

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 XLIX

Matthew S. Christ, Pastor
January, 2015

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Number 1

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Out with the OLD. In with the NEW

Nothings quite compares to a brand new shiny penny or a crisp brand new dollar bill. We consider anything new to be of value and worth, particularly when it comes to big ticket items like a car or house. As we enter in a totally New Year 2015, there's a lot to be said about the old. Personally, I am a huge fan of antiques and the parsonage is full of many with unique stories to be told from ancestors and relatives. When we peer into the past and see those stories of old that have shaped us with new Godly character, may we be open to the new self God is building, leaving behind the old.

There's coming a day when all things will be made new. The old order of things will pass away and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. This excites me in so many ways and ought to each of us as well.

Revelation 21: 1-5 details it like this. "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a beautiful bride prepared for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever. And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making all things new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

It truly doesn't get any better than this. When we continually cast off our old sin nature and live in harmony with God out of obedience and trust, we are preparing ourselves for this indescribable place. The thought of God among his people and living with them is overwhelming and brings significant comfort as we live in these times of sorrow and pain and hurt. Heavens celebration is one party you won't want to miss. Are we on the invitation list? Happy New Year and Abundant Blessing to You!!

Pastor Mark ☺

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Emily (Hartranft) and Brandon Keller on the birth of a son, Gannon Slade Keller, born November 24, 2014. Grandparents are Sue and Larry Hartranft.



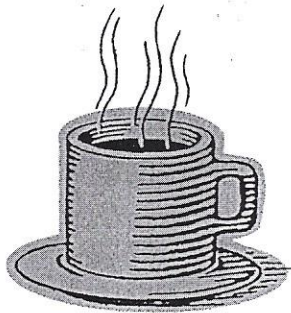
Members Birthdays for January:

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



THE GATHERING PLACE

I heard it at the Café...



One Friday, about 10:55 (five minutes before closing) a man and woman stopped in to get something to eat. They commented that the café looked so cute as they drove by that they just had to stop. All of the volunteers went about their duties and the couple proceeded to order 2 large breakfasts, honkey potatoes, coffee, and a cappuccino made with the expresso brewer, not the quicker push button one.

As the couple waited for their orders the woman mentioned that her parents were from this area and were both gone now. She hadn't been by this way in years. Both the man and the woman continued to comment on how warm and welcoming the café is. Once their food arrived they began to eat and the volunteers started the closing procedures for the day. Once the food was almost gone the woman commented how she ate honkey potatoes with her parents and the café's potatoes were just like the potatoes she remembered. They requested a take home dish as they did not finish everything.

On the way out, they purchased a piece of pumpkin roll. This, too, reminded the woman of time spent with her mother making pumpkin roll. All in all, they said that their visit to the café made their day, and probably their week! They were so glad to have stumbled upon it.

The volunteers wished the couple well and thanked them for stopping by, inviting them to stop again. After the couple left, the volunteers felt that the couple helped to make their day, too. The café volunteers were gracious and welcoming and never let on about staying "overtime".

Thank You!

Already we are in the beginning of a New Year and time for new members of the various commissions to join with those serving the past few years on Commissions and Committees. Needless to say, these are important positions which keep the church functioning on an ongoing pattern. It is very important to attend the monthly meetings on which you have agreed to serve, to maintain continuity. Thank you for accepting the "Call".

On every Commission, persons terms expired and we sincerely Thank every one of you for the commitment of time you gave so generously. Without your help the church would not have gone forward. Each of us has a special talent to work for the betterment of us all.

Another big Thanks, not gone unnoticed, was the Pastoral Search Committee who worked diligently to seek a pastor for our congregation. Many meetings went into this work locally, as well as with the District Executive, Craig Smith. You are to be commended on a job well done.

Working as a servant for the Lord is not done for individual glory, but to the glory of God and His Church.

Let us always strive to be instruments, each playing our gifted part, to make beautiful music together.

