

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

Treasurer—Dianne Younker, 717-269-0803. Email: treasurer@littleswatara.org.

Newsletter Editor: Connie Davis Email: secretary@littleswatara.org

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

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

ORGANIST Marlene Blatt

CHURCH SIGN CHANGER: Dec. - Tony Fazio Jan. - Sam Forry Feb. - Diane L.

Wk.3 December 17

Wk. 4 December 24

Wk. 5 December 31

CHORISTER

Allen Rebman

Praise Team

Pam Gerberich

WORSHIP LDR

John Wise

Praise Team

S. Metzler / K. Myers

CHILD STORY

Abby Christ

Savannah M / Karen M

S. Metzler / K. Myers

PIANIST

Sarah Brubaker

Praise Team

Diane Duell

AUDIO

Todd Rebman

Todd Rebman

Todd Rebman

WORSHIP CTR

Worship Center Comm.

Worship Center Comm.

Worship Center Comm.

USHERS

Ken Duell / John High

Richard & Michelle Yenser

Bob & Wendy Lingle

Dennis E. / Joseph Brubaker

Andrew & Chris Brubaker

Sam Forry & Ken Duell

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

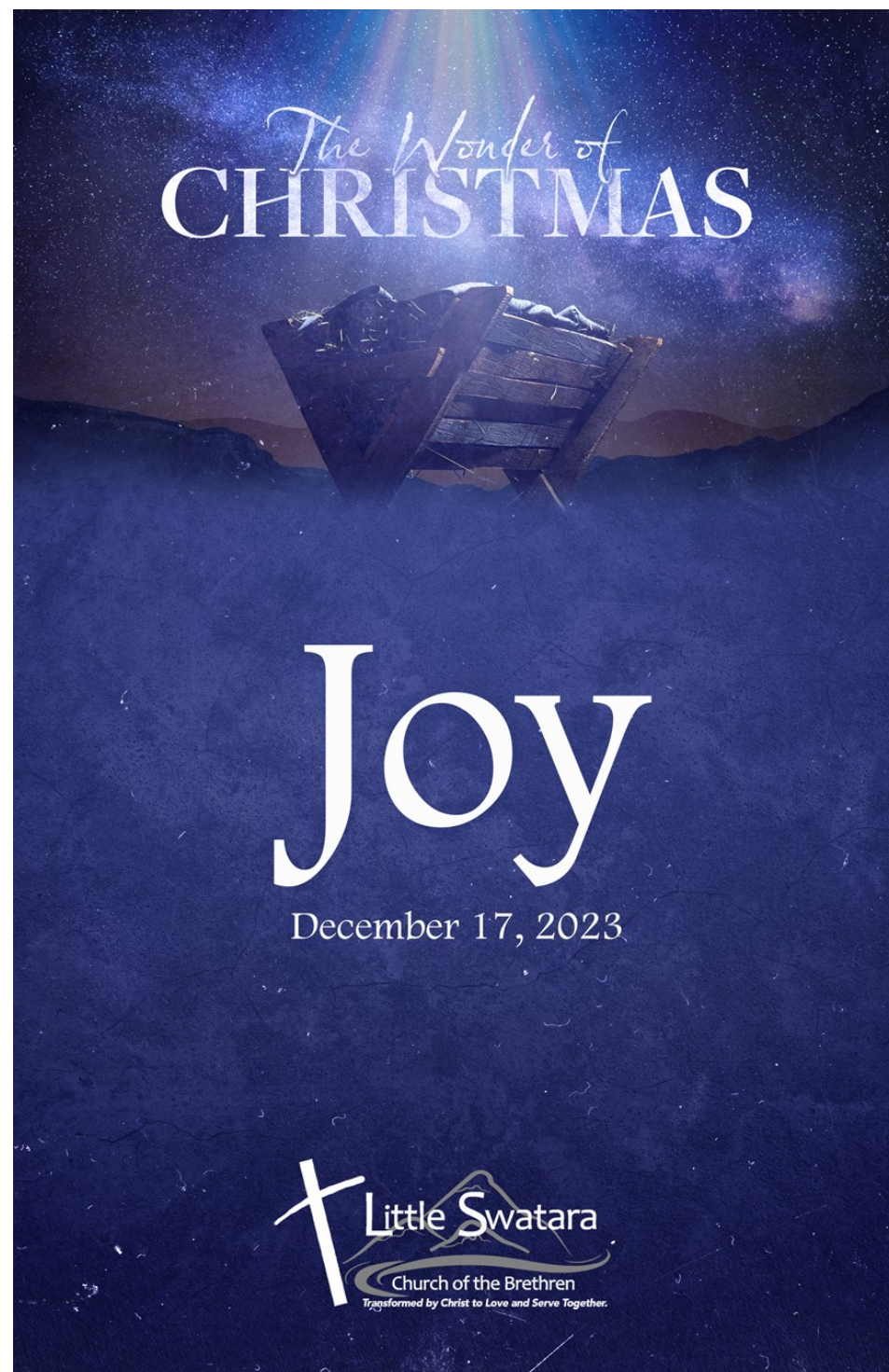
Young Adults – Oak Room (Fellowship

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.





