

Newsletter

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

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

"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.

Matthew S. Christ, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Volume LI

July, 2017

Number 7

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Jesus didn't have a big screen. Or a praise team. Or study guides. Or even an app. He never posted on Facebook, put a hashtag "#Jesuslovesyou" on Instagram, or tweeted; "This whole Son of God, Son of Man gig is getting old fast." He never sent an email, or a text. He never used a cell phone, an Ipad, a laptop, desktop, or a touchscreen Ipad.

Jesus didn't worry His sermon length or parking capacity or what kind of coffee is served in the lobby. There were no brands or websites. Honestly, as we look to our future at Little Swatara, what has air conditioning got to do with our mission to share Jesus? There's no A/C in the Bible. Wouldn't God be better served if the money we used to cool our buildings were instead given to the poor?

Travel with me to a church we'll call St. Joseph's church in Phoenix, AZ. That congregation could save about \$4000 a year by skipping the A/C. Simply turn it off. No one would ever notice IN JANUARY. Then come summer, the temperatures rise, and in their case, the attendance falls.

I know this topic has many unsettled questions. Why do we even need it for 3 months out of the year. Some of you may stop reading now. Please know my heart, my intent is not to step on any ones toes. My heart is for the people of this congregation but even more as Jesus commands, my heart is for my neighbor. I want us to do everything we can to love our neighbors well. And we know Jesus includes everyone as our neighbor. Love is at the core of who we are.

This brings me to the real matter of the heart. When it comes to serving Jesus, practical things matter. Not anywhere near as much as spiritual things, but nonetheless they matter. Go back to St. Joe's with me. It August, and it's 111 degrees outside, and almost that hot inside. There's a few folks complaining, attendance has dropped, but nothing has changed from a spiritual perspective. The Word is still being preached. The praise band still plays (except for Louie the drummer who was taken to the hospital for heat exhaustion.) When attendance goes down, we know giving goes down. But the drop has nothing to do with Jesus. But please hear this. Our faith has always been a mixture of the spiritual and the practical. We see this in Christ—both man and God. He was God's son—but he also had human needs. He got sleepy. Hungry. He stubbed His toe. He used the restroom.

Air conditioning, chairs, buildings, and electricity are only practical tools that allow the body of Christ to gather in comfort. Big screens, videos, Facebook, emails, cell phones, allow us to reach and teach more effectively. Just because these things aren't mentioned in scripture doesn't mean we're doing it all wrong. We don't wrestle against the material world—we use it for the best of our advantage to reach the lost without compromising the Gospel message. No doubt, the spiritual will always trump the practical. So here's my heart on the matter. When we fail to get the practical things right, spiritual things suffer. So I challenge our hearts to move toward a few practical ways to reach the lost. Regardless what we do, we honor Christ. We rely on Him for the spiritual direction. I love you all so very much.

Pastor Matt ☺

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

Deborah Yordy, on the death of her sister, Jean Marderness, who lived in David, Panama, and died May 17, 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MARRIAGE OF:

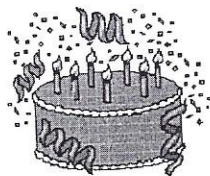
-Kaitlyn Boehmer and Richard Walker, Jr., who were married May 13, 2017.
-Alexis Yenser and Andrew Wise, married June 24, 2017. Parents: -Michelle, Richard Yenser; -Jamie, John Wise. Grandparents: -Joann, Eugene Yenser; -Jean, Joe Eberly. -Great-grandmother, Esther Yenser.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

*Lindsay Rhodes *Andrew Risser *Emma Stupp *Derek Yenser *Jonathan (JR) Yenser

CONGRATULATIONS TO 7TH GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVING BIBLES June 11, 2017

*Naomi Brown *Anni Landis *Kylie Long *Graham Platchek *Cooper Schwalm

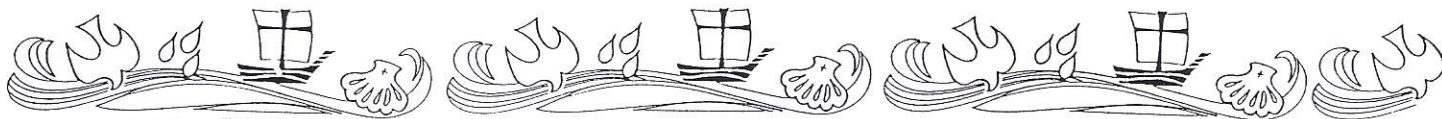


Member Birthdays for July:

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
Karen Mason	7
Mary Ann Fake	8
Ryan Snyder	8
Christine DeMille	9
Kenneth A. Bashore	14

Kenneth Snyder	14
Ethan Stupp	14
Beatrice Frantz	15
Mary (Forry) March	16
Ken Coots	17
Susan Hartranft	17
Rhoda Wentling	17
Mary Bashore (Gary)	18
Chad Henning	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. . . .



