



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

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Believe!

"If You Can?"

What can't God do? We've heard it said if God is for us, who can be against us? There's such indifference to so many things in this world. Of course we're going to have trouble in this world. There's going to be suffering. There will be persecution. But take heart friends, Jesus had overcome the world. We might say to someone, "if you can?" and we must wonder whether they can. It may not be that they don't want to but in their own power, it's just something they can't do. Now we turn our eyes to Jesus, and we read this passage from Mark 9: 21-24.

"Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." " 'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." "Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

It almost seems as if Jesus is taken aback, hearing the phrase "if you can." The man is told belief makes everything possible. What happens next is our daily prayer. The man says help my unbelief. It's not that he doesn't believe, it's perhaps that the boy's condition has overcome his ability to fully believe. The disciples had just tried driving this demon out and they didn't succeed. So, enter the scene with Jesus and everything changes. The word possible has power. When we believe in Jesus, whatever it is we ask in his name is indeed possible. This doesn't always mean what we ask will happen. But we can always trust it's possible with Jesus. If you can? Yes, he certainly can!!! Believe upon his holy name and see what He can do. Life has so many possibilities and with Christ they have the potential to come to pass.

Blessings :-)

Pastor Matt Christ



Ayden Blatt	1	Jason Manbeck	8	Dianne Younker	20
Lisa Hetrick	2	Joann Ebling	8	Dorothy Gensemer	21
Clayton Bashore	4	Dwayne Foesig	9	Naomi Brown	23
Linda Bowman	4	Gary Emerich, Sr.	10	Brian R. Hess	24
Charlene Muckle	5	Todd Wentling	10	Jean Myers	25
Noreen Gross	5	Louise Graby	11	Bruce Reed	25
James Bowman	6	Paul Heisey	12	Douglas Soliday	26
John D. Frantz	7	Kristina Hoey	12	Linda R. Ziegler	26
Janette M. Lebo	7	Ronald Wanner	14	Lauren Bryant	27
		David Brown	15	Gregory Ziegler	27
		Ashley Smith	17	Tara Ebling	27
		Sandra Shalters	19	Carol Ann Bashore	29
		Rosalie Denardo	20	Ricki Bashore, Jr.	29
		Greg Emerich	20	Joseph D. Brubaker	29
		Connie L. Hershey	20	Randy S. Heltzinger	30

Thank You

I would like to thank the Women's Fellowship for their Get-Well cards.

~ Marvin Luckenbill



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

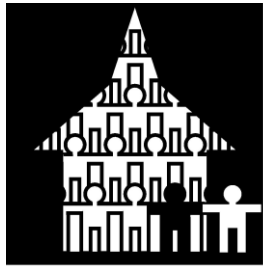
2026 Committee Chairs

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** 7:00 pm Leadership Team meeting
- 3** 8:30 am Quilting
6:00 pm 50+ Club meeting
6:00 pm Preschool Board meeting
- 6** Promotion Sunday
- 7** Labor Day (church office closed)
- 8** 11:30 am Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
- 10** 8:30 am quilting
- 13** Food Pantry Collection Sunday
Grandparents Day
VBS All Volunteers breakfast
- 16** Newsletter deadline
- 17** 8:30 am quilting
9:30 am packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Lutheran Ch., Bethel
- 18** 8:00 am Feed Them / kitchen
3:00 pm Bethel Food Pantry
- 20** Potluck Sunday
12 noon Spiritual Nurture meeting
- 21** 7:00 pm Music & Worship Team meeting
- 22** Ministry Team minutes due
9:00 am Women's Fellowship met / FH
- 24** 8:30 am quilting
- 26** 7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast / café

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, September 22nd, 2026, at 9 AM

Upcoming Events:

COBYS Bike & Hike: September 13th, 2026.

Brethren Disaster Relief

Auction: September 25th and 26th, 2026.

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.

Faith and works are like the light and heat of a candle; they cannot be separated.

—Joseph Beaumont



**Lunch N' Learn
@ Londonderry Village**

September 30, 2026 / 12:00 pm / Fellowship Hall in the Snell Community Center on the Londonderry Village Campus / Reservations Required.

