

### Little Swatara Church- Pastor Matthew S. Christ

PHONE: 717-675-3946 Email: PastorMatt@littleswatara.org

Facebook: Matt Christ; Instagram & Snapchat: mdchrist99

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM TUE.—THURS.

Church Office: 717-933-4723 OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri, 8:30 am -12 noon

**Secretary**—Connie Davis Email: [secretary@littleswatara.org](mailto:secretary@littleswatara.org)

**Treasurer**—Dianne Younker, 717-269-0803. Email: [treasurer@littleswatara.org](mailto:treasurer@littleswatara.org).

**Newsletter Editor**: Connie Davis Email: [secretary@littleswatara.org](mailto:secretary@littleswatara.org)

### WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

**VIDEO PROJECTION** Glenn Riegel & Mark Myers—CVLI#502613280; CCLI#157691

**ORGANIST** Marlene Blatt

**CHURCH SIGN CHANGER:** Nov.- Pat Timmins Dec. - Tony Fazio Jan. - Sam Forry

#### Wk. 2 December 10

#### Wk.3 December 17

#### Wk. 4 December 24

#### CHORISTER

Praise Team

Allen Rebman

Praise Team

#### WORSHIP LDR

Praise Team

John Wise

Praise Team

#### CHILD STORY

Pat Stupp

Abby Christ

Savannah M / Karen M

#### PIANIST

Praise Team

Sarah Brubaker

Praise Team

#### AUDIO

Greg Bryant

Todd Rebman

Todd Rebman

#### WORSHIP CTR

Worship Center Comm.

Worship Center Comm.

Worship Center Comm.

#### USHERS

Gerald & Jim Bowman  
Scott Bohn & John High

Ken Duell / John High  
Dennis E. / Joseph Brubaker

Richard & Michelle Yenser  
Andrew & Chris Brubaker

### WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 am & 10:30 am SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES 9:30 – 10:15 am

#### Children/Youth

Preschool – Preschool Room, Sanctuary Level

Elementary (Grades K to 5) – Pine Room  
(Fellowship Hall Level)

Youth (Grades 6 to 12) – Youth Room (Fellowship  
Hall)

