

# Newsletter

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren  
Office Phone (717) 933-4723 Office Fax (717)933-9223  
[www.LittleSwatara.org](http://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  
March, 2015

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Number 3

## **A life that looks towards others**

**MAKE  
LENT  
COUNT**  
PRAY · ACT · GIVE

In Matthew 23: 11-12, we read these words. "The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

I remember that day very well. You could say I was on my game. I was 3 for 3 hitting and teammates were saying my bat was hot. It doesn't take long before that goes to your head and you begin to get proud. I was next up to bat. The score was close and two were on base in scoring positions. I stepped up to the plate and watched the first ball go by. Strike one!!! Four more pitches went by and the count was full. I was feeling it and I knew that next pitch was going out of the park. I swung and the sound of the ball hitting the catcher's mitt was deafening. You could see the sinking feeling in my posture as I leaned my head toward the ground walking away as a strike-out.

It's a devastating feeling to be humbled but that day taught me a great deal about the sport of baseball. It's never about you. It's about the team. We're all in it together and when one strikes out, another will pick you up. My teammates did just that and I was reminded how important the word together truly is. As we ponder our passage, we get that same sense from our Savior. It's not about us. It's not about gaining prestige and taunting others saying look at me, look what I've done. Jesus refers to these type of people as hypocrites later in the passage in verse 15.

There's more to life than what we want and desire. There's this concept of loving and giving to others. We know the feeling when we offer another a kind word or an act of service. It brings us joy to love in Jesus name. This lent may we be mindful of the needs of others and take the time to reach out in love and compassion. We learn that as we humble ourselves, that phrase exalted takes on new meaning. We become more like Christ and he was indeed the most humble servant ever to walk the earth. It's our heart that discovers our true identity in sacrificial living. Be a blessing and love one another.

Make it count this Lent and through the year.

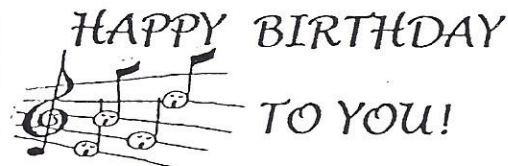
*Pastor Matt ☺*

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER – February 22, 2015

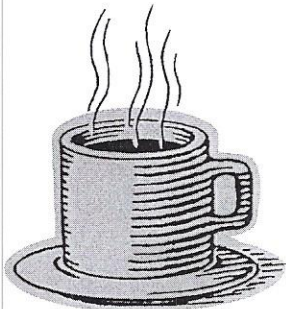
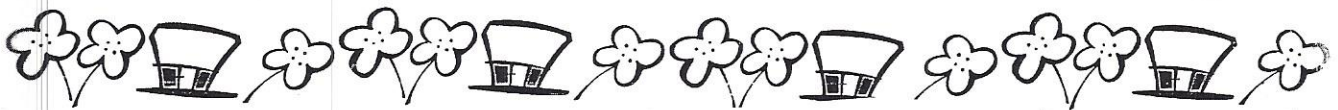
Ken and Judy Coots, Amelia Dettwiler, Anthony Fazio, Bud Larimer, Jeremy and Melanie Platchek

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE -** The telephone number for Nolan and Doris Keeney 717-933-2525



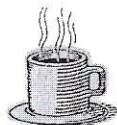
#### Members Birthdays for March:

