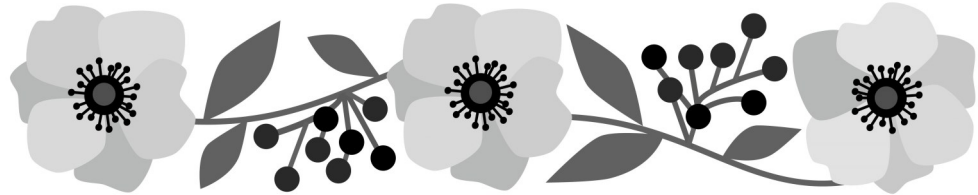




Good News

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



"May it be so"

As we enter the warmer months, there's a newfound joy within us that has culminated by the arrival of sunshine and the extension of daylight hours. These components shine light onto our often more saddened state over the winter months. Though we know God is love and the source of all joy, that comfort in the Son couldn't be more plausible than it is right now. Jesus calls us to shine our lights and extend our love unto others. I'd ask us to consider how well we are doing at those aspects of our lives. It's a higher calling than what we see in the world today where selfish ambitions and greed are taking root. What more can we give away to follow Jesus closer? I'll admit in this season of life, approaching the age of 50, I'm gaining more perspective on what contentment truly looks like. My desires are slowly fading from earthly things and drawing nearer to God is becoming more priority. It's a process. After all we live in this flesh in this world and the temptations to be seen or be heard are overwhelming. But this day let us choose to serve the Lord and be the people of love and generosity he has called us to be. The phrase spring cleaning takes root at the heart of the matter. Where do I see roots that need pulled out keeping me from being nearer to the Lord? It's weeding season friends, and when we aren't especially careful to tend to our hearts, those weeds from the world can strangle our life in Christ. We were made for so much more. Don't settle for anything less than your all in Christ. When we're all in, all glory is given to Him who matters most.

May it be so. In Christ's redeeming love.

Pastor Matt

P.S. Tell someone you love them today.

Pastor's Note.....
Page 1

Birthdays & Condolences...
Page 2

Information Updates...
Page 3 - 6

Camp Swatara....
Page 7

Preschool News...
Page 8 - 9

Calendar.....
Page 10



Lois Reinhard	1	Jill A. Amspacher	5	Nicole L. Burns	17
Heather Ann Claman	3	Doris Keeney	5	Dianne High	18
Andy K. Donkel	3	Roberta Bashore	6	Ronald Snyder	21
Sally Emerich	3	Ashley Mill (Engle)	6	Curtis Wanner	21
Richard Bechtold	4	Jason C. Bashore	7	Aiden Schwalm	22
		Larry Hartranft	11	Daniel Bostwick	24
		Brenda Kelly	11	Alonzo Brown	26
		Valerie A. Bashore	12	Wendy Lingle	26
		Craig Ziegler	14	Thelma Nelson	28
		Alane Riegel	16	Jason Schwalm	28
		Darlene Rockett	16	Pauline Batz	29
		Lauren G. Cass	17	Lindsay Hetrick	31

Our Sincere Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for Lauren and Linda Cass on the loss of Lauren’s father, Walter Cass, who passed away on Friday, April 10th.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3** Spring Love Feast
National Youth Sunday
- 5** 7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting
- 7** National Day of Prayer
50+ club meeting / FH
- 9** 6:00 PM Mother-Daughter Banquet
- 10** Mothers Day
Food Pantry Collection
- 11** 7:00 PM Every Member Council mtg
- 12** 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare
- 14** Ascension Day
- 15** 3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
- 17** Potluck Sunday
12 noon Spiritual Nurture meeting
- 18** Music & Worship Team meeting
- 19** 9:00 AM Women’s Fellowship meeting
- 20** Newsletter Deadline
- 23** 7:00 AM Men’s Prayer Breakfast/café
- 25** Memorial Day—church office closed
- 26** 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.

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



Sunday, May 17th

Following the 10:30 AM service

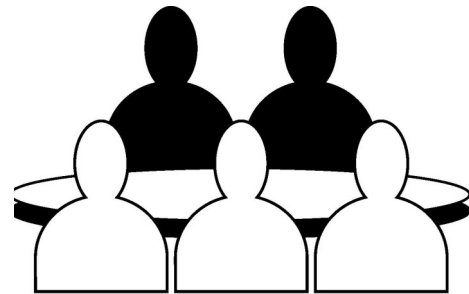


Volunteers Needed to Help Pack "Tulpy Packs" !

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

May 27th, June 10th, and June 24th

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



Reminder
Every Member Council Meeting
May 11th at 7:00 pm

WIDOWS



LUNCHEON

The next Widows luncheon
Tuesday, May 12th
11:30 A.M.

The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA



Women's Fellowship

The next Women's Fellowship meeting is
Tuesday, May 19th
at 9:00 AM



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.