May the year 2015 be one of a Blessing to all and a renewed promise to Christ and His Church.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

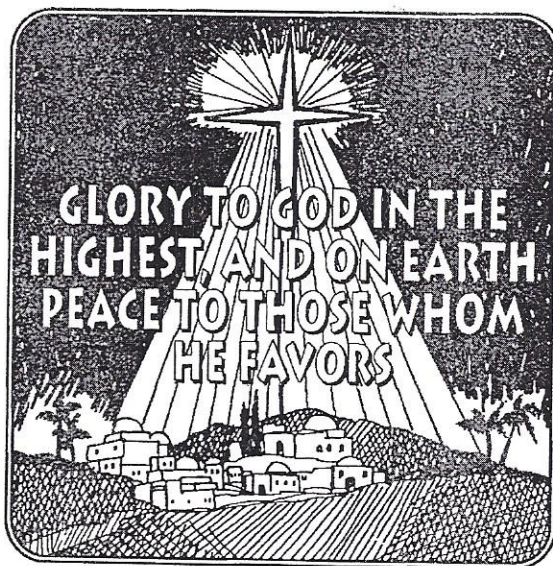


MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM COMMISSION

Donations are needed for the "We Care Packages" to be given to the College Students. A box is located in the Narthex and Foyer for your contributions. **The deadline for items is February 1, 2015.** Needed are:

Crackers	cookies
Popcorn	granola bars
Hot chocolate mix	Instant soup mix
Candy bars	gum
Hard candy	mechanical pencils
Pens	highlighters
Q-tips	Stamps (4 or 5 each)
Band Aids	Post-it-notes
Hand lotion	Quarters \$2.50 each (10)
Lip balm	Hand sanitizer
Certs	packs of tissues

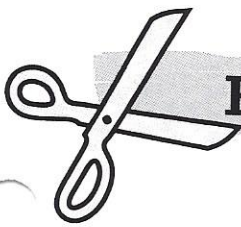
Thanks for you donations!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

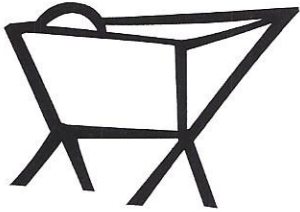
The Women would like to thank everyone who supported us in all of our projects in the past year. **A Reminder:** There is chow chow available for sale if anyone is interested in purchasing some. Contact Beatrice Frantz or any member of the Women's Fellowship officers.

To every one –
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



K I D S K L I P S

A Child Is Born



Luke 2:7 is part of the Christmas story. Use this code to discover the verse.

A	†	D	↔	G	⌘	J	=	M	✧	P	▲	S	◆	V	:	Y	:
B	■	E	↵	H	+	K	●	N	&	Q	▽	T	→	W	/	Z	=
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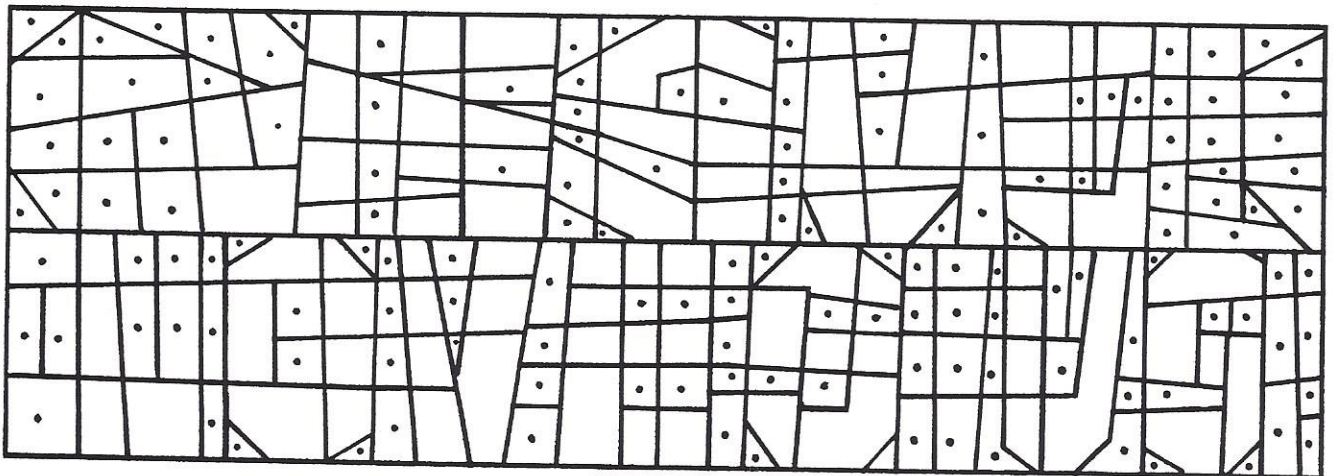
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And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.

