



Good News!

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

Pastor's Note

Page 1 - 2

Birthdays & Condolences / Births

Page 2

Help Wanted

Page 3

Information Updates

Page 4 - 5

Reflections

Page 6

How Well Do You..

Page 7

Camp Swatara

Page 8 - 9

Preschool

Page 10 - 11

Calendar

Page 12



Not in vain

Psalms 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."

It's interesting to see the word "unless" used in this scripture. It signifies a condition. It means you need to this for that to work. So, as we read this verse, there's nothing more valuable than placing the Lord in our plans. There are many things we do on our own and find success but think about that a moment. The things we do; are they not a gift from God? We have been given special abilities to perform the tasks at hand. Not everyone is the same though. So, in this season of life, let's seek the Lord in our labors. Building upon his foundation ensures steadiness and endurance. It ensures his sovereign plans and prevents us from doing anything in vain.

Our house, our families can stand strong when the wisdom of God is upon them. Fulfillment in life can be attained as we live under Gods protection and guidance.

Blessings :-)

Pastor Matt Christ



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

Our Sincere Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Russell K. Wenger, who passed away on Saturday, July 22, 2023.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers for David & Sharon Hoke on the loss of Sharon's mother, Marie Heffelfinger, who passed away on Monday, July 24th, 2023.

As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy and Christian love to the Bryant family on the loss of Sara's grandmother, Eleanor Callihan, who passed away on Tuesday, July 25th, 2023.



Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.
— William Arthur Ward

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 1 - 7:00 PM Camp Swatara Family Camp Kids' Auction
- Sept. 2 - 9:30 AM Camp Swatara Family Camp Regular Auction
- Sept. 4 - Labor Day
- Sept/ 5 - 7:00 PM Leadership Meeting
- Sept. 10 - National Grandparents Day
12:30 PM COBYS Bike & Hike
- Sept. 16 - 7-10:00 AM Women's Fellowship Breakfast
- Sept. 23 - First Day of Autumn
Brethren Disaster Relief Auction
5-9:00 PM Union Fire Co. 100th Anniversary celebration
- Sept. 24 - Brethren Disaster Relief Auction
- Sept. 26 - Ministry Team minutes due

Help Wanted



"Do you love Jesus? Do you love working with children? Little Swatara Preschool is looking for volunteers in our classrooms! If interested please contact Sara Bryant at: sara.bryant@littleswatara.org"



The Gathering Place

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



The Union Fire Co. of Bethel is celebrating 100 years of serving the community on

**Saturday, September 23
5-9 PM**

Food trucks, games, live music & Fireworks
9675 Old US 22, Bethel, PA 19507

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



As we get closer to the fall and to the re-launch of our all new 8:30 service, we need volunteers!!

If you can help with Ushering, Music/ Computer Playback/Sound, Refreshments/ coffee/drinks set up please contact any member of the Music & Worship team, or Pastor Matt. (Mark Myers, Dianne Duell, Savannah Metzler, David Brown, Alan Reberman)

Thank you



Can you help? Little Swatara is in need of a Cemetery chairperson. Please contact Richard Yenser



**COBY's Bike & Hike
September 10, 2023**

For details and information go to:
<https://cobys.org/bike-and-hike>

Answer: (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

Information Updates from Little Swatara



Music and Worship Updates

Live Nativity - It may be August, but your Music and Worship team is already looking towards the 2023 holiday season. With the success of our Live Nativity last year, we'd like to try again this year. We're going to be starting our planning much earlier, so watch for prop and materials requests. We will also be asking our Preschool Families if they would like to participate this year. The plan is to expand the stable set with one or two additional "stations."

Special Music - The congregation at Little Swatara has long been musically active, but in recent years, we have gotten away from small groups, families and individuals sharing music and anthems during worship. We would like to get back to that heritage. This fall members of the Music and Worship team will be reaching out to those we know have a musical background to participate in worship.



The next Widows luncheon will be Tuesday, Sept. 12th
11:30 a.m.

The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA



Sept. 16 - Our **Breakfast Buffet** will be from 7:00 until 10:00 A.M. We will need help in the kitchen and in various other ways. We are asking for a donation of \$8.00 per person.

Sept. 19 - Our next Women's Fellowship Meeting will be at 9:00 A.M. All women of our Church are welcome.

