



Church's Office Phone (717)933-4723 Church's Office Fax (717) 933-9223 www.LittleSwatara.org

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Where The Spirit Is

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV

There's just something about freedom. The independence, the liberty, the ability to act, speak or think as one wants; so defined by the world. But freedom in Christ came with a cost. To be free there had to be a payment or a cost incurred for the price of our freedom. That cost is the life of Christ. Now the verse identifies Christ as the Spirit and we are very much aware the freedom the Spirit gives us in power to live more alive in Christ. It's the transformative power to be more and more in his image. Yet the freedom we tend to look for is more aligned with personal choice and though God's will is pleasing, we consider our will more important. When our will doesn't align with God's will, we need to see the hindrance in freedom. You see, freedom comes by living into God's will. In our mind that may seem restrictive but there's never been more freedom than living in Christ. It just makes sense. Our choices lead us more often than not to bondage in sin. That's not freedom at all. Freedom in Christ is by far the way we would want to carry out this life. As summer continues, know the Spirit is within you as you trust and believe upon Christ. In sharing the Spirit of the Lord, there is freedom.

Blessings :-)

Pastor Matt Christ



Andrew M. Wise	2	Nolan Keeney	5	John D. Kauffman	20
Sharon Dosch	2	James J. Frantz	6	Brendan Lee Line	21
Scott Bohn	4	Karen Mason	7	Lacey Scholl	22
Eric Douglas Adams	5	Mary Ann Fake	8	Diane Duell	22
R. Joanne Bashore	5	Ryan S. Snyder	8	Katrina Dvorznak	24
Brenda L. Brubaker	5	Christine K DeMille	9	Jill M. Thomas	24
Jayden Manbeck	5	Gabby Krick	13	Jamie Wise	24
Vera Gross	5	Kenneth A. Bashore	14	Stanley Hershey	26
		Ethan E. Stupp	14	Glenn Riegel	27
		Beatrice Frantz	15	Ronald Blatt	28
		Mary E. March	16	Ralph Wanner	28
		Susan Hartranft	17	Daniel DeMille	29
		Rhoda Wentling	17	Amy Fake	29
		Mary Bashore (Gary)	18	Jacob Koch	29
		Chad Henning	18	Karen Weinhold	29
		Marion Haas	20	Ronald Hershey	30

Our Sincere Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for Steven and Kara Henning on the loss of Steven's father, Gerald Henning, who passed away on Thursday, June 5th., 2025

2025 Organization Officers

Moderator - John Wise
 Asst. Moderator - Todd Rebman
 Church Clerk - Dianne High
 Treasurer - Dianne Younker
 Financial Secretary - Jean Myers

2025 Committee Chairs

Stewardship & Property - Jamie Wise
 Christian Education - Abigail Christ
 Missions & Evangelism - Sharon Dosch
 Spiritual Nurture Ministry - Gary Bashore
 Music and Worship - Allen Rebman

NEW HOURS

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Tue. & Thurs. 9:00 am - 12:00pm

Wed. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2-6** Annual Conference
- 3** 7:00 PM 50+ Club mtg / FH
- 4** Independence Day
- 8** Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
- 13** Food Pantry Collection
- 14-18** Vacation Bible School 8:30 - 11:30AM
- 16** Newsletter Deadline
- 17** 9:30 AM packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salen Evang. Lutheran Church
- 18** 8:00 am Feed Them / kitchen
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
- 19** 7 am Bashore Reunion / pav.
- 20** Church Potluck Sunday
- 23** Ministry Team Minutes Due
- 26** 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast / café
- 27** Bread & Cup Communion
8:00 am J. Hartman / pav

Information Updates from Little Swatara



Considering becoming a part of the Little Swatara congregation and not sure where to start? See Pastor Matt, text or call him, stop by his office. He'd love to share how you can do

this in the coming months.

Reminder:

Exercise classes will be on summer break during July and August



Summer Worship

Sundays in July & August are for sunshine, fellowship, and worship! Whether you're here every week or dropping in between vacations, we'd love to see you.

8:30 AM – "Off the Hook" service / FH
10:30 AM – traditional service / sanctuary

Opportunity may knock once,
but temptation leans on the bell.



The Gathering Place Cafe

is in need of volunteers. Contact Patty Timmins if you can help with this important ministry of Little Swatara to the community of Bethel.

