

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: 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

Gerald & Jim Bowman

Ken Duell / John High

Sam Forry & Lucas Rebman

Scott Bohn & J. Brubaker

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)

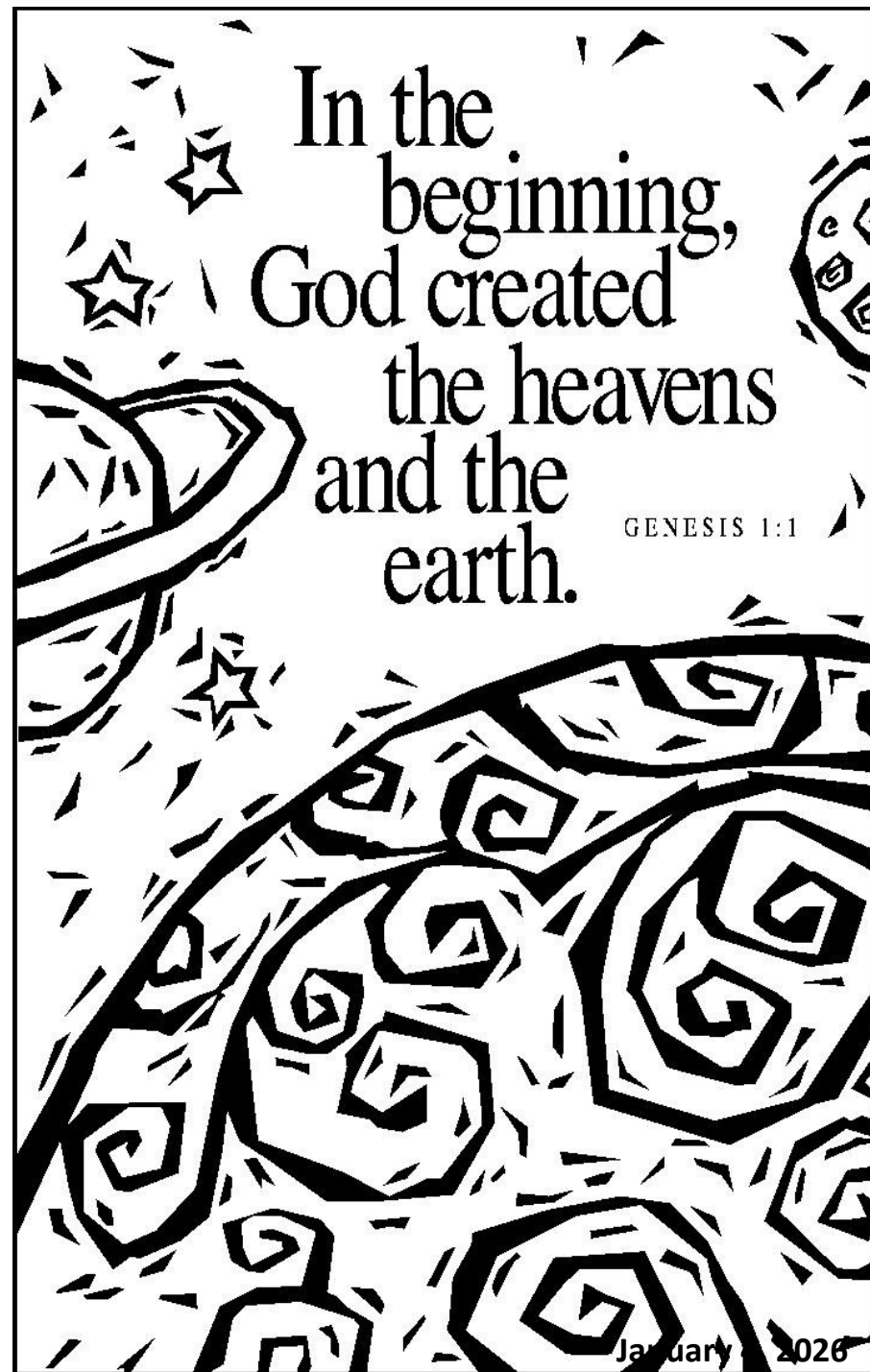
Adults

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 Rehrrsburg 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.



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

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ANNUAL
Committee

**Attention 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
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Total	\$ 11,959.00
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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 Phillipy



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