

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
July, 2015

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Number 7

Free Indeed!!

"Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you." -Galatians 5:1 (MSG)


This month we celebrate Independence Day and all across the land, the night skies will light up with fireworks displays. These are to commemorate our freedom and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. What we often forget is that in declaring their independence from England, our forefathers made an equally strong "Declaration of Dependence" upon Almighty God.

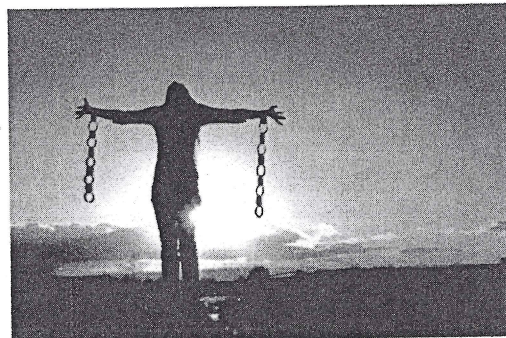
Living a life of freedom in Christ entails relinquishing our right to be caught up in a life of sin. To truly be free, we must depend on God with every heart beat we take. There's not a moment in our day our thoughts can wander from God. He has given us a gift of freedom we can never repay through His Son Jesus Christ.

Our freedom was bought at a price. It cost the Father His Son, but the story doesn't end there. The Son has risen and conquered sin and death that the word free can be fully manifested within ourselves as we strive to live more and more like Him. Take the time to invest in Christ with our lives and live in surrender and thankfulness for his gift of salvation and freedom.

This month may we remind ourselves of our need for Christ to be truly free and the urge to flee from sin. Holy Spirit guide and direct us all the days of our lives and help us be free indeed.

Freely living forgiven in Christ,

 Pastor Matt



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

-Ryan Kissling, on the death of his father, Randy Kissling, May 30, 2015

RECEIVED BY BAPTISM – May 31, 2015 –

-Abigail Christ
-Malachi Christ

-Caitlin Henning
-Michael Mattson

-Joshua Straw
-Kyle Yenser

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES RECOGNIZED – June 7, 2015 –

*Aaron Riegel, son of Glenn and Alane Riegel

*Alexis Yenser, daughter of Richard and Michelle Yenser

Both from Tulpehocken High School

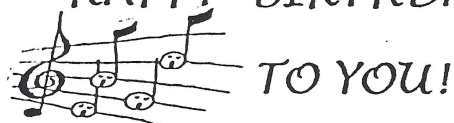


PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO SEVEN YEAR OLD STUDENTS - June 14, 2015:

*Annabella Derr

*Leland Blouch

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Member Birthdays for July:

Andrew Wise 2
Sharon Dosch 2
Eric Adams 5
R. Joanne Bashore 5
Brenda Brubaker 5
Vera Gross 5
Nolan Keeney 5
James J. Frantz 6
Arlene Hershey 7
Karen Mason 7
Mary Ann Fake 8
Ryan Snyder 8
Christine DeMille 9
Martha Klahr 11
Kenneth A. Bashore 14

Shirley Bashore 14
Kenneth Snyder 14
Ethan Stupp 14
Beatrice Frantz 15
Mary (Forry)March 16
Dana Rogers 16
Ken Coots 17
Susan Hartranft 17
Rhoda Wentling 17
Mary Bashore (Gary) 18
Marion Hass 20
John D. Kauffman 20
Brendan Line 21

Diane Duell 22
Katrina Dvorznak 24
Jill (Siegrist) Thomas 24
Jamie Wise 24
Stanley Hershey 26
Glenn Riegel 27
Ronald Blatt 28
Ralph Wanner 28
Daniel DeMille 29
Karen Weinhold 29
Ronald Hershey 30



THE GATHERING PLACE

I heard it at the Café...



Café patrons have been purchasing pork BBQ fund raising tickets. This is a fund raiser at Little Swatara Church. Details can be provided at the church office and/or the café.



There was a birthday celebration at the café in honor of the regular customers. The café was full of fun, love, and laughter. A good time was had by all.

