

Newsletter

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

Office Phone (717)933-4723 Office Fax (717)933-9223

www.LittleSwatara.org

"Little Swatara is a Christ-centered Community of caring and serving people committed to peace and following Jesus Christ to: Grow Spiritually, Build Christian Community, and Share the Good News"

Worship Services 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Volume XLX

Matthew S. Christ, Pastor
January, 2016

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Number 1

God's Tender Mercies Anew

Mercy†

As we embark upon a new year, it's tempting to look back and have the words "but God" upon our lips. There are moments worth remembering and less than stellar moments we'd rather forget. Yet as we journey into this new year, may we always keep in mind God's tender mercies that are fresh everyday.

Isaiah 43: 18-19 records these instrumental words of instruction. "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Perception is a powerful word. It's our ability to conceive what's happening around us. It's our eyes and ears being wide open to what God is up to in our lives and the church. As we gather our understanding based on what we observe, there begins to form a vivid impression within. There's just something about observation that makes us feel a particular way. In the new year unfolding before us, may we perceive God's tender mercies anew. While events are bound to create a positive or negative memory, there's often a lesson the Lord will give His people. Such is the case in our passage from Isaiah. God's chosen people are called to look ahead at the future deliverance of the nation, which is significantly more compared to the past. We see that the barren places will again flourish in Israel.

It's such a great reminder to us that God is doing a new thing in our lives and the church as His mercies unfold and we remain obedient to His calling to recall the past but at the same time to forget the former things and not to dwell on them, but to look with great anticipation to the future of what He has in store. Our obedience to His call as an individual and church is critical for the new things to overflow with His mercies. May this new year be full of passion as we perceive what God is springing up in our midst. With Him, we know all things are possible. Remain steadfast and trust in His plan. A very happy new year to us all as we rest in His mercies anew. Pastor Matt ☺

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF...

-Sarah Schoener, who died December 3, 2015, at the age of 96 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

-Greg and Melissa Emerich, on the birth of a son, Brendon Paul Emerich, November 19, 2015. Grandparents are Gary and Sally Emerich.

Members Birthdays for January:



John C. Ziegler	5		
Lisa Mahaffey	5		
Daniel Wilson	5		
Linda Blondheim	6		
Savannah Myers	6		
Jean Smith	6		
David Sholl	6		
Jason Miller	7		
Neal Stupp	7		
Diane Long	8		
Susan Hastings	9		
Erik Motta	9		
Dennis Emerich	12		
Richard Dundore	12		
Amber Horst	13		
Barry Bashore	14		
		Elizabeth Hershey	14
		Rufus Bashore	15
		Janet Bashore	16
		Austin Wise	16
		Robert Snyder	17
		Christie Zellers	18
		Judith Emerich	18
		Kathryn Swift	18
		Mary Stewart	19
		Michael Snyder	20
		Robert Bashore	21
		Audrey Brown	21
		Carl Brightbill	22
		Denise Christ	22
		Chase Weinhold	23
		Terry Edris	24
		Carole Siegrist	24
		Gilbert Bashore	25
		Russell Lutz	25
		Colton Weinhold	25
		Michael Graby	27
		Michelle Snyder	27
		Scott Corbin	29
		Lori Williams	29
		Fred Soliday	31
		Leah Blatt	31
		Joyce Luckenbill	31



THE GATHERING PLACE

I heard it at the café...



May 2016 will be the 5th year anniversary of the café! Starting in March 2016 (or sooner) there will be a "freshening up of the café" To Do List. In preparation of the anniversary, please let the café personnel know if you would like to volunteer your services or materials for painting, cleaning, organization, sewing, etc. We look forward to working together and celebrating the vision that became a blessed reality.

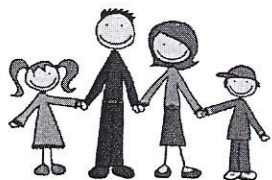


A patron was recently heard saying, "I don't know what I would do without this place."



