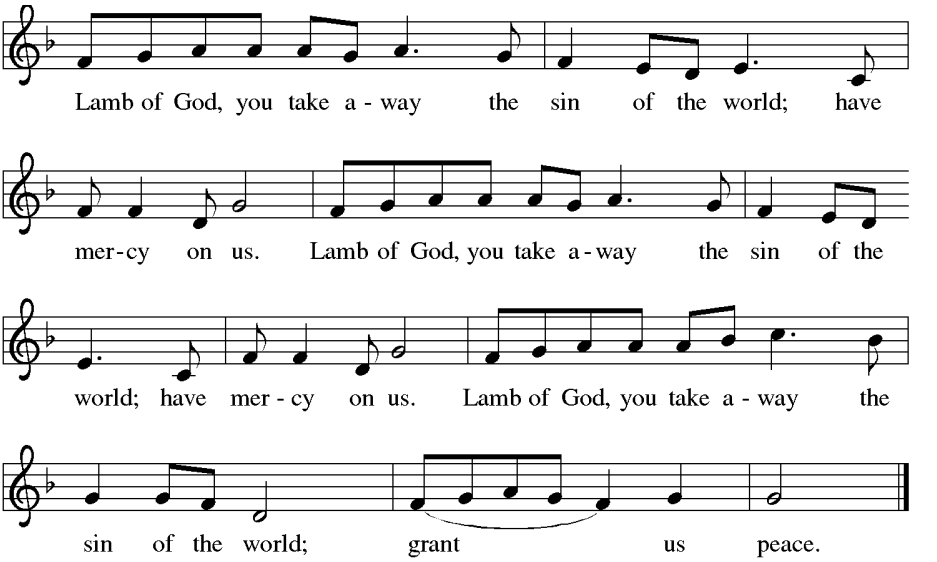
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION & COMMUNION

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Please note that, to be accessible to all, our communion bread is gluten-free, nut-free and lactose-free; both wine (served at the rail) and grape juice (in the trays) are available. When returning your used cups to the trays along the walls, please do not stack the cups. All are welcome to commune.



COMMUNION HYMNS

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High **ELW 857**

Music can be found in the Red Hymnal

Light Dawns on a Weary World — ELW 726



Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken **ACS 966**



The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

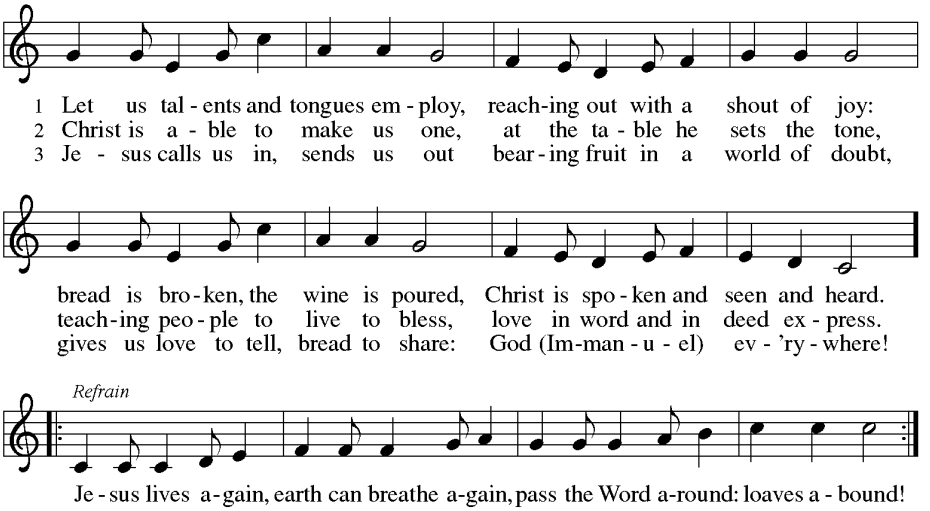
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: **ELW 674**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



The assembly may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added – none

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Steve Barnett, Ruth Blatt, Tom Brizek, Millie Castillo, Russ Clauser, Bob Galbraith, Dana Humbert, Maddie Kemp, Nancy Kern, Rod and Patti Kline, Tina Little, Cheryl Manella, Karen Montag, Pat Schonour, Scott, Linda Sell, Elinor Snyder, Jack Swartz, Erica Sweigert, and Herb Zettlemoyer

Friends of Reformation: Thomas Allmon, Linda Barnett, Sandy Bender, Don Bickel, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Karen Borsak, Michele Boucher, Mary Bowen, Susan Broome, Zena Burkert, Lucille Canta, Cathy, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr. Bernadette Dieumegard, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Greg Geesaman, Robert Granko, Anthony Gross, Brian Gruber, Gino Hinnershitz John Howard, Deacon Kalbach, Kayden, Allison Kunkel, Batya Leidner, Scott Leone, Dana Little, Maryann and Elwood Long, Alyson, Sophie, and Avery Maas, Kathy McCoy, Mike Mirenda, Tom Mulvey, Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Wyatt Plica, Chris Plue, Molly Regan, Avery Reinert, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Karolyn Schrufer, Kim Sharp, Linda Smith, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, Taylor Tenuta, and Grace Vetter

We pray for our Call Committee as they listen and discern during this season of transition.