Help Needed

The Audio/Video Committee is looking for volunteers

Audio, projection, live streaming, lighting
No experience necessary, we will train!
See Todd Rebman if interested in helping



August 5 - National Night Out

Mt. Aetna Fire Company grounds
5:00-8:00 PM

August 23 - Country Fair

Mt. Aetna Fire Company grounds
5:00-8:00 PM



The next Crafting Session is scheduled for Thursday, July 10th & 24th @12 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be working on items for the Christmas Bazaar

Answer C (See Luke 16:19-31.)



July Mission of the Month

The July Mission of the Month will support the Vacation Bible School Offering Project.

Thank You !

Thank you to all who participated in May's Mission of the Month. We received \$1,605.00 for the Feed Them Program.

~ Missions & Evangelism Committee

"Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear."

—Catherine of Siena



Donations Needed for VBS

VBS needs your help with some "props" for the week of Vacation Bible School. All items will be returned.

- * Little Tike buggies with or without gas pumps
- * black landscape fabric
- * dog stuffed animals

All items are needed by July 6th. Please contact Melissa Emerich with any questions at 717-269-1669



The next Widows luncheon will be

**Tuesday, July 8th
11:30 a.m.**

The Country Fare
Restaurant



Women's Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Tractor, Truck, Car and Motorcycle Show. The weather wasn't the best, so there were only a few tractors, no trucks, antique cars or motorcycles.....but there was a lot of good food and a lot of great fellowship. A great day despite the lack of sunshine!

Our next Women's Fellowship Meeting will be Tuesday, August 19th, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. (no meeting in July)

Upcoming events:

COBYS Bike & Hike: September 7, 2025.

Brethren Disaster Relief Auction: September 26 and 27, 2025.

Annual Christmas Bazaar: November 1, 2025 from 8:00 - 1:00

Women's Christmas Brunch: November 15, 2025 from 9:00 - 11:30 at the Cottage at Country Fare.

"Little faith will bring your soul to heaven,
but great faith will bring heaven to
your soul."

—Charles Spurgeon

Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library

Tuesday, July 8th at 6:00 pm

"A Minecraft Movie"

Rated PG

All movies will have free freshly made popcorn and lemonade. Please sign-up by calling or texting 717-933-4060



Christian Ed Opportunities

Please consider serving the following ministries of Little Swatara Church of the Brethren.

- Nursery Childcare provider in nursery
- Preschool Sunday School Helper
- Extended Session
- VBS Committee Member
- Youth Advisor
- Adult Sunday School Teacher

All volunteers with children and youth must complete an application. Complete the required clearances, and submit a signed acknowledgement to Abby Christ, Sue Hartranft, Melissa Emerich, Sara Bryant, or Deb Wengert, if you are willing to fill one of our needs!

"A society will be judged on how it treats those in the dawn of life, those in the twilight of life and those in the shadow of life."

~Hubert Humphrey

Did you Know?

The offering collected during Sunday School helps Christian Ed with



Vacation Bible School expenses, the Lenten and Advent devotionals, Bible presentations, the Easter Festival, Children's Day entertainment, the Christmas Children's Outreach among many other things. Please consider the benefits to these ministries when considering your Sunday School offering.



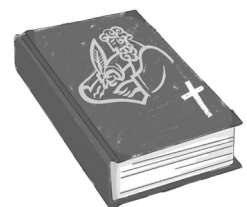
Camp Swatara Labor Day Auction

Camp Swatara needs your help with the Annual Family Camp Auction! We want to make this auction the best yet! We are looking for individuals, SS classes, family groups, etc., who would be willing to donate something. Theme gift baskets are always a winner! Do you have a talent for painting, pottery, sewing, woodworking, etc.? Birdhouses and bird feeders are popular! We need items for the Children's Auction, too! Do you have a service you could share? Think outside the box! Remember 100% of donations from the auction benefit Family Camp at Camp Swatara. There are no administration costs, it is organized and run by volunteers. We will be glad to pick up your donation, just give us a call to make arrangements. Date of the auction is Saturday, August 30, 2025 at 9:00 am in the East Lodge at Camp Swatara. Children's auction is Friday, August 29, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Bible Quiz

In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



Answer on page 3



Lunch N Learn @ Londonderry Village

July 16 - "EXPAND YOUR GENEROSITY WHILE PROTECTING YOUR INCOME"

Join Elyse as she shares creative ways to give generously while protecting your income. In this session, you'll explore tools like qualified charitable distributions, donor advised funds, charitable gift annuities, and bequests. Learn about the tax benefits of planned giving and how giving through your IRA can work for you—all explained in Elyse's fun, easy-to-understand style!