"Alpaca Farming: Meet & Greet the Eastland Alpacas"

Kevin and Sue of Eastland Alpacas will share a look into alpaca farming and what it takes to care for these gentle animals. They will talk about daily farm life, how alpaca fiber is used, and more. Guests will also have the chance to meet two calm alpacas.



**Londonderry Village
Apple Dumpling Fundraiser**

The Londonderry Village Auxiliary is having an Apple Dumpling Fundraiser. The cost is \$6.00 for a regular dumpling and \$6.25 for sugar-free. Sycamore Springs Orchard will be making the dumplings. Sunday, September 13 will be the last day to order, and they will have to be paid in advance. Checks should be payable to Londonderry Village Auxiliary. The dumplings will be delivered to our Church on Saturday, October 10th for you to pick up Sunday, October 11th. There is an order sheet on the table in the Narthex.

ANSWER: D (John 21:17)

September Mission of the Month

is Brethren Disaster Relief. It reaches out to those in need when a disaster hits.



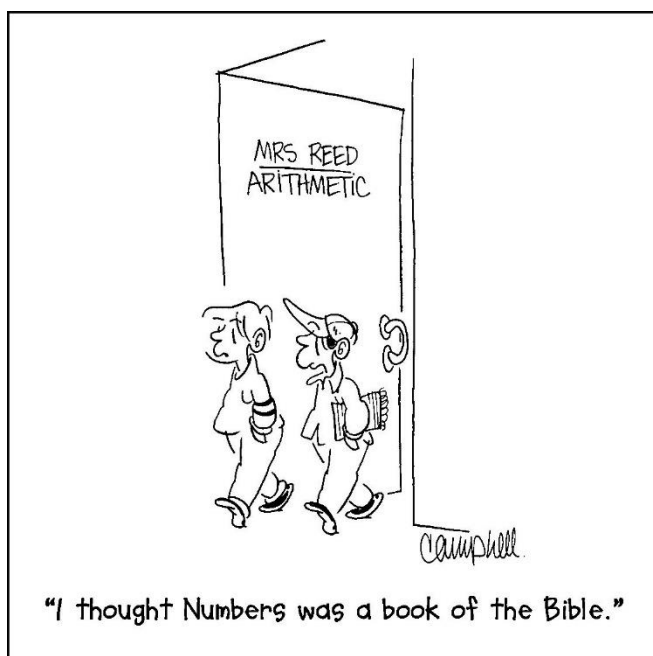
Harvest Home Sunday will be on October 11th. October's mission of the month will be the Food Pantry. We will be collecting canned or boxed goods, and cash donations on Harvest Home Sunday. Please place donations in or around the display in the narthex or downstairs.



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



The next Widows luncheon
Tuesday, September 8th
11:30 A.M.
The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA

2026 VBS Mission Project Red Creek Wildlife Center

VBS collection	\$ 799.13
Mission of the Month	
VBS Offering Project	\$1,225.00
Gathering Place Café	
Donations	\$ 754.00
Total	\$2,778.13

A Prayer for Joy and Laughter

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

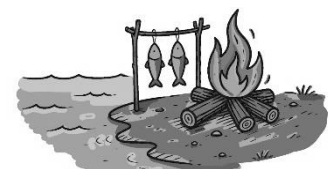
—Anonymous

BIBLE QUIZ

After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: "Do you love me?" The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Philip
- D. (Simon) Peter

Answer on page 3





How will you B&H?



Sunday, September 13, 2026

Join us and bring a friend



Here!

Bikers



Or Here!

Walkers



Or Here!

Foodies



Definitely Here!

Everyone!

