



Good News

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

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"Help Is On The Way"

As we approach the holiday season, there are significant memories from years gone by. Those memories include loved ones that have gone on to be with Jesus. The feelings of loneliness and thoughts of isolation seemingly settle in a bit more. This season of gratitude approaching, let's seek ways to meet those emotional needs of feeling more together. The writer of Ecclesiastes offers this wisdom: "Two are better than one." How very true this verse is. We are better as a body than a single part. Not only can we accomplish greater things but we have that power in unity and helping one another. As we fill our hearts with the joy of the season, let's fill one another with hope and strength that we are here for each other. Like it's often said; "help is on the way." What a wonderful way to make someone's day. I love you all so much and extend a heartfelt gratitude for your lives. Your presence is meaningful and life changing.

Bless you greatly.
Pastor Matt



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

Our Sincere Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Lu-luBelle Ziegler and the Ziegler family on the passing of Owen R. Ziegler. Owen passed away on Friday, September 26th, 2025

As a Church Family, we send our sincere sympathy and Christian love to the family and friends of Vincent & Nancy Miller on the death of Nancy's sister, Barbara Rinehart, on October 3rd., 2025.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for the family and friends of Janet E. Bashore. Janet passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 1st.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

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

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

- 1 Christmas Bazaar 8:00 AM–1:00 PM
- 2 National Jr. High Sunday
- 4 7:00 PM Leadership Team mtg.
- 8 1:00 PM 50+ Club mtg / FH
- 9 Food Pantry Collection
- 10 7:00 PM Every Member Council meeting
- 11 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
- 15 9:00 AM Women's Christmas Brunch / Country Fare
- 16 10:30 AM Remembrance Service
Church Potluck Meal following church service
- 18 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship mtg / FH
- 19 Newsletter Deadline
- 21 8:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
- 22 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast / café
- 25 Ministry Team Minutes due
- 27 Thanksgiving Day
- 30 First Sunday of Advent

Information Updates from Little Swatara

2025 Organization Officers

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

2025 Committee Chairs

Stewardship & Property - Jamie Wise
 Christian Education - Abigail Christ
 Missions & Evangelism - Sharon Dosch
 Spiritual Nurture Ministry - Gary Bashore
 Music and Worship - Allen Rebman

EVERY MEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

***November 10th, 2025**

7:00 PM

Agenda

Reports

Pastor Matt
 Gathering Place
 3rd Quarter Financial

Business

Pastoral Support Package
 2025 Budget



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Membership Classes

Considering being baptized or transferring your membership to Little Swatara. We'd love to welcome you with open arms. Please see Pastor Matt for more details.



The Gathering Place Cafe

is in need of volunteers. Contact Patty Timmins if you can help with this important ministry of Little Swatara to the community of Bethel.



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 member of the Stewardship and Property Team.

Join the Little Swatara team---apply today!

Answer: (See James 1:17) C



Volunteers Needed to help with Live Nativity December 13th from 6-8 pm

Looking towards the Christmas Season—the Music and Worship team is planning to have a Live Nativity for December 13th with a rain date of December 14th. Previous years showed this to be a great outreach opportunity for the community. We need VOLUNTEERS for actors, live animals, setup people, refreshments and more!! A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex

"MESSENGER" RENEWAL:

Time to renew your subscription to the "Messenger" magazine.
\$14.50 / 1yr or \$27.00 /2 yrs.
See Lois Reinhard—Mail box #127
by November 9th



"The Pastor keeps referring to 'this morning's text'.....but which one?"

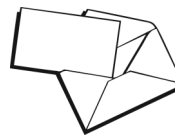
WIDOWS



LUNCHEON

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

The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA



NOTE - COLLEGE STUDENTS

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

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 2nd to Church Secretary, Connie Davis or Directory Committee:

Dianne High - Box 74

or

Michelle Snyder - Box 196



Christian Ed Opportunities

Please consider serving the following ministries of Little Swatara Church of the Brethren.