Bronson Cass	1	James Bickelman	9		
Cale DeMille	1	Richard Frantz, Sr.	9		
Pamela Franklin	1	David Fake	10	Aaron Riegel	15
Darlene Webber	1	Marlene Blatt	10	Jeffery Miller	16
Phyllis Baylor	2	Neal Siegrist	10	Esther Yenser	16
Aaron Stupp	3	Faye Balsbaugh	11	Cathleen Sauber	17
Ryan Kissling	3	Devin Emerich	11	Donald Bashore	18
Nancy Bashore	4	Kevin Boltz	11	Mary Ellen Dietrich	18
Robert Miller	4	Oscar Manbeck	11	Steven Henning	18
Sharon A. Bashore	5	Rachel Graby	11	Audrey Dickson	20
Mary Bashore (Sam)	5	Sarah Schoener	11	Jean Snyder	20
Debra Seigfried	5	Darlene Bechtold	12	Glenn Heisey	24
Stephan Snyder	6	Ruth Keeney	13	Janet Costic	24
Rita Soliday	6	Lisa Hershey	13	John Hoover	25
Mark Swope	6	Vincent Snyder	14	Gregory Dreibelbis	26
Derick Kauffman	7	Anthony Fazio	15	Allen Rebman	26
Stephanie Bicher	9	Brenda Hershey	15	Fred Phillipy	27
		Joan Kline	15	Mary Louise Bashore	28
				Tammy Long	29
				Bonnie Behney	31



### THE GATHERING PLACE

*I heard it at the Café...*



*A semi regular café customer stopped by on a Friday and ordered a coffee and pecan roll. On his way out he purchased another pecan roll to take with him. He said it was the best he ever had at the café!*

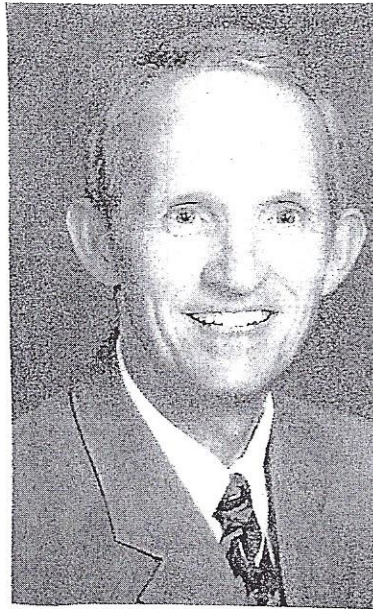


**LITTLE SWATARA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SERVICES**  
*March 15-18, 2015*

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
Rev. Jeffrey Copp

**THEME:**  
"Confirming and Refocusing Our Faith  
For The Future"

*And what is Faith? Faith gives substance to our hopes,  
and makes us certain of realities we do not see." - Hebrews 11:1*



**The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Copp**

**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

**SUNDAY - March 15 - 10:30 a.m.**

Scripture – Psalm 148:1-14  
"The Psalmist Versus Stephen Hawking"  
Special Music – Senior Choir

**SUNDAY – March 15- 7:00 p.m.**

"A Challenge for Now and the Future"

**Blue Bird Revival Concert**

**Pizza Night**

**MONDAY – March 16 – 7:00 p.m.**

Scripture – Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20  
"No Question of Intent"  
Special Music – Senior Choir

**TUESDAY – March 17, 7:00 p.m.**

Scripture – Luke 10:25-37  
"Living Up to Jesus Love"  
Guest Night – Mt. Zion Road CoB  
Special Music – Mt. Zion Road  
**Home Make Ice Cream Social**

**WEDNESDAY – March 18, 7:00 p.m.**

Scripture – Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
"What Can We Add to the Greats Before Us"  
**CHILDREN'S NIGHT**  
Special Music – Jubilee Choir

**CHILD CARE PROVIDED:**

Nursery – Infants; Extended Session – Ages 2-5 year olds

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – Upcoming Events: Crafts** – March 10 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.  
**Sub Sale** – March 11, starting at 4:00 p.m. preparation for Sub Sale; March 12, beginning at 6:00 a.m. making the Subs – New Price \$5.00. All Orders must be in by Tuesday, March 3.

**Buffet Breakfast – Saturday, March 28, 7 – 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Help is needed at all these events.

If you would like a few days out, plan to attend the Atlantic Northeast District Women's Spring Fellowship at Blue Ball, March 7; and the Annual Women's Spiritual Retreat at Midway Church on March 18, 2015. (See notices in this issue of the Newsletter.)

The next meeting is March 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Women's Room – all women are invited to attend these functions.