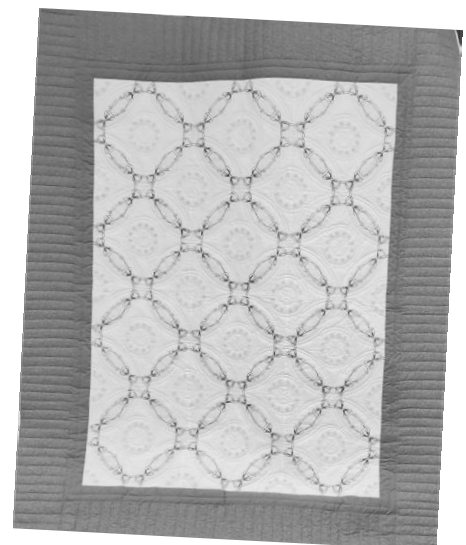
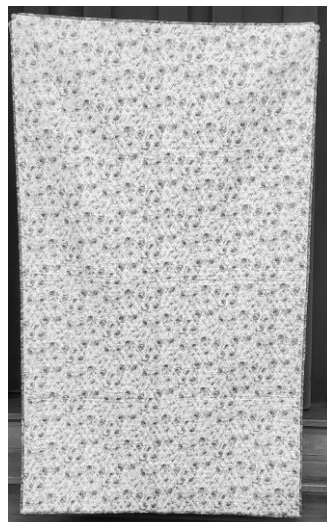
Registration is open: cobys.org/bike-and-hike

Lititz Church of the Brethren



Two quilters, Linda Stine and Jean Myers have been busy with needles and thread, scissors and thimbles throughout the year. Three quilts will be donated to the 2026 Disaster Relief Auction.

It is the quilters' hope and prayer that the quilts will be sold for an amount that will bring hope and peace to those in need. As the needles, thread, scissors and thimbles come to life on Thursday mornings, the fellowship among the quilters continues to "bloom and blossom" with each quilt.





Ready to do some singing? Want to ring some bells? A new choir season will be starting on Thursday, September 25th. All ages are welcome.

Jubilee Choir --- 5 years old through 5th/6th grade will be practicing from 6:15 PM - 6:45 PM in the sanctuary. Pam Gerberich directs and Diane Duell is pianist. This choir sings on the 4th Sunday at 10:30 AM worship service and on holidays.

Senior Choir --- Junior high/High school students and adults are welcome for practice at 7 PM - 7:45 PM. Dianne High directs and Pam Gerberich is pianist. The choir provides special music for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 AM worship services.

Bell Choir -- Junior high/High school students and adults are welcome. Practice is 7:45 PM - 8:30 PM. Pam Gerberich will be directing. It is important for bell ringers to be consistent in attendance to enable the learning of the music. You do not need to be able to read music to play the bells. Bell choir plays for special occasions and during worship once a month as music is ready to be performed.

Praise Team rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 PM. If you play an instrument, enjoy singing and would like to make a commitment to be a part of the team, reach out to David Brown or Pam Gerberich for more information.



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 your 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.

ANE District Conference Service Project

The ANE Program & Arrangements Committee is inviting us to participate in this year's District Conference service project by supporting the Central PA Food Bank in Harrisburg, PA! The representatives from LSCOB will be taking these items with them to conference on October 3rd, 2026

A collection box will be in the narthex to collect needed food items. The deadline for contributions is Sunday, September 27th. Monetary donations are also acceptable. Make checks payable to ANE District (memo: CPFEB)

Most needed food items:

- Canned vegetables
- Pasta & rice
- Cereal
- Juice
- Canned fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Granola bars
- Soup

Please ensure all items are unopened and not expired.

Chow-Chow Orders

We will be making chow-chow on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd & 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 help both days.**

Also let us know if you have any vegetables to donate.

Quarts \$9.00 Pints \$5.00

Annual Christmas Bazaar Saturday, November 7th 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in selling items please contact:

Sally Emerich 717-304-9241

Michelle Snyder 717-933-4856

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



Exercise Classes Beginning Wednesday, September 16th

Please join us on Wednesday mornings in the church Fellowship Hall, for the Women's Exercise Class at 8:45 a.m. or the Seated Exercise Class at 10:00 a.m. These exercise classes are open to all church and community members, and are a combination of devotion, exercises and fellowship.

