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

Good News

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

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"You Can Have It All"

Have you ever heard someone say, you can't have it all. But friends in Christ, we know that's simply not true. When we have Jesus, we do have it all. We can gain the entire world, be the most successful person to ever walk the face of this earth. We can be held in high esteem. We can live the "good life". But without Jesus, we have absolutely nothing. While it's rather nice to own a car, have a house, wear adorning clothes, and eat high on the hog, it has no value in the Kingdom of God. In this world, to gain is to lose when the focus remains on us. Others may look and be jealous, be envious of what we have. They may see the glamour of our lives, but if God looks at our soul, and doesn't see his Son, we've gained it all in vain. What profit can there really be? Matthew 16: 26 reads "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul"? In other words, we can't trade eternity for the things of this world. It's totally not worth it, yet in many ways, we do it every single day. We like to think it's mine. I earned it. I put in the hard work. I worked the long hours. I deserve everything I have. These are dangerous thoughts. These are kingdom defying principles. How could we ever consider any of this to be something we have done. Afterall, Jesus paid it all. Our very lives are bought at a price. We are told to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Jesus. This means our worldly pursuit, absent from a kingdom perspective, is devastating to the soul which cannot be bought at any price. These are humbling words but require a quiet pause and the question to follow; what am I living for? Better yet, who am I living for? In a mindset that says me, me, me, it's difficult to conceive the realities of a kingdom-based living. God does want us to have it all and he freely gives it to us in his only Son, Jesus Christ that he sent to this world to redeem our souls. He loves us that much and it's without condition. So, as we ponder in our hearts, where we see ourselves this day, may we be grateful for Christ. May we be thankful for all he has done to show us how to live. May we see all that we have as a reflection of all that he is. For to live in Christ is to live loving others, serving in his name, giving all that we have for the kingdom's sake. Today, can we honestly say; it is well with my soul?

Blessings :-)
Pastor Matt Christ



John E. Ziegler	1
Dylan Himmelberger	2
Robert Smith, Jr	2
Amanda L. Swanger	3
Lindsay N. Fessler	6
Terry Donkel	8
Sterling C. Meyer	8
Arlene C. Dundore	9
Joan James	9
Marvin Luckenbill	9
Linda Jean Cass	12
Christine Doig	12
Alex J. Donkel	12
Bradley M. Bechtold	13
Dane W. Bicher	13
Michael J. Peace	13
Susan Benedetti	14
Todd Rebman	14
Amelia Detweiler	15
Samuel Forry, Jr.	16
Cheryl Straw	17
David Younker	18
Julie Markle	20
Darrell Younker	22
Tanya R. Feathers	22
Jonathan Bicksler	23
Chloe Brown	23
Matthew Christ	23
Richard Frantz, Jr.	26
Lisa M. Gagliano	26
John Kauffman	27
Maya Bickler	28
John M. Wise	28

Our Sincere Sympathy

As a church family, we express our sincere sympathy and Christian love to the family and friends of Beth Ann Stuck-Moats, who passee away on Friday, August 28th, 2026. A memorial service was held at Little Swatara COB on Saturday, October 31st.

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As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Mae Claman. Mae passed away on Tuesday, October 6, 2026

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As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy and Christian love to Robert Houser and family on the passing of Bob's wife, Linda. Linda passed away on Tuesday, October 13th, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 7:00 PM Leadership Team mtg
5 8:30 AM quilting
Christmas Bazaar set-up FH/K
6 Christmas Bazaar set-up FH/K
7 Christmas Bazaar 8:00AM – 1:00 PM
8 Jr. High Sunday
9 7:00 PM Every Member Council Meeting
10 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
11 8:00 AM Quilting
14 1:00 PM 50+ Club meeting / FH
15 Food Pantry collection
Potluck Sunday
16 7:00 PM Music & Worship Team meeting
17 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship meeting / FH
7:00 PM Transitional meeting
18 Newsletter Deadline
19 8:30 AM Quilting
9:30 AM packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Lutheran Church
20 8:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen
21 9:00 AM Women's Christmas Brunch at Country Fare
22 10:30 AM Remembrance Service
24 Ministry Team Minutes due
25 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service
@ Tri-County Worship Center, Bethel, PA
26 Thanksgiving
28 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast/Café

Information Updates from Little Swatara

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

PASTOR'S
NEW OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am - 11:30 pm
Wednesday
11:00 am – 1:30 pm

EVERY MEMBER COUNCIL MEETING
***November 9th, 2026**
7:00 PM

Agenda

Reports
- Pastor Matt
- Gathering Place
- 3rd Quarter Financial

Business
- Pastoral Support Package
- 2026 Budget



Lunch N' Learn @ Londonderry Village

November 11th, 2026 / 12:00 pm / Fellowship Hall in the Snell Community Center on the Londonderry Village Campus / Reservations Required.