## Camp Swatara News

### Paul Bunyan Workday – March 7th

Grab your tools and a couple of friends and head to the base of the Blue Mountain for the 2015 Paul Bunyan Workday at Camp Swatara on Saturday, March 7th! Work will begin around 8am and last until mid-afternoon. Enjoy a delicious morning coffee break and wonderful lunch! Please contact the camp office at [info@campswatara.org](mailto:info@campswatara.org) or 717-933-8510 to sign-up and let us know you're coming! See you there!

### Spring Weekend Camps for Juniors, Intermediates, and Jr. Highs! Let's POWER UP!

Campers in 1st-9th grades are invited to head out to camp for a spring weekend to experience the best of camp even before the summer begins! Each weekend offers the opportunity to have fun, meet friends, and get a sneak peak at the theme for the summer. Arts and crafts, nature, singing, campfires, and Bible time will complete the weekend festivities. Weekends are planned for Junior High (March 13-15; Grades 7-9), Juniors (March 20-22; Grades 1-3), and Intermediates (March 27-29; Grades 4-6). Check-in for each weekend begins at 7pm on Friday evening and the program ends at 1pm on Sunday afternoon. Cost is just \$84 per person! Online registration is available at [www.campswatara.org](http://www.campswatara.org). Contact Jason Haldeman, Program Coordinator, at [jhaldeman@campswatara.org](mailto:jhaldeman@campswatara.org) or 717-933-8510 for more information.

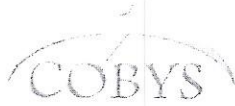
### Online Registration for Programs NOW OPEN! Reserve Your Family Camp Sites NOW!

Are you ready to POWER UP in the Spirit this spring and summer?! There are three spring weekend camps and about 25 summer camp program opportunities waiting for campers in 1st-12th grade to experience! Online registration for all of these programs is available at [www.campswatara.org](http://www.campswatara.org). Feel free to contact Jason Haldeman, Program Coordinator, at [jhaldeman@campswatara.org](mailto:jhaldeman@campswatara.org) or 717-933-8510 for more information about any of these program opportunities OR if you need assistance registering! It's also time to book your site for 2015 at Family Camp! Mail, email ([familycamp@campswatara.org](mailto:familycamp@campswatara.org)), and phone (717-933-5244) reservations are now being accepted. All reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. You can [view availability](#) and submit a [reservation request](#) online! We're looking forward to seeing you around the campfire this year!

### Spring Birding Weekend – May 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

Whooh's ready for a weekend of birding in Union County? Doug and Sally Ruby, will lead the "flock" of adults age 18 and over. The group will be staying in the Zaeger's House in dormitory style sleeping arrangements. Cost is just \$100 per person. For more information, contact Doug and Sally at [srubybird@comcast.net](mailto:srubybird@comcast.net) or 410-548-9122. A flyer and registration form are available online at [www.campswatara.org](http://www.campswatara.org). Registrations are due by April 27th!





*The Stage is Set for Another Great Banquet*

## COBYS Has Talent!

Thursday, March 5, 6:30 pm  
(Doors open at 6:00 pm)

Middle Creek CoB

Reservations are required, and the event will include an opportunity to support COBYS ministries. Contact Don Fitzkee at 717-656-6580 or don@cobys.org by February 23. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.



## ANNUAL WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
9:30 am – 2:00 pm

*Midway Church of the  
Brethren*

**Speaker:** Marie Roberts Monville

She is the widow in the Nickel Mine Amish Schoolhouse Shooter, Charles Roberts, and the author of the book "One Light Still Shines". This became the anthem to Marie's life when on October 2, 2006, her then husband, made a decision to hold an Amish school house hostage, forever changing life as she knew it. This is Marie's testimony, while moving through unthinkable circumstances, into the unfathomable love of the Father.

Lunch and babysitting is provided for those who pre-register by March 1.

Call the Midway church 717-273-4832.