- "People are fun - Food is good - Price is right"

FROM THE Newsletter EDITOR...

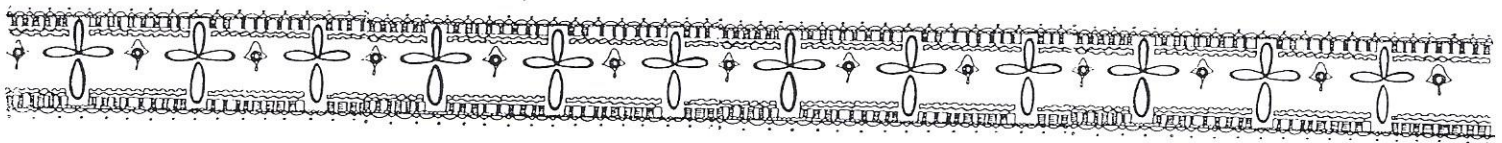
The first Little Swatara Church of the Brethren Newsletter published from our congregation was in June 1966 (51 years ago!). Reuben Ziegler was the first Editor (I did the typing). Next, Harry Ebling edited the Newsletter, (I did the typing). Gerald Seiler was then editor. After Jerry resigned, I became the editor (I did the typing, since).

Gathering articles, and also items from the Pastors, and Congregation, placing in the Newsletter in an attractive way, was an enjoyable experience for me through the years. It has been a long journey, but now I feel it's time to turn over the job to someone else. My time as editor will end June 30, 2017. Ashly Landis will assume the job as editor, July 1, 2017, and wish her well as she begins this process.

*Thank
You*

I am eternally grateful to all for assisting me, through the years, in giving the Monthly Newsletter to you.

Sincerely Yours, Kathryn Ziegler



COMMUNION July 23, 2017

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

A communion Service will be offered on Sunday, July 23, 2017, at both the 8:15 and 10:30 am

services. This sacrament is to remind all of the privilege we have to be in accord of our teaching of Jesus. All attendees are invited to take part of the communion, even if you are not a member of the Little Swatara Church of the Brethren.

Come, take part in the Communion Service!



MUSIC ON THE HILL

Little Swatara's very own Praise Team and The Faithful Men will be providing "Music on the Hill", Sunday, July 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and tons of energy. There will be popcorn and drink provided.



A Love Offering will be taken to benefit Heifer International. We look forward to a phenomenal evening of music. In the event of rain, music will be moved indoors.

CHICKEN BBQ AND AUCTION

July 21 and 22, 2017

Londonderry Village

(Lebanon Valley Brethren Home,
Palmyra)

WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, July 21:

Food and Bake Sale – 5:00 pm.

Auction Preview- 5:00 pm.

New Holland Band – 7:00 pm.

(Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the concert)



Saturday, July 22:

Breakfast – 7:00 am.

Live Auction – 9:00 am.

Car and Tractor Show – 9:00 am.

Kauffman's Chicken BBQ – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Celebration and Ice Cream Social – 1:30 pm.

(Proceeds benefit the Good Samaritan Fund at the Home)

Please Put on your Calendar – Church Disaster Services will plan a Training Program at Little Swatara Church of the Brethren, November 17-18, 2017.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July – 10-14, 2017

Kids, get ready to learn more about your role as a hero of God! Grownups, consider helping out with VBS 2017 where the kids will learn more about their strength in God. Families, mark your calendars!



Vacation Bible School 2017

July 10-14 from 8:30am-11:00am

For more information, call 717-933-4723.

Register online in advance at

<http://www.myvbs.org/littleswataracob/>

or bring a completed registration form

the first day your child attends

(forms available in the narthex).

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

I would like to help out with VBS!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return bottom portion to Mailbox 102.

We know you'll have a "SUPER" time!

VBS MISSION PROJECT 2017

COBYS has been chosen as our Mission Project recipient for the 2017 VBS. We are planning to purchase items for their Permanency Unit, which is where birth parents can spend supervised time with their children. These items include 4 bean bag chairs, a small inside slide, and four chalk boards.

