



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

“Why the Chicken Crossed the Road”

Pastor's Note.....

Page 1

Birthdays & Condolences ...

Page 2

Help Wanted & Information Updates...

Page 3-10

Update from Camp Swatara...

Page 11

Preschool News....

Page 12-13

Calendar.....

Page 14

We've heard it said that the chicken crossed the road to get to the other side. But what if the chicken thought as we so often do, the other side had better options. What if the chicken crossed the road to reap the benefits of what he thought would be found there? What if we cross the road thinking there's got to be something better than this. It's this word in life we all are looking for called contentment. It's a word that brings peace and comfort. Perhaps the chicken lived the best life he could where they were and thought there was more to be had if it just crossed the road. Sometimes crossing the road can mean danger though. Afterall there are cars and trucks traveling at a higher rate of speed presenting a challenge. To get where we want to go, there's sometimes a risk. That risk may involve doing things differently than we're used to. We've always been willing to give financially to the cause of Christ and perhaps God's tugging us to dig deeper and cross the road to greater giving. We've always been willing to serve others and perhaps God's directing us to cross the road to a new path of serving. We are in this together and God is fighting our battles, whether it's the number of people attending, the number of volunteers we have, or even the amount of offering we receive. We can trust God to fight our battles, to get us to the other side of where we may encounter greater freedom in Christ. The other side doesn't have to be greener grass. It can just be the other side of what God is calling us to be and do and act on his behalf. Sometimes all it takes is just a nudge from God to say, everything's going to be alright. That peace comes through the gifts we share with one another to encourage and spur one another on to be able to shout the victory belongs to the Lord. Sometimes it just takes saying; Lord, I'm all in no matter what that means to my well-being. I'm leaning in towards you and the greater kingdom impact I can make. Will God let you be his servant? Indeed, He will. Let's serve Him faithfully and with amazing joy for what's to come in Jesus name.

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

As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy & Christian love to the Brown family on the passing of John J. Brown on August 19th

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for David & Sharon Hoke on the loss of David's brother, Michael C. Hoke, who passed away on Sunday, August 24th



PASTOR'S NEW 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

- 2** 8:30 AM Quilting
- 5** Love Feast
- 7** 7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting
- 8** 7:00 PM Online Bible Study
- 9** 8:30 AM Quilting
- 12** Harvest Home
- 14** 11:30 AM Widows' Luncheon / Ctry Fare
- 15** Newsletter deadline
7:00 PM Online Bible Study
- 16** 8:30 AM Quilting
9:30 AM packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Luth. Ch.
- 17** 8:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
- 18** 7:00 AM Buffet Breakfast / FH
6:00 PM Fall Festival & Hayride
- 19** Church Potluck Meal / FH
- 21** 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship Mtg / FH
- 22** 7:00 PM Online Bible Study
- 23** 8:30 AM Quilting
- 25** 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast / café
- 26** Golden Age Sunday & dinner/ FH
- 28** Ministry Team Minutes due
- 29** 7:00 PM Online Bible Study
- 30** 8:30 AM Quilting

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

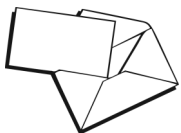
Stewardship & Property - Jamie Wise
Christian Education - Abigail Christ
Missions & Evangelism - Sharon Dosch
Spiritual Nurture Ministry - Gary Bashore
Music and Worship - Allen Rebman

Peace starts with a smile.

Help Needed

The Audio/Video Committee is looking
for volunteers

Audio, projection, live streaming, lighting
No experience necessary, we will train!
See Todd Rebman if interested in helping



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.



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 Jonah 1:9-15)

Where does all the money I give toward the General Fund go?

Little Swatara's General Fund is an important fund for our church's financial health. When you choose to give toward the General Fund, you are giving to help meet our church's budgeted (planned) expenses. These expenses include pastoral ministry, payroll for the church secretary, treasurer, custodian and groundskeeper, care for God's house including housekeeping supplies, lawn care, snow removal, insurance, heating and cooling costs, regular church building and grounds maintenance, elevator and fire protection inspections and maintenance, and telephone, Bible School, Love Feast, All Fellowship meal, Golden Age Dinner, Spiritual Renewal Services, paper & printing, postage, choir music, office equipment, audio-visual equipment, licenses required to do outreach through online services, Preschool support, and for budgeted outreach to our denomination, COBYS, E-town college, Londonderry Village, Bethany Seminary, Area Council of Churches, and service organizations including local fire companies.

As seen from the above list, many expenses fall under this fund. This is not an exhaustive list. Many other items fall within these budgeted categories. Our General Fund provides for all the expenses for our church to keep it up and running.