**Come and hear what God has done and brought redemption to Marie's life and her family**

*Atlantic Northeast District*

**Women's Spring Fellowship**

March 7, 2015  
Blue Ball CoB

**Nancy Shoap, Speaker**

*"Promises, Blessing, and Praise"*

*Nancy will share her testimony of how God accomplished the plans and purpose He had for her life and, with His healing touch, gave the gift of "new sight!"*

Registration Required

Enjoy fellowship, inspirational speaking, and uplifting music!

*For more information, call the District*

**Come Join Us for a**

## "CELEBRATION OF GOD'S POWER AND GLORY"

**Benefit Concert for our  
Fellow Nigerian Christians  
Featuring the musical talents of:**

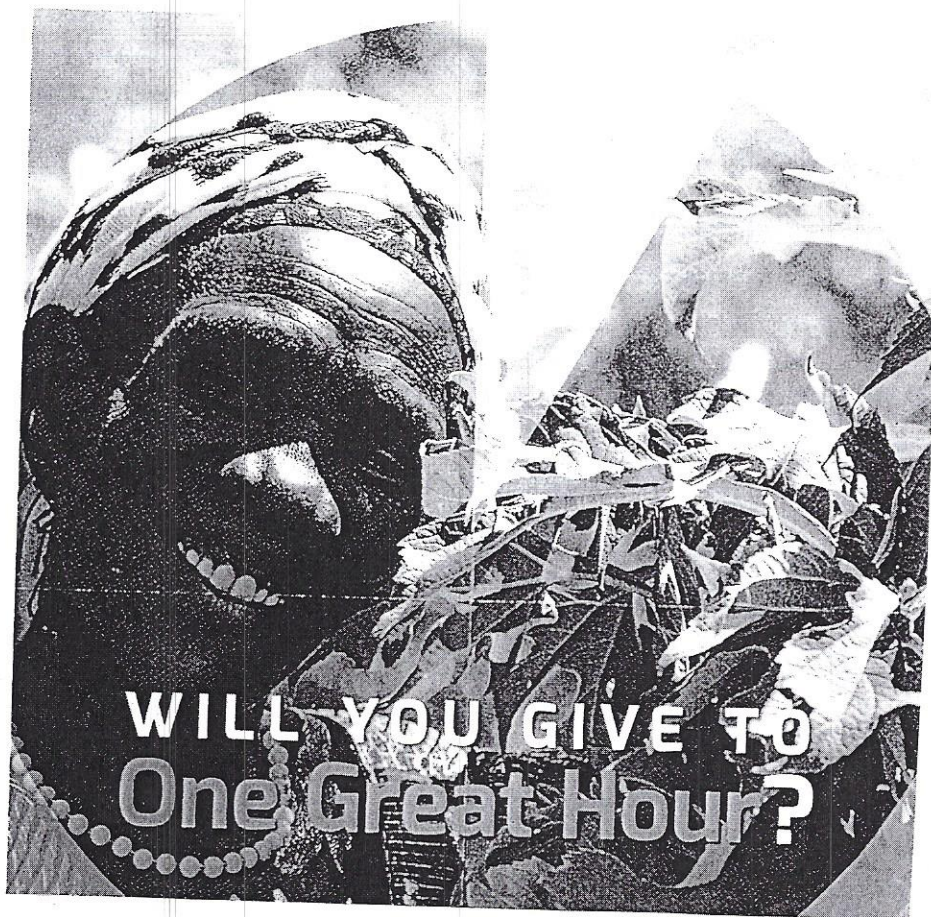
**Dr. Cathy Carson & Dr. Jacqueline LeGrand  
{Both Waynesboro COB Natives}  
Sunday March 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**

**York First Church of the Brethren  
2710 Kingston Road, York, PA 17402**

## Chiques Church of the Brethren

Will host a fund raising dinner on Saturday, April 18, to benefit the Nigeria Crisis Fund. Your free-will donation for the meal will support the fund. In addition, there will be theme baskets to buy at silent auction, and crafts to purchase. All proceeds will be given to the NCF. Please join us for a pork roast dinner including homemade desserts from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Reservations are not mandatory, but helpful and can be made by e-mailing [pebrubak@dejazzd.com](mailto:pebrubak@dejazzd.com) or calling 717-665-3466 by April 10. Thank you for giving to this urgent need for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria.





