



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

“Return”

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If you've ever shopped on Amazon, you would agree that returns are made easy. In like manner, a return to the Lord is made easy. In this season of Lent, we reflect and examine our lives. We're reminded that from dust we came and to dust we shall return. This divine invitation is before us. It's an invitation to return, to refocus, to realign our hearts with God. Now how do we even do that? It's often a matter of seeing where we are and where we need to go. If where we are is not directly connected to where God would want us to be, we simply redirect our heart toward God. Whatever concerns the heart of God concerns us. Those concerns are for the least of these; the people needing clothing, shelter, food, the widows, the orphans, the poor and might we even say those less focused upon.

Scripture calls out to us in Joel 2:12:

““Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.””

In a world full of constant demands, may we create space for genuine repentance, devoted prayer, unending renewal, and a deeper connection with Jesus. As we move toward the cross and ultimately the empty tomb, let us take heart that Christ did not go to Calvary informally. He went with complete intention. He went loving us despite who we are. Might we consider this month what God is asking us to surrender. For me, it's complaining and being way more grateful, realizing how amazingly blessed I am. In addition, let's consider where God is calling us to deeper obedience. Is there something getting in the way of our relationship with Christ. For me, it's become a level of worry and needing to remind myself Jesus tells me not to worry but to cast my cares and anxieties upon him. But ultimately how can we draw closer to Christ. Every day is a good day to be filled by Scripture. Not just to read and check it off our list, but to read and absorb every word. And whatever the Lord may place on our heart, let us respond.

Friends, let us enter this season prepared for the promise of resurrection, knowing that hope is rising and that Light indeed will overcome the darkness.

Let us journey together — humbly, prayerfully, and with great expectancy.

Grace and peace. Lovingly yours,
Pastor Matt



Bronson Cass	1	Marlin Ritchie	6	Brenda L. Hershey	15
Cale E. DeMille	1	Stephen Snyder	6	Joan Kline	15
Pamela Franklin	1	Rita Soliday	6	Aaron S. Riegel	15
Darlene Webber	1	Mark H. Swope	6	Jeffrey A. Miller	16
Phyllis Baylor	2	Derick S. Kauffman	7	Cathleen A. Hollen	17
Melissa Emerich	3	Stephanie Bicher	9	Steven D. Henning	18
Aaron Stupp	3	Richard Frantz, Sr.	9	Jean Snyder	20
Ryan D. Kissling	3	David Fake	10	Audrey L. Sproesser	20
Nancy Bashore	4	Marlene Blatt	10	Macey Schwalm	23
Debra L. Seigfried	5	Neal Siegrist	10	Glenn Heisey	24
		Kevin Boltz	11	Janet Costic	24
		Darlene Bechtold	12	Gregory Dreibelbis	26
		Lisa Hershey	13	Allen Rebman	26
		Kerrie Jo Umberger	13	Mary Louise Bashore	28
		Vincent Snyder	14	Tammy Long	30
		Anthony Fazio	15	Scott Zeller	31

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

Our Sincere Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for Janelle Rebman and family on the passing of Janelle’s grandmother.

As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy and Christian love to Vera Gross and family on the passing of Vera’s son, Ray Fahnstock. Ray passed away on Feb. 12th.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Mark and Jo Lyn Light and family on the passing of their daughter-in-law, Heather Light. Continued prayers for Heather’s husband, Michael and their children, Brayden and Oakley. Heather passed away on February 13th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3** 7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting
- 8** Daylight Savings Time–Spring Forward
- 10** 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon /Ctry Fare
- 14** 50+ Club Spring Banquet /Mt. Aetna Fire Co.
- 15** Spiritual Renewal Service 10:30AM & 7PM
All Fellowship Meal / FH following 10:30 AM service
- 16 -18** Spiritual Renewal Services / 7:00PM
- 18** Newsletter Deadline
- 20** 3:00-5:30 PM Bethel Food Pantry
- 21** 7:00 AM Women’s Fellowship Buffet Breakfast / FH
- 24** 9:00 AM Women’s Fellowship Mtg/FH
Ministry Team Minutes due
- 28** 7:00 AM Men’s Prayer Breakfast/ café
Deacons Retreat / Gathering Place Cafe
- 29** Palm Sunday

Information Updates from Little Swatara



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Membership Classes

As spring is soon upon us, perhaps you've thought of being baptized and would have interest in joining our church family as a member. Please see Pastor Matt or relay to anyone in leadership or a deacon of your desires. This can be membership transfer as well as reaffirmation of faith.

