



Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

Matthew S. Christ, Pastor

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:30 AM

Sunday school 9:30AM

Good News!

Church's Office Phone (717)933-4723 Church's Office Fax (717)933-9223

Volume LIII

December 2019

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"The BIG Picture"



There were many Jews in Jesus' day that maintained a level of "messianic HOPE." They were suffering at the hands of their Roman oppressors and held onto the belief that a Savior would appear on the scene to deliver them. Based on the Old Testament promises of a delivering king, they were anxious for the Messiah's coming. All God wanted was for the world to accept Him as the Messiah and Savior. Through Jesus' ancestry, virgin birth, fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, teaching and miracles, God demonstrated who Jesus was. But during His earthly ministry, most people were not willing to embrace this reality. Instead, they crucified him and found themselves still in oppression. We know the big picture in our lives, the problems we deal with and the way we deal with them.

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The Big Picture... Continued from Page 1...

This Christmas, HOPE has been born and we no longer need to look to other places for deliverance. God has sent us freedom from our issues, the inner pain, through Jesus. We have been blessed with the greatest gift of all. But how many of us have unwrapped this gift fully and found the only HOPE we need. It's rather simple to know if we see Jesus amidst our issues, helping us be led away from them or if we see ourselves and our inability to fully solve them. This Christmas may we trust and commit our lives completely to our Savior, our one true deliverer. He alone is worthy of celebration and it's up to us to accept His love and forgiveness and make Jesus the king of our lives. There's no greater HOPE than Jesus our Lord.

Merry Christmas friends!!

Pastor Matt



Gingerbread House Decorating December 14, 12pm and 2pm

Thank you to the volunteers signed up to help with our annual Gingerbread House Decorating at the Gathering Place Café. We will help up to 70 kids decorate Gingerbread Houses at the Gathering Place on December 14th. Sessions are at 12 and 2pm.

You can sign up by visiting us online at www.LittleSwatara.org or at the Café. If you need more information, contact Sharon Bashore at 717-933-5248 or call the Café' at 717-933-5958.

The Cafe can use donations of candy for decorating - Gum drops, licorice whips, mini pretzels, colorful unwrapped hard candies, red and white mints, M&M's, marshmallows, Good and Plenty candies are all suggested. Donations can be dropped off at the Café' or at the church office.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the event, and on December 7th from 11-4 to help prepare. Let Sharon know if you can help out.



Widows Luncheon



Tuesday December 10th at
11:30am at the Country Fair
Restaurant



Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, join us for
"Christmas Unplugged," a
Christmas pageant with a
twist.

There will be drama, choirs
and singing. We'll light up the
sanctuary with a candle
lighting service and enjoy
fellowship with scrumptious
goodies afterwards. Invite your
friends, family and neighbors.
Let's celebrate the Newborn
King together.

Children's Christmas Program December 15, 9:30-10:30 No Adult Sunday School

Come at 9:30 to show support for and be
blessed by the young ones who are the
future of our church.



The children's Sunday School will be
doing an Angel Tree project during the
Advent season this year. Children and
their families can choose an angel from
the tree and provide the item(s) listed.
Gift donations can be brought to church
by December 15th. Gifts will be given to
four different families in our community
who are in need this holiday season.
Contact the Christian Ed. team for more
details.



Poinsettia's can be
purchased to enhance the
worship center during the
Christmas season. After

the Christmas Eve service, you may take
your poinsettia home. The poinsettia's
are available in red, white, pink or
marbled at a cost of \$7. There will be a
sign-up sheet in the Narthex; Cash or
checks for the plants made
out to Little Swatara can be
given to Pam Gerberich.



Womens Fellowship News for December 2019

Londonderry Village Auxiliary is having their annual Membership Drive beginning December 1, 2019 and ending January 31, 2020. For more information, please contact Linda Bowman.

Our next Womens Fellowship Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. All women of our Church are welcome to join us.

We would like to thank all of you for your continued support and encouragement this year. We appreciate each one of you!



Thank you for all of the cards, phone calls, and visits received to help me celebrate my 97th birthday. Also, I want to thank the Carolers who came to sing a few weeks ago. That evening I said to Linda, "That was a fun day." Being remembered by my church family is a big blessing and a huge gift of encouragement. May God bless each of you as you continue to be a blessing to many. Thank you. Emmanuel Ziegler

Youth Group Fall/Winter Dates

SR HIGH

12/22/19: Christmas Party (Junior High Included)

1/12/20: Soup and Sandwich Luncheon



JR HIGH BOWLING

Calling all Jr High and their friends. Come out after church December 8 for lunch followed by an afternoon of bowling. Let Pastor Matt or Sarah Kolbe know if you plan to attend. You can text or call Pastor Matt at 570-246-8196. Hope to see you there.



