Little Swatara Church- Pastor Matthew S. Christ

PHONE: **717-675-3946** *Email:* pastormatt@littleswatara.org 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

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

Newsletter Editor: Connie Davis Email: 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
<u>PIANIST</u>	Diane Duell	Praise Team	Sarah Brubaker
<u>AUDIO</u>	Alan Bashore	Todd Rebman	Todd Rebman
WORSHIP CTR	Worship Center	Worship Center	Worship Center
<u>USHERS</u>	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)

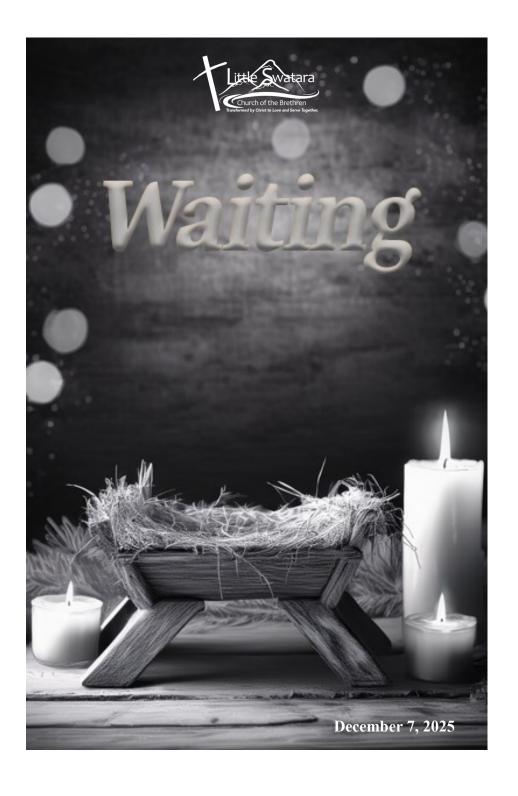
Adults

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/ 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.

Lester Bashore Jim Bowman Wendy Lingle Ambler COB



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

The 2025 **Advent Devotionals** have arrived and are available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary

Happy Birthday

Fern Phillipy will be 92 yrs young on Dec.27th. Let's shower her with birthday wishes. Cards may be mailed to: Stoneridge Village 440 E. Lincoln Ave.—Apt 132

Myerstown, PA 17067



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.

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
	\$	
	\$	
	<u>\$</u>	
Total	\$	4,079.00

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



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

Líttle 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 13th with a rain date of December 14th. 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 14th 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.



Join us at 7pm on Wednesday, December 24th 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

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

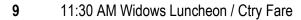
The announcement will also be added to Little Swatara's Facebook page. A message will be sent out to all those on the church's E-MAIL list.



Family Assistance

What's Happening in:

December





8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH7:00 PM Online Bible Study



11 8:30 AM Quilting



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



- Food Pantry collection9:30 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





- 8:30 AM Quilting9:30 AM packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang.Lutheran Church, Bethel
- 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