RSVP and/or Order your Lunch: <https://bit.ly/3VvcAK4>

August 14 - "JUBILEE MINISTRIES & THEIR AFTERCARE PROGRAM"

Join Matt Hershey through an exploration of the spiritual significance of Jubilee Ministries' logo, explaining how its meaning is rooted in Scripture. Matt will also discuss Jubilee's chaplaincy work in prisons and the aftercare programs that support individuals and families as they transition back into society.

RSVP and/or Order Lunch Here: <https://bit.ly/3ZrsUgf>

"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock.
If you want to touch the present, touch a flower.
If you want to touch the future,
touch a life."

—Author unknown



Date and time: Fri, Aug 15, 2025, 4:00 PM - Sat, Aug 16, 2025, 4:00 PM

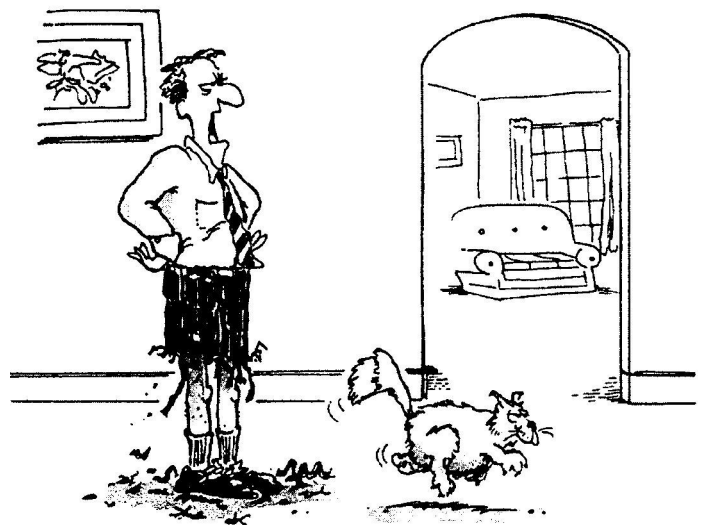
Location: Camp Swatara, 2905 Camp Swatara Rd, Bethel, PA 19507

Speaker: Ann Bach
"Fill My Cup, O Lord"

Organizer: Kelly Bernstein, (717) 367-4730,
kbernstein@ane-cob.org

Registration: closes August 1st

All women are welcome to join in this weekend of worship, Bible study, singing, hiking, crafts, canoeing, swimming and more!



"Doris, would this have anything to do with your wanting me to wear shorts to the church picnic like everyone else?"



If you build it, they will come.....

As a tribute to the lives of Carl and Faye Balsbaugh, I donated the initial money to purchase the new playground. Many other congregation members were part of this purchase as well. Special thanks to Todd Rebman for the research on the playground, and the installation crew that completed this new area.

The idea came from Pastor Matt after I asked him about ideas LSCOB was considering last year. A playground for ages 3-5 was on that list discussed by leadership.

The playground is a perfect visual for use by our preschool and community children. My parents were always proponents of fun and activity. As kids we spent time skating, camping, and many events with their Sunday School class. My parents served as deacons, so I spent lots of time doing projects or setting up for church fellowship. Such a wonderful faith foundation! Grateful for that!

As the playground builds young bodies may we all work to bring others to learn the love of Christ. I am sure my parents would be delighted to know their legacy and spirit lives on here at Little Swatara.

May the peace and love of Christ dwell in you richly,

~ Ann (Balsbaugh) Gruber



Camp Swatara News

MOVIE NIGHT IN THE CAMPGROUND SATURDAY, JULY 12 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

Join us at Camp Swatara for movie nights in the Campground with movies under the stars (weather permitting). All you need to bring is something to sit on. Check online for a listing of upcoming movies at www.campswatara.org



MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENT SATURDAY, JULY 5 9AM-11 AM

Join us for a friendly competition & fun prizes! Free to play and all ages and abilities are welcome.

Reflections

by Richard E. Frantz

Does anyone else think about the amount of history being lost? It's only natural that not everything would survive. But it is sad to lose so many anecdotal, incidental stories that made our church a vibrant and caring congregation.

We are transitioning to a modern age beyond the age we were just several years ago. Let's work to preserve what you remember from your lifetime. As a starting point, consider any of these ideas.

