

## Little Swatara Church- Pastor Matthew S. Christ

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Facebook: Matt Christ; Instagram & Snapchat: mdchrist99  
OFFICE HOURS: TUE., WED. & THURS. 10:00 AM –12:30 PM

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 Mark Myers—CVL#502613280; CCLI#157691

CHURCH SIGN CHANGER: Dec.- P. Timmins / S Forry Jan.— Sam Forry Feb.—Diane Long

Wk. 4 December 28      Wk. 1 January 4      Wk. 2 January 11

<u>CHORISTER</u>	Praise Team	Dianne High	Praise Team
<u>WORSHIP LDR</u>	Praise Team	Gary Bashore	Praise Team
<u>CHILD STORY</u>	Savannah Metzler	Mike & Sarah Kolbe	Ashley Koch
<u>PIANIST</u>	Praise Team	Diane Duell	Praise Team
<u>AUDIO</u>	Todd Rebman	Alan Bashore	Todd Rebman
<u>WORSHIP CTR</u>	Worship Center	Worship Center	Worship Center
<u>USHERS</u>	Richard & Michelle Yenser Andrew & Chris Brubaker	Bob & Wendy Lingle Sam Forry & Lucas Rebman	Gerald & Jim Bowman Scott Bohn & J. Brubaker

### WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 am & 10:30 am

<u>Children/Youth</u> Preschool – Preschool Room, Sanctuary Level Children's (Grades K to 5 – Pine Room (Fellowship Hall Level) Youth (Grades 6 to 12) – Youth Room (Fellowship Hall)	<u>Adults</u> Young Adults – Oak Room (Fellowship Hall Level) Hymn Study – Fellowship Hall
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**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.



# Presentation



# of our Lord in the Temple

Luke 2: 21-24

December 28, 2025

Volume LXXIV December 28, 2025 Number 52  
**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: @Little SwataraCoB \*\*\* Wi-Fi Guest/pw: brethren

*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.

Jim Bowman  
 Wendy Lingle  
 Hempfield COB



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

Thank you, Pastor Bream for sharing the Word with us today.

Pastor Matt will be on vacation Dec. 25th—Dec. 31st. Please contact Gary Bashore, Deacon Chair with any needs.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Elizabeth Hershey will be 94 y/o on Jan. 14th  
 Let's shower her with birthday wishes. You may mail cards to:

2840 W. Mark Drive  
 Sarasota, FL 34232

The January issue of the **Newsletter** has arrived & is on the counter at the mailboxes



## GIVING LAST SUNDAY

General Fund	\$ 35,734.20.
Building	\$ 40.00
Family Assistance	\$ 79.00
Maintenance	\$ 4,202.50
Sunday School	\$ 84.72
Feed Them	\$ 25.00
Global Food Initiative	\$
Food Pantry	\$
Endowment Fund	\$ 2,000.00
Brethren Disaster Relief	\$ 4,000.00
Total	\$ 46,269.42

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2025  
 \$ 349,661.00

## Last Sunday's Attendance

Worship 15 + 115  
 Virtual Worship - 18  
 Sunday School - 59

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

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

**December 28, 2025**  
 10:30 AM Worship Service

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

(What a joy to have you join us for worship today. Kindly sign & pass the register)

### Call to Worship:

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

All: And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Ldr: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,

All: But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. (Isaiah 60:1-2 NIV)

Ldr: This is what God the Lord says: "I will keep you and will make you, to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

All: To open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison.

(Isaiah 42:5a,6b-7a NIV)

Ldr: He says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob, and bring back those of Israel I have kept.

All: I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." Amen. (Isaiah 49:6 NIV)

### Opening Hymns

Purple Hymnal for all songs

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" vs 1, 4 #265

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice" #261

"To Us A Child of Hope is Born" #259

"Angels We Have Heard on High" vs 1, 3 #249

### Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer

### Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music "Helpless and Hungry" with "What Child is This"

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## Children's Moment

**Hymn** "Joy to the World" purple hymnal #240

**Scripture:** Luke 2:21-24 (*please stand in reverence to God's Word*)

**Message:** "To Save the World Through Him"

**Closing Hymn** "Arise Your Light is Come" purple hymnal #273

**Benediction**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Attention Committee Chairpersons:** Needed—team accomplishments in 2025 for the Annual Report booklet due January 31st. Please email your report to the church secretary.

>>>>>>>  
**ANNUAL**  
Committee  
**REPORTS**  
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### **January Mission of the Month** "We Care" Packages

Each year the Mission and Evangelism committee sends packages to the college and military students from our congregation. If you would like to donate items for the students, a box will be provided in the narthex upstairs and foyer downstairs. The last day to bring donations will be February 1st.

#### ITEMS NEEDED for CARE PACKAGES

Crackers	Writing utensils	Hard Candy
Cookies	Hot chocolate mix	Band-aids
Popcorn	Small tissue packs	Candy bars
Gum	Instant soup mix	Lip Balm
Q-Tips	Post-It notes	Granola bars
Travel size - hand lotion, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, and floss		

## 2026 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

**Need a boost?** If you would like to receive a weekly Bible encouragement text from Pastor Matt, please text him at 717-675-3946



### Attention Committee Treasurers

It's time again for AUDITING of the books. Please bring your updated checking account books and statements to the church office by mid-January for the auditors. Note, if you started a new check register in 2025, please also submit the previous year's check register and the December 2024 statement. Thank you.

### **A Special Thank You from Tulpy School Families**

Anne Balthaser expresses gratitude for generous donations and community support during the holiday season, which enabled Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts for 81 students from 30 families. Initiatives included a food drive, Angel Tree program, and Christmas tree deliveries. Families shared heartfelt appreciation for these efforts.

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

**Notice:** Exercise Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026





We have chow-chow available for purchase. Chow-Chow is an easy gift. Quarts & pints are available. See any member of the Women's Fellowship if you are interested. Quarts \$9.00 Pints \$5.00

### Annual Reservations

If you have an annual recurring reservation for the pavilion or fellowship hall, please take a few moments to re-confirm your reservation with the church secretary. Please give her a phone call during office hours or place a note in the box on the secretary's mailbox with your name, phone number and information about your annual reservation. This will help to make sure that the reservations are current & that your place is held with the dates you want to reserve. Thank you.

### **ANNUAL Committee REPORTS**

#### Attention Committee Chairpersons

Needed: team accomplishments in 2025 for the Annual Report booklet due January 31st. Please email your report to the church secretary.

#### **Volunteers Needed to Help Pack "Tulpy Packs" !**

Help is needed to pack Tulpy Packs on Wednesday morning at 9:30 AM at the Bethel Elementary School on the morning of January 7th & 21st, 2026



#### **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.

Please check your mailbox



### **December Mission of the Month Family Assistance**

#### **What's Happening in:**

##### **January**

1	New Year's Day Church Office closed	
6	7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting	
8	8:30 AM Quilting	
11	Food Pantry Collection	
13	Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare	
14	8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH	
15	8:30 AM Quilting	
16	3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry /Salem Evang. Lutheran Church	
18	Church Potluck Meal following church service / FH	
20	9:00 AM Women's Fellowship meeting / FH	
21	8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH	
22	8:30 AM Quilting	
24	7:00 AM Men's prayer break fast / cafe	

#### **CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

Praise Team / Wed. 7:15pm  
Jubilee Choir/Sanct/Thurs. 6:15 pm  
Senior Choir/Sanct/Thurs. 7:00 pm  
Bell Choir/Sanct/Thurs. 7:45 pm