Need a boost? If you would like to receive a weekly Bible encouragement text from Pastor Matt. Please text him at 717-675-3946

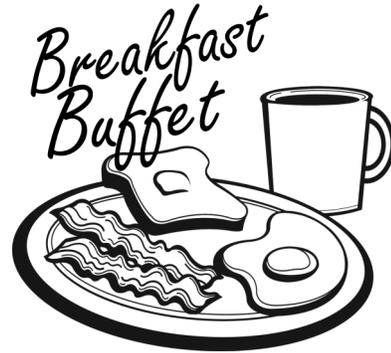


**Mother–Daughter
Banquet
May 9th, 2026
6:00 PM**

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday–Wednesday–Thursday
10:00 am - 12:30 pm**

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5)



Saturday, March 21, 2026

7:00 AM–10:00 AM

Little Swatara COB
Fellowship Hall

(Snow Date–March 28th)

WIDOWS



LUNCHEON

The next Widows luncheon
**Tuesday, March 10th
11:30 A.M.**

The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA



Easter Flowers

Easter Flowers will be available for purchase to enhance the sanctuary for Easter morning.

You will be able to take your flowers along after the worship service on Easter Sunday. Flowers range in price from \$6–\$9 depending on the plant you purchase. Flowers are through Layser's Flowers, You have a choice of Easter Lily, tulips, mums, daffodil, azalea (mums and azaleas are the florist type, not hardy). Orders will be taken through Sunday March 8. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. Payment can be given to Pam Gerberich -- checks payable to the church or cash.



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

Save the Date Sunday at Camp

Past years have 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.



Easter Festival Sunday, March 29th at 2 PM

All children of the Little Swatara Church and Preschool are invited. Bring your own basket or bag.

Bible Quiz

In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?



- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A salt solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer on page 3



We have chow-chow available for purchase. Chow-Chow is an easy gift for any occasion. Quarts & pints are available. See any member of the Women's Fellowship if you are interested.

Quarts \$9.00 Pints \$5.00



Cookbooks are a wonderful way to share favorite church recipes remembered from our potluck meals and bake sales. There are 2 editions available for sale. If you are interested, see any member of the Women's Fellowship. The new version (with the red cover) is \$5.00 and the older version (with the yellow cover) is \$3.00



The next Women's Fellowship meeting is
Tues., March 24th
at 9:00 AM



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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.

Groundskeeper Wanted!!

We are seeking a dependable and hardworking **Groundskeeper** to help care for our church property and maintain the beauty of our grounds.

Responsibilities include:

- Lawn care, trimming, mulching, and general landscaping
- Seasonal tasks (leaf removal, snow/ice clearing (sidewalks and steps), pruning, etc.)
- Light maintenance and upkeep of outdoor areas
- Ensuring the church grounds are welcoming and safe for all

This is a part-time hourly rate position with flexible scheduling.

For more information or to apply, please contact Jamie Wise or any other member of the Stewardship and Property Team.



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



Vacation Bible School Needs Your Help

VBS July 13 - 17th

Please help us make the 2026 Vacation Bible School a fun experience for the local children. The committee is in need of additional members as well as volunteers to help during this year's Vacation Bible School. There are several opportunities in which to help. All skills are needed for this amazing outreach opportunity. Please reach out to the church secretary, a member of the Christian Ed. Team, or a VBS Committee member: Melissa Emerich, Pat Timmins, Deb Wengert, Jenna Baez, Ashley Koch, or Aimee Ruffner.