NIGERIA FUNDRAISER

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

PULLED PORK DINNER



WHEN: SATURDAY, July 18, 2015

TIME: 12 NOON to 3 PM

EAT IN or PICK UP AVAILABLE

TICKETS: \$5 DONATION

HELD AT: LITTLE SWATARA CHURCH PAVILION

MEAL INCLUDES: PORK SANDWICH, CHIPS, APPLESAUCE

FOR TICKETS CONTACT a

AND A DRINK

Mission & Evangelism

Member -Jeremy

Platchek, Pat Timmins,

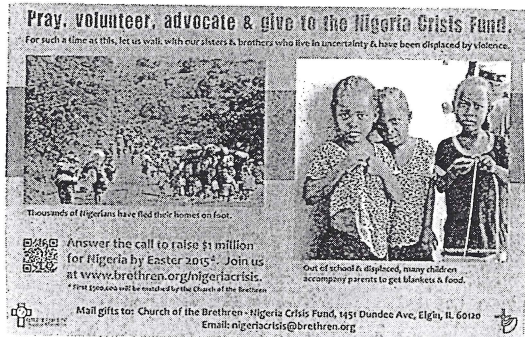
Anita Hoffa, Ray Keeney

or Connie Manbeck.

Questions?

Call Little Swatara

Church at 717-933-4723



All proceeds go to Church of the Brethren Nigeria Crisis Fund"

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Tractor, Car, & Truck Show and Yard Sale. It was a great success. Our attendance was the best we ever had.

If anyone has extra vegetables from their garden to donate for chow chow, please put them in the church freezer and mark it for chow chow.

Any items that you place in the Ladies Aid Room, please put your name on it, so we know where it came from to thank them.

There will not be a meeting in July. The next Meeting will be **August 3, 2015.**

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

The Little Swatara Church of the Brethren Women's Fellowship Prayer Chain is being updated.

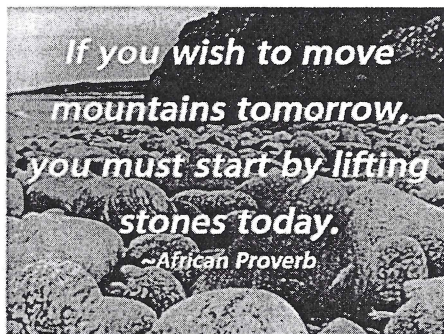
Please contact Linda Ziegler, 933-8840 or Dianne Younker, 270-6193 if you would like to be added or removed from the e-mail/phone prayer chain list. Please respond by July 12, 2015.

Thank You!

LEBANON VALLEY BRETHREN HOME - CHICKEN BBQ

Plan now to attend the Lebanon Valley Home Chicken BBQ and Auction on July 24 and 25. To purchase tickets, call Amy at 717-838-5406 to ensure your tickets are ready when you arrive. Tickets are also available online at www.LVBH.org and select the chicken BBQ & Auction link under the "News and Events" section. For more information, check the Narthex Bulletin Board.

District Women's Camp



August 16-18

Camp Swatara

Speaker: Jennifer Kreighbaum

"Seeds, Stones, & Mountains"

All women are invited to attend District Women's Camp. Come join in the fun of worship, praise, singing, crafts, swimming, hiking, and so much more with your sisters in Christ from across the District! Registration information has been sent to congregations. Pre-registration is required for this event and childcare is offered for children ages 3-8.



LITTLE SWATARA BIBLE SCHOOL
July 20-24, 2015

THEME: "SON SPARK LABS"

Our theme has to do with Science projects and are looking for any science lab items, such as scales, bickers, measuring cups, test tubes., etc., and Plastic peanut butter jars/lids, large soda bottles.

Also if you are interested helping in any capacity, contact one of the committee, Sandra Manbeck, Dorinda Kauffman.

The Money Service Project will support the hospitality of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA in Hershey. Part of this mission is to provide a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children being treated at Hershey. Prayers for the children treated, doctors, nurses, hospital staff, and families will be important as children bring their money for this cause.

Thanks for your support!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUNDAY
July 12, 2015

On Sunday, July 12, Sara Kolbe, will be bringing the morning message at the 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services. This is Annual Conference Sunday.

All of the Annual Conference Sessions and Worship Services can be viewed on the live website – go to the Church of the Brethren website for the link.

ARE YOU A DR, NURSE PRACTITIONER,
RN, LPN, OR EMT?