- Nursery Childcare provider in nursery
- Preschool Sunday School Helper
- Extended Session
- VBS Committee Member
- Youth Advisor
- Adult Sunday School Teacher

All volunteers with children and youth must complete an application. Complete the required clearances, and submit a signed acknowledgement to Abby Christ, Sue Hartranft, Melissa Emerich, Sara Bryant, or Deb Wengert, if you are willing to fill one of our needs!



Chow Chow will be on sale at the Christmas Bazaar
Quarts \$9 Pints \$5

Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library

Monday, November 6th at 6:00 pm
"Bad Guys 2"
Rated PG

Monday, November 17th at 6:00 pm
"Smurfs"
Rated PG

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



Our next Women's Fellowship Meeting will be Thursday, November 18th, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

Start your Christmas shopping early at our Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 1st from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. There will be a variety of handcrafted items, fine artisan crafts, and some of your favorite vendors.

Donated baked items, homemade candy, and plants to sell at the bazaar would be greatly appreciated.

Stop by for breakfast, lunch or both because we always have delicious food available at reasonable prices.

Several area churches will be having events on the same day..so as they say "Shop Local"

Bible Quiz

James 1:17 reminds us about the source of every blessing. According to this verse, how is God described?

- A. The one who changes like shifting shadows
- B. The giver of wisdom to the faithful
- C. The Father of heavenly lights who does not change
- D. The one who rewards those who are generous.



Answer on page 3



Sunday, November 16th
Following the
10:30 AM service



Please join us for the Women's Christmas Brunch

We will be gathering on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 9am at the Country Fare Cottage in Myerstown, PA

There is a sign-up sheet in the church narthex

For more information or if you need a ride, please contact anyone in Women's Fellowship or call the church office



Poinsettias will be available for purchase to enhance our worship center for the Christmas Season. This year you will have the option of the 6 1/2" potted poinsettias which have 5 -6 blooms at cost of either \$6 for standard red or \$7 for novelty colors and are about 15" tall, or an 8" potted poinsettia made up of 3 plants with 9 - 12 blooms at a cost of \$12 for standard red or \$14 for novelty colors and about 24" tall. The novelty color options are: white, pink, marble (pink with white edge), Jingle Bells (red with white speckles) or maroon (dark red). The 8" pot also offers a combination of red/white/pink in one pot. A sign up sheet will be in narthex. Final day to order is on November 16th. You will be able to pick up your plants either after Christmas Eve worship service or on Sunday December 28th. If you have questions contact Pam Gerberich.



2025 Christmas Greetings for Stockings

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 9th to Sunday, December 7th. Cards and a small gift will be taken to shut-ins during the Christmas Season.

ARLENE DUNDORE	VERA GROSS
ANNETTA KEENEY	RANDY KEENEY
JOHN KELLY	DOROTHY LUTZ
DARRELL YOUNKER	MARTIN BASHORE
MARVIN LUCKENBILL	MARY BASHORE
FERN PHILLIPY	JEAN KEENEY
NOLAN & DORIS KEENEY	
EARL & JOANNE EBLING	
ROBERT & LINDA HOUSER	
PASTOR MATT, DENISE & FAMILY	

Any questions or additions please contact:
Dianne High



November's Mission of the Month

BLANKETS OF HOPE

Blankets of Hope, Inc was founded by Marc Goldstein in December of 2011 upon reading an article in the local newspaper citing the level of poverty in the city of Reading, and also an uplifting piece on a Secret Santa gifting money to those less fortunate. The third puzzle piece came when one of Goldstein's customers bought a blanket as an employee holiday gift. The three triggers were food for thought: how could Goldstein, as a small business owner at the time, help the community?

Blankets of Hope Bed Program does not warehouse our blankets or beds which eliminates overhead costs. For example, when you donate a \$100, we can ship 15 blankets directly to the organization in need.