March 29th – Palm Sunday Services 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

April 3rd – Good Friday Service 6:30 PM

April 5th – Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 AM at Host Church

Easter Service at LSCOB at 10:30 AM (no 8:30 AM Service)



March Mission of The Month

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing reaches those near and far. Sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet, but who are in need of our compassions. Gifts through this special offering empower ministries such as: Church of the Brethren Global Mission & Service; Brethren Disaster Ministries; Global Food Initiative, and many more! Your gift can be given in the same way as your regular church offering. Simply mark your gift as "One Great Hour of Sharing" or use the special envelope provided in your bulletin.



One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 15th, 2026



Lunch N' Learn @ Londonderry Village

March 19, 2026 / 12:00 pm/ Fellowship Hall in the Snell Community Center on the Londonderry Village Campus / Reservations Required.

Expand your Generosity With Creative Giving Tools with Elyse Kauffman

Elyse Kauffman of Everence Financial will explore ways to give generously while preserving and protecting much-needed income. Join her to learn more about how you can accomplish both goals. During this engaging conversation, you'll discover a range of charitable giving opportunities through these strategies and tools.

Spiritual Renewal Services Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

March 15 - 18, 2026, 7 pm
Speaker: Pastor Walter Heisey
"Life's Questions"

Sunday, March 15 - 10:30am
"What About Marriage and the Home?"

Special Music: Senior Choir
All Fellowship Meal following the service

Sunday, March 15 - 7:00 pm
"What About Sin?"

Special Music: Praise Team

Monday, March 16 - 6:00 pm pizza
7:00 pm service
"What About Jesus?"

Special Music: Senior Choir

Tuesday, March 17 - 7:00 pm
"What About 'The Church'?"

Special Music: Bell Choir
Ice cream following the service

Wednesday, March 18 - 7:00 pm
"What About the World?"

Children's Night
Special Music: Jubilee Choir
Children's activities

Services will be Live Streamed at
www.Facebook.com/LittleSwataraCOB/Live
or search "Little Swatara" on YouTube.



Spiritual Renewal

Spiritual Renewal Services

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

March 15, 2026 @ 10:30 AM

March 15 – 18, 2026 @ 7 PM

Speaker: Pastor Walter Heisey

Walter Heisey grew up a few miles south of the line that was created in the 1880's separating the Little Swatara Circuit from the Tulpehocken Church Circuit. Growing up in the Heidelberg Congregation, he has served in various areas of church and Sunday School work. After several years as a deacon, Walter was called to the ministry and has served in that capacity for the past 50 years. His passion is helping people grow in their walk with Jesus Christ and in Christ's service. Walter looks forward to sharing with us, his neighbors, and with a quick check on genealogical records, probably his relatives as well, since he finds himself a double descendant of Matthias Frantz.



Walter graduated from ELCO High School, and beside the "School of Life" has taken advantage of continuing education opportunities available locally. These have included several terms with Brethren Bible Institute at Elizabethtown College, and some short courses at Evangelical Seminary. Various seminars and some training at The International Center for Biblical Counseling have also blessed his life.

His involvement with the Brethren Revival Fellowship, and serving for fourteen years in coordinating BRF's Volunteer Service Program with Brethren Volunteer Service has broadened his perspective of the Church.

Along with his wife, Peggy, Walter has earned his living as a dairy farmer and still enjoys planting a few acres of corn and watching it grow. With five children, 24 grandchildren and one Great-grandchild, and involvement in their various pursuits Walter doesn't think he has time for many other hobbies.

Oh! His second language is the little bit of PA Dutch that gets mixed into his English at times.