The First Aid Office at Annual Conference in Tampa is looking for DR.'s, RN's, LPN's and EMT's who would be willing to volunteer a few hours during Annual Conference this summer. Kathi Horrell is coordinating the First Aid Office and would be glad to hear from willing volunteers! Please contact her at: neonpalmtree@gmail.com



AUDIO SYSTEM MEETING

Are you interested in learning how the audio system and projection system work? Come to the church on Wednesday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We are looking for volunteers to learn the system and also help in services when needed. Any questions, contact Todd Rebman.

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

Your sacrifice in giving doesn't go unnoticed! We are blessed by the funds you offer week in and week out. Those special funds designated for the mortgage balance are truly helping us relieve the debt sooner than later. Perhaps you have been searching for a way to go above and beyond your normal giving. This could be your opportunity.

We are praying fervently the mortgage debt finds its zero balance long before any rates change or terms expire. Consider Little Swatara in your long term financial plans. It is a gift that keeps on giving. We value every one of you very, very much. Blessings to you for all you offer our growing congregation. Your love is evident in every way.



Pastor Matt

YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

We would like to invite our young families to an evening of food, fun, and family devotions. The 3rd Saturday of each month from 6-8 p.m., we will gather at the church parsonage and share a



memorable time together. Pastor Matt will lead the devotional time.

Children can bring their bikes, scooters, and any games to play in the spacious area behind the parsonage.

Our next gathering time is on **July 18**. We hope to see you there and feel free to bring friends. A snack to share would be wonderful, but not necessary. Any questions feel free to contact Pastor Matt or Denise Christ.

570-246-8196 or 8195

COBYS FAMILY SERVICES

BIKE AND HIKE

COBYS Family Services, motivated by Christian Faith, educates, supports, and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential by providing adoption and foster care services, leading family life education courses, and making available counseling by trained therapists.

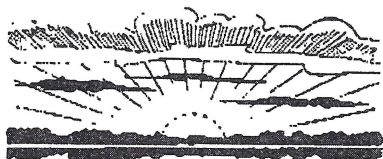
COBYS signature fund raising event, the annual Bike and Hike, has a feeling of celebration, as many people come together to support this all-important ministry to children and families.

Persons participate in several events. There is a three mile walk, two bicycle rides, and a 60 mile scenic motorcycle ride through PA Dutch country. More than 300 participants raised more than \$110,000 last year in support of COBYS ministries.

For many years, the Little Swatara Youth were the leading fund raising group obtaining sponsorship from many individuals. In 2014, Chiques took the number one position. Let's get behind our youth in 2015 and restore them to their customary #1 position by sponsoring them generously



The 2015 BIKE AND HIKE WILL TAKE PLACE SUNDAY September 13th. Little Swatara has gained a motorcycle rider since last year and it is rumored that he may participate.



*Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today, forever.*

Hebrews 13:8

MUSIC AND WORSHIP TEAM

August 9, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

The Music and Worship Team invites you to mark your calendar for Sunday evening, August 9, 2015. There will be an evening of music outdoors (weather permitting) featuring our Praise Team, Danielle Cressinger (a friend of Pastor Matt), and others. Plan to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on for this evening.



Church of the Brethren Night at the Harrisburg Senators

August 22, 6 p.m.

Join the Atlantic Northeast District & the Southern Pennsylvania District churches at a Harrisburg Senators game for a night of fun and Fellowship! A portion of each ticket sale will benefit your church's respective district!

- First 1000 Fans receive a Steven Souza Jr. bobblehead
- Kids run the bases after the game

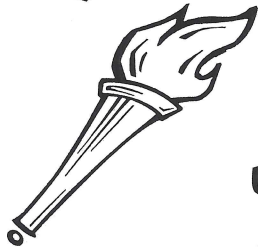
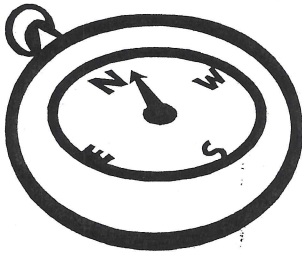
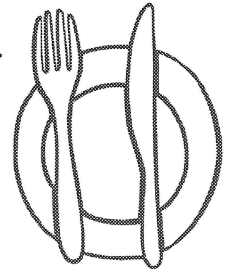
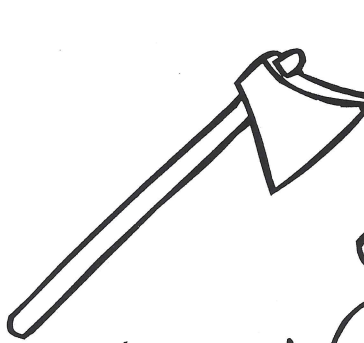
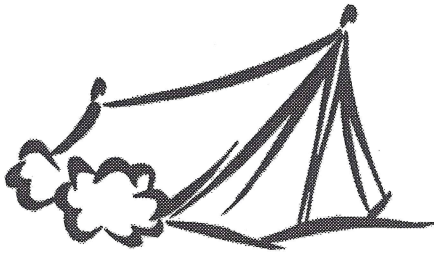
Contact Jess Kauffman with the Senators at 717-231-4444 ext. 114 or jkauffman@senatorsbaseball.com with questions or to get church-specific promotional materials.