**WILL YOU GIVE TO  
One Great Hour?**

**MARCH 22, 2015**

"One Great Hour of Sharing" is a special offering that supports the important work of the Church of the Brethren ministries such as Global Mission and Service, Congregational Life Ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries, and the Global Food Crisis Fund. It's a unique way that we share Christ's peace and love with others, and it happens because of generous donations given by you in Jesus' name.

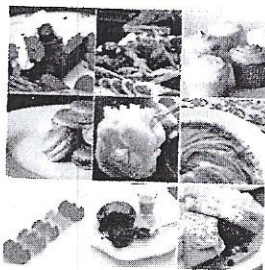
**Will you give to One Great Hour?**

**ALL FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**

**March 15, 2015**

All attendees at Little Swatara Church are invited to be present at the lunch prepared for all worshipers at this annual event after the 10:30 a.m. service (only one service). You may bring a dessert for the "pass the dessert" tradition, to share with one another.

A short program will follow the meal when new members are introduced from the past year.



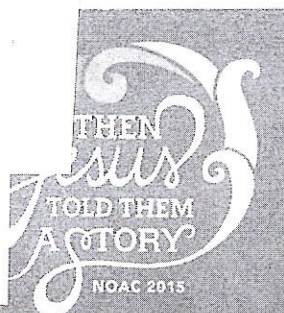
**Mark your calendar and plan to attend  
March 15, Noon meal**

## **WESTERN BERKS SHEPHERDING MINISTRY**

**Needed:** Shepherding volunteers -  
Perfection not required

The truth is you don't have to be perfect or remarkable. You can be ordinary or an outsider, flawed and failed, tried or tired. No matter what shape you're in, anyone from any walk of life can be used to fulfill God's plan and purpose (in our case, it is to help individuals who can no longer drive be able to get to their doctor appointments). Taken from the book "You Are Made For More! How to Become All You Were Created to Be." by Lisa Osteen Comes.

A 45 minute session for volunteers will be offered on March 3, at 10 a.m. at Hain's UCC Church in Wernersville. Call Cheryl Young 6710-670-5945 for any questions about training or services we provide.



**National Older Adult Conference**  
September 7-11, 2015  
Lake Junaluska, NC



NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

**NOAC**

 **Church of the Brethren**

 **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

Photography by Cheryl Birmingham-Clifford and Robert Dent





# Little Swatara Preschool

March 2015

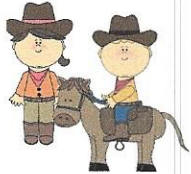


Dear Friends,

Hello from the Preschool staff. In March we will be getting ready for spring. Even though the weather is cold, and the calendar states March 20 as the first day of spring. We will not be going outside unless the air is warm and our classmates are healthy. Please continue to dress your child appropriately for the daily weather.



Our teachers have planned activities that re-enforce the Bible lessons, academic studies and life skills. In March Miss Traci has planned a Silly Sock day for the preschool classes, while Miss Diana has a Wild West Week planned. Check class calendars for specific dates. The theme days help our days of being inside go by quickly with added giggles and smiles. We will be outside exercising before you know it.



March is traditionally a breezy, some would say, a down right windy month. It is a great time for you and your child to make a paper plane or a simple kite to fly outside. Or you could celebrate National Bubble Week, March 8-14, 2015. I have included a simple bubble recipe on the back of the newsletter, or buy a small bottle of bubbles at the store. It's a fun way to spend quality time with your preschooler.

Kindergarten

I am in the process of making arrangements for our Pre K students to visit Bethel Elementary. They will spend time in one of the Kindergarten classrooms and be introduced to a typical Kindergarten schedule. Families will have to drop-off and pick-up their child at the Bethel school. I am hoping for our visit to occur before Kindergarten registration which takes place May 16 & 17, that way our students will know a little bit of what to expect and who they will be meeting at Kindergarten registration.

Thanks for sending your preschooler to Little Swatara. We are having a great time learning, trusting and caring for each child. We have great kids at Little Swatara!