Answer: (A Romans 16:22)



**Annual Tractor, Truck & Car Show
Saturday, June 20th, 2026
8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Come to see the various vehicles, the parade, the tool sale, the yard sale and to enjoy the food! There will be children’s activities too. Watch for more details closer to the date.

Friends by the Fire

I can't think of anything better than the sound of a crackling fire and the joy of fellowship around a campfire. Join us on Friday, May 15th, at 7:00 PM at the pavilion area for a blessed time.



**Londonderry Village
Annual Estate & Barn Sale**

Thursday, May 28th - 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.
Friday, May 29th - 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.
Saturday, May 30th - 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Categories include large and small appliances, antiques, books, camping gear, glassware, cooking essentials, electronics, tools, a wide variety of furniture, jewelry, plants, and much more!

Cash or checks only!

Proceeds benefit the Londonderry Village Good Samaritan Fund for benevolent care.



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

**Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library
Movie Night**

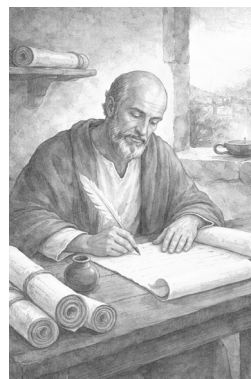
Tuesday, May 12th at 6:00 pm
“Secrets of the Bees”
Rated G

Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00 pm
“Pets on a Train”
Rated PG

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

Bible Quiz

Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?



- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

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



Mother-Daughter Banquet
May 9th, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex
Any questions contact Roberta Bashore

Men's Fellowship Tool Sale



As a part of the Tractor, Truck, Car and Motorcycle Show on June 14th, 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!



Lunch N' Learn @ Londonderry Village

May 13th, 2026 / 12:00 pm / Fellowship Hall in The Snell Community Center on the Londonderry Village Campus / Reservations required
Additional pricing: \$20.00 supply kit

"Petals in Practice: Learn, Create, and Take with Jessica Maloy"

Jessica Maloy, owner of Palmyra Greenhouse, will guide us through the art of arranged flowers in a mason jar and share simple ways to keep popular blooms looking their best. Guests are welcome to watch the demonstration at no cost. Those who want to create their own arrangement can participate for twenty dollars and will receive a mason jar, seven flowers, greens, and clippers to take home.

Deadline to reserve supplies: 5/6/2026.

"Sooner or later, we all quote our mothers."





May Mission of the Month "Feed Them"

"Feed Them" has been helping the community for approximately 6 years. The people are very appreciative of the take out meals. Usually 300 meals are prepared each month at the cost of \$500-\$600/month. Your monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Donations of food or help, please contact Pam Gerber-ichat: 717-222-1094

Thank you!



Save the Date Sunday at Camp

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

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.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

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



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 bring our theme to life.



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

"A real friend is one who walks in, when the rest of the world walks out."

–Walter Winchell



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.



Movie Night in the Campground

Saturday, May 9th, 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.

RC Show - May Event

Saturday, May 16th, 2026

11:00 AM–4:00 PM

Join us for an action-packed day of Remote Control planes, cars, and boats! Whether you're a seasoned RC hobbyist or just curious, there's something for everyone.



The "M" word

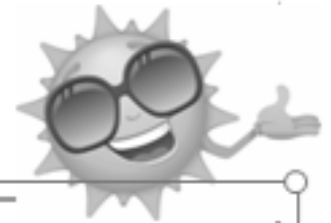
During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she said, "My name begins with the letter 'm.' I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"



Little Swatara Preschool May 2026 Newsletter



Dear Little Swatara Preschool Family and Friends,

As the school year draws to a close, we find ourselves filled with pride and joy reflecting on the growth and achievements of our young learners. This year has been a remarkable journey, filled with laughter, learning, and countless memorable moments. From our engaging Bible story times to delightful art projects, every activity has been an opportunity for your children to explore their creativity, expand their minds, and grow in their knowledge of God's love.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents and guardians who have supported our preschool community. Your involvement and encouragement have been invaluable, and we appreciate the trust you placed in us to nurture your child's development.

Looking ahead, we are excited to plan for the next school year, with new adventures and experiences awaiting. For those moving on to Kindergarten, we send our love and prayers with you, and wish you all the success in the world. For returning families, we eagerly anticipate another year of fun and learning together.

Thank you for a fantastic year! Have a wonderful summer filled with sunshine, smiles, and lots of love.

In God's Love,
Miss Sara



Camp Swatara Field Trips

Each class will have an end of the year class trip to Camp Swatara. Parents and siblings are invited to attend this outing with your preschooler. We will take a short hike, sing songs, and spend time in and around the Family Camp Fellowship Hall where we will eat a picnic lunch and play at the playground. Each child is to bring a packed lunch. (A refrigerator will be available to store lunches.) Please wear outdoor play clothes and close-toed shoes! We will be hiking on a path through the woods and crossing a creek that requires stepping stones to reach the other side. If you are unable to attend but would like your child to participate, please see your child's teacher. A permission slip has been sent home with each student. We look forward to a fun adventure together!

