



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

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“Why Am I Like This?”

Jesus said in John 13:35 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” These words were spoken shortly before His crucifixion. He was giving them a new command. This would become the brand, the mark of a follower. We are not only recognized by what we say, but by how we treat one another. First and foremost, this is the kind of love that is sacrificial. Jesus knelt to wash his disciples’ feet, serving them. He gave up his life as a perfect sacrifice to forgive them. The question becomes in what ways are we being like Jesus? I am a huge Philadelphia fan, and we get labeled as an aggressive group of fans. I’ve always wondered why are we like that? And the bottom-line points to the passion for their team. What if we had that same type of passion for Jesus that others undeniably know we are Christians. We can call it a radical love. We can call it loving like no other. Whatever we call it, is it evident? Or do we need to step back and ask ourselves, why am I like I am? There’s a lot of stories about our lives that shape us. We could have been a victim of abuse. We could have experienced the loss of our parents at a young age. We could be battling the effects of a long-term illness. And the list goes on and on. While these factors have taken their toll, is it possible they don’t have to be our true identity. Jesus came to set us free from the burdens of life. He asked the man if he wanted to be healed and he had a legitimate reason why he couldn’t be healed. His attempts to get to the pool were always too short. He never quite made it. Jesus wasn’t looking for the reason; he was asking the question. Do you want to be healed? Sometimes we are so formed by our circumstances, that we can’t imagine life without them. They’re simply part of our story. It’s who we are. But is it really? What if we said, Yes Lord, I want to be healed. That would require a change in who we’ve always been. That story we’ve told most of our lives is now replaced by wholeness and freedom from what’s controlled us throughout our lives. My prayer is we would want to be healed, and we would long to accept that change in our lives to be identified as someone completely new. And it’s all because of Christ’s love. And that love goes forth unto others. Who might we love more this month? Where do I need that healing? Lord, we pray you would have your way and we can see past who we’ve always been and discover the new identity in you. The next time someone says why are you like that. May it be because of what Jesus has done in your life. We are so blessed, so loved, so cherished, so full of life. Remember its not by our knowledge, our traditions, or even our abilities, we are known. It’s by the Christlike love we share for one another.

Blessings :-)
Pastor Matt Christ



Andrew M. Wise	2	James J. Frantz	6	Brendan Lee Line	21
Sharon Dosch	2	Karen Mason	7	Lacey Scholl	22
Scott Bohn	4	Mary Ann Fake	8	Diane Duell	22
Eric Douglas Adams	5	Ryan S. Snyder	8	Katrina Dvorznak	24
R. Joanne Bashore	5	Christine K DeMille	9	Jill M. Thomas	24
Brenda L. Brubaker	5	Gabby Krick	13	Jamie Wise	24
Jayden Manbeck	5	Kenneth A. Bashore	14	Stanley Hershey	26
Vera Gross	5	Ethan E. Stupp	14	Glenn Riegel	27
Nolan Keney	5	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
		John D. Kauffman	20		

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Wednesday–Thursday
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

2026 Organization Officers

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

2026 Committee Chairs

Stewardship & Property - Richard Yenser
 Christian Education - Ashley Koch
 Missions & Evangelism - Denise Bohn
 Spiritual Nurture Ministry - Gary Bashore
 Music and Worship - Allen Rebman

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's Newsletter. The deadline for the next edition is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Open to all. Feel free to share Little Swatara Church related events, thoughts, pictures of past events, articles summarizing past and future events, or anything else.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1-2** Annual Conference
- 3** Church Office closed
- 4** Independence Day
- 12** Food Pantry Collection
- 13-17** Vacation Bible School 8:30–11:30AM
- 14** Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
- 15** Newsletter Deadline
- 16** 9:30 AM packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salen Evang. Lutheran Church
- 17** 8:00 am Feed Them / kitchen
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
- 17-19** LSCOB Camp Swatara weekend
- 19** 10:00 AM Church at Camp Sunday
- 25** 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast / café
- 26** Bread & Cup Communion
- 28** Ministry Team Minutes Due

Information Updates from Little Swatara



Become Part of Our Church Family

Membership Classes

Have you considered baptism and becoming a member at Little Swatara? Would you like to transfer your membership or reaffirm your faith? Let's make it happen. Just see Pastor Matt or text or call at 717-675-3946. We'd be so happy and blessed to have you be part of our Faith family through membership classes.

The next Widows luncheon
Tuesday, July 14th
11:30 A.M.

The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA

WIDOWS



LUNCHEON

Reminder:

Exercise classes will be on summer break during July and August



Volunteers Needed to Help Pack "Tulpy Packs" !

Help is needed to pack Tulpy Packs on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM at the Beth-el Elementary School. on the following date:

July 8th, and July 22nd

(Park in front of school along bus lane & enter doors A2)



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

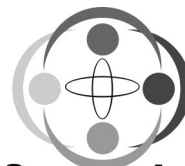


Let's celebrate Vera Gross's 100th birthday!

Sunday July 5th, 2026.