Sincerely, Miss Cindy

## ENROLL NOW FOR 2015 - 2016

It's time to begin enrolling your child in Preschool for next fall. Student enrollment applications are available and will be accepted March 2, 2015 for the 2015-2016 Preschool year. We are offering 4 classes in September.

They are as follows:

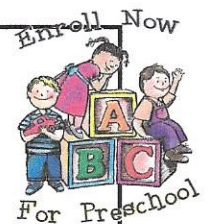
Preschool classes will meet- Monday and Wednesday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. or  
Tuesday and Thursday, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Pre Kindergarten 1 class will meet- Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
9 to 11:30 a.m. plus 10 extended days in spring.

Pre Kindergarten 3 class will meet - Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
12:30 to 3 p.m.

Pre Kindergarten classes are intended for children enrolling for Kindergarten in 2016. If you are interested in any of our programs, please contact Miss Cindy. Registration cost is \$25 before May 1, \$35 after May 1. Registration form is available on line at [littleswatarachurch.org](http://littleswatarachurch.org) under preschool.

\*\*\* In the past, the morning Pre K class has been the first to fill, often registration is closed in June. If you want to enroll your child in our Pre K classes and early enrollment is encouraged.

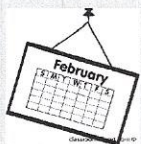




### FYI, mark your calendars

**\*April 26th is Preschool Sunday** at Little Swatara Church of the Brethren. The Preschool children will provide special music at the 10:30 a.m. service. All family members are invited to attend. More specific information will follow in the April newsletter. *Please plan to join us.*

**\*May 28th is Recognition Night** at LS Preschool. This Thursday evening is a time where those students that are moving to a Kindergarten program in the fall. Please note this is a Thursday evening.



### Candle Sale:

The Preschool Board of Directors is sponsoring a spring candle sale to raise funds for our Scholarship Fund. The candles are from Chestnut Hill Candle Company. We have worked with Chestnut Hill in the past and have been very satisfied with their product. The sale is in progress and runs through March 8, with delivery on March 25. The cost is \$10.00 a candle. Seller information has been sent home with each student. Contact Sara Bryant at (717)203-7829 or Heather Forry at (610)451-4622 with questions.



### Parent Teacher Conversations

Miss Diana and Miss Traci are available to discuss your child and their preschool work and socialization. Please call the Preschool at (717)933-4500 to set up a time for a telephone conference or to make an appointment to meet your child's teacher.



♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥  
♥ THANKS ♥  
♥ Thank you to everyone that helped ♥  
♥ make our Valentine Celebrations a ♥  
♥ success by contributing food and party ♥  
♥ items. The children had a fun time, ♥  
♥ and everyone went home with a bag ♥  
♥ full of love and cheer. Thanks for ♥  
♥ your support. ♥  
♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

### Bubble Recipe

6 parts water  
2 parts Joy or Dawn dish washing liquid (these brands work best)  
3/4 part corn syrup

Gently stir together.  
Pour the solution into a large flat pan and try different open ended items to put into the bubble solution to pass through the air to make different sizes of bubbles. Try a plastic hanger or bend pipe cleaners to form a wand.

From FAMILYFUN March 2006



### Snow Make-up Days

Well this winter has been snowy, very cold and windy. This has led to many cancelled classes. At this time the class totals for rescheduling are as follows:

M/W class : make-up 3 classes  
T/Th class : make-up 1 class  
Pre K 1 class : make-up 4 classes  
Pre K 3 class : make-up 2 classes

We will be making-up classes April 6 and 7. The other days will be rescheduled at the discretion of the Preschool Board. See Miss Cindy with concerns