Additionally, we plan to donate items for their Family Life Education to help support children and families served by COBYS education programs. These items include stickers, scrapbook paper, gel pens, small dinosaurs, silly putty, pencils and memo pads.

Also gift items for teenage girls, such as, tote bags, wallets, nail polish and scarves. Please prayerfully consider the children in the foster system when you tithe for VBS! **Thank You**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

DID YOU KNOW...There are individuals in the church who can help meet your needs? There is help available to any congregants who are in need of assistance with daily tasks (yard care, transportation, etc.). Please reach out by calling the church office or by talking to a deacon.

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The church is in need of a Nursery Coordinator. Tasks include arranging the schedule for nursery care of children under 2 years of age and welcoming new infants born into the congregation. Please contact Wendy Lingle for more information.

WIDOWS LUNCH - July 11, 2017
11:30 a.m.

COUNTRY FARE RESTAURANT

All widows are invited to attend.

Join us for lunch and fellowship.

Call: 610-678-5247 for Reservations

Lunch.
Feed your curiosity

ALL IS NOT LOST

-by Ralph Wanner

When it happens a loved one's last breath they breathe
'Tis with much grief and sadness tend we to bereave.
When to contemplate that come on the morrow
Never to see their face nor hear their voice no more.
Leave we who remain with much pain, heartache and sorrow
And as of their good qualities and kind deeds we reminisce.
Consider we also their unique personality traits we will miss.

Al'th'o o'er death's threshold must we all eventually pass
Believers ought keep in mind all is not lost at last.
Because God sent His son on the cross our sins to bear
Wherefore those led by His spirit need not they despair.

He ascended to Heaven and a place for the faithful prepares
That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish
But the promise of eternal life will be theirs.

Now there are these words whereby some solace may be gained
Helping soften for the mourner's death's anguish and pain.
Where the Psalmist a more hopeful, brighter picture paints,
Where he declares that precious in the sight of the Lord
Is that of the death of His Saints.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

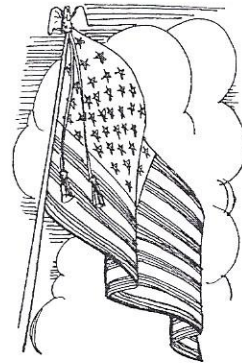
July 18, 2017

A Twin Kiss Fundraiser for the Youth Group will be held Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 4-9:30 pm. at Raub's Twin Kiss in Myerstown. You must bring a form along with you in order for the youth to receive a profit from your purchase. Forms can be found in the Narthex or you can get a form from a Youth or Youth Advisor. Youth will be serving and cleaning tables that night. Please come out to support our trip to National Youth Conference next summer.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Londonderry Village (Lebanon Valley Brethren Home) will hold their Chicken Bar-B-Q and Auction, July 21 and 22. Please contact Linda Bowman for details and if you are willing to bake Snickerdoodle cookies.

Our next Women's Fellowship Meeting will be Monday, August 7, 2017, at 7:00 pm.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP

July 2-8, 2017

The Youth, and Advisors, will travel to Columbia, South Carolina, July 2 - 8, 2017, to help people restore their houses from flooding, and whatever else may be done for those who lost their living quarters during a storm in 2016. Nine Youth and 6 Adults will take part in this project.

CAMP SWATARA

-Camp Swatara is in need of a Camp Nurse/Health Provider for the weeks of July 9-14 and July 30-August 4. Needs to be an RN or licensed physician. Interested LPN's or EMTs considered, too. Primary responsibilities include distributing medications and administering First Aid. Contact Adam Stern at program@campswatara.org for more information.

-Golf FORE Camp Swatara on Wednesday, July 12 at Blue Mountain Golf Course. Golf registration is \$75 per person. Hole (\$125) and Tournament (\$250). Sponsors are needed. Registration and sponsorship information available by contacting the Camp office 717-933-8510 or info@campswatara.org or online.

