



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

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### "What About Us?"

Over these coming weeks, I'm studying alongside former District executive, Craig Smith, who will be walking a group as well as us "through the fields, caves, battles, worship, waiting seasons, failures, victories, and becoming moments of David's life together."

But this journey is not just about David.

Craig tells us.....

"It's about us.

Our calling.

Our growth.

Our wounds.

Our waiting.

Our faith.

Our leadership.

Our becoming."

He shares that "This is more than a study. It's a faith formation journey where Scripture holds hands with real life. And we learn both about David and about us."

As Craig reveals and as do I, "I hope these weeks becomes a place of encouragement, honesty, reflection, growth, grace, and meaningful connection."

Craig's prayer and My prayer is "that this journey helps us notice God more clearly in the fields, caves, waiting rooms, worship moments, and leadership places of life. And, live deeper in our daily walk with the Lord. Notice more. Live deeper.

Let's walk this road together."

Lovingly Yours & Exceedingly His,  
Pastor Matt



Lindsay Hetrick	1	Dennis Bross	8	Daniel Mark Landis	14
Rodney Lebo	2	Ray Keeney	8	Joann Yenser	14
Eric Sholly	2	Connie M. Manbeck	9	Kaitlyn Walker	15
Dale R. Haupt	5	Krystal A. (Lebo) Grecco	10	Cara Rose Snook	18
Jayne K. Seifrit	5	Norman Nolt	10	Tyler K. Snyder	20
Tyler Riegel	6	Arlene Rebman	11	Chelsea Brubaker	22
Earl (Buddy) Seigfried	6	Sheila Raup	12	Christopher J. Duell	23
Norman Wengert, Jr.	7	Scott Sweigart	12	Patricia Stupp	24
		Spencer T. Kelly	13	Roxanne Loump	25
		Glenna Lebo	13	Michael Frantz	27
		Anita L. Hoffa	13	Louise Schwartz	27
		Kelly Stertzel	13	Mae Claman	29
		Michele Decosta	14	Miles D. Weinhold	30

**Thank You**

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and telephone calls during my heart problem. I am still seeing doctors to determine what the real problem is.

~ Joann Ebling

**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.

Email: [secretary@littleswatara.org](mailto:secretary@littleswatara.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 2** 7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting
- 4** 11:00 AM Home School Group / pav.  
6:00 PM 50+ Club meeting / FH
- 7** 10:30 AM Graduate Recognition Sunday
- 9** 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
- 11** 6:00 PM Preschool Board meeting
- 14** 10:30 AM Children's Sunday & 1st Grade Bible Presentation  
Church picnic / pav  
Food pantry collection
- 15** 6:00 PM VBS training & dinner / FH & K  
7:00 PM Music & Worship Team meeting
- 17** Newsletter Deadline
- 18** 9:30 AM Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Luth. Ch., Bethel
- 19** 8:00 AM Feed Them / K  
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry/ Salem Evan. Lutheran Church, Bethel
- 20** 8:00 AM Tractor, Truck, Car & Motorcycle Show @ LSCOB
- 21** Father's Day
- 23** Ministry Team minutes due  
9:30 AM Women's Fellowship mtg / FH
- 27** 7:00 AM Men's prayer breakfast / café
- 5/ 28 - 6/2** Annual Conference

# 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, June 9th**  
**11:30 A.M.**

The Country Fare Restaurant  
Myerstown, PA

**WIDOWS**



**LUNCHEON**

### PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

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

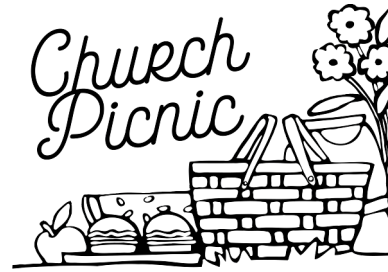


### Volunteers Needed to Help Pack "Tulpy Packs" !

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

June 10th, and June 24th

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



### Sunday, June 14th Children's Day & All Church Picnic

(following the 10:30 AM service)

Congregation members are asked to supply a covered dish to share at the picnic. CE will provide hot dogs & hamburger BBQ, rolls, beverages, condiments, and place settings.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**REVIVAL SERVICE**

**Friday, June 12**  
**6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**  
(gates open at 5:00PM)

Free & Open to the Public  
Rehlersburg Lions Club

Come Experience hope, healing and new life!  
Featuring Jeff Worley of Victory Baptist Church  
Spout Spring, VA  
Speaker on "Preaching the Word"

Powerful Testimonies    Live Music  
Prayer    Prayer  
Baptisms Available  
Free Food

**Answer:** (1 Chronicles 28:3) B

### Men's Fellowship Tool Sale



As a part of the Tractor, Truck, Car and Motorcycle Show on June 20th, the men's fellowship will be running a tool sale. The sale is run like a yard sale. You price your tools and bring them to church either Friday evening or Saturday morning. If the tools sell, you get the money. If the tools don't sell, they get returned to you. Donations from the sale of your tools to the men's fellowship would be appreciated, but is not necessary.

