



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

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There's just something about someone saying hello. It creates an open space for communication. It makes you feel welcome and valued. It gives you peace with others. Hello signifies you are accepted where you are. Hello gives someone permission to engage with you. It starts that conversation.

Jesus had quite the niche for talking with people. But it wasn't just about hello. He was staring at the soul, reaching for their heart. That's a game changer. Often, we're looking for something other than what's happening in someone's life. We just gather information and that's legitimate conversation. But as we live and move and breathe together, let's take it a step further and find out how we're really doing. Speaking to the heart indicates concern for well-being and that we genuinely do want relationships that really matter.

Consider what Jesus did with his conversations. He had compassion. He showed grace. He offered forgiveness and he brought forth healing. His words carried power as do ours. It's amazing what a hello can do. Even if we've never met the person before, speak life into their hearts and be kind. Say hello. It could be the difference they needed that day. Some key people Jesus centered on were those overlooked, those standing alone, those pushed to the side as marginal in culture. We have to love how he was so welcoming and met the needs of those he encountered; saying things such as "What do you want me to do for you?" in Mark 10:51.

There's nothing quite like conversing like Jesus. Listening to people's stories and responding with love, ensuring they knew they were ok to be who they were and not being quick to judge or correct. It sure would make the world a better place and it can begin with the fine folks at Little Swatara.

Blessings :-)

Pastor Matt Christ



Matthew D. Bicher	1	Karen Myers	7	Carol Peace	16
Flora Willette	2	Scott G. Gerberich	9	Alan Bashore	16
Tammy J. White	3	Shirley Blouch	10	Robert Sweitzer	18
James E. Batz	4	Tiffany Bicksler	12	Alexander Hollenbach	20
Aaron Hartranft	5	Alexis R. Wise	12	Craig S. Luckenbill	20
Sara E. Bryant	6	Beverly Zimmerman	12	Lacey Scholl	22
Jennifer Mirth	6	Stephanie R. Council	13	Lisa Care	26
Valerie Denise Johnson	7	Robert Houser	13	Andrew Hollenbach	26
		Gina M. Borelli	14	Amy Fake	29
		Renee Hershey	14	Penelope Dawn Miller	30
		Jennifer Bashore	15	Shawn M. Foesig	31
		Sarah Kolbe	15	Dorothy Lutz	31

Our Sincere Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for Shelly and Richard Yenser on the loss of Shelly's father, Bernie Sobjak, who passed away on Wednesday, September 9th, 2026



PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday–Wednesday–Thursday
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

2026 Organization Officers

Moderator - John Wise
 Asst. Moderator - Todd Rebman
 Church Clerk - Dianne High
 Treasurer - Jamie Wise
 Financial Secretary - Jean Myers

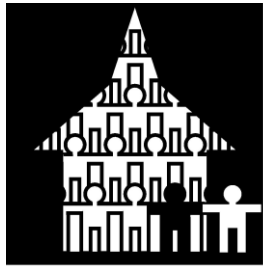
2026 Committee Chairs

Stewardship & Property - Richard Yenser
 Christian Education - Ashley Koch
 Missions & Evangelism - Denise Bohn
 Spiritual Nurture Ministry - Gary Bashore
 Music and Worship - Allen Rebman
 Pre-School Board - Renee Brown

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1** 8:30 AM Quilting
- 3** District Conference
- 4** Love Feast
- 6** 7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting
- 8** 8:30 AM Quilting
- 10** 12:00 PM 50+ club mtg / FH
- 11** Harvest Home Sunday
Food Pantry Collection
12:00 PM Spiritual Nurture meeting
- 13** 11:30 AM Widows' Luncheon / Ctry Fare
- 15** 8:30 AM Quilting
9:30 AM packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Luth. Ch.
- 16** 8:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
6:00 PM Fall Festival & Hayride / Pav
- 18** Church Potluck Meal / FH
- 19** 7:00 PM Music & Worship Team mtg
- 20** 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship Mtg / FH
- 21** Newsletter Deadline
- 22** 8:30 AM Quilting
- 24** 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast / café
- 25** Golden Age Sunday & dinner/ FH
- 27** Ministry Team Minutes due
- 29** 8:30 AM Quilting

Information Updates from Little Swatara



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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 call the church office at 717-933-4723. We'd be so happy and blessed to have you be part of our Faith Family through membership classes.