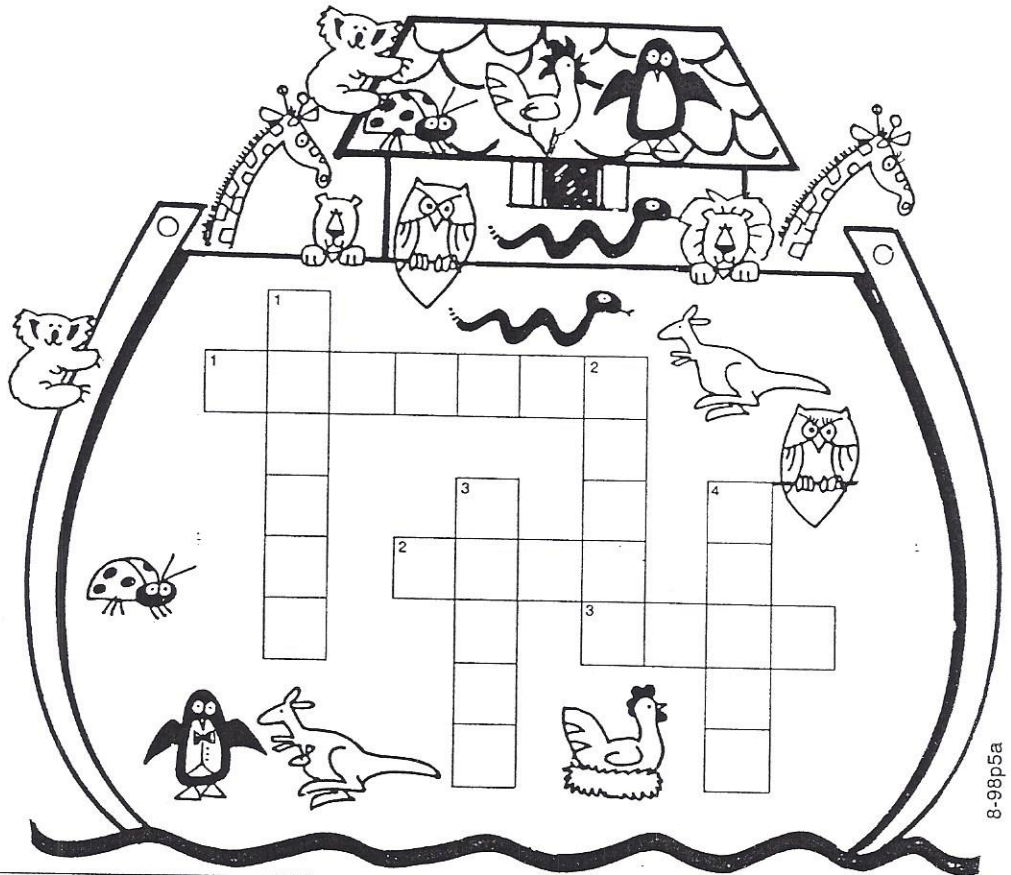
Noah's Ark Crossword Puzzle

Across

- As a sign of his promise, God put a _____ in the sky.
- Noah sent a _____ from the ark to search for land.
- Water falling from the sky.

Down

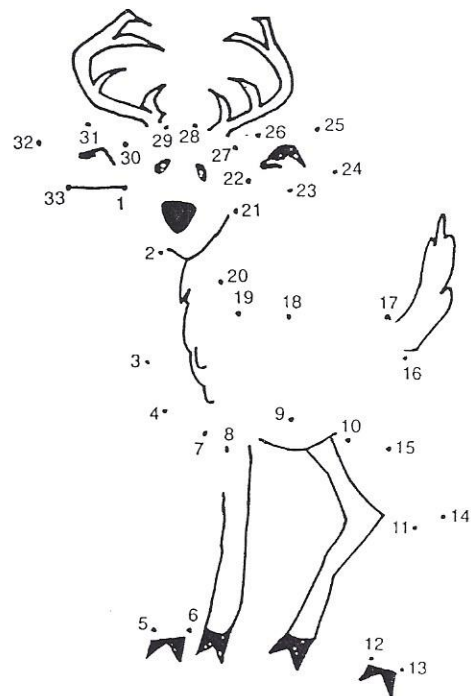
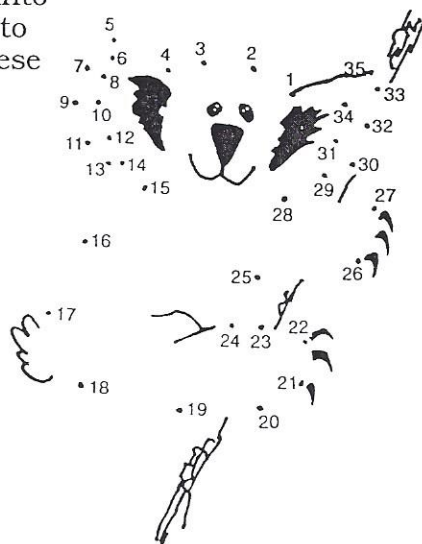
- God saved Noah and all his _____.
- During the flood, _____ covered the land.
- It rained for _____ days and nights.
- The dove returned to the ark with an _____ branch.