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

November 22nd

Ushers	Charley and Jen Weaver
Reader	Alan Blackburn
Assisting Minister	Teri Stoddard
Acolyte	Kevin Blackburn

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT IS A STEWARD?

In the Christian sense a steward is a manager of the affairs of ***God*** on earth. ***God*** has made each of us a steward and has given us abilities and talents that are unique. We are intended to use these abilities and talents to serve ***God***.

A Christian steward serves ***God*** out of love and gratitude for these gifts, knowing it's not how much we have but what we do with what we have that is important.

1 Peter 4:10 - "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of ***God's*** grace in its various forms".

God's Gifts

Human Life: The first and greatest gift of all carries it the greatest responsibilities of all.

Time: When ***God*** gives us life we do not know how much time we have to use that life. We must use it wisely.

Health: God gives us superior minds to use to their fullest capacity. We are also given bodies to accomplish ***God's*** work.

Talents: ***God*** gives people potential talents when they are born. The Bible tells us to use our talents wisely. If we do not use them, they are wasted.

Relationships: Our relationships with others are a gift from ***God*** and a measure of our stewardship for ***God***.

Gospel: Our stewardship of the *Gospel* extends to: Home; Work; and Church in receiving, sharing and reflecting upon the *Gospel* and its word's.

Property: We bring and take nothing in to and out of this world. Everything we have while we are here comes as a gift from ***God***. In appreciation we chose to share a portion of these gifts.

Giving money, time and talents to the Church is a symbolic act and a practical matter to show your appreciation and devotion to the ***God's*** Church and its work.

Prayer: O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, I know that all I have received is from your hand. Gracious and loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. *Amen*

Thanksgiving Basket Project - We will again be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in the Exeter School District. There are leaves on the bulletin board near the kitchen with items needed for the baskets attached on them. Choose as many items that you would like to donate. Bring the items in and place them in the boxes on the floor underneath the bulletin board. All items must be brought in by **TODAY** Sunday, Nov. 15. One of the items that we provide with the baskets is a turkey. We are asking if anyone in the congregation who might be receiving a free turkey from work (or anywhere else) or you get a coupon for a turkey that you consider donating it to the Thanksgiving basket project. If you do want to donate a turkey, contact Terry Trumbauer (610-582-5950 or terryt@dejazzd.com). The final way you can help is with the delivery of the baskets. If you have a van or a SUV and are available for about 2 hours on Monday, Nov. 23 and would like to help me deliver the baskets to the Exeter Administration building, you can call or e-mail me about the details with making the deliveries. Thank you!

NOTE: WE STILL NEED SOME TURKEYS FOR THE THANKSGIVING BASKETS. ALSO, WE COULD USE 1 OR 2 MORE DRIVERS TO HELP WITH THE DELIVERY OF THE BASKETS TO THE EXETER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. IF YOU CAN HELP, CONTACT TERRY TRUMBAUER at (610-582-5950 or terryt@dejazzd.com).



Prepare! An Intergenerational Advent Workshop will be held on Sunday, November 29th beginning at 10:35 AM in the Parish Hall. Join us for crafts, fresh Advent wreath-making, take home devotionals, Advent calendars, as well as a mini-music workshop for our youngest learners and refreshments!

Fall Clothing Drive for the Clothing Bank - For the fall season, we are collecting the following items:
- Children: Long pants and long-sleeved shirts
- Adults: Jeans, sweatpants, yoga pants, t-shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, coats, and shoes

Donations can be placed in the box near the back door vestibule.

11th Annual Toy Give for Children of the Exeter Area Food Pantry on December 11, 2026
Each year the number of children and families served grows larger. Your generosity has made it possible for us to continue to provide gifts for hundreds of children in our community each year. Please consider purchasing a toy or toys for the children.

- Infant to 13 years old:

  Toys, games, puzzles, dolls, cars, trucks, building sets, art supplies, Barbies, Legos, etc.
- Teenagers:

  Make-up sets, nail care sets, shaving sets, cologne sets, perfume sets, hand cream and body wash sets, adult art sets (fine tip markers, graphic pencils, colored pens). Teenagers will also receive a gift card to a local store from our generous partner: "Hack Away at Hunger"

Donations of hats, socks, gloves and scarves for all ages as well as gently used and new books are also appreciated.
Drop your gifts in the toy donation box at Reformation.

Additional information [monetary contributions, Amazon Wish List] on the toy drive can be found on a flier in the narthex. Be sure to pick one up.

If you have any questions please contact:
Doris Jaeger: 610-780-9825; bdj43077@msn.com
Schwarzwald Lutheran Church Office: 610-779-3480
Please bring all donations no later than December 4th.

Welcome Steve Jablonski! Steve is our new sexton. He and his wife, Lidia, reside in St. Lawrence and are the proud parents of six children, sixteen grandchildren and one great grandson! He attended the Reading School District and Kutztown State College. Steve served as a general manager for Burger King for forty plus years and most recently was employed as a bus driver for the Exeter Township School District. His favorite hobby is gardening. "I'm grateful for this opportunity and look forward to helping the people of Reformation along the way."