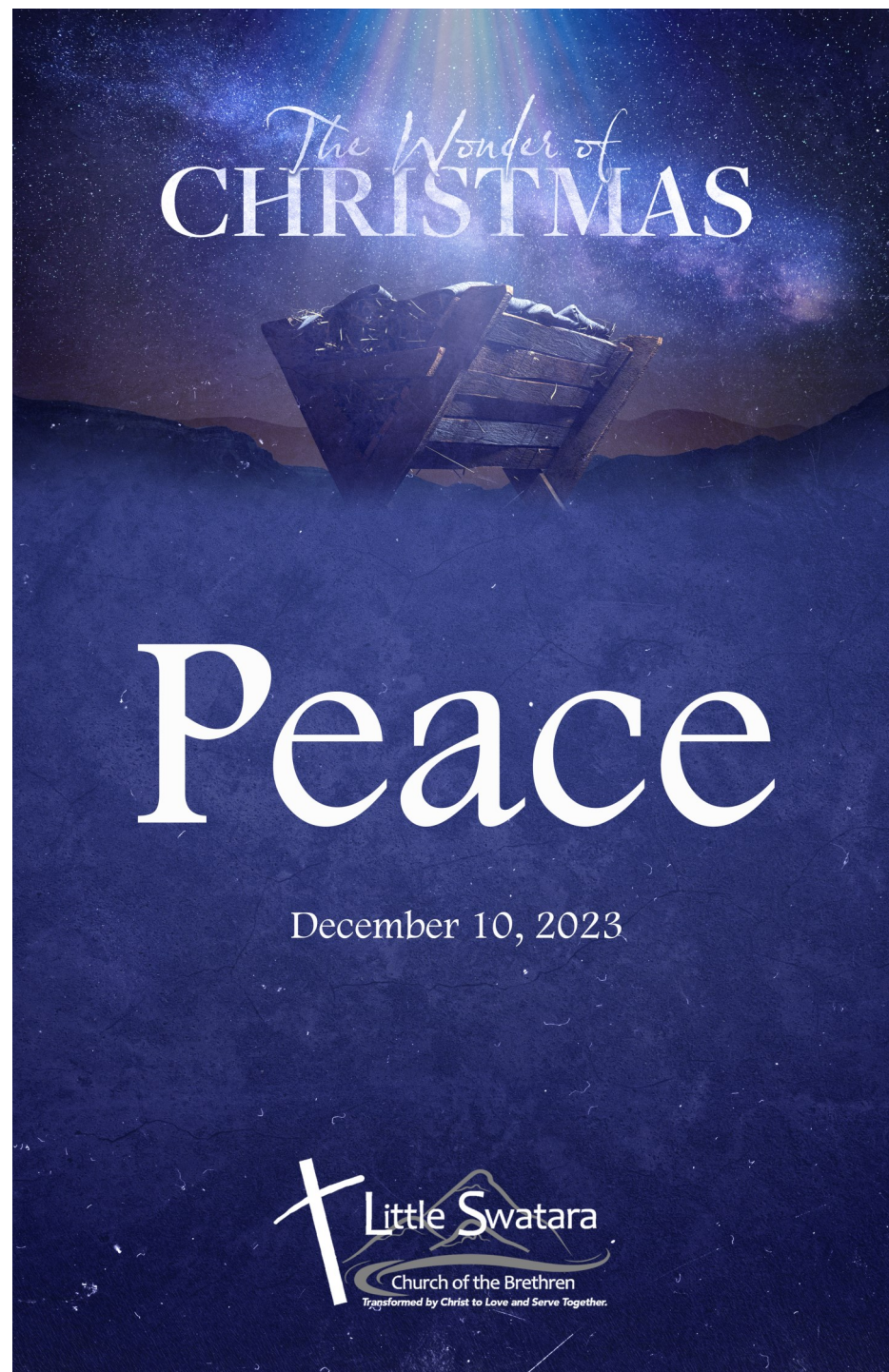
#### Adults

Young Adults – Oak Room (Fellowship  
Hall Level)

Hymn Study – Fellowship Hall

**NOTICE:** We are currently running a Livestream ministry. If you cannot join us on Sunday morning in person, you can join us “online” by visiting our Facebook or YouTube page. Our 10:30 service is streamed every week.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED:** If you do not want you or your child to appear on this Social Media Stream, please contact the camera operator in the back of the sanctuary to make sure you are avoided.



Volume LXXII December 10, 2023 Number 50  
**LITTLE SWATARA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
 31 Rehrersburg Rd, PO Box 437, Bethel, PA 19507  
 Church Web Page - [www.LittleSwatara.org/](http://www.LittleSwatara.org/) phone: 717-933-4723  
 FB: @LittleSwataraCoB \*\*\* Wi-Fi Guest/pw: brethren



Outreach: *The Gathering Place Café*, 8490 Lancaster Ave, Bethel  
 Contact: [gatheringplacecafe.com](http://gatheringplacecafe.com) / Phone: 717-933-5958  
 Café Hours: **Mon-Sat 6-10am**



## Prayer Concerns

Let us remember the shut-ins and elderly not able to be with us today.

Martin Bashore  
 John Kelly  
 William Long  
 Jennifer Speraw  
 Paul Sweigart



## A Call to Prayer

Pray this week for peace. Life can often be a mystery. There's unresolved questions, there's doubts and at this Christmas time, we can turn those all into a peace that surpasses all understanding. Pray that Christ would fill you with a contentment, an overwhelming calm found only in him.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Fern Phillipy will be 90 yrs old on Dec, 27th. Let's shower her with birthday wishes. A Birthday box will be in the Narthex until Dec. 24th or you may mail cards to:  
 28 Rehrersburg Road  
 Richland, PA 17087-9631

## With Thanks!

Our family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the outpouring of cards, prayers and support in the passing of our mother. Special thanks to Pastor Matt for all his help and guidance.

~ The Stertzel Family

## GIVING LAST SUNDAY

General Fund	\$ 5,569.70
Building Fund	\$ 132.50
Family Assistance	\$ -
Maintenance	\$ 105.00
Sunday School	\$ 53.50
Global Food Initiative	\$ 375.00
Nigerian EYN	\$ 375.00
Womens Fellowship	\$ -
Mission of the Month	\$ 20.00
Feed Them	\$ -
Brethren Disaster	\$ -
Food Pantry	\$ 45.00
	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,675.70</b>

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2023  
 \$324,190.

## Last Sunday's Attendance

Worship 21 + 72  
 Virtual Worship 19  
 Sunday School 56

## District Prayer Focus

Pray for the Gifts Discernment Team as they discern calling those to fill leadership positions on the 2025 Slate this week.

*Little Swatara Church of the Brethren*  
*Transformed by Christ to Love and*  
*Serve Together*

**December 10, 2023**

**10: 30 Worship Service**

**Prelude**

"Christmas Offering"

"It's Christmas" Medley with "Away in a Manger" & "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

**Welcome and Announcements**

(We are so excited to have you join us for worship today. Kindly sign & pass the register)

**Wonder of Christmas, Peace Candle Lighting**

**Opening Worship** "Joy to the World" ("Unspeakable Joy") *projected*  
 "He Has Come for Us" ("God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen")

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Morning Prayer**

**Bible Presentation** - Brendan Emerich, Jensen Wengert & Chloe Brubaker

**Worship Song** "Emmanuel" ("Hallowed Manger Ground") *projected*

**Jubilee Choir** "Hark the Herald Angels"

**Children's Moment**

**Offertory Thought and Prayer**

**Offertory Music** "While We are Waiting, Come"

**Worship Song** "He Shall Reign Forevermore" *projected*

**Scripture** - Psalm 23: 1-5; Luke 12: 31-32; John 16: 33

**Message** - "Undeniable Peace"

**Closing Worship** "In the First Light" *projected*

**Sending Out**





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Children's Bulletins** are on the table in the back of the sanctuary for two age groups. Please help yourself

### **Drive-Through to Experience Our Living Nativity Today, December 10th 6:00 — 8:00 pm**



### **Worldwide Candle Lighting Today, December 10th**

The program is designed to honor the memory of all children gone too soon by lighting candles at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday in December and keeping them lit for one hour.