Tools may include mechanics tools, carpentry tools, hardware, lumber, garden tools, etc. We also have sold tractor parts and car parts. Remember, whatever does not sell is returned to you. If you have new or used tools you would like to sell, please contact Gary Bashore at



484-332-0295. Help the day of the sale would also be greatly appreciated!

### Tractor, Truck, Motorcycle and Car Show

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren  
31 Rehrersburg Rd, (Richland, PA 17087)  
1 mi. W of Rehrersburg/1mi. E of Bethel off Rt. 501S  
(GPS- RICHLAND)

**Saturday, June 20, 2026**  
**8am to 1pm**

Vehicle Parade starts at 12:45 pm



Lawn and garden equipment,  
Hit & Miss Engines welcome too!  
(No pre-registration required)



**BREAKFAST, LUNCH &  
BAKED GOODS AVAILABLE**

**FLEA MARKET &  
USED TOOL SALE**



Children & Adult Pedal Tractor Pull at 10am

Children's



Bounce House

No pre-registrations required to enter vehicles.  
Any questions contact Scott @ 717-926-3376  
Vendor Tables / \$5 Contact Sally @ 717-304-9241  
Used Tools to Sell? Contact Gary @ 484-332-0295

### I Am the Bible

I am the Bible, God's wonderful library.  
I am always – and above all – the truth.

To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong staff.  
To those who sit in darkness, I am glorious light.  
To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.  
To those who have lost their way, I am a safe guide.

To those who are sick in sin, I offer healing, strength and forgiveness.  
To the discouraged, I bring a glad message of hope.  
To those distressed and tossed by the storms of life, I am an anchor, sure and steadfast.  
To all who search for salvation, I reveal the Savior of the world.

I am the Bible.



### June Mission of the Month Brethren Housing Assoc.

The June Mission of the Month will support the Brethren Housing Association BHA provides educational programs to teach life skills and financial education, for mothers and their children going through hard times. Also, they provide a safe place for the family to stay until they gain stability and are able to rent a place on their own. Your support is always greatly appreciated.



### Save the Date Sunday at Camp

This year, we will be having our annual Sunday at Camp Swatara on July 19, 2026.....

Past years "Sunday at Camp" has been in June but scheduling conflicts have us picking July instead. We have sites along the tree line across from the Fellowship Hall in the 70's reserved along with 4 cabins. Please call Family Camp and reserve your spot.

On Sunday, July 19th, please worship with us at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall that morning instead of at the church since we will be at camp.

Any questions please reach out to any member of the Leadership Team.

### When on vacation:

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



### Vacation Bible School July 13 - 17th, 2026

The VBS committee is excited to announce our theme for 2026. We can't wait to take our children on the "Snowball Mountain Challenge".



We are looking for volunteers to help with VBS. If available, please contact Melissa Emerich at 717-269-1669, the church secretary, or any member of the VBS Committee: Melissa Emerich, Pat Timmins, Deb Wengert, Jenna Baez, Ashley Koch, or Aimee Ruffner.

We are also looking for toilet paper rolls, poly-fill, and white tablecloths (plastic or cloth), &/ or white sheets. Thank you for helping us



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](http://LittleSwatara.org) or contact Sara Bryant, Director at: [sara.bryant@littleswatara.org](mailto:sara.bryant@littleswatara.org)



**Sunday, June 21th  
Cancelled**



### Lunch N' Learn @ Londonderry Village

June 10, 2026 / 12:00 pm / Fellowship Hall in the Snell Community Center on the Londonderry Village Campus / Reservations Required.

#### "CASA of Lancaster and Lebanon" with Kristin Antrim

Kristin Antrim, Lebanon County Program Specialist with CASA of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties, will share how the organization supports children in foster care and how the community can get involved. Learn about a mission that may light a new passion in your heart and discover what it means to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate.



Have you enjoyed hearing the handbells during worship services? The hand bell 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 envelop by marking on it "Handbells".