Also, recently posted on their Facebook page they had a Thank-you note from an organization that their food was real low, this is not just this outreach problem. Most of our local pantries and shelters are already struggling and it will only get worse over the next several months. Blankets of Hope-Berks, over the years that we feel will help the community that we live in. We hope our actions will be shared and that others will follow at helping those agencies within Berks Co. that area struggling to have enough food to feed those that are in a situation of hardship. They were able to donate \$1,000. worth of food to help stock those shelves. It doesn't take a lot of money to make a difference in helping any of our local non-profits who are feeding those under hardships

Every person deserves to feel secure, to be warm and to have HOPE Please help us be

> > > >

donating money to this organization. We will have a box on the table in the back of the sanctuary, and also you can donate by marking your envelopes. (Blankets of Hope}. Check out their website for more information and to see all the different organizations they help out.

Thank you,
Missions and Evangelism Team.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Advent Project, we will be collecting shoe-boxes for Operation Christmas Child. To participate:

- Take home a pre-printed, foldable shoe box , label, and gift suggestion guide.
- Fill your box with blessings for a child (new items, please)
- Return your box with the label attached to the church by the closing of the 10:30 AM church service on Sunday, November 23rd

Postage will be paid by the church, however if you attach a paper with your name, you will receive a tracking number to follow your box around the world!

Contact Sue Hartranft with any questions.

You'll become closer to God not by presenting God with your troubles, but by thanking God for your blessings.

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT OR A HOSTESS GIFT?

Cookbooks are an easy Christmas gift or hostess gift. We have the newest and the older cookbooks available for sale. If you are interested, see any member of the Women's Fellowship or the church secretary. The new version (with the red cover) is \$5.00 and the older version (with the yellow cover) is \$3.00



Remembrance Service Sunday, November 16th @10:30 AM

On Sunday, November 16th during 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 2024-2025.

Please email or drop-off a photo of the person you want remembered to the church secretary by Nov. 9th at:

Secretary@LittleSwatara.org
or during office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-12 noon.

(Be sure to include their name and date of death.)

Our church potluck is also on Nov. 16th. In honor of your loved one, you could bring their favorite dish to share with everyone.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.
Amen.

CHURCH SERVICE CANCELLATION INFORMATION

In an effort to enhance the safe travel of the Little Swatara Congregation, the following procedure will be followed:

Once a decision has been made to cancel a service, the congregation shall be notified immediately. The Chair of the Spiritual Nurture Ministry Team will initiate the Deacon call system to notify all church members and regular attenders of the closing.

An announcement will be placed on the church website:

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren
<http://www.LittleSwatara.org>

The announcement will also be added to Little Swatara's Facebook page. A message will be sent out to all those on the church's E-mail list.



Reflections

By Richard E. Frantz

Well, autumn has arrived and one of the most sacred events of the Christian church, Love Feast, occurred on Sunday, October 5th. It couldn't have gotten more correct. You see, over the decades, members have voiced their concerns about various aspects of what we do.

There was a time, decades actually, when our Love Feast lasted two days. We shortened the event to one day. Saturdays were used. But members claimed they had too many other plans. Later it was scheduled for Sunday evenings. People shared concerns that it lasted too long and their kids didn't get to bed on time for school on Monday. Our conclusion is now: Love Feast directly after worship on Sunday.

Over the last decade or so, we are more aware of people with digestive problems. Members stayed home because they couldn't stand what was offered. So the Spiritual Nurture Ministry Team, which is in charge of this celebration, now prepares food for those special needs. No one needs to feel left out because of food. For the children, peanut butter and jelly are provided in case they want it with their meal.

There was a time that only members in good standing were allowed to attend Love Feast and partake of the sacraments of the Bread and the Cup. Today that has all changed. Families are welcome to bring their whole family to the table for the meal. The family gets to choose if their children participate in the foot washing. The biggest decision centers on whether the non-member children participate in the Bread and Cup. The parents make that decision.