WELCOME TO THE "WE" SERIES THIS NEW YEAR

As we kick off a new year, it's fascinating to consider the concept of church. What makes us tick? Francis Chan helps us to look at what it means to have fellowship, teaching, prayer, and communion as a church. These are all aspects we'll dive into to deepen our relationships with one another as the church who is called to be the salt and light in the world. I've never been more excited for a new series and let's start this new year off right. There will be radical differences between the church we have today and what the church would look like if we only had the Bible to base it upon. The question to ask ourselves as we breech this new series is whether we are doing church the way God intended. Let's get fired up and find out "what is church". Is it me? Or is it we? Am I the church or are we the church? Some sure fire questions to ponder as we experience life together at Little Swatara.



YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP AND JJJ LIFE GROUP

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, we would like to welcome our young families for fellowship at the church parsonage through the winter months. We gather for a pot luck meal together or simply snacks and share joyous time with our families interacting and playing games with the children. The start time is 6pm and you're free to go as needed. This is a great way to meet other young families in the church and have a meaningful time sharing life together. We've had a pool party in the past and most recently a block party. We talk about parenting and how God can help us in bring up our children as well as learn from one another on similar journeys.

On the 3rd Sunday of each month, we meet at the café for JJJ life group. This is open to everyone and we gather with a song and prayer followed by a meal together and intense fellowship. We just ask each person to bring their favorite dish and allow the conversation to unfold. We see the importance in meeting together and sharing God's Word. The time is 6—7:30. Always feel free to bring friends to these events. It's all about the fellowship and deepening relationships in our church and community.



CHRISTIAN POETRY FELLOWSHIP

There's something incredibly beautiful about the spoken word in poetry. On the 1st Sunday of each month, we gather at the café for poetry reading at 6pm. The art of poetry is one to simply come and listen to or to write and speak among the group. One gentleman brings his guitar and writes poetry through Christian song incorporated from a popular secular song. It's always a pleasure to hear the gifts of God's people. Come join us this creative night of poetry.

YEAR END GRATITUDE

The year 2016 will begin shortly, so this is a wonderful time to THANK everyone who served on a Commission or Committee for the past few years. Some folks have completed their commission duties and new people will begin participation for the next 2 or 3 years. Your dedication of service has not gone unnoticed and everything was appreciated – THANK YOU!

John Wise, Moderator and Richard Frantz, Assistant Moderator, are worthy of our gratitude who served so nobly since 2012 – that is 4 years of undertaking a large part of the work at Leadership Team and Council Meetings. Their job was well managed in guiding our congregation in the various issues confronting the church, in a courteous and professional manner. The Financial Secretary, Judy Emerich, did a superb job of keeping accurate records of giving and then reporting to individuals of their contributions. – THANK YOU!

Pamela Gerberich will now take the reins of Moderator and John Wise as Assistant Moderator for the next three years. Pam is wished success as she seeks to follow in the path of those who led before. May God be with her as she leads as Moderator in all aspects related to the well-being of our congregation. It is a huge challenge directing a gathering of like-minded people in a church situation, but the congregation voted people to office who are qualified and dedicated with a purpose. We, as a congregation, must support, encourage, and carry a part of the load, as we move forward for the betterment of the church. Jean Myers will assume the office of Financial Secretary and is also worthy of our support.

All who support the church in various capacities is vital to the needs of all. You are all important and as a servant, your talents with church attendance, tithe, time, is highly appreciated.

May the next year be one of commitment to Christ, the Church, and to the Glory of God!

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES LAW

As some of you may be aware the Child Protective Services Law requires all employees to have three clearances by the end of the year. Volunteers have until the end of 2016 but I would like to get volunteers done ASAP. Directions on how to obtain the clearances are listed below for those not already completed.

The PSP and child abuse clearances can be done online and cost \$8. The FBI clearance costs \$25.75 and must be done in person. Employees can give their receipts to the church treasurer for reimbursement after I have received the clearances. There are four locations in Berks Co. to secure the FBI clearance and various locations in other counties. I believe DB Fisher does fingerprinting in Lebanon Co. Clearances for volunteers are free and if the person has lived in PA for the last 10 years we are not required to do fingerprinting unless deemed to be necessary. When clearances are received please place a copy in mailbox #43.

Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance Instructions:

Applicants can go to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare website and apply for their child abuse clearance online at: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>

Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check Instructions

Applicants can go to the Pennsylvania Access To Criminal History website and apply for their criminal record check online with the Pennsylvania State Police at: <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal Background Check Instructions

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is utilizing Cogent Systems to process fingerprint-based criminal background check. The fingerprint based background check is a multiple step process. For more information and to begin the registration process, go to www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpw.htm For questions about your FBI Clearance, please contact the FBI/Adam Walsh Unit at 717-783-6211 or 1-877-371-5422.

Bookstore

An additional/change to the new laws are that anyone who suspects child abuse is now required to report that information themselves as opposed to reporting to a supervisor and the supervisor then reporting, as was past practice. Reports can be made to 1-800-932-0313 or by going to the child abuse online site. If a report is made this should be reported to myself after the report is made. Any questions or concerns let me know.

Thanks – Deneen Ebling

Cogent Fingerprint Region 14

Company	City	State	County
<u>Mail N Ship 4 U</u>	Wyomissing	PA	Berks
<u>Berks County Intermediate Unit 14</u>	Reading	PA	Berks
<u>Business Link Print Pack and Ship Center</u>	Kutztown	PA	Berks
<u>Kutztown University Student</u>	Kutztown	PA	Berks

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION - 2016

President -Beatrice Frantz
Vice President -Linda Bowman

Secretary - Kathryn Ziegler
Treasurer - Brenda Brubaker

Bazaar/Yard Sale

Jennifer Emerich - 2016
 Sally Emerich - 2017
 Michelle Snyder - 2018

Kitchen

Linda Bowman - 2016
 Wendy Lingle - 2017
 Brenda Brubaker -2018

Waitress

Rachel Graby -2016
 Denise Bohn -2017

Birthday

Barbara Batz - 2016
 Jean Keeney - 2017
 Marlene Blatt - 2018

Lebanon Valley Brethren

Home

Rebecca Rebman

Sunshine

Louise Graby -2016
 Diane Feathers -2017

Christmas Plants

Arlene Hershey - 2016
 Beryl Wanner - 2017

Program

Jean Myers - 2017
 Sue Hartranft - 2018

Church Flower Plants

Jean Smith

Decorating

Pat Timmins -2016
 Kathryn Ziegler -2017
 Linda Bowman - 2018

Public Food Sale

Brenda Brubaker
 Beatrice Frantz
 Wendy Lingle

Spring Flower Plants

Marie Ziegler -2016
 Fern Phillipy -2017

Scrap Book

Fern Phillipy

Helping Hands

Sally Emerich -2016
 Gail Malsbury - 2017
 Beatrice Frantz - 2018

Quilts and Comforters

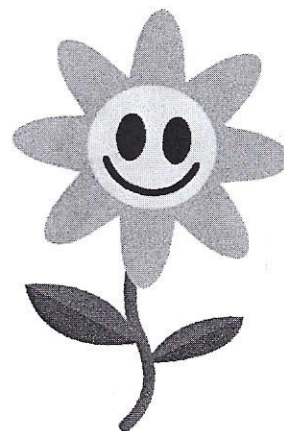
Fern Phillipy -2016
 Vera Gross -2017

Spiritual Enrichment And Prayer Circle

Linda Ziegler
 Dianne Younker

Sub Sale

Brenda Brubaker
 Wendy Lingle
 Beatrice Frantz





In an effort to enhance the safe travel of the Little Swatara Congregation, the following policy shall apply for the cancellation of worship services during inclement weather conditions (ice or snow).