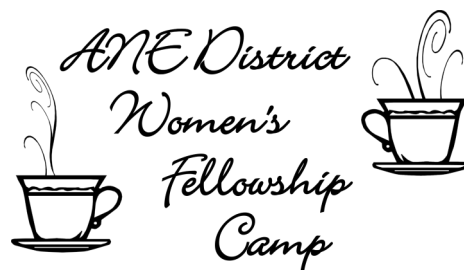
The next Women's Fellowship meeting is **Tuesday, June 23rd at 9:00 AM** (no meeting in July)

Our Annual Tractor, Truck & Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th, 2026 from 8AM - 1PM. We will have breakfast, lunch, and baked goods available for purchase.

We need help at the food stand. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex soon. Any help will be greatly appreciated .....even if just for an hour or two

We, also, need baked items to sell at our baked goods table. Please deliver your items, Saturday morning or call Linda Bowman to make arrangements to drop them off the day before.

We would also appreciate donations of goods, useable items for the yard sale/flea market. You may deliver them Friday evening between 5:00 PM-7:00 PM or call Sally Emerich with any questions.



**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!

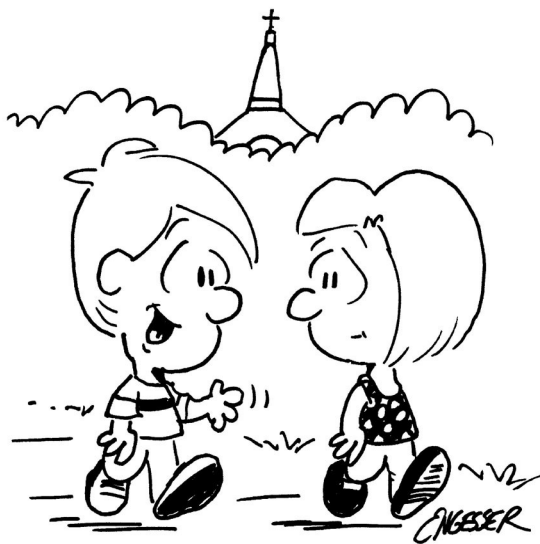


**Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library**  
**Movie Night**

Thursday, June 4th at 6:00 pm  
 Disney Pixar "Hoppers"  
 Rated PG

Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00 pm  
 "I Can Only Imagine 2"  
 Rated PG

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



"If we're all God's children, just think of all the cards he gets on Father's Day."



Please do not respond to any text messages appearing to be from a Little Swatara staff member asking for gift cards or money.....

**THIS IS A SCAM.**

We do not and will not solicit donations this way. Delete the text, block the phone number, do not respond.

In fact anyone who contacts you by phone, text or email and asks you to supply gift cards or wire transfers, for any reason at all, is very likely a scammer. This includes ANY government agency, and even applies in cases where you think you know the person contacting you, even family members. Do not use any of the contact information provided. Contact them directly by a telephone number you already know, and if it appears to be a family member, try to confirm using little known information or a family password.

**Bible Quiz**

King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshipping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?

- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.



Answer on page 3

## LITTLE SWATARA'S CENTURIANS - 2026 100 years young

### **Violet Frantz**

Violet Franz was born to Percy and Laura Koch on February 26, 1926. She married Alvin Frantz (known to most people as A. James) on May 27, 1942 and they became the parents of 6 children: Flora Lee, Noreen, Tina Marie, Carole Ruth, (deceased) James (deceased) and Jeffrey. Throughout the years, Violet enjoyed reading, camping, and traveling.

Violet and A. James transferred their membership to Little Swatara June 9, 1957 where Violet is remembered as "a great" teacher for VBS and Sunday School. Another fond memory is how Violet sat with the children during Love Feast, long before children were allowed to sit around the communion tables. Parents have expressed how much they appreciated Violet always being available for the nursery to care for their small children and babies.

We wish Violet well as she continues on her Christian journey. She resides at 6295 Four Point Road, Bethel, PA 19507.