Answer

Savior

We also know Jesus is God's Son and our Savior. Jesus is called our Savior because he saved us from being separated from God by our sins. He was even willing to die on the cross for us. Why did he do that? Color in the shapes with a dot in them to find out.





Little Swatara Preschool

January 2015



Dear Friends,

Welcome back to Preschool as the New Year has begun! The past month we were busy with the celebration of the birth of Jesus. This month our classes are looking forward to growing and learning by having fun as we learn in 2015. Little Swatara Preschool will continue to offer the same high quality care and teaching your children received in 2014. In class the children will continue to learn the value of having Jesus as a life long friend. Our Circle time lessons will continue to teach of the love and hope He offers to each of us through the examples we find in the Bible. We will also continue our Kindergarten Readiness lessons. Each day we get to see the children's smiles when they have new experiences and skills are mastered. Or, when they have learned to share and to wait without complaining. We are here to encourage them to keep trying until they complete their work. And, oh the pride we all share when their work is completed to their best ability. It is a privilege to be a part of your child's life. I thank God for each child we have in our Preschool program. There is something special and uniquely wonderful about each preschooler.



Now that Christmas and New Year have passed, we are able to think about the past and to plan for the future. Please refer to the class calendars for specific information. Stay warm and safe.

Have a blessed 2015.

With love, Miss Cindy



Preschool class staff: Miss Traci and Miss Danielle

Pre Kindergarten staff: Miss Diana, Miss Sarah (PK1), Miss Danielle (PK3)

REMINDER:

We return to class on Monday, January 5, 2015.

We will have class on Monday, January 19, 2015.

If your child will not be attending, please tell your child's teacher.

We're Going Back To School



THANK YOU:

We're sending a great big thank you to the families that brought in food for needy families at Christmas. The groceries that were collected by our students went to the Bethel-Tulpehocken Food Pantry. Your response was *heart warming*. The children were proud to be helping and caring for others by giving the gift of food. This is a great lesson to learn at an early age. Thank you for giving over and beyond what is expected. (I hope you have been checking Little Swatara Preschool's Facebook page for pictures).



Food
Collection

Healthy Habits

The children are discussing using healthy habits including hand washing, covering mouths when we sneeze or cough, and learning how to use tissues. Using good habits help us to keep from spreading germs to our friends and keeps us healthier.

Please keep your child home if they have had a fever 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 ready for a full day of activity.



E-mail!

Inclement Weather

In case of bad weather, we will follow these guidelines: Preschool closings will coincide with Tulpehocken Elementary School. When they close, we will be closed. If they delay for 2 hours, our morning sessions will be cancelled and the afternoon sessions will run as scheduled. If Tulpehocken closes early, our afternoon sessions will be cancelled. Weather delays and cancellations are broadcast on the following radio stations: **WLBR 1270 AM Lebanon, WEEU 850 AM Reading, WRFY 102.5 FM**

Reading.

Television station:

WGAL Channel 8 - Berks Cable.



F.Y.I.

Please note I have an e-mail address at Little Swatara, cindy.bradey@littleswatara.org. You can leave notes at this address. I will try to faithfully check the e-mail each morning.



Please remember to notify teachers of changes with telephone numbers, addresses, contact people and who may pick up your child.

Class Openings As of Dec 12, our M/W class has 4, T/Th class has 7 and our afternoon Pre K 3 class has 1 student openings. If you know of a child the ages of 3,4 or 5 years old that might be interested in our Preschool, please let Miss Cindy know. Give the family our telephone number. We would love to speak with them.