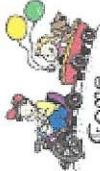




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The Tiny Mustard Seed

Noah took many animals into the ark. Connect the dots to find out which animals these are. Color them and draw their mates.



JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Newsletter Deadline Pav Res-Sam Forry Praise Team 8:15am	26	27 Ministry Team Minutes Due 6:30 PM Den Meeting	28 ANNUAL CONFERENCE 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	29 ANNUAL CONFERENCE 8:00 AM Quilting 5:00 PM TOPS Mtg	30 ANNUAL CONFERENCE	1 ANNUAL CONFERENCE 12:00 PM PAV Res/W/Lingle
2 ANNUAL CONFERENCE Sunday Disaster Relief Trip-YOUTH 8:15 AM Hymn Sing/10:30 Telecast 5:30 PM Scout Den Meeting 6:00 PM Christian Poetry Fellowship	3 Disaster Relief Trip-YOUTH	4 Disaster Relief Trip-YOUTH 7:00 PM LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	5 Disaster Relief Trip-YOUTH 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	6 Disaster Relief Trip-YOUTH 8:00 AM Quilting 5:00 PM TOPS Mtg 7:00 PM 50 Plus Program	7 Disaster Relief Trip-YOUTH 6:00 PM S Res. Rehearsal/A. Bohn	8 Disaster Relief Trip-YOUTH 3:00 PM S Res. BOHN WEDDING
9 Food Pantry Collection VBS decorating Day 10:30 AM Praise Team 11:00 AM Pav Res/J Luckenbill	10  Come to Bible School! 8:30-11AM VBS	11  Come to Bible School! 8:30-11AM VBS 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare 6:30 PM Den Meeting	12  Come to Bible School! 8:30-11AM VBS 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	13  Come to Bible School! 8:30-11AM VBS 8:00 AM Quilting 5:00 PM TOPS Mtg	14  Come to Bible School! 8:30-11AM VBS 8:15 AM 50 Plus Bus Trip/6pm Return 6:00 PM FHall VBS Picnic/Program	15 12:00 PM PAV Res/Bashore Reunion 6:00 PM Young Family Fellowship
16 7:00 PM S Res/MUSIC ON THE HILL	17	18	19 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	20 8:00 AM Quilting 5:00 PM TOPS Mtg	21  2:00 PM Bethel FP 5:00 PM Londonderry Village Chicken BBQ & Auction	22 7:00 AM Men's Ministry Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Londonderry Village Chicken BBQ & Auction
23 Bread & Cup Communion Services Newsletter Deadline Praise Team 8:15am	24	25 6:30 PM Den Meeting	26 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice	27 8:00 AM Quilting 5:00 PM TOPS Mtg	28	29
30 WLBR Broadcast Sunday						



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JULY 2017

IS YOUR LIGHT GROWING DIM?

Albert Schweitzer, the gifted physician, scientist, musician, and missionary, said that at times our own light seems to go out. Sometimes we feel rather dim or washed out. Know the experience?

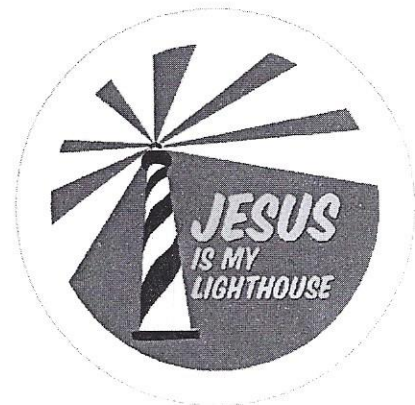
Schweitzer suggested that our light can be rekindled by another person whose light is still strong and whose presence can increase the power of our own light.

Our light can be increased as we live in relationship with the "light of the world."

In John 8:12, Jesus says: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness" (NRSV). In Jesus' light, we find that the light in our own life is increased.

St. Paul told how Christ's light should affect us: "In the Lord you are light. Live as children of light..." (Ephesians 5:8, NRSV).

- The NEWSLETTER.com



"If through one man's life there is a little more love and kindness, a little more light and truth in the world, then he will not have lived in vain."

-Father Alfred Delp