K I D S K L I P S

Camping

Here are some things that might be found in a camp. Draw a circle around things that might have been in a camp in Bible times.



Memory Game

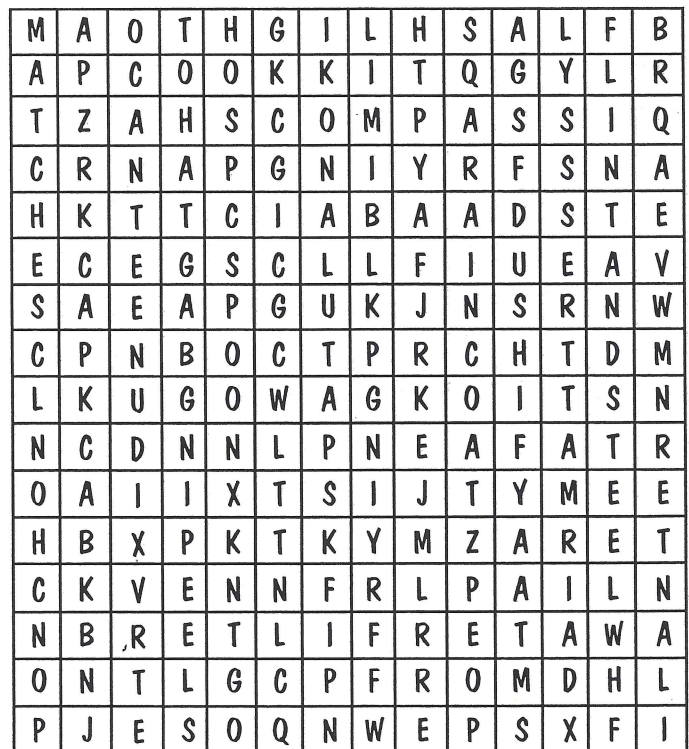
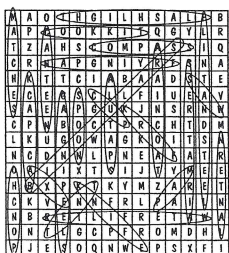
Look at the page for one minute. Turn the page over and see how many items you can name.

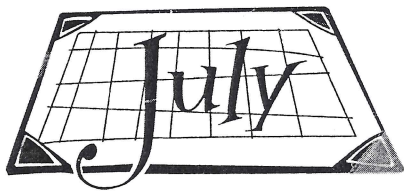
Word Search

There are many references to camps in the Bible. Do you think that camping in the time of the Old and New Testaments was like camping today? How was it the same? Here are some items you might use for camping. Find them in the word search.

air mattress
axe
backpack
binoculars
canteen
compass
cook kit
cup
flash light
flint and
steel
fork

frying pan
knife
lantern
map
matches
poncho
rain coat
saw
sleeping bag
spatula
spoon
water filter