Vision Screening

Berks County Association For The Blind has contacted us about providing a **free vision screening** for our students. They stated that 1 in every 16 children has an undetected vision problem. And that early detection means a treatment can begin sooner. **Ann Heiser, a Prevention Specialist will conduct the screenings here at Little Swatara Preschool on January 28 and 29.** A yellow card will be sent home with each student that needs to be completed and signed by our preschooler's parent in order to have the screening conducted on your child. The screening will take no more than approximately 3 minutes per child. A parent does not have to be present at the time of the screening, but the yellow card must be completed and on site. Please direct your questions to Miss Cindy or Vision Resource Center of Berks County @ (610)375-8407 ext. 114.



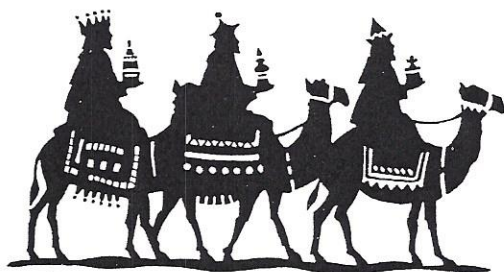


2015 COMING EVENTS



- 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY-office closed
12-8pm FH Reserved
- 4, 6pm Scout Leader Mtg
- 5, 6pm Tiger Mtg
- 6, EPIPHANY
7pm Leadership Team Mtg
- 8, 9am Women's Fellowship Mtg
- 9, Morin/Rauscher Rehearsal
- 10, Wedding
- 11, Food Pantry Collection
Mission Emphasis Sunday
FH Res.
- 13, 9am FH, WF Craft Class
12:30-5pm FH 50 Plus Meet
6-7pm Den Meeting
- 14, 7pm Christian Ed Mtg
- 16, 2-6pm Food Pantry
- 16-18 Sr.High Youth District Winter
RetreatWeekend
- 18, 8:15 & 10:30am, Anointing
- 19, 6pm Tiger Meeting
- 25, Newsletter Deadline
- 27, 12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meet
6-7pm Den Meeting
All Ministry Team Minutes due
- 31, Deacon Retreat @ Camp Swatara

- 1, 8:15 & 10:30am Bread & Cup Communion
6pm Scout Leader Mtg
- 2, 6pm Tiger Mtg
- 3, 7pm Leadership Mtg
- 5, 9am Women's Fellowship Business Mtg
- 8, Food Pantry Collection
Mission Emphasis Sunday
- 9, 7:30pm, Every Member Council Meeting
- 10, 9am, WF Craft Class
12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meet
6-7pm Den Mtg
- 14, VALENTINE'S DAY
- 15, Scout Sunday
- 16, PRESIDENT'S DAY
6pm Tiger Mtg
- 18, ASH WEDNESDAY
- 20, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry
- 22, I Lent
Noon, Pack Mtg
Newsletter Deadline
- 24, 12:30-5pm, 50 Plus Meet
All Team Minutes Due
6-7pm Den Mtg
- 28, 2:30-8pm FH, K RES
SCOUTS- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



EPIPHANY

JANUARY 6, 2015



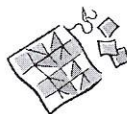
EXERCISE CLASS

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



CHOIR REHEARSALS EVERY WEDNESDAY

Jubilee - 7:00-7:30 p.m.
JOY - 7:00-7:30 p.m.
Senior - 7:30-8:30 p.m.

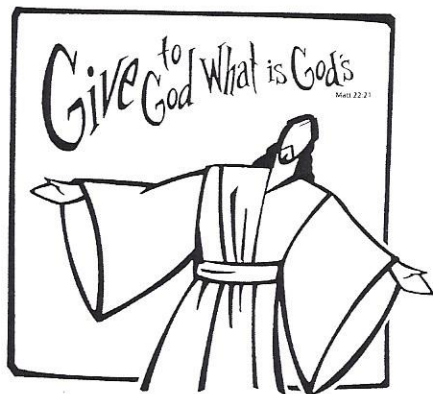


QUILTING AND COMFORTERS

Meet every week
Thursday, 8 a.m.



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



JANUARY 2015

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me to live that I may be
From spite and petty malice free.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.

A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

-Edgar A. Guest

(Edgar A. Guest began his career in 1897 at the
Age of 14. He became known as
"The Poet of the People")



Happiness is found along the way, not at the end of the road.