1. During times of inclement weather conditions or forecasts, a Service Cancellation Committee (SCC) shall consider the possibility of canceling some or all scheduled worship services and activities.
2. The SCC members shall include the Trustee Ministry Team Chairperson, the Pastors, the Assistant Moderator, and the Moderator.
3. In the event not all of the SCC members are available, the consensus of two SCC members shall be sufficient to make a decision.
4. When possible, a decision to cancel Sunday Worship should be made by Saturday evening.
5. Once a decision has been made to cancel a service, the congregation shall be notified immediately by placing an announcement on Little Swatara Church Website: <http://LittleSwatara.org>. Contact: Glenn Riegel
6. The Spiritual Nurture Ministry Team Chair will be contacted by the Moderator about the cancellation. The Chair of the Spiritual Nurture Ministry Team will initiate the Deacon call system to notify all church members of the closing.
7. Place an announcement on the following TV stations:
WFMZ-TV Channel 69, Allentown, Pa
Website: <http://www.wfmz.com/worshipclose>
WGAL – Channel 8, Lancaster, PA
Phone 1-866-302-3456
Website: <http://wgala.reportclosing.com>
8. Place an announcement on the following Radio Stations:
WDAC 94.5 FM Lancaster
Phone: 717-284-4123
Fax: 717-284-2300
WJTL 90.3 FM Lancaster
Phone: 717-392-3690
Fax: 717-390-2892
WLBR 1270 AM Lebanon
Phone: 717-272-7651
Fax: 717-274-0161
9. The cancellation announcement can also be seen on the following websites:
Little Swatara Church - <http://www.LittleSwatara.org>
WGAL – Channel 8 – <http://www.wgal.com>
WJTL – 90.3 FM – <http://www.wjtl.com>
WFMZ-TV Channel 69 – <http://www.wfmz.com>
WDAC – 94.5 FM – <http://www.wdac.com>
10. The congregation shall be reminded of this policy at least once a year.

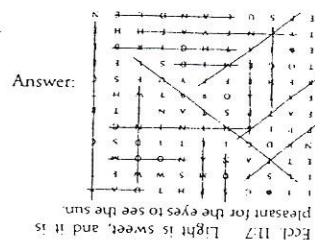
Word Find Plus

Find the words listed below in the puzzle. As you find each one draw a line through it. Write the left-over letters on the blank lines.

L	I	🌸	G	S	P	H	T	D	A	Y
I	L	S	F	U	M	S	W	W	E	T
E	T	I	A	N	A	N	O	O	M	I
N	R	D	G	I	L	T	I	D	S	C
E	P	L	S	H	I	N	I	N	G	I
E	A	T	P	S	T	A	N	I	T	R
F	A	T	A	O	R	B	T	W	H	T
R	E	H	R	E	E	Y	U	E	S	C
T	O	G	K	M	I	D	S	L	E	E
E	🌸	I	A	T	H	G	I	R	B	L
T	Y	L	N	E	V	A	E	H	H	E
E	F	S	U	C	A	N	D	L	E	N

Bright	Flame	Shining
Candle	Heavenly	Spark
Day	Lamp	Star
Dim	Light	Sun
Electricity	Lightbulb	Window
Fire	Moon	

Answer:





Little Swatara Preschool

January 2016



Dear Friends,

The Preschool staff sends a warm "Hello" as we move into 2016! We hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and New Years vacation. We are looking forward to a year of growing, learning and fun with the children.

We are excited to begin the year at Preschool with many fun activities. During the next few months we will be focusing on letter recognition, name writing, learning shapes and numbers. We will also continue Bible stories and life values during circle time. Through the Bible stories we will talk about how Jesus grew up just like our preschoolers are growing. Please refer to the class calendars for specific information.

Our teachers will continue to guide your children with loving relationships that are intended to build trust and confidence. We want to nurture their love for learning; to develop the ability to face a new task with a positive attitude. We desire to show compassion and forgiveness that Christ offers us when a mistake is made. We strive to be living examples of Jesus' love to the children, helping them face each task positively and encouraging each one as we work together.