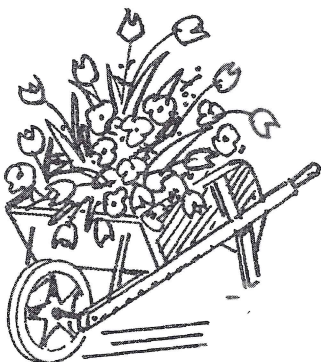


2015 COMING EVENTS



- 2, 7pm FH, 50 Plus meets
- 6-7 pm Café Bible Study
- 4, Independence Day
- 5, 8:15am, Annual Conference Delegate Consecration
- 6pm O, Scout Leader Meeting
- 7pm Café, Christian Poetry Fellowship
- 6, NO Women's Business Meeting
- 7, NO Leadership Team Meeting
- 9, 6-7pm Café Bible Study
- 11-15, Annual Conference, Tampa Bay, FL
- 12, Guest Speaker— Sara Kolbe
- Food Pantry Collection
- Mission Emphasis Sunday
- 13, 8:30am-5:30pm, 50 Plus Bus Trip
- 14, 12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meets
- 6:30-7:30pm O, Den Meeting
- 16, 6-7pm Café "Feeding Trough" Bible Study
- 17, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry
- 18, 8-4pm, PAV, Fundraiser Pig Roast 12 to 3pm
- 6-8pm Parsonage, Young Family Fellowship
- 19, VBS Kick-off Sunday
- Jr. High Pool Party at Straws
- 20-24, 8:30-11am, Vacation Bible School
- 21, 7pm Ministry Team Meetings
- 22, Audio/Projection Training
- 23, 6-7pm Café Bible Study
- 24, 6pm Bible School Picnic and Program
- 24-25, LVBH Chicken BBQ & Auction
- 26, 8:15 & 10:30am S, Communion
- Newsletter Deadline
- 28, 12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meets
- 6:30-7:30pm O, Den Meeting
- Ministry Team Minutes Due
- 30, 6-7pm, Café Bible Study

- 1, PAV Res. W. Lingle
- 2, PAV Res. J. Ebling
- 6pm Scout Leader Meeting
- 7pm Café, Christian Poetry Fellowship
- 3, 7pm LAR, Women's Business Meeting
- 4, 7pm Leadership Team Meeting
- 6, 6pm Café, "Feeding Trough" Bible Study
- 8, PAV Res. J&D. High
- 9, PAV Res. T. Edris?
- Food Pantry Collection
- Mission Emphasis Sunday
- 11:45am Spiritual Nurture Meeting
- 6:30 pm, Night of Music
- 10, 7:30pm FH, Every Member Council Meeting
- 11, 12:30pm FH, 50 Plus Meeting
- 6:30pm Den Meeting
- 12, 7pm Christian Education Meeting
- 13, 6pm Café, "Feeding Trough" Bible Study
- 14, 8am Andulhea Bus Trip from parking lot
- 15, 6-8pm Parsonage, Young Family Fellowship
- 16, Anointing both services
- PAV Res. J. Eberly
- 16-18, District Women's Camp, Camp Swatara
- 18, 7pm Ministry Team Meetings
- 20, 6pm Café, "Feeding Trough" Bible Study
- 21, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry
- 22, PAV Res. M. Christ
- 5pm Council of Churches Country Fair, Rehrersburg
- 6 pm, Senators Baseball Game, Harrisburg
- 23, PAV Res. Ray Keeney
- Newsletter Deadline
- 25, 12:30pm FH 50 Plus Meets
- 6:30pm Den Meeting
- 26, Preschool "Meet the Teacher" Night
- 27, 6pm Café, "Feeding Trough" Bible Study
- 28, 9:15am 50 Plus Bus Trip
- 31, 1st Day of Preschool

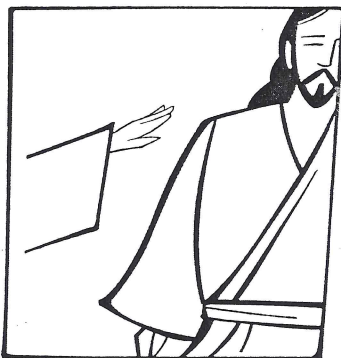


VOLLEY BALL
EACH MONDAY AND THURSDAY
7:00 p.m.





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



DO NOT FEAR, ONLY BELIEVE.

JULY 2015

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

A renowned defense attorney once said, "Whenever I become utterly discouraged in my work, ready to call it quits and throw in the towel, I take out my old, battered copy of Clarence Darrow's autobiography, *The Story of my Life*. I read it first as a boy in high school. It was the book that made me want to be a lawyer, to spend my life defending the lives of others. By reading it, I'm reminded of my beginning.

When we think of our baptism, we are reminded of the redemption that God has offered us through Jesus Christ. The redeeming stream began with God in creation, flowed again at the baptism of our Lord, and it flowed for us, individually, from our own baptism.

-*"Newsletter"* Newsletter

*My
Baptism
Day*

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

-Marcel Proust