"Hershey Hotel: The Golden Prison"

Alice Ziemba of Hershey will share the history of the Hotel Hershey. Her presentation will focus on the hotel during World War II and how Milton Hershey continued to serve with diplomacy and compassion during this period. Guests will learn what happened to the hotel, how the war years shaped its future, and why it opened once again in 1942.

Remembrance Service
Sunday, November 22nd @ 10:30 AM

On Sunday, November 22nd the 10:30 AM service, we will have a candle lighting with a slide show presentation of anyone you want remembered who was lost during 2025-2026.

Please email or drop off a photo of the person you want remembered to the church secretary by Nov. 15th. Be sure to include their name and date of death.

Secretary@LittleSwatara.org
or during office hours Mon-Fri 8:30 AM-12:00 PM.

ANSWER: B (Romans 1:19-21)

November's Mission of the Month the Barnabas Fund

Our November Mission of the Month is the Barnabas Fund. This fund was established to share resources with congregations who express a ministry-driven need. Barnabas Fund supports Atlantic North East's four "Mission Churches"... Alpha & Omega church in Lancaster, Brooklyn First, Germantown, and Harrisburg First. Grants are generally awarded to outreach ministries that are located in an area that is economically challenged and may have limited resources. There also must be clear evidence of responsible stewardship with current finances, and notable efforts at reaching others in the community with the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. More about the fund can be found at www.anecob.com under "Special Funds, Scholarships & Gifts."

Our next Women's Fellowship meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17th , 2026, at 9AM

Our annual Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, Nov. 7th from 8am – 1pm. Our bazaar is always a good place to start your holiday shopping. Donated baked items, homemade candy & plants will be greatly appreciated. Stop by for breakfast, lunch or both because we always have delicious food available at reasonable prices. There will be a variety of handcrafted items, fine artisan crafts & some or your favorite vendors will be present. Several local churches in the Bethel / Rehrersburg area are having events on that day, so as they say, "Shop Local".

The next Widows luncheon
Tuesday, November 10th at 11:30 A.M.
The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA



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.

"MESSENGER" Renewal

Time to renew your subscription to the "Messenger" magazine
$18.00 / 1 yr or $34.00 / 2 yr
See Lois Reinhard – Mailbox #127
by Nov. 8th

Bible Quiz

What did St. Paul teach about how people can recognize the existence of God?

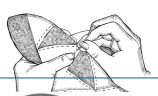
A. They would have no understanding of God unless someone told them.

B. They could see evidence of God by observing creation

C. God cannot be known in any way except through Jesus.



Answer on page 3



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



After considerable discussion, the Stewardship and Property Committee has decided to implement Tithe.ly as an online giving option for Little Swatara. This option is now open and available to all. Follow the link, use the QR code, or go to the giving tab on LittleSwatara.org to access this new giving option. You will be prompted for some basic information including: how much you want to give, whether you want it to be a one-time donation or recuring, and whether or not you want to pay the fee. The Team would appreciate it if you could pay the fee. You can contribute with your credit card or by using ACH. We hope that this new convenient giving option allows you to make contributions when the Spirit moves you!

Direct Link: www.LittleSwatara.org/giving

Londonderry Village Auxiliary 2026 Holiday Nut & Snack Orders

The nut and snack orders from Londonderry Village Auxiliary will be available for pick-up here at the church on Sunday, November 15th

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 25, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Tri-County Worship Center
1501 Schubert Road, Bethel, PA

POTLUCK SUPPER

Sunday, November 15th immediately following the 10:30 AM service.



Cookbooks make great Christmas gifts
2 versions available
Red cover - $5 Yellow cover - $3.00
If interested see church secretary or any member of Women's Fellowship

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2026 DIRECTORY

NEEDED: any corrections or changes for your family listing in our upcoming 2026 directory.

- Name changes
- Address changes
- Change in phone number (*please indicate if number is a cell phone)*
- Email address *(if desired)*
- New births / adoptions
- Marriages
- Address for child or children in college or military

Please submit all changes by December 1st to Church Secretary, Connie Davis or either member of the Directory Committee:

Dianne High - Box 74
or
Michelle Snyder - Box 196



Stockings are placed in the narthex for home-bound persons, group home residents, and those in assisted living / elderly homes. Our goal is to fill them with Christmas cards thus giving some cheer to the recipients that cannot attend church for various reasons. Cards may be placed in stockings from Sunday, November 8th to Sunday, December 13th. Cards and a small gift will be taken to shut-ins during the Christmas Season.

