

## 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: Jan.– Sam Forry Feb.—Diane Long March - Patricia Timmins

Wk. 1 January 4

Wk. 2 January 11

Wk.3 January 18

CHORISTER Dianne High

Praise Team

Allen Rebman

WORSHIP LDR John Wise

Praise Team

Gary Bashore

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 & Lucas Rebman

Gerald & Jim Bowman  
Scott Bohn & J. Brubaker

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

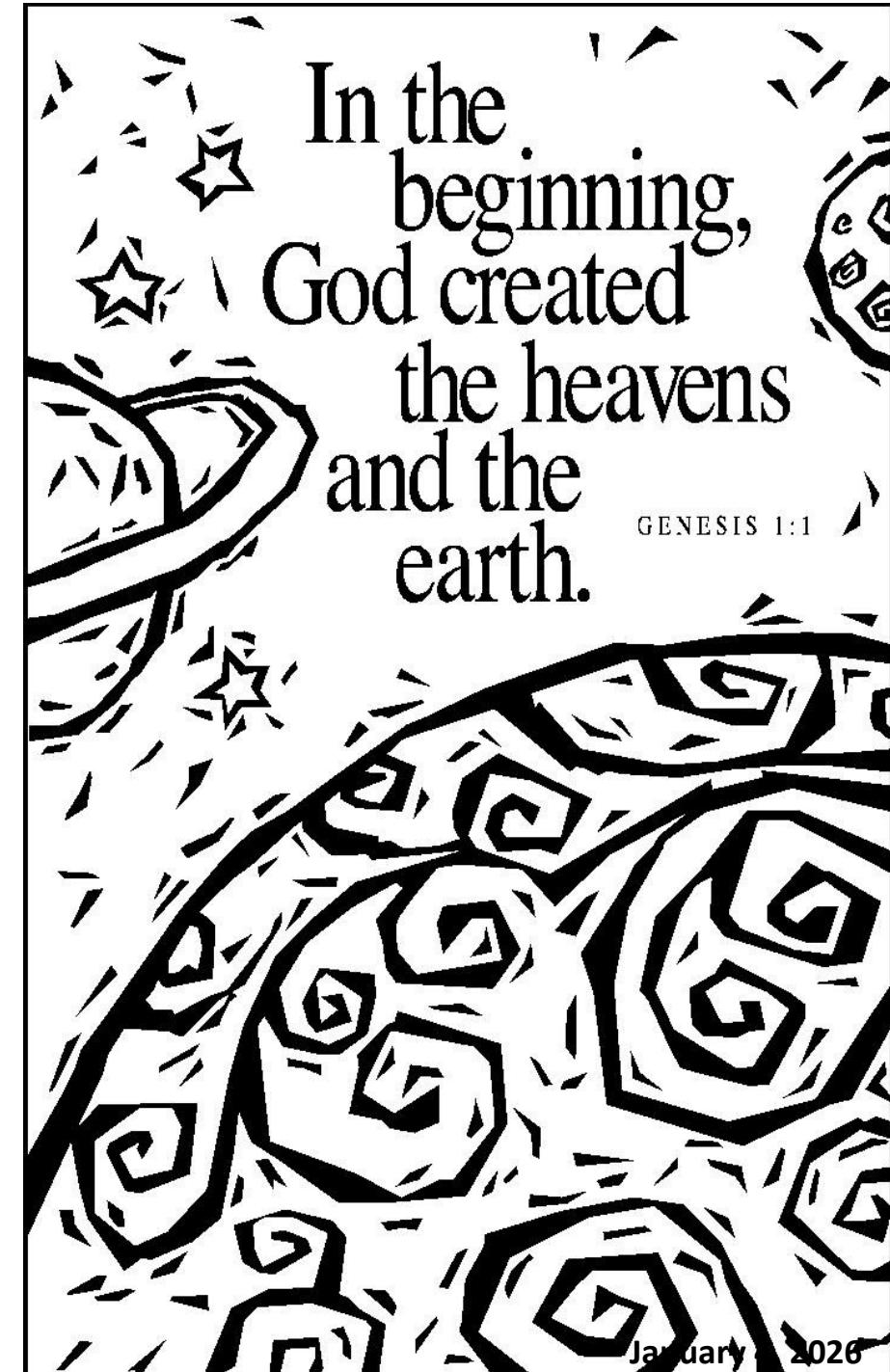
Preschool – Preschool Room, Sanctuary Level  
Children's (Grades K to 5 – Pine Room  
(Fellowship Hall Level)  
Youth (Grades 6 to 12) – Youth Room (Fellowship Hall)

#### 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 January 4, 2026 Number 1  
**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: @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.

Jim Bowman  
 Wendy Lingle  
 Nuevo Amanecer, Bethlehem, PA



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

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Elizabeth Hershey will be 94 y/o on Jan. 14th. Let's shower her with birthday wishes. You may mail cards to:

2840 W. Mark Drive  
 Sarasota, FL 34232

The January issue of the **Newsletter** has arrived & is on the counter at the mailboxes

>>>>>>> **Attention Committee**  
**ANNUAL** Committee **Chairpersons**  
**REPORTS** Needed—team accomplishments in 2025 for the Annual Report booklet due January 31st. Please email your report to the church secretary.