YOU'RE INVITED TO *Spring Fellowship*

Come listen and learn alongside other ANE District women at Spring Fellowship 2026! Ann Clark Van Hine will speak on "Stillness in a Chaotic World" (Psalm 46:10). *Register by March 9!*



ABOUT THE SPEAKER: ANN CLARK VAN HINE WAS BORN IN ENGLAND, BUT GREW UP IN THE U.S. AND CURRENTLY RESIDES IN LITITZ, PA. ANN IS THE MOM OF TWO DAUGHTERS, THE WIDOW OF A FIREFIGHTER WHO LOST HIS LIFE ON 9/11, A RETIRED SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, A PUBLISHED WRITER, CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER, AND A BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR. HER BOOK, *PIECES FALLING*, WILL BE ON SALE FOR \$10 AT THE EVENT.

EVENT DETAILS

21 MARCH 2026

8:30AM - 2:30PM

COST: \$25



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL MUSIC & HYMN SINGING

LASAGNA LUNCH

ENGAGING SESSIONS

OFFERING FOR CHILDREN'S DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRIES



*DIETARY ALTERNATIVES & CHILDCARE FOR KIDS AGES 3-8 AVAILABLE; REQUEST ON REGISTRATION FORM.

LOCATION

LANCASTER COB
1601 SUNSET AVENUE,
LANCASTER, PA 17601



News from Camp Swatara

Registration is now 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 March 31, 2026.

Maple Syrup Making 101 Thursday, March 12, 2026

This super sweet event is one you don't want to miss. Join us as we discover the entire syrup making process. By the time you leave, you'll have gotten a chance to 'tap' a maple tree, taste some maple sap, and watch the sap boil down to syrup. And..... there may or may not be pancakes involved. Grab your friends and come on out for this sweet day at Camp! Info and Registration: www.CampSwatara.org



Trail Maintenance Saturday, March 21, 2026

Join us to help maintain our trails and get the ready for the upcoming hiking season. Tools will be provided. For information and registration: call the Camp Office (717-933-8510).



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>



Little Swatara Preschool March 2026 Newsletter



Dear Little Swatara Preschool Family and Friends,

Spring is right around the corner (March 20th!) and we are looking forward to the return of warmer weather and watching the earth wake up and bloom! Our 2025/26 school year is flying by and it has been such a wonderful year of growth and development for all the children here at Little Swatara Preschool. The students have completed and received their mid year observations and class recommendations for next school year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding those, please know the teachers are always available to chat.

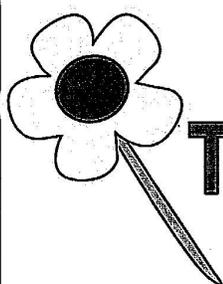
As we transition into spring, we're excited to bring a fresh burst of activities and learning experiences to our little learners. We encourage you to continue to foster a love for learning at home by reading to your children, doing puzzles, and playing educational games. You can involve your child in all kinds of learning experiences whether it is a trip to the museum, a nature walk, or cooking a new recipe together!

As always, thank you for your continued support of our program and for entrusting your most precious treasure to us each week. Here's to another month full of growth and discovery!

Blessings,
Miss Sara



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. —Song of Solomon 2:11-12



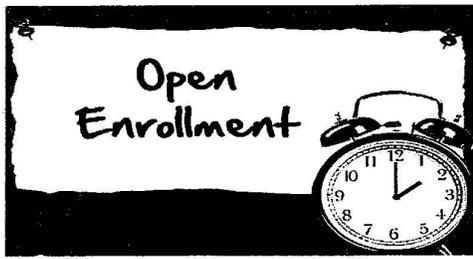
Thank You

Thank you for sharing the afternoon with us at the annual ART SHOW! We hope you enjoyed the special time making memories with your children and had opportunities to visit with LSP staff and other preschool families. We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the LSP Board of Directors for helping us set up and for volunteering their time to help run this

event. We are also incredibly thankful for the funds raised through the art auction. All of the proceeds will go towards fun activities and supplies for both the Preschool and PreK classrooms. Thank you for your enthusiastic support of our afternoon of creativity. It's always wonderful to spend time with our LSP families. We are so blessed!