### **Vera Gross**

Vera Gross was born to Elmer and Verta Gible on July 5, 1926. Her siblings said she was born on a Monday to help with "wash day, but when we think of Vera, we think she must have been born with a needle in her hand. However, it wasn't until the age of 12 that Vera learned her trade at the quilt frame beside her mother. Her scrapbook, of the quilts she has made, holds 275 photos with the names of the people who received them. We know there are more than 275, as a niece has just completed the binding on 2 more quilts for Vera. She has made quilts for her children, her grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Vera was baptized into the church in May 1937, at the age of 11. On February 24, 1945, she married Kenneth Fahnstock. They brought their church membership to Little Swatara in 1970, where Vera immediately threw herself into the work of the Women's Fellowship, quilting until 2025. They were blessed with 5 children: Jean, Janet, Ray (deceased), Karen, and Bruce. Ken passed after thirty-four years of marriage, leaving Vera a widow.

In 1988, she was blessed to have married Howard Gross, a widower who also had a large family. Rumor has it that Howard's heart was won through a cherry pie. After nineteen years of marriage, Vera was once again left a widow.

Vera still resides at 265 Deep Run Road, Myerstown, PA 17067, in the log home she and Howard built. For several years, her granddaughter, Fallow, was her constant companion; now other family and friends are ever present. Although no longer able to quilt, be prepared to join her in a lively board game when visiting.

.....*Jean Myers*

## Reflections

by Richard E. Frantz

As Christians, we can spend many days enjoying the friendships we share with other members of our church family, and that is great. Presently, there is another factor which we must anticipate, and that is changes in the military draft. For years, our military has been operating with an all-volunteer draft. That is about to change.

As Anabaptists, the Brethren have sought to love their neighbors. The idea of taking up arms against others and shooting and killing them is opposed to all for which we live. Today there is something we can do to prevent this.

Prior to the 1950s and 60s, men were jailed for refusing to take up arms. Innumerable young men lost their lives in battle during WWII. When Viet Nam began, men were taken out of school classrooms, and off the floors of industry and sent to the far east. Wives and children were left at home, hoping to see their husbands and fathers at some point in the future. Through the long and hard efforts of the Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, the Hutterites and several others, the U.S. military finally allowed the development of what we call 1W Service.

With the Middle East situation upon us, there is a new push to make young men register for the draft. As of December 18, 2026, all men ages 18 through 25 will automatically be registered for the military. The U.S. Government will be accessing the names of every young man in that age group and registering them for the draft.

Young men, there are things you can do to show your disagreement of war. You can become conscientious objectors (COs). There are steps for you to begin taking now. Paperwork is available to show that you are opposed to war. Even if you are under 18 years old, begin to show that you oppose war now.

Grab your 2026 Little Swatara Directory and locate our Advocate for the paper work to start. Also locate our Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Coordinator to explore options of things to do.

Both our Peace Advocate and our Brethren Volunteer Service Coordinator are listed in our 2026 church directory. They are available to be contacted now. And of course, our pastor is here to help you. Best wishes for success.



## **Announcement from Boyer’s Food Markets regarding The Caring and Sharing Rebate Program**

Boyer’s Food Markets has made a major change to the way the Caring and Sharing Rebate Program operates. The change is necessary as they update their store systems and expand for more customer rewards.

The physical Caring Sharing key tags will no longer be part of the new system. This change is the result of Boyer’s implementing a new Customer Rewards Program, which will provide rewards, discounts, and digital coupons to every individual customer. Currently, every key tag is registered individually as a “Customer”. Within the new system, Boyer’s must completely change how the program works to correct this, as there is no way to have multiple customers identified in one transaction. Boyer’s needs to move everyone to the customer level so they can get rewards, discounts, and support their preferred Caring Sharing Group.

To ensure our church members can continue contributing to the group’s totals, all participating shoppers must enroll in the Boyer’s Rewards Program and assign their designated charity to their account. They will be able to change and assign a different charity at any time. This will also eliminate the need for and use of your current key tags. Sign up today at [Boyers-food.com/rewards](http://Boyers-food.com/rewards) or in the store at Customer Service.

The new enrollment process ensures that Caring and Sharing participants remain eligible for all program benefits. Group members will receive their earned individual rewards and discounts in addition to their Caring and Sharing contributions. This transition will be taking place throughout the month of May. We will process first half year checks in June for purchases through May. At the beginning of June, all purchase will be captured in the new system, for your second half year end payments that will be distributed in January 2027.

If you have any questions, please contact: [customerservice@boyersfood.com](mailto:customerservice@boyersfood.com) or [rsophy@boyersfood.com](mailto:rsophy@boyersfood.com)

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### **A Taste of Loving-Kindness**


A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, “What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving-kindness?”

A young boy thought for a moment and replied, “Well, if I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread with butter on it, that would be kindness. But if they added a spoonful of jam, that would be loving-kindness.”