Outreach: *The Gathering Place Café*, 8490 Lancaster Ave, Bethel
 Contact: 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



(Please contact the secretary if anyone should be added or removed from the Prayer List.)

A Call to Prayer

It's too easy to allow our joy to fade and this Christmas we have great reason to be filled with joy as we celebrate the Christ child. Pray your joy will flow over into others and your joy will be restored. Pray in thanksgiving and gratitude for the coming of the Christ child.

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

District Prayer Focus

Pray for ordained ministers who walk along-side of licensed ministers, offering support, guidance and prayer.

GIVING LAST SUNDAY

General Fund	\$ 7,869.50
Building Fund	\$ 80.00
Family Assistance	\$ 260.00
Maintenance	\$ 2,332.50
Sunday School	\$ 201.00
COBYS	\$ 250.00
Nigerian EYN	\$ -
Womens Fellowship	\$ -
Mission of the Month	\$ 125.00
Feed Them	\$ -
Brethren Disaster	\$ 1,250.00
Food Pantry	\$ 210.00
Playground	\$ 1,550.00
Total	\$ 14,128.00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2023
 \$324,190.

Last Sunday's Attendance

Worship 12 + 97
 Virtual Worship 24
 Sunday School 65



Please fold the family and friends of Lauretta Walborn in prayer. Lauretta went to be with her Lord and Savior on December 8th, 2023

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

December 17, 2023

10: 30 Worship Service

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

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

Wonder of Christmas, Joy Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn

"Joyful, joyful we adore thee"

#71

Receiving New Members - Jake Koch & Melissa Emerich

Senior Choir

"Who Will Welcome Him?"

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Senior Choir

"Before Bethlehem"

Offertory Thought & Prayer

Children's Moment

Hymn

"It came upon a midnight clear"

#195

Message - "Ultimate Joy"

Scriptures - Matthew 2: 1-11; Acts 2: 25-26; Psalm 145; Philippians 14: 4

Closing Hymn

"Angels we have heard on high"

#197

Sending out



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice - Pastor Matt will be on vacation December 18th - 31st

Christmas Caroling Today, December 17th

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



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.



2024 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2022 have arrived and are on the table near the mailboxes. Please pick them up at your convenience.

SUNSHINE BOX

Everyone experiences the feelings of despair, anxiety, distress, or even hopelessness at times. Beginning in December, a "Sunshine Box" will be placed in the prayer room in the rear of the sanctuary. All are welcome to remove a Bible verse scroll from the box when dealing with these negative feelings. Keep the scroll to be used as a constant and encouraging reminder that....God is always with you.

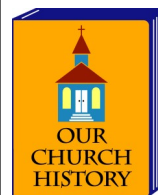


Reminder: If you unlock a door when you enter the church, please remember to **relock the door**.



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



Would you like to purchase a church related gift for some one 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



We have chow-chow available for purchase Chow-Chow is an easy gift. Only quarts are available. See any member of the Women's Fellowship if you are interested.

Quarts \$8.00

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.

LOST - Women's 3/4 length raincoat, black with tan trim & hood. If found, please notify the church secretary.

The Jan.-Feb. issue of the **Upper Room** has arrived and is on the table in the narthex.



December
Mission of the Month

Family Assistance



What's Happening in:

December

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



21 First Day of Winter
8:30 AM Quilting
9:30 packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Luth.



23 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast / café
11:00 AM—4:00 PM J. High / FH & K
4:00 PM—10:00 PM W. Lingle / FH & K

24 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service



25 **Christmas Day**
8:00 AM S. Bashore / FH & K



26 Ministry Team Minutes due

28 8:30 AM Quilting



January

1 **New Year's Day**

CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Jubilee Choir/SanctThurs.6:00pm

Senior Choir/Sanct/Thurs.7:00pm

Church Directory

UPDATE

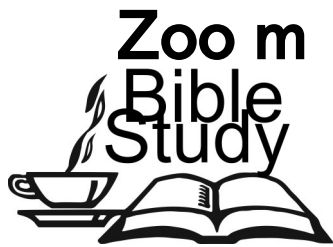


2024 DIRECTORY

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



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.

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.



CHECK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BULLETIN BOARDS