Since Christmas and the New Year holidays have passed, we are able to slow down and look to the future. Now there is time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. If you have any questions or comments about your child or the Preschool program, contact me either at the Church (717)933-4723 or my home (717)274-9875.



With warm regards,

Miss Cindy



Thank You:

-Thank you for the wonderful response to the collection of food for needy families during the Christmas season. The food was given to the Bethel \Tulpehocken Food Pantry. Our children were proud to be helping and caring for others. This is a great lesson to learn at an early age. They also were excited about bagging the food for transportation to the Food Pantry. The children enjoyed using their strong muscles to carry the bags of food. Please know the time and effort you took to have your child put their care for others into action is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH

-Thank you for paying your Preschool tuition promptly. If paying tuition becomes a difficulty or you have questions about your account, please speak with Miss Cindy.

-Thank you for supporting the Preschool program with Christmas gifts. You have blessed our students and teachers with your generosity.

- We're so blessed to have Pat Timmins volunteer in our PK 3 class. Thank you for volunteering all your time and efforts to help us out. We are incredibly grateful and won't forget your generosity."

Foul Weather Closings:

In cases of bad weather, we will follow these guidelines:

Preschool 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.

Bad weather delays and cancellations are broadcast in the following radio stations: WLBR 1270 AM Lebanon, WQIC 100.1 FM Lebanon, WRFY 102.5 FM Reading.

TV station: WGAL Channel 8 - Berks Cable 8, WFMZ Channel 69.



Healthy Habits

Children at Preschool are discussing using healthy habits that include: hand washing, covering mouths when we sneeze or cough and learning to use tissues. Using good habits help us to keep from spreading germs to our friends and keeps us healthier too. We sneeze and cough into our elbows. We use tissues to clean our noses. The person that used the tissue discards the tissue. We wash our hands after sneezing into them and after using the bathroom. These are a few of the healthy habits we are using in our classrooms.

Please consider keeping your child home if they have had a fever or upset stomach within the past 24 hours. They may want to come to Preschool, however, another day of rest will serve them well. When they come back to class they feel rested and ready for a full day of activity.

Thank you for contributing positively to our classes' health.



Music Activity

To help the children learn which is their right and which is their left hands we recite this poem,



"This Is My Right Hand"

This is my right hand, I raise it up high.

This is my left hand, I touch the sky.

Right hand, left hand.

Roll them around.

Right hand, left hand, I'll pound, pound, pound.

Another tip is to wear a hair band or rubber band around your child's right wrist, place a sticker on their right hand or the toe of their shoe. Then do simple motions asking your child to use a specific hand or foot.



Please Note...

* We will be in class January 18, Martin Luther King Day, and February 15, Presidents Day. If your child will not be attending class either of these days, please remember to notify your child's teacher.

* Remember to notify our staff of changes with home telephone numbers, contact persons, or who may pick-up your child at Preschool.



* Please have your child keep toys from home, at home. The only time personal possessions are to be brought into the classroom is when it relates to Show & Tell.

* Please remember our teachers need you to be prompt when picking-up your child. The teachers often have to work after class to prepare for future sessions or go to second jobs. Thank you for being prompt.





2016 EVENTS



FEBRUARY

- 1, Happy New Year!
2pm FH Res/Rebman
- 2, 1pm FH, 50 Plus Program
- 3, 6pm Café Christian Poetry Fellowship
6pm O, Scout Leader Meeting
- 5, 7pm FH, Leadership Team Meeting
- 6, EPIPHANY
- 7, 9am FH, Women's Business Meeting
6pm Café, Feeding Trough Bible Study
- 9, 2pm K Res/Bashore
- 10, Food Pantry Collection
Mission Emphasis Sunday "We Care Packages"
- 12, 12:30pm FH, 50 Plus Meets
6:30pm O, Den Meeting
- 14, 6pm Café, Feeding Trough Bible Study
- 15, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry
?? Wedding Rehearsal
6pm Tiger Cub Meeting
15-17, Sr. High Youth District Winter Retreat
6pm Young Family Fellowship
- 17, 6pm Café, JJJ Life Group/Potluck
- 19, 7pm, Ministry Teams Meet
- 23, 7am Myerstown Dutchway, Men's Bible Study
- 24, 8:15 & 10:30am Anointing
Newsletter Deadline
WLBR Broadcast Sunday
- 25, 7:30pm Steward & Property Meeting
- 26, Ministry Team Minutes Due
12:30pm FH, 50 Plus Meets
6:30pm O, Den Meeting
- 28, 9am Preschool Thirsty Thursdays
6pm Café Feeding Trough Bible Study
- 30, 9am, Deacon Retreat at Camp Swatara