### **Reminder:**

Exercise classes will be on summer break during July and August





# OUR GRADUATES

Graduation marks both an ending and a beginning. As we celebrate students stepping into new seasons, we give thanks for the growth, perseverance and calling God has placed in their lives. May we surround our graduates with prayer, reminding them that God goes before them and walks with them wherever the journey leads.



**Leland Blouch**

Parents: Chris and Kathy Blouch  
 Grandparents: John and Dianne High  
 Grandmother: Arlene Rebman  
 School: Herndon High School  
 Extracurricular activities: Young Life, WyldLife Leader, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Piano, Cross Country, Winter & Spring Track, Soccer, Basketball, Tennis  
 Hobbies: playing sports & video games, & working out  
 Future Plans: will attend Virginia Tech to study engineering

**Macey Schwalm**

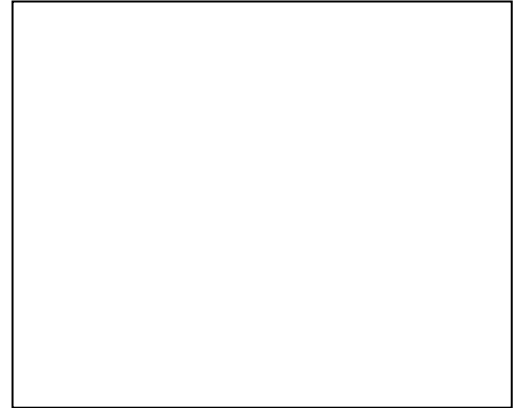
Parents: Jason and Sara Schwalm  
 Grandparents : Mark & Tammy Landis, Tom & Debbie Schwalm  
 School: Tulpehocken High School  
 Extracurricular Activities: Tulpehocken Girls Tennis  
 Hobbies: tennis and working out at the gym  
 Employment: Timber Creek Coffee Shop  
 Future plans: attending Moravian University in Bethlehem as a Business Major and will be playing on the tennis team



Continued >>>>>>

**Chad Henning**

Parents: Steven and Kara Henning  
Grandparents : Pauline Seiler  
School: graduated from with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology.  
Hobbies: golfing and working out  
Future plans: will begin graduate school on June 1 at Tufts University to pursue a Doctorate of Physical Therapy



**Malachi S. Christ**

Parents: Pastor Matthew and Denise Christ  
Grandparents: Jake and Dixie Myer  
Judy Christ and the late Robert Christ  
Great Grandparents: the late Hershey and Anna Mary Myer  
School: University of Valley Forge, Bachelor of Science in Psychology  
Employment: Ascend Ministries (aka Teen Challenge)  
Hobbies: Sketching, Reading, and Watching Movies  
Future Plans: continuing on to his Masters Degree

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**A Word for Graduates**

Congratulations to the young members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension.

We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

“Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.”



# News from Camp Swatara

## Movie Night in the Campground

Saturday, June 13th, 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.



## Strawberry Festival

June 27, 2026  
3:00 PM

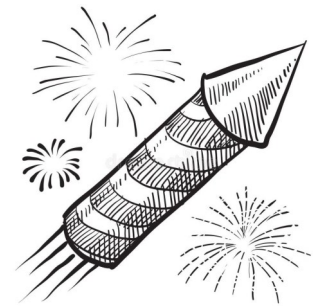
Come out to Camp Swatara to enjoy some fresh strawberries and ice cream. Fun for the whole family!

For more information & registration: [www.campswatara.org](http://www.campswatara.org)

## 4th of July Celebration

July 4, 2026  
Fireworks at Sunset

For information: [www.campswatara.org](http://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](http://www.campswatara.org)

## June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	3 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH	4 8:30am Quilting 11:00am Home School Group / Renee Brown / pav 6:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH	5	6
7 Graduation Sunday	8	9 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	10 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH	11 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm Preschool Board meeting	12 6:00pm Community Christian Tent Revival / Lion's Grounds, Rehrersburg	13 8:00am B.Lingle / pav
14 Children's Sunday church picnic / pav/ Food Pantry Collection 10:30am 1st grade Bible presentation	15 6:00pm VBS training & pizza dinner / FH & K 7:00pm Music & Worship Team meeting	16	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 8:30am Quilting 9:30am Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethel	19  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	20 tractor show / entire church grounds & bldgs
21 Father's Day potluck Sunday - CX	22	23 Ministry Team Minutes Due 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH	24	25 8:30am Quilting	26	27 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe 8:00am C. Ziegler / pav
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