The names of church workers such as- Keeney, Snyder, Brown, Myer, Bechtold, Bashore, etc. these could include incidents we seldom mention

Annual Sunday School picnic at Camp Swatara on a Saturday evening like we used to have.

Youth program

Projects done in the past, but no more.

Youth Bell Choir

Disaster Relief projects

Here is an example of an instance that occurred in the early 1920s.:

The Little Swatara Church council was approached in 1924 for permission to use the Frystown Meeting House by a large family clan for an annual reunion on a Sunday. You see, the Frantz family had met for their first reunion the year before on the George & Clara Keeney farm, which was located across Old 22 from where Barry Bashore now has his trucking business. There were too many relatives and not enough space. (Incidentally, that farm is no longer there.)

Church Council considered the request and voted to allow the Frantz family to use the church, with this stipulation- they would have to hold a religious service after lunch. The family agreed to fulfill this stipulation. After several years, the clan moved their reunion to the Ziegler Meeting House, again for more room, and continued to follow the stipulation.

Interestingly, the clan continued the worship service to some extent up until this year, 2025.

E-mail me your bits of "history" and I will include them in **Reflections**. Of course, your "bits" won't be from long ago, like my example. Rfrantz35@comcast.net

"Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble; it is a steering wheel that directs us in the right path throughout life."

—Anonymous

DAYS of OLD

August 10, 3pm



"Days of Old" is a band of family and friends from the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren who have been playing traditional bluegrass and gospel music together for more than ten years. They will be joining us for an afternoon evening of fun, music, and a little inspiration.





Kids, join us for a Summer Road Trip On The Go With God

Where: Little Swatara Church of the Brethren
31 Rehrersburg Road, Richland, PA

When: July 14 - July 18, 2025 Mornings 8:30am-11:30am

Who: For children and youth age 3 (children must be potty-trained) to grade 8.

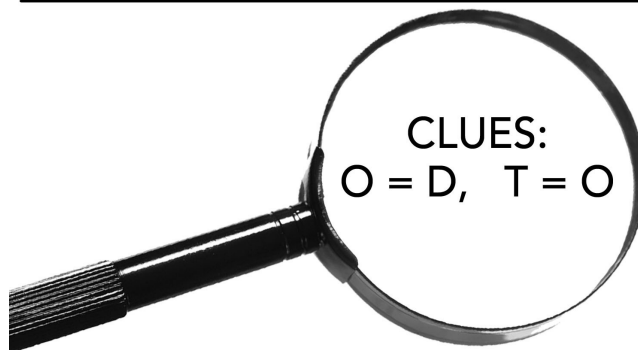
For more information, call 717-933-4723 (church office) or 717-202-9399 (Aimee Ruffner).

Visit www.LittleSwatara.org for the link to register online in advance (preferred) or bring a completed registration form the first day your child attends (forms available in the church narthex).

If interested in **HELPING** with this event please contact us, we can always use extra help for this event.

Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues
to decode Proverbs 27:1, NIV.



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$\frac{\text{O}}{\text{T D}}$
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 $\frac{\text{U}}{\text{B G}}$
 $\frac{\text{E H A F M}}{\text{E H A F M}}$

Proverbs 27:1, NIV

Answer: Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
Proverbs 27:1, NIV

July 2025

29 10AM Church at Camp Swatara Church campout / Camp Swatara Family Camp	30	1	2 Annual Conference - Greensboro, NC	3 Annual Conference - Greensboro, NC 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH	4  Annual Conference - Greensboro, NC	5 Annual Conference - Greensboro, NC
6 Annual Conference - Greensboro, NC Annual Conference Sunday	7	8 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	9	10 8:30am Quilting 12:00pm Craft Group / FH	11	12
13 Food pantry collection	14 	15  v	16  Newsletter Deadline	17  8:30am Quilting 9:30am Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethel	18   National Youth Conference / Estes Park, CO 8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	19 National Youth Conference / Estes Park, CO 7:00am Bashore reunion / pav (W. Lingle)
20 National Youth Conference / Estes Park, CO potlunch Sunday	21 National Youth Conference / Estes Park, CO	22 Ministry Team Minutes Due National Youth Conference / Estes Park, CO	23 National Youth Conference / Estes Park, CO	24 8:30am Quilting 12:00pm Craft Group / FH	25	26 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe
27 Bread & Cup Communion J. Hartman - pavilion (Bob Lingle)	28	29	30	31 8:30am Quilting	1	2 4:00pm 50+ club mtg/ Kauffman Barbeque