## 2015 COMING EVENTS



### 1, **II LENT**

1pm, Scout Leader Mtg

6-7pm, JJJ@ the Cafe

3, 7pm FH, Leadership Team

5, 9am Women's Business Mtg

7, 1pm FH, 50 Plus Meeting

### 8, **III LENT**

Daylight Savings

Food Pantry Collection

Mission Emphasis Sunday

FH, Reserved

10, 9am FH, Craft Class

12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus meet

6-7pm Den Mtg

11, 4pm Prepare for Subs

12, 6am Sub Sale

14, 7-10am Scout Pancake Breakfast

Prepare for All Fellowship Luncheon

### 15, **IV LENT**

10:30am ONE SERVICE w/Pastor Copp

NOON, All Fellowship Luncheon

7pm, Spiritual Renewal Service

BLUE BIRD REVIVAL CONCERT

16, 6pm Tiger Mtg

7pm, Spiritual Renewal Service

17, St Patrick's Day

7pm, Spiritual Renewal Service

18 10:15a-6pm, 50 Plus Bus Trip

7pm, Spiritual Renewal Service

20, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry

21, 8am Pack Mtg

### 22, **V LENT**

Newsletter Deadline

One Great Hour of Sharing

24, 12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meet

Ministry Team Minutes Due

6pm Den Mtg

28, 7-10am WF Fundraiser Breakfast

29, **PALM SUNDAY**

30, 6pm, Tiger Mtg

2, Maundy Thursday

7pm FH, 50 Plus Meeting

3, 7pm, Good Friday Service at Little Swatara

5 **EASTER SUNDAY**

10:30 ONE SERVICE

6, 7pm, Women's Business Meeting

7, 7pm, Leadership Meeting

8, 4pm FH, Sub Preparations

9, 6am Sub Sale

11, Res, K, FH – Disaster Relief "Share a Meal"

12, Mission Sunday

Food Pantry Collection

Noon, Spiritual Nurture Meets

Noon, Youth Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser

6pm, Scout Leader Meeting

14, 12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meet

6-7pm Den Meeting

15, 6:30-7:30pm Scouts Meet

16, 7am-8:30pm 50 Plus Bus Trip

17, 2-6pm Bethel Food Pantry

19, 3pm Pack Meeting

6-7pm JJJ @ the Cafe

21, 6pm O, Tiger/Wolf Meet

7pm, Ministry Team Meetings

25, 7-10am FH, Women's Fellowship

Fundraiser Breakfast

3pm FH RES


26, **PRESCHOOL SUNDAY**

Newsletter Deadline


28, 12:30-5pm FH, 50 Plus Meet

6-7pm Den Meeting

Ministry Team Minutes due




**EXERCISE CLASS**  
Meets every week  
Monday and Wednesday  
8:45-9:45 a.m.



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**CHOIR REHEARSALS**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
Jubilee – 7:00-7:30 p.m.  
JOY – 7:00-7:30 p.m.  
Senior – 7:30-8:30 p.m.



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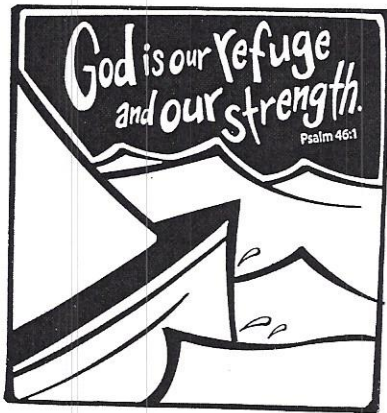
**QUILTING AND COMFORTERS**  
Meet every week  
Thursday, 8 a.m.







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



MARCH 2015

### AN OLD ENGLISH PRAYER

*Give us, Lord, a bit o'sun  
A bit o'work and a bit o'fun.  
Give us in all the struggle and sputter,  
Our daily bread and a bit o'butter.  
Give us health our keep to make  
And a bit to spare for other's sake.  
Give us, too, a bit of a song  
And a tale and a book to help us along.  
Give us, Lord, a chance to be  
Our goodly best, brave, wise, and free,  
Our goodly best for ourselves and others  
Till all men learn to live as brothers.*  
The Anglican Digest - Logos Productions



**"Prayer is a practice that blesses. Worship is a habit that refreshes. Love is a gift that expresses."**

*-William A. Ward*