The sacrament of foot washing has changed in the last years. Whereas the foot tubs were moved down the rows and each person washed the feet of the person next to them, now we have a staging area for the women and another one for the men. This gives us more room to get up and down. We have hand washing stations for after we have put our shoes back on. Also, for years, members had concerns that they could not get down on their knees to wash another person's feet, as a result of having had knee surgery. We changed our policy. Today we have hand washing tables for all people to share with others who have those challenges.

You might say that we have cleared all the hurdles of the past years. It is a joy to attend this most sacred semi-annual event. The one hurdle we have not crossed is how to convince our members and attenders to make this sacred event a necessary part of their relationship with our Lord and Savior.

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."

—W.T. Purkiser



Annual CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

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



GIVE PRAISE

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

Directions: In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled 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
10 11 12 13
_____ his _____.
14 15 16

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answer: Give, praise, Lord, proclaim, name, make, known, nations, done, sing, him, praise, tell, all, wonderful, acts



Little Swatara Preschool

November 2025



Greetings to our LSP Family & Friends!

What a beautiful season it is to count all of our blessings! We have so much to be thankful for here at preschool. We are thankful for all of our students and their families, our staff and volunteers, our Board of Directors, and a church congregation at Little Swatara Church of the Brethren that is so supportive of this special program. We hope that in spite of the hustle and bustle of the upcoming holiday season, you will take a few minutes to count your blessings and thank God for each one.

Our Autumn has been filled with lots of fun and special activities. We have witnessed so much growth in just a few short months. The children have made such progress since their first class in August. We hope you are able to see their growth as well.

There are lots of exciting things happening over the next several weeks. The holidays are a super busy time here at preschool and it is so much fun celebrating with the students. Please read on to learn what is in store for the month of November. Thank you for choosing Little Swatara Preschool and for allowing us this opportunity to share in the lives of your precious children. They are amazing blessings!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families and loved ones.

Blessings,

Miss Sara



Thanksgiving Feasts and Holiday Break

Each class will have their own Thanksgiving feast. The classes will celebrate either Monday, November 24th, or Tuesday, November 25th. 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 26th

Thursday, November 27th

Friday, November 28th

Classes will resume on Monday, December 1st.



Illness Reminder

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,

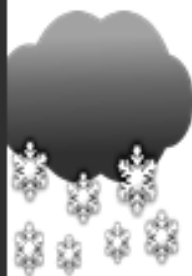
Thank you for my friend next door and my friend across the street. Please help me to be a friend to everyone I meet. Amen

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!

THANK YOU!

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!

Thank you also to all of our preschool families and friends that helped with the R&K Sub Sale. We are able to purchase extra classroom resources and educational supplies because of your generosity. We appreciate your support!



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 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Golden Age Sunday/dinner/ FH	27	28 Ministry Team Minutes Due	29 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:00pm Online Bible Study via ZOOM 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	30 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	31	1 8:00am Christmas bazaar / FH & K
2 6th grader Bible presentation National Jr High Sunday Spiritual Nurture meeting	3	4 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	5 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	6 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	7	8 1:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH
9 Food pantry collection 1:00pm FH & K / W. Lingle	10 7:00pm Every Member Council Meeting	11 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	12 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	13 8:30am Quilting 12:00pm Home School Group / Renee Brown 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	14	15 9:00am women's christmas brunch / Country Fare 1:00pm p timmins / FH
16 Remembrance Service 12:00pm Church Potluck Meal / FH	17	18 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH 7:00pm transitional mtg	19 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH Newsletter Deadline 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	20 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	21  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	22 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe
23	24	25 Ministry Team Minutes Due	26 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	27  Holiday - church office closed 7:00am FH/K annual reservation - S. Bashore	28 8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen	29
30 First Sunday of Advent	1	2	3 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	4 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	5	6 6:00pm 50+ club mtg/ Christmas Banquet place TBD