MARTIN BASHORE
MARY BASHORE
ARLENE DUNDORE
JOANN EBLING
VERA GROSS
ROBERT HOUSER
ANNETTA KEENEY
JEAN KEENEY
RANDY KEENEY
DOROTHY LUTZ
FERN PHILLIPY
DARRELL YOUNKER
MARVIN LUCKENBILL
DAVID & MARY FAKE
NOLAN & DORIS KEENEY
PASTOR MATT & DENISE CHRIST & FAMILY



Volunteers Needed to help with Live Nativity
December 5th from 6-8 PM

Looking towards the Christmas Season – the Music and Worship team is planning to have a Live Nativity Drive Through on Dec. 5th with a rain date of Dec. 6th. We need volunteers for actors, live animals, setup people, refreshments and more! A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Questions? Contact any member of the Music & Worship Team.



It is time to think about purchasing poinsettias to beautify the Church for the Christmas season. Poinsettia's will be purchased through Layser's Flowers. They are offering the single plant 5 - 6 bloom 6 1/2" pot 15-18" tall for $7.50 in the colors: Red, White, Pink, Marble (Pink with White Edge), Glitter (Red with White Speckles), Maroon (Dark Red). Or 24" plant in the 8" pot with 3 plants and 7 -12 blooms for $15 in colors: Red, White, Pink, Marble, Glitter, Maroon, and Tricolor Red/White/Pink Combo. Orders need to be placed by November 15. Checks made out to Little Swatara Church of the Brethren or cash can be given to Pam Gerberich. The plants will be available to be picked up after the Christmas Eve services. If anyone has questions, please contact Pam Gerberich.



Please join us for the Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday, November 21st, 2026, at 9 am
Country Fare Cottage, Myerstown, PA

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.
For more information contact anyone in Women's Fellowship

Reflections

by Richard E. Frantz

The topic today is cemetery ownership. Sounds boring, doesn't it? Generally speaking, we are only concerned about it when one of our loved ones is interred.

The Merkey Meeting House was the first house of worship built by our congregation. When we discontinued worshipping there, a cemetery committee was placed in charge of the cemetery. That committee continues to function today. You might see Nancy Miller or Bob and Wendy Lingle with their tape measure marking off graves.

The Frystown Meeting House and the Ziegler Meeting House were built the same year. When the Frystown House was sold to the Dunkard Brethren congregation, a committee was established to take care of the cemetery. Presently the chairs of that committee are Jonathon Swope who grew up in Frystown, and Kevin Longenecker. The cemetery at the Ziegler House, which has had two different owners, also had a committee organized to take care of it. Ray Keeney is the person to contact.

The lone church, Schubert, did not have a cemetery until after it was sold to the Mennonite congregation. Today there are tomb stones from the last sixty years.

It would seem that there is nothing more to be said about the Little Swatara Congregation cemeteries. With the passing of time, we forget details, and that is what happened with the Frantz Cemetery, located along the Wintersville Road, immediately across from the south end of the Little Swatara Church Road. There is an organization in Berks County called The Berks County Graveyard Preservation Society which seeks to keep accurate records of all of the graveyards in our county.

Several years ago, after a car hit the wall of the Frantz Cemetery and caused extensive damage, the Frantz family sought to collect insurance money to re-build the wall. The driver had no insurance. The bid which the Frantz Clan accepted for rebuilding was $15,000.00. A relative from a different state asked, "Who owns the cemetery?"

And that's where the Berks County Graveyard Preservation Society came into play. They began searching through the deed books of the 17 and 18 hundreds in the Court House. They found the following,: "***The burial ground may have many Frantzes in it, but it was not established as a family graveyard. It was established for the only use, purpose, and benefit of all and every of the Old German Baptist's Congregation of Tulpehocken…for the use, intent and purpose as a burial place."***

Your first two questions probably are: "Who takes care of the cemetery now?" and "Who pays the bills for upkeep?" A third question may be: "Who are the Old German Baptists. The answer to number three is: The present day Little Swatara Congregation is the name we took in about 1919. The answer to questions one and two is: the Frantz Clan. Hopefully the Frantz Clan will be able to generate enough income over the next years so that our congregation will not have to take over the upkeep.



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

Little Swatara Preschool

November 2026



Hello LSP Family and Friends!

It is a beautiful season to count all of our blessings. Thanksgiving is a cherished time of year when we can reflect on the abundance we often take for granted and give thanks to God for the good gifts He gives us. We have so much to be thankful for at preschool. We are so very thankful for our students and their families, our staff and volunteers, our Board of Directors, and the Little Swatara Church congregation that is so supportive of this program. I hope that in spite of the hustle and bustle of the upcoming holiday season, your family is able to take some time to count your blessings and thank God for each one.