Candles are lit in every time zone around the world, meaning candles burn for 24 hours in remembrance of the children.

The annual program is held each year to help parents, siblings and others remember the person who has died.



### **Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 17**

On Sunday, December 17 after morning worship we will plan to go caroling for the afternoon. If you are interested in joining us for the afternoon please contact Pam Gerberich or Jamie Wise. All ages are welcome. A light lunch will be provided.



### **Special Notice**

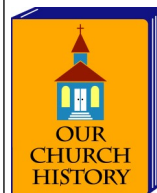
The December Potluck meal is cancelled



### **NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT?**

Cookbooks are an easy Christmas gift....for teachers, hostess gifts, or stocking stuffers. Be creative, give a readymade recipe along with the cookbook. No time for that, attach a few kitchen utensils, a baking pan or one of the adorable hotpads (\$8) from the Women's Fellowship group. We have the newest and the older cookbooks available for sale. If you are interested, see any member of the Women's Fellowship or the church secretary. The new version (with the red cover) is \$5.00 and the older version (with the yellow cover) is \$4.00

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Would you like to purchase a church related gift for someone on your Christmas list? Consider a copy of the History of Little Swatara Church of the Brethren 1757—2007 and the 2020 Update. Cost is \$20.00 for the set. If interested contact.....

Richard Frantz 717-933-4719  
or contact the church secretary

The 2023 **Advent Devotionals** have arrived and are available on the table in the narthex.

### **PLAYGROUND**

At our November Council Meeting, we voted to begin a capital campaign to raise funds for a toddler playground which will be placed in the area next to the existing playground.

The total project will be between \$15,000 & \$ 25,000. The equipment will be ordered once we raise half of the total cost and then final payment on delivery. The equipment will be geared towards our preschool aged kids. The structure will be industrial and long lasting. Funds can be marked on your envelope "playground".

Any questions please see any leadership member.



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers needed to help pack Tulpy Packs! Tulpy Packs will be offered to families to help with food for kids during the school year. Helping hands are needed to pack the bags on Wednesday morning, **December 20th**. Starting at 9:30 AM at the Bethel Elementary School.



December  
Mission of the Month

## Family Assistance



### What's Happening in:

#### December

#### 10 **Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Children's Christmas Program  
6:00—8:00 PM Drive-Thru Nativity / LSCOB



12 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare

13 8:45 AM Women's Exercise Class / FH  
10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class / FH



14 8:30 AM Quilting  
9:30 AM packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Lutheran Church  
10:30 AM Preschool Family Event / FH  
2:00 PM Preschool Family Event / FH



15 8:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen  
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry



16 10:30 AM Trim Healthy Mama

17 **Third Sunday of Advent**  
12:00 G Bashore / FH & kitchen



18 10:30 AM Preschool Family Event / FH

19 10:30 AM Preschool Family Event / FH

20 **Newsletter Deadline**  
8:45 AM Women's Exercise Class / FH  
10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class / FH

**CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE**  
Jubilee Choir/Sanct/Thurs.6:00pm  
**Senior Choir/Sanct/Wed.7:30pm**

### Church Directory

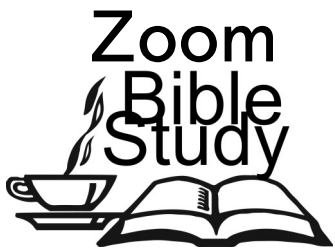
UPDATE

### 2024 DIRECTORY

**NEEDED:** any corrections or changes for your family listing in our upcoming directory.

- Name changes
- Address changes
- Change in phone number (*please indicate if number is a cell phone*)
- Email address (*if desired*)
- New births/adoptions
- Marriages
- Address for child or children in college or military

Please submit all changes by December 31st  
to Church Secretary, Connie Davis  
or a Directory Committee member:

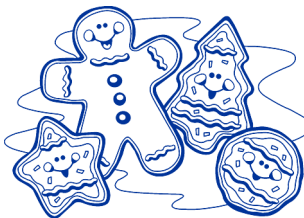


Wednesday evening, Zoom Bible Study has finished their current Bible Study. We will be resuming in January - we welcome you to join us, the new study is entitled: Christian Community - A Bible Study on being Part of God's Family. Contact Dianne High by December 31, if you are interested in joining us, so we can purchase enough study books.

### COOKIES NEEDED!

We are planning to have cookies and milk following the Christmas Eve service.

Cookie donations would be greatly appreciated. Please deliver your cookies to the kitchen Christmas Eve before the Church service. Make sure you have your name on your container.



### When Bad Weather Arrives

and a decision is made to cancel Sunday services, the congregation shall be notified immediately. An announcement will be placed on the Little Swatara church website

<http://www.LittleSwatara.org>



The announcement will also be added to Little Swatara's Facebook page. A message will be sent out to all those on the church's E-MAIL list.