Our Valentine's Day class celebrations were sweet days filled with love, kindness, and treats. Thank you to each family that contributed items to make it a special day for the children. The children had fun sharing their special cards and goodies with their friends. What a sweet blessing to celebrate this day of LOVE together!





Little Swatara Preschool Enrollment for the 2026/27 school year has begun. Each current student should have received an enrollment application which was sent home in their backpacks. If you do not need the application, please feel free to share it with a friend or family member. If you require additional applications, we are happy to supply you with another or you can print it directly from our website found at littleswatara.org/preschool. If there are questions or concerns regarding enrollment or the program, please feel free to ask Miss Sara. Be sure to return your enrollment application as soon as possible so we can do our best to accommodate your scheduling needs. Thank you!

Top 5 Reason to Enroll Your Child at Little Swatara Preschool

1. We emphasize Christian values! Our students learn how God loves them and benefit from Bible stories, prayer, and Gospel values woven into each school day.
2. We love our students! We value our relationships with the children and their families, and we build upon them throughout the year.
3. We build friendships and a sense of community! By focusing on social-emotional development, our students can practice kindness, self-awareness, self-management, and relationship skills.
4. We learn through play and exploration! There are multiple opportunities for child-led play through the use of educational toys and activities. Our students learn skills that will equip them in their journey to be lifelong learners.
5. We prepare your child for Kindergarten! We incorporate several curriculum areas into fun, hands on activities that promote language and cognitive skills, boost math and literacy skills, as well as develop fine and gross motor skills.

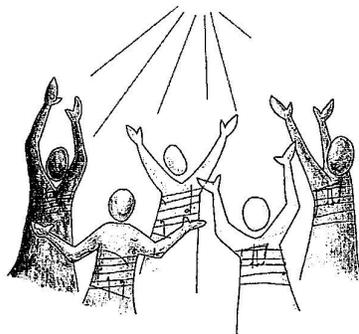
preschool registration



Bible Verse for the month of March:

"Give thanks to God for He is good."

Psalm 136:1



March 15th through March 18th is **Spiritual Renewal Week** at Little Swatara Church of the Brethren. Every spring the Little Swatara Church engages in a period of spiritual renewal in order to draw closer to God. This year's services will be led by Pastor Walter Heisey. We would like to invite our Preschool families to join us.

Sunday, March 15th: 7:00 pm service

Monday, March 16th: 6:00 pizza
7:00 service

Wednesday, March 18th: 7:00 service & Children's Night with special activities

Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth. Hosea 6:3



March 2026

<p>1 Bread & Cup Communion</p>	<p>2 elevator inspection</p>	<p>3 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>5 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 12:00pm S. Brubaker / K & FH</p>
<p>8 Day Light Savings starts</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare</p>	<p>11 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>12 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>13 12:00pm Preschool Art Show - FH (Snow date) - set-up</p>	<p>14 7:00am Preschool Art Show - FH (Snow date) 12:00pm 50+ club mtg/Mt Aetna Fire Co.</p>
<p>15 10:30 AM Combined service (no 8:30 service) All Fellowship Meal / FH Food Pantry Collection Spiritual Renewal Service</p>	<p>16 Spiritual Renewal Service</p>	<p>17 Spiritual Renewal Service</p>	<p>18 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH Newsletter Deadline Spiritual Renewal Service 7:15pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>19 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>20  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry</p>	<p>21 7:00am Women's Fellowship Breakfast / FH & K 6-12 (breakfast 7-10am)</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Ministry Team Minutes Due 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH</p>	<p>25 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>26 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Deacons Retreat / Gathering Place Women's Fellowship Breakfast / FH & K 6-12 (breakfast 7-10am) - SNOW DATE 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe</p>
<p>29 Easter Festival Palm Sunday Services</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>2 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice</p>	<p>3 Good Friday Service</p>	<p>4 10:00am Lester Bashore memorial service</p>