- 2, 7pm, Leadership Team Meeting
- 4, 9am, Women's Business Meeting
6pm, Café Bible Study
- 5, 6-7pm, Tiger Cub Meeting
- 6, 1pm 50 Plus Program
- 7, 8:15 & 10:30am, Bread & Cup Communion
6pm Café Christian Poetry Fellowship
6pm O, Scout Leader Meeting
- 8, 7:30pm EVERY MEMBER Council Meeting
- 9, 12:30pm FH, 50 Plus Meets
Pictorial Directory Appointments
6:30pm Den Meeting
- 10, *Ash Wednesday*
Pictorial Directory Appointments
- 11, Pictorial Directory Appointments
- 12, Pictorial Directory Appointments
- 13, Pictorial Directory Appointments
6pm, Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
- 14, I Lent and Valentine's Day
Food Pantry Collection
Mission Emphasis: Global Food Crisis
- 15, President's Day
- 16, 7pm Ministry Teams meet
- 19, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry
- 21, 9am, Weekly Preschool Thirsty Thursday
6pm café, Feeding Trough Bible Study
6-7pm Tiger Cubs Meet
- 20, 6pm Young Family Fellowship
- 21, II Lent
12pm, Pack Meeting & Potluck Dinner
6pm Café JJJ Life Group/Potluck
- 23, 12:30pm 50 Plus meets
6:30pm Den Meeting
- 27, 7-10am Fundraiser Women's Fellowship
Buffet Breakfast
7am Men's Fellowship Bible Study
- 28, III Lent
Newsletter Deadline
- 29, Leap Year



EXERCISE CLASS

Meets every week
Monday and Wednesday
8:45-9:45 a.m.



CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAY

Jubilee- 7:00-7:30 pm

JOY - 7:30-8:00pm

Praise Team - 8:00-9:00 pm

THURSDAY

Senior 7:15 p.m.- 8:00 pm



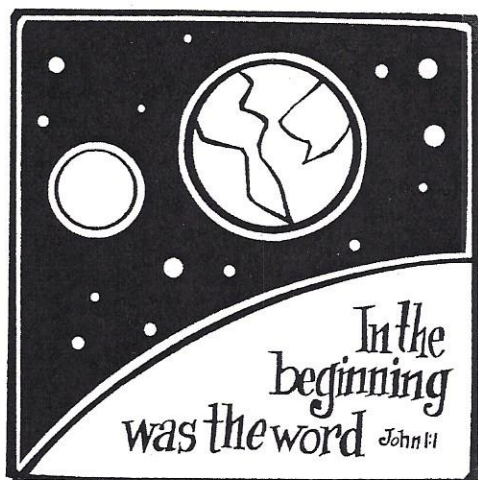
QUILTING AND COMFORTERS

Meet every week
Thursday, 8 a.m.





Little Swatara Church of the Brethren
31 Rehrrsburg Road
P O Box 437
Bethel, PA 19507



January 2016

ALWAYS REMEMBER

-by Anonymous

*Always remember to forget
The things that made you sad
But never forget to remember
The things that made you glad.*

*Always remember to forget
The friends that proved untrue
But don't forget to remember
Those that have stuck by you.*

*Always remember to forget.
The troubles that have passed away
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.*

*Tips for
Happiness*

"God gave us life. What we do with it reveals our attitude toward the Giver"

-Charles Ferrell