The Women's Exercise Class, is for women who desire a more active aerobic warm-up, with additional exercises in standing. The Seated Class (open to both men and women) has a focus of primarily seated exercises. Both classes use a variety of exercises and equipment (available at the class), to strengthen muscles, improve flexibility, posture and balance. The exercises can be adapted to a variety of needs and fitness levels. If you have any interest come check out the classes, and bring a friend. We would love to see you there! Feel free to contact Jamie Wise with any questions - phone # 717-269-1569



Little Swatara Preschool

September 2026

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

We are so excited to welcome you to the Little Swatara Preschool program. Thank you for choosing LSP and for entrusting us with your precious children. We anticipate a wonderful school year full of fun and learning. Our nurturing and loving staff are looking forward to getting to know each of their students. Over the course of the year, our staff seeks to build foundational skills that we pray help direct and carry your child throughout their entire life. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Through our comprehensive curriculum we include both academics and faith based components. We focus on introducing and developing Kindergarten readiness skills and also incorporate Christian values while teaching the children about the Bible and God's love for each of us.

The Teachers at LSP use creative learning techniques to ensure each session is fun, active, and educational. Our goal is to focus on the whole child in a safe environment in which children's social, emotional, and spiritual development can flourish. It will be amazing to watch your child blossom and grow over the next several months!

Each month you will receive a calendar and newsletter to keep you "in the loop" about what is happening in the classroom. You can also refer to your handbook for any questions that might arise throughout the year, but please know I am always available to listen and share. If you wish to contact me, please see me before or after class, email me at sara.bryant@littleswatara.org, or call the preschool at 717-933-4500. Please read on for more important information that will help you navigate the start of the year.

Wishing you love and God's blessings,

Miss Sara



Contacting Teachers

Teachers are available to speak with you briefly at the beginning of class but if you require a more lengthy conversation, please notify them and they will be happy to schedule a conference. Our staff is always happy to listen and share!



Don't forget to... please send a water bottle with your child's name on it! Please have your child bring a backpack and folder. Don't forget to check it after each session! Join our Facebook page "Little Swatara Preschool" to view photos and announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Show and Tell

Each class has show and tell once a week. Please follow along on the class calendar to find the S&T day and corresponding letter. If the letter is T, the item could be a turtle, tootsie roll, or a picture of Aunt Trudy! Be as creative as your child would like. If it's not an obvious item, you may send a note of explanation in for the teacher. We love Show & Tell as it allows each child to share, build self-confidence, develop communication skills, and it promotes literacy!

Tuition Payments

When submitting preschool tuition payments, please remember to use the appropriate monthly payment sheet from the Tuition Payment Booklet. When making payments, we prefer checks or money orders. Please write the student's name in the memo section. Your child's tuition should be paid monthly, however, it may be paid in the manner that best suits your family (paid in full at beginning of year, bi-monthly, etc.) Please speak to Miss Sara if you have any questions concerning tuition.

Class Pictures

Pictures are scheduled to be taken October 14th (Preschool 1 and PreKindergarten 1) and October 15th (Preschool 2 and PreKindergarten 3). Outback Photography of Lebanon will be taking individual and class photos once again. More information will be sent home with your child so please be sure to check backpacks daily for important paperwork.

"Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children."

Fall Field Trips

Each of our classes will have a Fall field trip. Please watch for permission slips to come home in your child's backpack with more information.



September Bible Verse

"How awesome is the Lord most high."
Psalm 47:2

Each month, the children will learn a new Bible verse and have the opportunity to say it for a special prize.



REMINDER: Little Swatara Preschool will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 7th, for the Labor Day holiday.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00am S. Hartranft /pav	31	1 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	2	3 50+ club mtg/FH 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm Preschool Board meeting	4	5
6 Promotion Sunday	7 Labor Day - church office closed	8 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	9	10 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice	11	12
13 Food Pantry Collection Grandparents Day Wartluft Reunion (J.Kauffman) - pav 8:30am VBS All Volunteers breakfast	14	15 5:00pm M&E meeting / FH	16 Newsletter Deadline 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class	17 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	18  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	19
20 potluck Sunday Spiritual Nurture meeting	21 7:00pm Music & Worship Team meeting	22 Ministry Team Minutes Due 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH	23 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class	24 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice	25 Disaster Relief Auction	26 Disaster Relief Auction 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe
27	28 6:00pm CE meeting	29	30 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class	1 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice	2 District Conference	3 District Conference 1:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH