

**Little Swatara Church- Pastor Matthew S. Christ**

PHONE: 717-675-3946 Email: [pastormatt@littleswatara.org](mailto:pastormatt@littleswatara.org)  
 Facebook: Matt Christ; Instagram & Snapchat: mdchrist99  
 OFFICE HOURS: TUE., WED. & THURS. 10:00 AM –12:30 PM

Church Office: 717-933-4723 OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri, 8:30 am -12 noon  
**Secretary**—Connie Davis Email: [secretary@littleswatara.org](mailto:secretary@littleswatara.org)  
**Treasurer**—Jamie Wise, 717-269-1569. Email: [treasurer@littleswatara.org](mailto:treasurer@littleswatara.org).  
**Newsletter Editor:** Connie Davis Email: [secretary@littleswatara.org](mailto:secretary@littleswatara.org)

**WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS**

**VIDEO PROJECTION** Mark Myers—CVLI#502613280; CCLI#157691

**CHURCH SIGN CHANGER:** Feb.—Diane Long March - Patricia Timmins April - Tony Fazio

**Wk. 1 March 1**                      **Wk. 2 March 8**                      **Wk.3 March 15**

<b>CHORISTER</b>	Allen Rebman	Praise Team	Allen Rebman
<b>WORSHIP LDR</b>	Gary Bashore	Praise Team	John Wise
<b>CHILD STORY</b>	Mike & Sarah Kolbe	Ashley Koch	Abby Christ
<b>PIANIST</b>	Diane Duell	Praise Team	Sarah Brubaker
<b>AUDIO</b>	Alan Bashore	Todd Rebman	Todd Rebman
<b>WORSHIP CTR</b>	Tanya Feathers	Sandra Keeney	Sandra Keeney
<b>USHERS</b>	Bob & Wendy Lingle Sam Forry & Lucas Rebman	Gerald & Jim Bowman Scott Bohn & J. Brubaker	Ken Duell / John High Jacob Koch/Dennis Umberger

**WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 am & 10:30 am**

<b>Children/Youth</b> Preschool – Preschool Room, Sanctuary Level Children’s (Grades K to 5 – Pine Room (Fellowship Hall Level) Youth (Grades 6 to 12) – Youth Room (Fellowship Hall)	<b>Adults</b> Young Adults – Oak Room (Fellowship Hall Level) Hymn Study – Fellowship Hall
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**NOTICE:** We are currently running a Livestream ministry. If you cannot join us on Sunday morning in person, you can join us “online” by visiting our Facebook or YouTube page. Our 10:30 service is streamed every week.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED:** If you do not want you or your child to appear on this Social Media Stream, please contact the camera operator in the back of the sanctuary to make sure you are avoided.



EVERY-  
ONE WHO HEARS THESE  
WORDS...  
...& PUTS THEM INTO  
PRACTICE IS LIKE  
a WISE MAN  
WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE  
ON THE ROCK.  
MATTHEW 7:24



March 1, 2026

Volume LXXVI March 1, 2026 Number 10  
**LITTLE SWATARA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
 31 Rehrersburg Rd, PO Box 437, Bethel, PA 19507  
 Church Web Page - [www.LittleSwatara.org/](http://www.LittleSwatara.org/) phone: 717-933-4723  
 FB: @LittleSwataraCoB \*\*\* Wi-Fi Guest/pw: brethren

Outreach: *The Gathering Place Café*, 8490 Lancaster Ave, Bethel  
 Contact: [gatheringplacecafe.com](http://gatheringplacecafe.com) / Phone: 717-933-5958  
 Café Hours: **Mon-Sat 6-10am**



**March 1, 2026**  
**8:30 AM Service**

***Prayer Concerns***

Let us remember the shut-ins and elderly not able to be with us today.

Brenda Kelly  
 Ralph Wanner  
 Iglesia Berith, Oasis De Esperanza  
 (Please contact the secretary if anyone should be added or removed from the Prayer List.)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Marlene Blatt will be 91 yrs young on March 10th. Let's shower her with birthday wishes. There's a box on the table in the narthex or mail to:

PO Box 332,  
 Bethel, PA 19507

**GIVING LAST SUNDAY**

General Fund	\$	1,127.50
Building	\$	25.00
Family Assistance	\$	
Maintenance	\$	102.50
Sunday School	\$	33.00
Feed Them	\$	
Global Food Initiative	\$	
Food Pantry	\$	21.00
Mission of the Month	\$	100.00
Messenger	\$	
Women's Fellowship	\$	
<b>Total 2/22/2026</b>	\$	1,409.00
<b>Total 2/15/2026</b>	\$	7,998.00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2026  
 \$ 347,035.00

**Last Sunday's Attendance**

Worship 14 + 52  
 Virtual Worship - 25  
 Sunday School - 34

**"Challenge Question"**

In what ways can I draw closer to God?

**Welcome & News**

**Humor**

**Sharing & Prayer**

**Worship Songs**

- "Gonna be Alright"
- "Gratitude"
- "Goodness of God"
- "Come Jesus Come"

**Catch of the Day - "Refuge"**

**Scripture:** Luke 13:31-35

**Deep Dive**

1. Why do you think Jesus compares Himself to a hen gathering her chicks?
2. What is it that we long for and desire?
3. What can make ministering like Jesus uncomfortable or challenging?
4. In this world of religious and political violence, what does it mean to long for our enemies to experience Jesus' compassion even as we ourselves have?

**Communion**

**Kids Praise - "Jesus Loves Me This I Know"**

**Prayer**

**Thank you,**  
 Pastor Kontra for sharing the Word with us today.



*Every turning point brings us closer to the cross—  
 and the cross is where everything finally changes.*

*Little Swatara Church of the Brethren  
Transformed by Christ to Love and  
Serve Together*

**March 1, 2026**

**10:30 AM Worship Service**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lenten Reading** Richard Frantz

**Opening Hymn** "I am thine, O Lord" Blue Hymnal #505

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn of Preparation for Communion**  
"I come with joy to meet my Lord" Blue Hymnal #459

**Bread and Cup Communion**

**Special Music by the Faithful Men**  
"Here I am to Worship"  
"Everlasting God"

**Offertory Thought and Prayer**

**Children's Moment**

**Worship Hymn** "My hope is built on nothing less" Blue Hymnal #343

**Scripture** - Matthew 7: 24 - 29

**Message:** "The End of Religion" Pete Kontra, District Executive

**Closing Hymn** "For Christ and the church" Blue Hymnal #416

**Benediction**

**Postlude**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



We are seeking a dependable **Substitute Church Secretary** to provide temporary office support as needed. Duties include answering phones, basic correspondence, and administrative tasks. Office and computer skills preferred. Please contact Rich Yenser or a member of the Stewardship and Property Committee for more information.



**Spiritual Renewal Services  
with Pastor Walter Heisey**

March 15, 2026 at 10:30am and 7pm  
March 16—18 at 7pm



Easter flowers may be purchased to enhance the sanctuary for Easter. Variety of flowers and prices available. Order sheet located on table in Narthex or contact Pam Gerberich. Checks or cash accepted for payment. Checks should be made out to *Little Swatara COB*. Orders will be taken until March 8th



**Saturday, March 21, 2026  
7:00 AM—10:00 AM**

(Snow Date—March 28th)

*(We will need help in the kitchen and in various other ways. Please contact anyone in Women's Fellowship if you are able to help)*

**Annual Conference**

Lancaster COB is chartering a 56-seat motor coach to the 2026 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and invites others to join. Information is on the table in the back of the sanctuary or see Todd Rebman.

The March issue of the **Newsletter** has arrived & is on the counter at the mailboxes

Zoom Bible Study  
Cancelled for March 4



LITTLE SWATARA CoB  
2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JULY 13—17, 2026



## News from Camp Swatara

### Registration for Camp is open.

2026 Summer Camp Theme: "Into the Wilderness", Matthew 4:4

<https://www.campswatara.org/resident>

Don't miss out on the \$25 Early Bird Discount which runs until 3/31/26.

### Camp Swatara - Help Wanted

Begin your journey as part of the Camp Swatara staff community which includes leadership opportunities in communication, team-work, group dynamics, specific skill development, and being a mentor and role model. These contribute to strengthening you as a person, preparing and sharpening you for your future . . . AND, having a pocket of time to build into the lives of the campers who come to Camp Swatara.

We're hiring for the summer beginning at 14 years old and have positions in Counseling, Buildings & Grounds, Housekeeping, and Pool & Waterfront. Don't have a full summer to be with us - come serve for a week or two.

Staff & Volunteer Applications for 2026 are ready for you to APPLY!!

<https://www.campswatara.org/employment-opportunities>

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

Help is needed to pack Tulpy Packs on Wednesday,  
March 4, 2026 at 9:30 AM at the Bethel Elementary School



We need someone to lead our craft committee. For more information, please contact any member of our Women's Fellowship.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

The March-April issue of the **Upper Room** has arrived and is on the table in the narthex.



March  
Mission of the Month  
One Great Hour of Sharing



### What's Happening in:

#### March

1. 10:30 AM Bread & Cup Communion 
3. 7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting
4. 8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH  
10:00 AM Seated exercise class / FH 
5. 8:30 AM Quilting 
7. 12:00 PM S. Brubaker / K & FH
8. Daylight Savings starts
10. 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
11. 8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH  
10:00 AM Seated exercise class / FH 
12. 8:30 AM Quilting 
14. 12:00 PM 50+ Club meeting / Mt. Aetna Fire Co.
15. 10:30 AM (combined service - no 8:30 service) Spiritual Renewal  
All Fellowship Meal following 10:30 service  
7:00 PM Spiritual Renewal Service
- 16-18 7:00 PM Spiritual Renewal Services
18. Newsletter Deadline

#### **CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

Praise Team / Wed. 7:15pm  
Jubilee Choir/Sanct/Thurs. 6:15 pm  
Bell Choir/Sanct/Thurs. 7:45 pm