Our next Women's Fellowship meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20th, 2026, at 9 AM

Upcoming Events:

Breakfast Buffet: October 24, 2026, at 7:00--10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Annual Christmas Bazaar: November 7th, 2026, from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Women's Christmas Brunch: November 21st, 2026, from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM at the Cottage at Country Fare. There will be a sign-up sheet closer to the date.



NOTE - COLLEGE STUDENTS

Parents, if you have a son or daughter attending college this year, please leave their address with the secretary so we can support them with cards and letters or encouragement throughout the coming year.



Lunch N' Learn @ Londonderry Village

October 22, 2026 / 12:00 pm / Fellowship Hall in the Snell Community Center on the Londonderry Village Campus / Reservations Required.

"A Sound Bowl Experience Group Class"

Erica Jo Shaffer of WildlyCraftedWoman will introduce singing bowls and other sound tools that use vibration to support relaxation. She will begin with a simple conversation about how they work and how sound can influence the body. Guests will then settle in for a guided sound bowl experience created to help the mind and body unwind. This session will highlight the benefits of sound therapy, including reduced stress, deeper calm, and a peaceful sense of rest.

"October's Party"

October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came—
The Chestnuts, Oaks and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.

—George Cooper

ANSWER: D (See Leviticus 16:10, 21,

October's Mission of the Month is Harvest Home & Food Pantry



Harvest Home Sunday will be on October 11th. October's Mission of the Month will be the food Pantry. We will be collecting canned or boxed goods, and cash donation on Harvest Home Sunday. Please place food donations in and around the display in the narthex or downstairs.

Help Wanted

Part-time Cook Wanted!!!

The Gathering Place Café is currently seeking a dependable and hardworking Cook to help at our popular café. Approx. 20-25 hrs/week

For more information or to apply, please contact Patty Timmins @ 717-679-7381, or Mike Peace. @ 717-933-8495



Fall Festival Fun Is Coming!

It's time for hayrides, refreshments, and good ol' fall fun! Join us for our Fall Festival on October 16th at 6:00 PM at the Little Swatara COB pavilion – a family-friendly evening full of games, food, and fellowship.

Bring your family and friends!

All are welcome!



The next Widows luncheon
Tuesday, October 13th
at 11:30 A.M.
The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA



Londonderry Village Fall Harvest and Christmas Bazaar October 24th, 8am – 1:00pm

DiMatteo Worship Center, Londonderry Village
1200 Grubb Street, Palmyra, PA 17078

Homemade cookies by the pound * crafts
plants & produce * gift baskets * Christmas
Shop * L.V. Woodshop stand & assorted nuts

The L.V. Boutique will be open 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

The food stand will be open for a light lunch of
soup, sandwiches, and desserts!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

BIBLE QUIZ

What modern expression comes from the practice, described in Leviticus, of a priest confessing Israel's sins over the head of an animal and sending it (and the sins with it) into the desert?

- A. hogwash
- B. from the horse's mouth
- C. monkey business
- D. scapegoat



Answer on page 3

Appreciating Your Pastor

Many people have complex relationships with their pastors because faith, church and God involve a mix of emotions. We have particular ideas about church practices, congregational priorities, the minister's use of time, money, authority and more.

But most pastors are deeply devoted to Christ and believe that God has called them to serve in a certain place. They have the best of intentions and work hard to share the good news of the gospel. So, in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, consider the following:

God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called. Your pastor may need time to learn and develop certain skills. (Everyone does!) Bless pastors with your patience.

We don't change the message; the message changes us. You probably won't like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

If a church wants a "better" pastor, it just needs to pray for the one it has. Pray often and caringly for your pastors, church leaders and their families. The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to these special servants.

Chow-Chow Orders

The first chow-chow orders are ready for pick-up. We will be making chow-chow again on Monday, Oct. 5th starting at 8:00 AM. If you have empty quart or pint jars, please place them on the counter in the kitchen. An order form is on the table in the Narthex, or contact any member of Women's Fellowship.