Preschool 1: May 13

PreKindergarten 1: May 11th (morning)

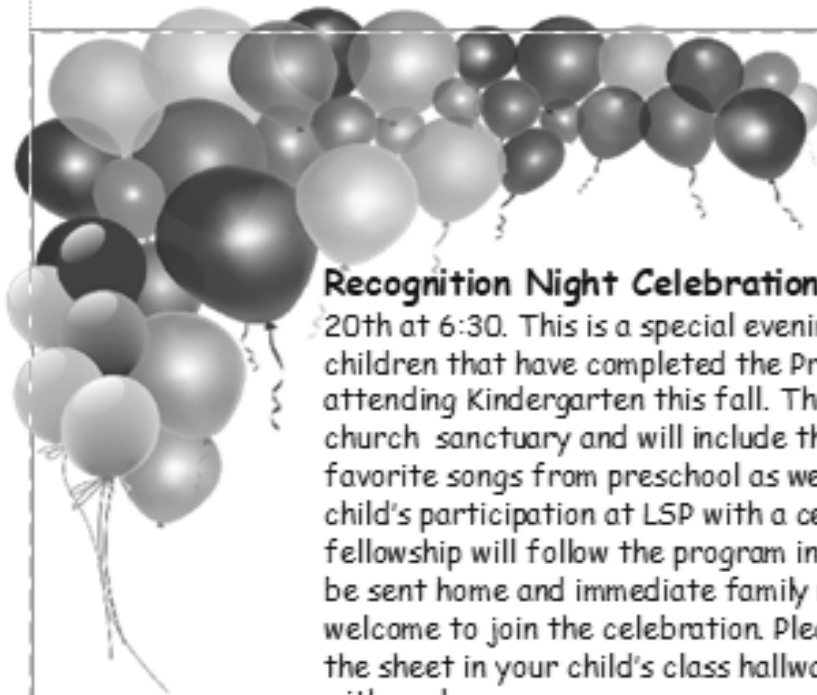
Preschool 2: May 12

PreKindergarten 3: May 11th (afternoon)





The Preschool Board of Directors asks that you please complete an **evaluation** of our program which will be sent home in your child's backpack. Please take a few moments to answer the questions and return it to preschool. We appreciate your participation and value your feedback as it helps us improve and strengthen the program. Thank you!



Recognition Night Celebration... will be held on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30. This is a special evening during which we recognize the children that have completed the Preschool program and will be attending Kindergarten this fall. The program will take place in the church sanctuary and will include the children singing some of their favorite songs from preschool as well as allowing us to recognize each child's participation at LSP with a certificate and gift. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the program in the church social hall. Invitations will be sent home and immediate family members and grandparents are welcome to join the celebration. Please RSVP to Miss Sara or sign up on the sheet in your child's class hallway. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Vacation Bible School

You are invited to Vacation Bible School at Little Swatara Church for a "Snowball Mountain Challenge." Gear up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith at Vacation Bible School! Kids will become challengers guided by Ollie the Arctic Seal and will learn to draw from their faith through stories of courage and hope. With a "winter games" theme filled with snowy experiences, this VBS delivers joy and meaning, teaching kids that, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

We would love to see all of our preschoolers in attendance this summer, **July 13th-July 17th** from 8:30-11:30 each morning. Please register on the Little Swatara Church website www.LittleSwatara.org and look for the VBS registration link.

If you are interested in volunteering for VBS, the committee is always happy to have extra helpers. Please contact Sara Bryant at sara.bryant@littleswatara.org for more information on how to be a VBS volunteer. See you there!

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Preschool Sunday	27 6:30pm Farm Women / FH 7:00pm Stewardship & Ppty team meeting	28 Ministry Team Minutes Due	29 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	30 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm Preschool Board meeting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	1	2
3 National Youth Sunday Spring Love Feast	4 9:00am VBS painting / FH	5 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	6 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	7 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	8	9 6:00pm Mother-Daughter Banquet
10 Food Pantry Collection Mothers' Day	11 6:00pm M&E meeting / FH 7:00pm Every Member Council Meeting	12 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	13 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	14 Ascension Day 8:30am Quilting 9:30am Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethel 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	15  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	16 Wise reunion / pav
17 potluck Sunday 12:00pm Spiritual Nurture meeting	18 12:30pm VBS painting / FH 7:00pm Music & Worship Team meeting	19 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH	20 Newsletter Deadline 8:00am Preschool Recognition/ Sanctuary & FH & kitchen	21 8:00am Preschool Recognition/ Sanctuary & FH & kitchen 8:30am Quilting	22	23 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe
24 10:00am Sue Hartranft / pav	25 Memorial Day - Church Office closed	26 Ministry Team Minutes Due	27	28 8:30am Quilting	29	30 2:00pm Pastor Matt - pavilion
31	1	2 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	3	4 8:30am Quilting 11:00am Home School Group / Renee Brown / pav 6:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH	5	6