

### 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—CVLI#502613280; CCLI#157691

**CHURCH SIGN CHANGER:** Nov.- Patricia Timmins Dec.- P. Timmins / S Forry Jan.— Sam Forry

#### Wk. 1 December 7

#### Wk. 2 December 14

#### Wk.3 December 21

#### CHORISTER

Dianne High

Praise Team

Allen Rebman

#### WORSHIP LDR

Gary Bashore

Praise Team

John Wise

#### CHILD STORY

Mike & Sarah Kolbe

Ashley Koch

Abby Christ

#### PIANIST

Diane Duell

Praise Team

Sarah Brubaker

#### AUDIO

Alan Bashore

Todd Rebman

Todd Rebman

#### WORSHIP CTR

Worship Center

Worship Center

Worship Center

#### USHERS

Bob & Wendy Lingle  
Sam Forry & Ken Duell

Gerald & Jim Bowman  
Scott Bohn & John High

Ken Duell / John High  
Dennis E. / Joseph Brubaker

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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES 9:30 – 10:15 am

#### Children/Youth

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)

#### 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 LXXIV December 7, 2025 Number 49  
**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.

Lester Bashore  
 Jim Bowman  
 Wendy Lingle  
 Ambler COB



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

### GIVING LAST SUNDAY

General Fund	\$	3,507.50
Building	\$	65.00
Family Assistance	\$	50.00
Maintenance	\$	137.50
Sunday School	\$	44.00
Feed Them	\$	
Global Food Initiative	\$	
Food Pantry	\$	255.00
Women's Fellowship	\$	
Mission of the Month	\$	20.00
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>4,079.00</b>

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2025  
 \$ 349,661.00

### Last Sunday's Attendance

Worship 74  
 Virtual Worship - 25  
 Sunday School - 42

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



The Children's Christmas  
 program is on Sunday,  
 December 14th during  
 the Sunday School hour,  
 beginning at 9:30 AM in  
 the Sanctuary.

The December issue of the **Newsletter**  
 has arrived and is on the countertop at  
 the mailboxes in the narthex.



**December 7, 2025**  
**8:30 AM Service**

### Welcome & News

### Humor

### Prayer

### Worship Songs

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"  
 "Light of the World"  
 "Even So Come"

### Scripture - Luke 1:8-20

### Catch of the Day - "Waiting"

### Deep Dive

1. Name something people have to wait for?
2. What makes waiting so difficult?
3. Has culture made waiting seem like something we should never have to do? How so?
4. Even at an older age, if an angel told you, you were to have a child, would you question it or believe? Why or why not?

### Kids Praise - "Jingle Bells, Jesus Style"

### Prayer

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

**December 7, 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)

**Bell Choir** "Gentle Mary Laid her Child (Good King Wenceslas)"

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle and Reading:** "Waiting"

**Senior Choir** "Carols of Gathering"

**Call to Worship (unison)**

Oh Lord, how we wait. How we prepare for your coming. Amidst the instant, we learn and we grow as we anticipate the good news.

**Opening Hymn** "O come, O come Immanuel" blue hymnal #172

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Senior Choir** "We Wait"

**Offertory Thought and Prayer**

**Children's Moment**

**Hymn** "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" blue hymnal #178

**Message** — "The Waiting Room...."

**Scripture** — John 1:1-3, John 1: 14, Galatians 4:4-5, Hebrews 9:28

**Closing Hymn** "Savior, like a shepherd lead us" blue hymnal #355

**Sending Out**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Volunteers Needed to help with Live Nativity**  
**December 13th from 6—8 pm**

Looking towards the Christmas Season – the Music and Worship team is planning to have a Live Nativity for December 13<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of December 14<sup>th</sup>. Previous years showed this to be a great outreach opportunity for the community. We need VOLUNTEERS for actors, live animals, setup people, refreshments and more!! **A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.**



**29th Annual Worldwide  
Candle Lighting**

The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting on December 14<sup>th</sup> unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00p.m. to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left this life too soon.



*Christmas Eve*  
SERVICE

Join us at 7pm on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> for our Christmas Eve Program as we journey to the birth of our Lord and Savior utilizing scriptures and teachings from the Word of God. The evening will also feature music from the Faithful Men, the bell choir and our Sr choir. The evening will conclude with candle lighting, caroling, and Christmas Cookies and refreshments after the service.

**COOKIES NEEDED!**

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

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



## 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 15th to 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 December 17th



### NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT OR A HOSTESS GIFT?

Cookbooks are an easy Christmas gift or hostess gift. 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 \$3.00

### Quilters Needed !

The Quilting Group is in need of help. Experienced &/or anyone willing to learn quilting. You do not need to be a member of LSCOB to join this group of quilters. Come join us at 8:30 AM on Thursdays in the Ladies Aide Room on the lower level (enter at the kitchen entrance) Please spread the word.



### 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.



## December Mission of the Month Family Assistance

### What's Happening in:

#### December

9 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare



10 8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH  
10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH  
7:00 PM Online Bible Study



11 8:30 AM Quilting



13 9-11 AM Children's Christmas practice  
Live Nativity Drive-thru 6-8 PM



14 Food Pantry collection  
9:30 AM Children's Christmas Program / sanctuary

17 8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH  
10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH  
7:00 PM Online Bible Study  
Newsletter deadline



18 8:30 AM Quilting  
9:30 AM packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Lutheran Church, Bethel

19 8:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen  
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry

20 Church Potluck Meal following  
10:30 service

23 Ministry Team Minutes due

### 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