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

### **GIVING LAST SUNDAY**

General Fund	\$	9,625.50
Building	\$	70.00
Family Assistance	\$	50.00
Maintenance	\$	247.50
Sunday School	\$	28.00
Feed Them	\$	
Global Food Initiative	\$	
Food Pantry	\$	
Mission of the Month	\$	1,100.00
Christmas Eve	\$	688.00

**Total** \$ 11,959.00

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2025**  
 \$ 349,661.00

### Last Sunday's Attendance

Worship 11 + 65  
 Virtual Worship - 25  
 Sunday School - 38  
 Christmas Eve - 124  
 Virtual Worship - 20

I want to thank everyone for all the lovely birthday cards, phone calls, & visits. Thank you.

~ Fern Phillip



**January 4, 2026**  
**8:30 AM Service**

### **Welcome & News**

#### **Humor**

#### **Prayer**

#### **Worship Songs**

“Gratitude”  
 “What An Awesome God”  
 “I Speak Jesus”  
 “King of Kings”

**Scripture** - Genesis 1: 1-3

**Catch of the Day** - “Difference”

#### **Deep Dive**

1. What has been that still is that God created?
2. What difference does light make in the world?
3. Why did God decide to create to begin with?
4. Is there anything in the world God created that is not good? If so, how and why?
5. Can we say that the Bible is actually true? Why or why not?

**Kids Praise** - “This Little Light of Mine”

#### **Prayer**

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

**January 4, 2026**  
**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)

**Call to Worship (Unison)**

God, it's a new year filled with endless possibilities. We commit this year to you. We surround our past. We live in the present. Use us this year to further your kingdom. In all things we give you praise. The future is in your hands.

**Opening Hymn**      "Great Is thy faithfulness"      blue hymnal #327

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn**      "Come, thou fount"      blue hymnal #521

**Offertory Thought and Prayer**

**Children's Moment**

**Hymn**      "I sing the mighty power of God"      blue hymnal #46

**Message:** "4 Words"

**Scripture:** Genesis 1: 1

**Closing Hymn**      "Soon and very soon"      blue hymnal #611

**Sending Forth**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**January Mission of the Month**  
**"We Care" Packages**

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. The last day to bring donations will be February 1st.

**ITEMS NEEDED for CARE PACKAGES**

Crackers	Writing utensils	Hard Candy
Cookies	Hot chocolate mix	Band-aids
Popcorn	Small tissue packs	Candy bars
Gum	Instant soup mix	Lip Balm
Q-Tips	Post-It notes	Granola bars
Travel size - hand lotion, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, and floss		

**Need a boost?** If you would like to receive a weekly Bible encouragement text from Pastor Matt, please text him at 717-675-3946



**Attention Committee Treasurers**

It's time again for AUDITING of the books. Please bring your updated checking account books and statements to the church office by mid-January for the auditors. Note, if you started a new check register in 2025, please also submit the previous year's check register and the December 2024 statement. Thank you.

The January-February issue of the **Upper Room** has arrived and is on the table in the narthex.

**Notice:** Exercise Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026



**Volunteer Needed:** Seeking volunteers to help with snow clean-up. If you have any availability and are willing to serve the church, by helping to clean sidewalks or plow the parking lot, please contact John High

## Annual Reservations

If you have an annual recurring reservation for the pavilion or fellowship hall, please take a few moments to re-confirm your reservation with the church secretary. Please give her a phone call during office hours or place a note in the box on the secretary's mailbox with your name, phone number and information about your annual reservation. This will help to make sure that the reservations are current & that your place is held with the dates you want to reserve. Thank you.

## We're Hiring: Groundskeeper Wanted!!

We are seeking a dependable and hardworking **Groundskeeper** to help care for our church property and maintain the beauty of our grounds.

### Responsibilities include:

- Lawn care, trimming, mulching, and general landscaping
- Seasonal tasks (leaf removal, snow/ice clearing (sidewalks and steps), pruning, etc.)
- Light maintenance and upkeep of outdoor areas
- Ensuring the church grounds are welcoming and safe for all

This is a part-time hourly rate position with flexible scheduling.

For more information or to apply, please contact Jamie Wise or any other member of the Stewardship and Property Team.

## 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

## 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 January 7th & 21st, 2026



## January Mission of the Month "We Care Packages"

### What's Happening in:

#### January

6 7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting

8 8:30 AM Quilting 



11 Food Pantry Collection

13 Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare



14 8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH  
10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH

15 8:30 AM Quilting 

16 3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry /Salem Evang. Lutheran Church



18 Church Potluck Meal following church service / FH

20 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship meeting / FH



21 8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH  
10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH  
Newsletter deadline

22 8:30 AM Quilting 

24 7:00 AM Men's prayer break  
fast / café

27 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