As we all know from personal experience, the cost of living has gone up significantly over the past few years. Our church expenses have also continued to increase as the same items cost more and more. Each year, over the past 5 years, we have begun the year with a significant decrease in our General Fund balance, as compared to the prior year. It is vital to the health of our congregation that the General Fund be the main recipient of our giving. Please prayerfully consider investing in the life of the church by giving to the General Fund, to support our local ministry, building and property upkeep and budgeted outreach.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with any member of the Stewardship & Property team.



The next Widows luncheon
Tuesday, Oct. 14th
11:30 A.M.

• The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA



Considering becoming a part of the Little Swatara congregation and not sure where to start? See Pastor Matt, text or call him, stop by his office. He'd love to share how you can do this in the coming months.

Reflections

by Richard E. Frantz

I am looking for a person or persons to write an article about the youth bell choir trip to the National Youth Conference. If I were to try to write it myself, I'd only be able to tell you what I had found that was already written.

"In October, 2024, the polling company Gallop released a survey containing this question, 'In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in mass media such as newspapers, TV and radio? when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately and fairly? Only 31% answered 'a great deal...'. (Reader's Digest)

You can see, of course, why I am hesitant to write the article on the youth bell choir's trip.

Please consider writing articles about other activities which are directly related to the life of our congregation. How about our prowess in volleyball tournaments? You may be happy to note that I have already asked a former member of our congregation to write an article about our bus trip to Johnstown to clean up after the flood. More about that later.

The Best Gift for Our Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me."

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NASB).

This October—and every month—encourage our pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.





**Londonderry Village Auxiliary
2025 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. 12th. 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. 18th. Checks must be made payable to the **Londonderry Village Auxiliary**. Checks &/or cash may be given to:

Linda Bowman - Mailbox # 55

**Amended: 2025 VBS Mission Project
Brethren Disaster Relief**

VBS collection.....	\$1,533.08
Mission of the Month VBS Offering Project..	\$2,762.00
Gathering Place Café Donations.....	\$ 953.00
Total.....	\$5,248.08

" ... It is in our life and conduct that we must show our devotion to Christ."

—Woodrow Wilson



**Fall Harvest and Christmas Bazaar
October 25th, 8am – 1:00pm**

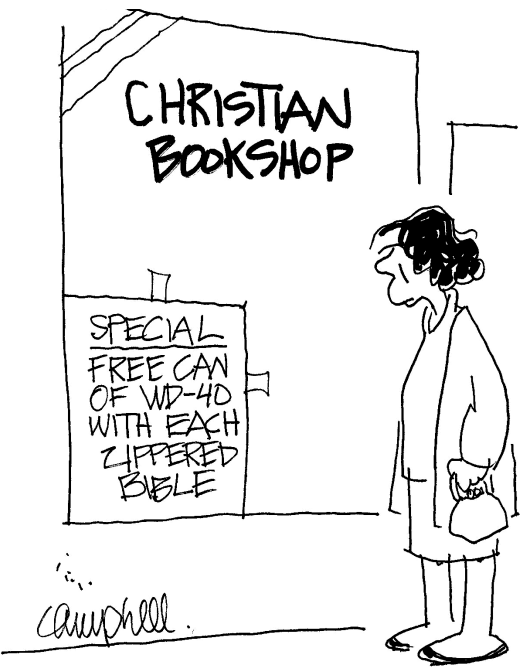
DiMATTEO WORSHIP CENTER
LONDONDERRY VILLAGE
1200 GRUBB STREET
PALMYRA, PA 17078

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!





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 orders
are ready for pick-up**



Fall Festival Fun Is Coming!

It's time for hayrides, refreshments, and good ol' fall fun! Join us for our Fall Festival on October 18th 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!



Our next Women's Fellowship Meeting will be Thursday, October 21st, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

Upcoming Events:

Breakfast Buffet: October 18, 2025 7-10 AM

Annual Christmas Bazaar: November 1st, 2025 from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Women's Christmas Brunch: November 15, 2025 from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM at the Cottage at Country Fare.



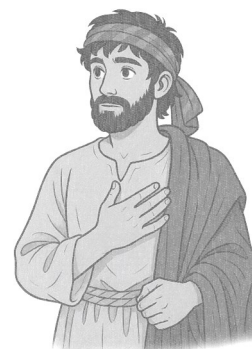
Sunday, October 19th

Following the
10:30 AM service

Bible Quiz

The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm, and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



Answer on page 3



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

Harvest Home Sunday will be on October 12th. The 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 the front of the sanctuary with the display or in the boxes in the narthex and downstairs lobby.