Autumn has been filled with lots of special activities. We've witnessed so much growth in just a few short months! The children have made such amazing progress since their first classes in August. I hope you are able to see how much growth has taken place as well.

The holidays are a very busy time here at preschool and we love celebrating with all of the children. There are many exciting things happening over the next several weeks. Please read on to learn what is in store for us throughout the month of November.

THANK YOU for choosing Little Swatara Preschool and for sharing your precious blessings with us each week.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving with your families and loved ones.

In His Love,

Miss Sara



Thanksgiving Feasts and Holiday Break

Each class will have their own Thanksgiving feast. The classes will celebrate either Monday, November 23rd, or Tuesday, November 24th. Please watch for an announcement regarding an item your child has volunteered to bring to their classroom celebration. This could range from a food item to paper supplies. If you are unable to contribute, please inform your child's teacher. Thank you for supporting our classroom celebrations and helping to make them all so special for the children throughout the year!

Just a reminder that preschool will be closed on the following dates for the Thanksgiving Holiday:

Wednesday, November 25th

Thursday, November 26th

Friday, November 27th

Classes will resume on Monday, November 30th.



Illness Reminder

As per our Preschool Handbook, please do not send students who have a temperature of 100.4 or more. If vomiting/diarrhea have occurred within the past 24 hours, please keep your child home from preschool. Thank you for helping us keep all of our friends as healthy as possible!



"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1

Start of Day Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for this brand new day. Give me loving words to say. Keep me safe at work and play. Show me how to live your way. Amen

Snack Time Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the world so sweet, thank you for the food we eat, thank you for the birds that sing, thank you God for everything! Amen



End of Day Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for my friend next door and my friend across the street. Please help me to be a friend to everyone I meet. Amen

These are a few of the prayers we say with the students throughout their classroom sessions. We encourage you to say them at home as well!



We are incredibly grateful for our volunteers that give their time to the program each week. Alane Riegel and Lisa Hetrick are our volunteers in the Preschool classes. Chloe Brown, Debra Wengert, and Patti Timmins help in our PreK classrooms. We are so thankful for these amazing ladies that bless us with their love, time, and wisdom. They are each loved and appreciated by the students and staff!

Just a reminder that our R&K sub sale forms are due no later than November 3rd. Pick up will be on November 12th from 11:15-12:45 in the foyer downstairs. Thank you for your support! We are able to purchase extra classroom resources and educational supplies because of your generosity!





Please familiarize yourself with our **INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSING** policy which can be found in the Preschool Handbook. If you need a new copy of the handbook please let Miss Sara know or you can find it on the LSP website as well. Our policies for closings and modified class schedules are listed there. We will also make an attempt to post on our Preschool Facebook page if there is a closing or delay due to inclement weather.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	4 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	5 Christmas bazaar / FH - Set-up 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	6 Christmas bazaar / FH - Set-up	7 8:00am Christmas bazaar / FH & K
8 National Jr High Sunday / 6tj grade Bible presentation	9 5:30pm Missions and Evangelism Team meeting 7:00pm Every Member Council Meeting	10 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	11 Londonderry Village Service 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	12 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm Preschool Board meeting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	13	14 1:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH
15 Food Pantry Collection potluck Sunday	16 7:00pm Music & Worship Team meeting	17 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH 7:00pm transitional mtg	18 Newsletter Deadline 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	19 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	20  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	21 9:00am women's christmas brunch / Country Fare
22 Remembrance Service 10:30am 12:00pm Spiritual Nurture meeting	23	24 Ministry Team Minutes Due	25 preschool vacation 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service / Tri-Co. Worship Center	26  preschool vacation	27 preschool vacation	28 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe
29	30	1	2 8:45am women's exercise class 10:00am seated exercise class 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	3 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	4	5 8:00am Live Nativity



Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

1. Give Take Grab	**2.** peanut praise pear	**3.** temple house LORD	**4.** proclaim past present	**5.** name boy lad	**6.** ruin destroy make
7. pine acorn known	**8.** train nations bus	**9.** done donut muffin	**10.** Sing Sleep Yawn	**11.** she him girl	**12.** sun praise moon
13. tell fast slow	**14.** red all blue	**15.** horrible dreadful wonderful	**16.** acts sisters aunts		

"_____ _____ to the _____, _____ his _____;
1 2 3 4 5

_____ _____ among the _____ what he has _____.
6 7 8 9

_____ to ____, sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
10 11 12 13 14

_____ _____." PSALM 105:1-2, NIV
15 16

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)

Formatted: Font: 12 pt, Check spelling and grammar