Members Birthdays for December



Heather Strunk	4	Sandra Strause	22
Mark Myers	4	Andrea Showers	22
Curtis Phillipy	5	Patricia Timmins	22
Caitlin Henning	6	Valerie Reed	23
JoLyn Light	6	Robert Donkel	23
Michelle Miller	7	Jesus of Nazareth	25
Todd Keeney	11	Matthew Blatt	26
Debra Souders	11	Donna Krishak	26
Jonathan Reinhard	12	Beryl Wanner	26
Isabel Ziegler	12	Barbara Smith	27
Richard A. Blatt	13	Fern Phillipy	27
Debra Wengert	13	Carol Sholl	28
Carl Balsbaugh	14	Barbara Batz	29
Dolores Brandt	14	James Mahaffey	29
Sarah Brubaker	14	Adele Stupp	29
Michael Bashore	15	Christopher Brubaker	30
Malachi Christ	16	James E. Frantz	30
Ashly Landis	18	Jamie Wilson	30
Sallie Neuin	19	John High	31
Sara Schwalm	19		
Melissa Dove	22		
Kyle Dreibelbis	22		

IT'S "WE CARE" PACKAGE TIME!

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.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR CARE PACKAGES

Keep looking in the bulletin for more information on the deadline for these items

CRACKERS	COOKIES	GRANOLA BARS
HOT CHOCOLATE MIX	INSTANT SOUP MIX	CANDY BARS
GUM	HARD CANDY	Q-TIPS
POST IT NOTES	BAND AIDS	LIP BALMS
QUARTERS (10/\$2.50) EA.	LIP BALMS	SMALL TISSUES
WRITING UTENSILS	TRAVEL SIZE—HAND LOTION	
HAND SANITIZER		

O f f e r i n g envelopes have arrived for 2020.

They will be processed shortly for your use in 2020. If you currently use envelopes, you do not need to do anything, your box will be prepared for next year. If you do not have envelopes and wish to receive them, please let me know with a note in mailbox 113 or email Jean351@aol.com.

If you currently receive envelopes and no longer wish to receive them, please let me know by putting a note in mailbox 113 or email Jean351@aol.com.
Jean Myers,
Financial Secretary



2019 Christmas Greetings for Stockings

Stockings are placed in the narthex for home-bound persons, group home residents and/or members of our congregation. Our goal is to fill them with Christmas cards thus giving some cheer to the recipients that cannot attend for various reasons. Cards may be placed in the stockings from Sunday, November 17th to Sunday, December 8th. Cards and either a plant or gift of food will be taken to shut-ins during the Christmas Season.

Mary L. Bashore
 Rufus Bashore
 Richard & Arlene Dundore
 Carl & Louise Graby
 Ruth Hoover
 Randy Keeney
 Ruth Keeney
 Earl Miller
 Naomi Moyer
 Hershey & Anna Mary Myer
 Tim Reinhard
 Carol Sholl
 Laretta Walborn
 Darrell Younker
 Emmanuel Ziegler
 Kenny & Marie Ziegler
 Pastor Matt, Denise & family



Coming Up...

December Mission of the Month Family Assistance

Join Us On Sundays

8:15am worship service

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 worship service

December 14th

Gingerbread house making

See page 2

December 15th

Childrens Christmas Program

9:30am

December 24th

Christmas Eve Services

7pm

Congratulations!!!!



Stanley Frederick Koch, born Aug. 5th to parents Jacob and Ashley Koch, grandparents Scott and Denise Bohn.

Penelope Dawn Miller, born October 30, 2019. Parents are Michelle and Geoff Miller. Grandparents are Rebecca and Allen Rebman.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Star of Wonder 12:00 PM Jean Smith /FH reserved 5:30 PM Scout Den Meeting	2	3 7:00 PM LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	4 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	5 8:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice	6 5:00 PM Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church - rental for Christmas Program/ Sanct & FH	7 No 50 Plus Star of Wonder 4:00 PM FH Res/Farm Women #2
8 Star of Wonder 10:30 AM Praise Team 12:00 PM Junior High Bowling Party	9	10 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare 6:30 PM Den Meeting	11 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	12 8:30 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Bethel 4-H Club Meets 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice	13 7:00 AM 50+ Bus Trip (departure)	14 Star of Wonder 8:30 PM 50+ Bus Trip (return)
15 Star of Wonder 8:00 AM Res FH & Kitchen/Gary Bashore 9:30 AM Children's Christmas Program	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	19 8:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice	20  8:00 AM Concrete Safety Christmas Luncheon 2:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry	21 Star of Wonder 12:00 PM FH Res/D.High
22 Star of Wonder 10:30 AM ONE SERVICE	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Ministry Team Minutes Due 6:30 PM Den Meeting	25 FH/K Res ANNUALLY/S.Bashore OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	26 8:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice	27	28 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
29 Guest Speaker	30	31	1 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	2 8:30 AM Quilting 9:00 AM Women Fellowship Mtg 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice	3	4 1:00 PM 50 Plus Program



Little Swatara Preschool



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the marvelous month of December. We are filled with excitement and the anticipation of Christmas. It is just a few weeks away. Our focus for the Christmas season will be the birth of Jesus. We will be emphasizing the reason for celebrating Christmas is remembering the birth of Jesus. And that Jesus was the first gift given to us by God. Our celebration includes making special crafts and Christmas gifts for our families and learning new songs that focus on the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. We will review kindergarten readiness skills through learning activities.



Thank you to everyone for making each of our Thanksgiving Feasts fun learning experiences. Each child was able to help prepare the fruit salad for their classmates to eat. We learned that the Native Americans were helpful to the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims were prayerful and thankful for the help they received and the freedom they attained by moving to America. The Native Americans and Pilgrims were friends that attended a large (3 day) feast where thanks was given to God for the many blessings they received.



We are blessed by having your child as a student at Little Swatara Preschool. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's Preschool program, please do not hesitate to speak with me at Preschool or call me at home. Home (717)274-9875 Church (717)933-4723.



Have a very happy holiday season and a blessed Christmas.

Love, Miss Cindy

Music in the Classroom

The month of December we will be singing many new songs that celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will sing traditional and nontraditional Christmas songs. There will be times we will use rhythm instruments to accompany our singing at circle time. I hope your child will be sharing the joy of these songs with you at home.



Christmas Celebrations

Each class will have their own Christmas celebration on Monday, December 23. There will be a class celebrations with activities, games and food. To contribute food, see the signup sheet in the classroom hallways.

The Gathering Place Café
At 8490 Lancaster Ave, Bethel



Will be hosting an event on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

2 sessions: 12 pm and 2pm

Sign up Today!



Children are invited to come
and make

Gingerbread Houses

at the Café!

RSVP to Sharon 717-933-5248



Updated Foul Weather Closings:

In cases of bad weather, we will follow these guidelines: Pre-school closings will follow Tulpehocken School District's policy for closing school due to bad weather. If Tulpehocken



Elementary is :

-closed due to bad weather we will be closed.

-delayed we will run a modified session. The morning session will run 10 am-12 noon. The afternoon session will run 1-3pm. Extended days will run 10am-3pm.

- 3 hour delay our morning session will be closed. Afternoon PK3 class will run as usual, 12:30 to 3pm.

In the past bad weather delays and cancellations have been listed at the bottom of the television screen of the following TV stations:

WGAL Channel 8 - Berks Cable 8,
WFMZ Channel 69.

Little Swatara Preschool will try to post foul weather notices on our LSPreschool Facebook Page.



Can you help us? We are in need of the round plastic oatmeal container lids and toilet paper tubes for a craft projects in February and May. If you have tubes & lids to donate, please give them to the teachers. Thank you!

You Are Invited:

to attend Christmas Worship Services at Little Swatara Church titled, Themes of Christmas...



Dec. 1 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. service, **PEACE**

Dec. 8 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. service, **HOPE**

~ Children's Christmas Program
9:30 a.m. "Stealing Christmas"

Dec. 15 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. service, **JOY**

Dec. 22~ 4th Sunday of Advent 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. service, **LOVE**

Dec. 24 ~ Christmas Eve Program
7:00 p.m.

Thinking of Others

During the Christmas season each class will be collecting canned goods and nonperishable food items for the local Food Pantry. We do this to help the children experience the thoughtfulness of giving without receiving. We are learning to be kind and to share with those we may not know.

It's nice idea to allow your preschooler to choose an item or two at the grocery store or from your cupboard to give to needy families in our community will make the giving extra special. Food items will be placed under the classroom trees. We will later pack the non-perishable items into boxes by the children and give them to the Bethel-Tulpehocken Food Pantry for distribution. **Thank you for**



Food Collection



incorporating this act of kindness into our Christmas season.

Christmas Gifts

We do not have an organized gift exchange with the children. If your child wishes to give a gift to a special friend from their class, please do so outside of class. This prevents the children not involved from feeling left out.

Preschool families have been asking for classroom gift ideas. Some ideas: kitchen center appliances like a blender or mixer, play food, dishes in a dish rack, new cardboard building blocks, match box size cars and trucks, large and medium size paint brushes, glue sticks, washable markers, 4 left handed scissors (child size), playdoh, tissues, 2 cookie sheets and 2 muffin tins.

Thank you for thinking of Little Swatara Preschool during the Christmas season.



“ MAY THE
beautiful lights
OF EVERY
CHRISTMAS SEASON
★ REMIND US OF ★
Him ★
WHO IS THE
SOURCE OF ALL LIGHT ”
~ David A. Bed

December Newsletter 2019

Thank you! To all who contributed to the newsletter for the month of November. The **DEADLINE** for the December edition is **Monday December 11th**. Email ashlylynn21@gmail.com

Christmas Eve *Service*

December 24th, join us for "Christmas Unplugged," a Christmas pageant with a twist.



“Collect
moments - not
things.”
~unknown

Good News!

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

~Romans 6:23

What should I put on my calendar?

See page 6 and page 9