The Golden Age Banquet will be on Sunday, October 26th following the church service. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the narthex until October 19th.



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.

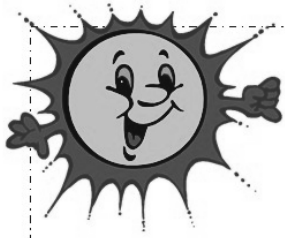
Thank you,
Missions and Evangelism Team.

Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library

Monday, October 9th at 6:00 pm
"Eilo"
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



BREAKFAST BUFFET

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
INVITE YOU TO A FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

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





Annual CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

8 am ~ 1 pm

Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

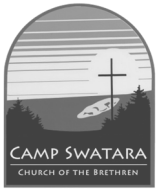
31 Rehrersburg, Road, Bethel, PA 19507

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



News from Camp Swatara

MOVIE NIGHT IN THE CAMPGROUND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

Join us at Camp Swatara for movie nights in the Campground with movies under the stars (weather permitting). All you need to bring is something to sit on. Check online for a listing of movie titles.
www.campswatara.org



FAMILY CAMP CLOSING WEEKEND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH - 3:00 PM to SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH - 1:00 PM

Join us to close the Campground for the season! We will be landscaping and cleaning to prepare the grounds for the winter. All ages are welcome to join. Volunteers are welcome to camp FREE for the weekend. We provide coffee/snack and lunch on Saturday, October 25th

Info & Register: www.campswatara.org

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 November 2nd to Church Secretary, Connie Davis or Directory Committee: Dianne High - Box 74 or Michelle Snyder - Box 196



Little Swatara Preschool

October 2025



Dear LSP Family and Friends,

I can't believe our first month of school is already behind us! 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.

I would like to send a BIG thank you to our volunteer Miss Lisa and Hetrickdale Farm for providing our Preschool classes with a wonderful field trip to their family farm! What a blessing! Our PreK classes will be visiting the Bethel-Tulpehocken Library this month for a fun, fall field trip.

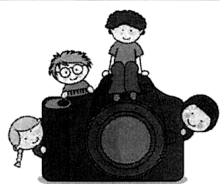
We do not celebrate Halloween at preschool but we look forward to the beautiful fall weather and the exciting activities that come with autumn and the harvest season.

Please know that our staff is always available to speak with you regarding questions or concerns you may have throughout the year regarding the program. We are so happy your family has chosen LSP and we are 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 13th. 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

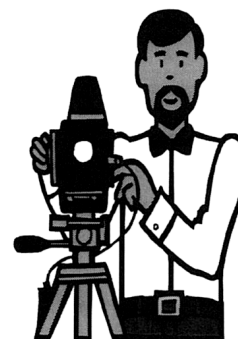
individual and class pictures of our four classes. A memory folder that includes a student picture and a class picture will be available along with several other different packages. Please watch for more information to come home in your child's backpack!

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 15: Preschool 1 & PreKindergarten 1

Thursday, October 16: 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:

**"Children obey your
parents...for this is good."
Ephesians 6:1**

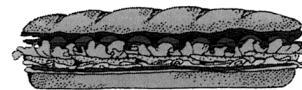


JUST A REMINDER...

Preschool will be in session on Columbus Day, Monday, October 13th. 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 6th through October 20th. All forms must be submitted no later than October 21st.

Families will need to pick up their orders on 10/30/25 at the preschool between 11:15-12:45. Watch for order forms to come home soon. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts!



FALL FEST

Come join us for Fall Fest
at Little Swatara Church on October 18th
from 6pm-8pm.

Fun, fellowship, games, refreshments and
a hayride...come have a great time with
friends!

We hope to see you there.

Please let Miss Sara know if you plan to attend so we
can be sure to have enough supplies.

Thank you!



Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Brenda Brubaker Reunion / pav	29 8:00am chow chow canning / kitchen	30	1 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:00pm Online Bible Study via ZOOM 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	2 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	3	4
5 Love Feast	6	7 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	8 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 8:00am Preschool Field Trip / Bethel Library 7:00pm Online Bible Study via ZOOM 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	9 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	10	11
12 Harvest Home Sunday	13	14 8:00am Preschool Field Trip / Bethel Library 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	15 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH Newsletter Deadline 8:00am Preschool Photos 7:00pm Online Bible Study via ZOOM 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	16 8:00am Preschool Photos 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	17  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	18 Buffet Breakfast / K & FH 7-10 am 6:00pm Fall Festival & Hayride
19 12:00pm Church Potluck Meal / FH	20	21 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH	22 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:00pm Online Bible Study via ZOOM 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	23 8:30am Quilting 6:15pm Jubilee Choir practice 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	24	25 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe
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