Drop-in between 3–6 PM

at 265 Deep Run Road, Myerstown, PA 17067
All the fixings for a "Make Your Own Taco" will be provided. Bring your lawn chair. Please no gifts. Donations may be given to the "Bells Refurbishing Fund" c/o Little Swatara COB



Community EVENTS

August 4 - National Night Out

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

August 22 - Country Fair

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

Answer: (Nehemiah 4:6, ESV) B



July Mission of the Month VBS

The July Mission of the Month will support the Vacation Bible School Offering Project. – Red Creek Wildlife Center.



Sunday at Camp Swatara

Please join the Little Swatara congregation for church on July 19th at Camp Swatara. Little Swatara's church service will be in the Fellowship Hall in the Family Campground starting at 10:00 AM. Signs will guide you in the right direction to the worship service. The church service is open to everyone whether you camp or not. Following the morning church service, join us for a covered dish lunch in the family camp pavilion. The Leadership Team will provide a pulled pork, hot chicken sandwiches, roll and a drink. Plates, napkins and silverware will also be provided. Congregation is asked to please bring a covered dish to share.

After the meal, you are invited to enjoy the day at camp! Hiking, swimming/splash pad, miniature golf, disc golf, fishing and more. All activities are available for you and your family to enjoy! The Family Camp pavilion is handicap accessible with parking in the nearby field. If you need assistance, someone will be available to help you to the pavilion and even park your car for you.

If interested in spending the weekend in Family Camp, please check the Camp Swatara website for available campsites.

When on vacation:

When on vacation, be with us in spirit. The rest of the summer, be with us in person.



Little Swatara Preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2026-27 school year. If you would like more information, please visit our website at: LittleSwatara.org or contact Sara Bryant, Director at: sara.bryant@littleswatara.org

Thank you, Choir



For the beautiful music on Sunday mornings,
For your dedication in attending rehearsals,
For inspiring us to lift our hearts,
minds and voices in singing praises
to our Lord,
Choir, we thank you!



"I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL PRETTY BAD ABOUT SKIPPING CHURCH FOR A PICNIC."



Lunch N' Learn @ Londonderry Village

August 14, 2026 / 12:00 pm / Fellowship Hall in the Snell Community Center on the Londonderry Village Campus / Reservations Required.

Bits & Pieces: Collage Workshop with Olivia Harris

Olivia Harris from Londonderry Village will introduce the background of collage art and share examples of paper collages, fabric collages, and mixed media pieces. You will learn the process behind building a collage, from choosing images to creating a layout, and then make your own paper collage. Guests are welcome to bring clippings, fabric, buttons, or other small items if they would like to explore mixed media. All materials will be provided at no cost.



Date and time: Fri, Aug. 14– Aug. 15, 2026
Location: Camp Swatara, 2905 Camp Swatara Rd, Bethel, PA 19507
Speaker: Marie Monville
Theme: "Our Comeback Stories"
Organizer: Kelly Bernstein, (717) 367-4730, kbernstein@ane-cob.org

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



Thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Tractor, Truck, Car and Motorcycle Show. We appreciate

everyone who brought their vehicles, cooked, baked, and helped in any way to make this a really fun event.

Our next Women's Fellowship Meeting will be Tuesday, August 25th, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. (no meeting in July)

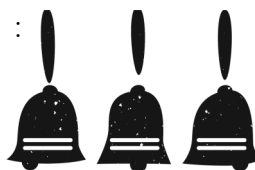
Upcoming events:

COBYS Bike & Hike: September 13, 2026

Brethren Disaster Relief Auction: September 25 and 26, 2026.

Annual Christmas Bazaar: November 7th, 2026 from 8:00 - 1:00

Women's Christmas Brunch: November 21st, 2026 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM in the Cottage at Country Fare.



Have you enjoyed hearing the handbells during worship services? The handbell choir enjoys sharing music with you. The bells are in need of refurbishing as several do not ring properly - it has been a long time since they were professionally cleaned and tuned. In order to complete this project we will need to raise \$8550, this would be for a complete handbell refurbishment. It takes approximately two months for Schulmerich's artisans to complete this task. The work will need to be scheduled. We cannot begin this project until the money has been raised. The choir's hope is that we will be able to schedule this work to be completed in July and have the bells back by September so that we can prepare for the Christmas holiday season. Would you consider donating to this project? Donations can be included in your Sunday morning offering envelope by marking on it "Handbells".



Kids, join us for 2026 VBS Snowball Mountain Challenge

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

When: July 13 - July 17, 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 the church office at 717-933-4723

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.

Hope to see **YOU** here!



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. Item Preview—Friday, Sept. 4th, 6-8 PM. and Saturday, Sept. 5th, 8–9 AM. Children's Auction—Saturday, Sept. 5th, at 9 AM. Regular Auction following Children's Auction.

Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

- 1) eiVn _ _ _ _
- 2) ilLy fo teh elaVly
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 4) estMar _ _ _ _ _ _
- 5) eJuss _ _ _ _ _ _
- 6) okRc _ _ _ _
- 7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 9) voaSir _ _ _ _ _ _
- 10) doLr _ _ _ _ _ _
- 11) ishCrt _ _ _ _ _ _
- 12) ehSprhed _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _ _ _
- 14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _ _ _



What do all these words have in common?

Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son

"Jesus did not come to make God's love possible, but to make God's love visible."
—Author unknown

Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library **Movie Night**

Wednesday, July 8th at 6:00 pm
 "Super Mario Galaxy"
 Rated PG

Monday, July 20th at 6:00 pm
 "G.O.A.T."
 Rated PG

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

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

—Charles Spurgeon

Bible Quiz

About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on.

A well-known verse describes their progress: "So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to _____."

Choose the correct ending:

- A. be protected
- B. work
- C. serve
- D. live



Answer on Page 3

Reflections

by Richard E. Frantz

For some time, I have been picturing an article that discusses the different hymn books our congregation has used for over one hundred plus years. We have a large number of very old hymnals in the historical archives, the majority of which we will gladly give to our members. A second impetus for writing occurred when Todd Rebman and I spoke briefly about the different hymn books in use over the decades. Third, we recently began singing hymns from our new purple hymnal.

For those of you who attended the John Kline Memorial weekend in Broadway, Virginia some years ago, you will remember beginning the Sunday morning worship service in the original singing style. A song leader would sing a phrase or sentence, and the congregation would echo it. It took a long time to finish one song.

Brethren hymn books were published as early as 1879. One was printed in German and called *Leider-Sammlung*. It was published in Lancaster, PA. In 1895 one was published in Mt. Morris, IL, called "*Brethren's English and German Hymn Book*". In 1912 a major change occurred. *The Brethren Hymn Book* was published in English in Elgin, IL by the Brethren Publishing House. This is a sign that more of us were now reading and speaking in English.

Members of the Anabaptists decided they did not want to sing dreary songs of suffering. They wanted to sing songs that uplifted them. Along came hymn books with not only words but now also included the music notes.

John D. Roth, in his book, *Stories, How Mennonites Came To Be*, relates that the youth of Weiherhof, Germany were so excited about these new hymns that they "...were gathering every evening to practice these the new songs". (237) You must remember that there were no radios or TVs back in 1832.

Learning to sing by reading notes was something totally new for the Brethren in our area. My father told me that certain men went from congregation to congregation to teach how to read shaped notes. In the Tulpehocken area of our denomination, Amos and Elias Frantz, as well as Elias' son Irwin, would go every week to help members learn to sing 4-part harmony. In the Lebanon area their cousins John and Elias Brightbill and their brothers did the same thing. Elias Brightbill ultimately earned a doctorate in music and taught at Bethany Seminary.

Here at Little Swatara, we used various hymn books. At the Merkey House we used a hymnal with shaped notes. I doubt that anyone among us has any idea how to read them anymore. If you check the bookshelves on the stage, you will find an old blue one. In the late '50s we began using the new red one. It's now on the stage. Then for years we have enjoyed the "new" blue one. And now several times a month we are singing from the new purple one.



News from Camp Swatara



Movie Night in the Campground

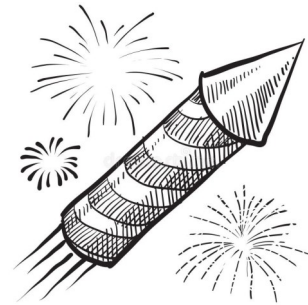
Saturday, July 11th, 2026 to September 12, 2026
8:00 PM

Join us at Camp Swatara for movie nights in the Campground under the Stars (weather permitting) 2nd Saturday from May to September.

4th of July Celebration

July 4, 2026
Fireworks at Sunset

For information: www.campswatara.org



Camp Swatara Car Show

August 15, 2026
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Bring your classic or customized car or just come to see the cool cars!

For more information & registration: www.campswatara.org

They Walked Everywhere

When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, "I'll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk."

A month later, the young man came back. "Son, I'm proud of you," his father said. "Your grades are up, and you've been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn't get your hair cut."

The teenager paused. "Well, Dad, I've been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair."

His father nodded. "That's true. And they walked everywhere they went."

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 annual conference 12:00pm Spiritual Nurture meeting	29 annual conference	30 annual conference	1 annual conference	2 annual conference 8:30am Quilting 5:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH	3 Church office closed	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9 8:30am Quilting	10	11
12 Food Pantry Collection 10:30am VBS dedication	13 VBS/ FH & pav.	14 VBS/ FH & pav. 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	15 Newsletter Deadline VBS/ FH & pav.	16 VBS/ FH & pav. 8:30am Quilting 9:30am Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethel	 LSCOB Camp Swatara weekend VBS / Camp Swatara 8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	18 LSCOB Camp Swatara weekend
19 LSCOB Camp Swatara weekend 10:00am Church service @ Camp Swatara 12:00pm Church Potluck Meal at Camp Swatara	20	21	22	23 8:30am Quilting	24	25 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe
26 Bread & Cup Communion	27 church closed for cleaning	28 church closed for cleaning Ministry Team Minutes Due	29 carpet cleaning upstairs & downstairs	30 carpet cleaning upstairs & downstairs 8:30am Quilting	31 church closed for cleaning	1