We would appreciate your help

Quarts \$9.00 Pints \$5.00



The Golden Age Banquet will be on Sunday, October 25th following the church service. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the narthex



Londonderry Village Auxiliary 2026 Holiday Nut and Snack Sale

Items for sale include (in one-pound bags): salted and unsalted peanuts, salted and unsalted cashews, salted mixed nuts, honey crunch (peanuts, yogurt raisins, sesame sticks, peanuts), and cabin crunch (M&M chocolate and peanut butter candies, peanuts, raisins, sesame sticks, pretzel balls & tree nuts).

Orders will be taken until Oct. 18th. An order sheet will be placed on the table in the narthex. Linda Bowman will pick up the orders and deliver them to the church on Nov. 15th. Checks must be made payable to the **Londonderry Village Auxiliary**. Checks &/or cash may be given to:

Linda Bowman - Mailbox # 55



Camp Swatara Church of the Brethren

Greetings from Camp Swatara

We invite you to attend our 2026 Contributor's Dinner, themed: "In the Wilderness" scheduled for Saturday, November 7th, 2026. Please note that our seating time is 3:45pm with hors d'oeuvres served at 4pm and the meal served at 4:50pm. This annual event provides an opportunity to interact with your Camp Family, enjoy a delicious meal, and hear how God has provided and what's next for Camp Swatara!

For 2026, please be our guest of honor, recognizing your presence as representative of your belief in and support of this valuable ministry. Seating is extremely limited, so be sure to mark you calendar and reserve your seats or full table today. Registration forms are available on the table in the church narthex. Please complete and either scan it to info@campswatara.org or mail it to Camp Swatara, 2905 Camp Swatara Rd., Bethel, PA 19507 no later than October 23rd, 2026. This is first come, first served opportunity.

Come and bring a loved one, friend, or even fill a table with friends and family (8 people, including yourself). We look forward to sharing what God is doing through and with Camp Swatara this year and into the future!

After event expenses, 100% of your contributions will be directed toward completing our roads project in the family Campground which is currently over 71% funded at a total cost of \$140K.

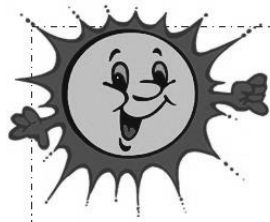
Taking Awe Breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.

—Gunilla Norris, Weavings,
July/August 200



"I'm not real comfortable with using these as offering plates during our harvest celebration service."



BREAKFAST BUFFET

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
INVITE YOU TO A FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 24th, 2026

7:00 - 10:00 A.M.

**LITTLE SWATARA CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN**

(Located 1 mile West of Rehrersburg on the left)

~BY DONATION~

Thank You





CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th

8 am ~ 1 pm

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

31 Rehrersburg, Road, Bethel, PA 19507

Anyone interested in selling items, please contact:

Michelle Snyder 717-933-4856

Sally Emerich 717-304-9241

Tables are \$10 each and benefit the Women's Fellowship

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8,
a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
															1				22							

13	12	7																							

6	20	16	22	22																					

26	11	13	12	7	20	22																			

13	12	7																							

2	5	1	26	7	20																				

2	16	18	7	22																					

25	15	13																							

13	12	7																							

1	2																								

1	15	20																							

6	1	18																							

26	11	5	5																						

2	1	20	7	14	7	20																			

22	13	16	24	18																					

ISAIAH 40:8





Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV



Little Swatara Preschool Newsletter

October 2026



Dear LSP Family and Friends,

Welcome to our 2nd month of preschool! I can't believe how quickly the days are passing. September brought us new friendships, fun learning experiences, lots of play, and time spent hearing and singing about God. We have been learning about the Bible and how God has made each of us so very special. Our teachers and volunteers have enjoyed getting to know each child in our program.

We do not celebrate Halloween at LSP but we do look forward to the beautiful fall weather and the exciting activities that come with autumn and the harvest season. Our teachers have so many wonderful and fun learning activities for this month. Please know that our staff is always available to speak with you regarding questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. We are so happy your family has chosen LSP and we feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to work with these precious children. They are loved!

Please read on to find out more about what's happening in our school for the month of October. Happy Fall!

In His Love,
Miss Sara



CLASS PICTURES

Class pictures will be taken the week of October 12th. Ed Krick of Outback Photography has been photographing the students of LSP for over two decades now! He does a fantastic job and will be taking individual and class pictures of our four classes. A memory folder that includes a student picture and a class picture will be available along with several other different packages. Please watch for more information to come home in your child's backpack!

All checks must be made payable to OUTBACK PHOTOGRAPHY.

Payment must be made the day the pictures are taken. Pictures will be taken on the following days:

Wednesday, October 14: Preschool 1 & PreKindergarten 1

Thursday, October 15: Preschool 2 & PreKindergarten 3



Monthly Bible Verses

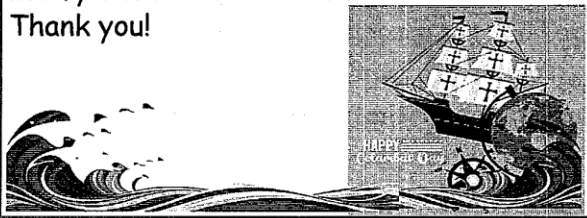
Each month the students learn a new scripture verse. At the end of the month, they are given the opportunity to say the month's verse to earn a small prize. The verse for the month of October is:

"I will listen to what God says." Psalms 85:8



JUST A REMINDER...

Preschool will be in session on Columbus Day, Monday, October 12th. It will be a regular class schedule. If your child will not be in attendance that day, please notify their teacher or Miss Sara. Thank you!

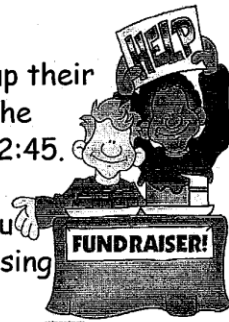


FALL FUNDRAISER



The Little Swatara Preschool Board of Directors is sponsoring a fall fundraiser. We are selling R&K subs/sandwiches to raise funds for our program. The money raised will go towards classroom expenses, special celebrations, and field trips. This sale will take place from October 19th through November 3rd. All forms must be submitted no later than November 3rd.

Families will need to pick up their orders on 11/12/2026 at the preschool between 11:15-12:45. Watch for order forms to come home soon. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts!



We would like to send a BIG thank you to our preschool classroom volunteer Miss Lisa and her family at Hetrickdale Farm for providing our Preschool classes with a wonderful field trip to their beautiful farm! What a blessing! Our PreKindergarten classes will be visiting the Bethel-Tulpehocken Library this month for a fun field trip. We are so thankful for our friends in the community that support the Little Swatara Preschool program by donating their time and resources to help each child learn and grow!

One of the special things we've learned during circle time is...

"From my head to my toes, from my feet to my nose, God made me....SPECIAL!" Ask your child to say it with you!



Join us for Fall Fest at Little Swatara Church on October 16th from 6-8. Fun, fellowship, pumpkin painting, refreshments, and a hayride...come have a great time with friends! Please let Miss Sara know if you plan to attend so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

October 2026

27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	6:00pm CE meeting		8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	District Conference	District Conference 8:00am Berks Co. Farm Women / FH & K 4:00pm Home School Group / Renee Brown
4 Love Feast following church service	5 chow chow canning / kitchen	6 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	7 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	8 8:30am Quilting 5:00pm Missions and Evangelism Team meeting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	9	10 12:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH
11 Food Pantry Collection Harvest Home Sunday 12:00pm Spiritual Nurture meeting	12	13 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	14 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	15 8:30am Quilting 9:30am Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethel 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	16  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry 6:00pm Fall Festival & Hayride	17
18 Potluck Sunday	19 7:00pm Music & Worship Team meeting	20 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH	21 Newsletter Deadline 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	22 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	23	24 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe 7:00am Women's Fellowship Buffet Breakfast / FH & K 6-12 (breakfast 7-10am)
25 Golden Age Sunday/dinner/ FH	26	27 Ministry Team Minutes Due	28 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	29 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice	30	31 8:00am Beth Ann Moats memorial service / sanct. FH & K (W.Lingle)