Sept. 22 - Brethren Disaster Relief Auction - We will be donating homemade chicken corn noodle soup to be sold Friday. **They always appreciate our donated homemade pies, so please check the weekly bulletins closer to the date for times to deliver them to the kitchen. Someone will be taking them to the Auction.**

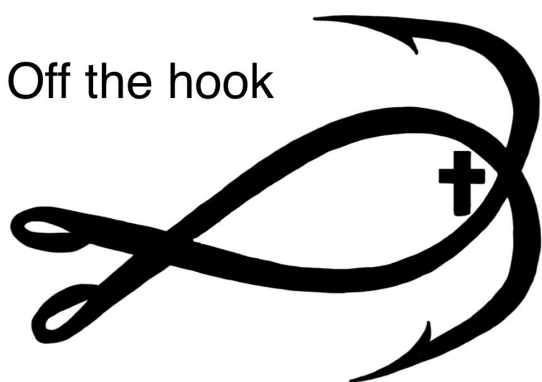
Sept. 23 - Brethren Disaster Relief Quilt Auction - A beautiful quilt was donated again this year. Their brochures are on the welcome table.

Sept. 23 - The Union Fire Co. of Bethel will be celebrating 100 years of serving their community. They will have music, games and food trucks. We will be there to support them and have a game for the children. The fun starts at 5:00 and goes until 9:00.

Sept. 26 - We will be making chow chow. There is an order form on the table in the Narthex. **We will need help in the kitchen and if you have any vegetables to donate, they would be greatly appreciated.** Please also remember much closer to the date to bring your jars to be refilled.

Oct. 3 - We will be making more batches of chow chow. Help will be needed.

Off the hook



Off the hook media led worship

Kicking off September 17, 2023 at 8:30am in our fellowship hall is an all new service focusing on contemporary music. There won't be a live band; rather a media led worship with the words on the screen and the music playing along to our favorites songs. Tune in to WJTL radio station to hear a selection of what kind of music to expect. Prayer and a one word discourse from scripture will be applied to our lives and a time to talk about it with others to end the service. Bring your neighbors, dress casual, and dive deep into the presence of God.



"Please consider joining us for Sunday School!"

The Preschool class meets in the Preschool Room on the Sanctuary level near the east stairway.

The Elementary Class, Grades Kindergarten to 5th, meets in the Pine Room on the fellowship hall level near the east stairway.

The Youth class, Grades 6 to 12, meets in the Youth Room in the Fellowship Hall.

The (Younger) Adults group meets in the Oak Room on the fellowship hall level near the library and east stairwell.

Another Adult class is meeting in the Fellowship Hall with the piano. The Adult class is singing thru the hymnal and talking about the hymns.

We would love to have you in fellowship and spiritual growth with us!"

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt

(Answer on page 3)



Reflections

by Richard E. Frantz

When the Little Swatara congregation moved to its new facility here on the Rehrersburg Road in autumn 1964, we had four meeting houses to sell. Two of those, Merkeys and Zieglers, have changed hands at least once.

The Schubert House, built in 1923, was purchased by the Mennonite congregation and has been in their hands ever since. Today they go by the name New Life in Christ Church. According to Thomas Hess, one of their ministers, they find this name more welcoming than Schubert Mennonite Church. The congregation built an addition on the west end, to include more Sunday School classrooms. They included indoor plumbing for bathroom facilities. They turned the sanctuary around. You now face east as you sit for worship.

Our earliest meeting house, Merkey's, built in 1848, was originally bought by one of the congregation's families. Upon their passing in 2009, the property was purchased by the Yahweh Brethren. They enlarged the building on the south end and altered the landscape. They even changed the position of the sanctuary. Worshippers now face the Blue Mountain for worship. Entrance to the parking lot is now off Airport Road. They included a well, septic system and indoor plumbing. With picks and shovels and wheelbarrows they excavated the section under the sanctuary and made a fellowship hall. Under the leadership of their pastor, Jake Meyer, they worship on Saturdays.

The Ziegler Meeting House, built in 1875, was originally purchased by the Matthias Frantz Clan. They rented it to a Mennonite congregation, with the stipulation that one Sunday in August each year, the clan would have the use of it for their annual reunion. Later the Mennonite congregation purchased it. This group built an addition on the east with steps into the sanctuary and into the fellowship hall, as well as a nursery. They installed bathrooms in the basement. The Mennonites later sold the church to the Old German Baptist Brethren. This group worships there in a rotation of meeting houses, similar to what our congregation did until 1964. They redid the building to its original as it stood in 1964. They built toilets to the west of the building. Within the last year the church split over doctrine, The Old German Baptist Brethren continue to meet there.

The Frystown Meeting House, also built in 1875, was purchased by the Dunkard Brethren. It stands as it did in 1964. No major changes have been made to its footprint. The congregation worships there each Sunday.

People must have been smaller back in the 1800's. History says the Ziegler House was big enough to hold 900 people. The Frystown House held 700 people; Merkeys held 500 people. No records list how many the Schubert building was supposed to hold. Of course, families had a lot more children in those days. You can fit more little children in than grown folks.

Another interesting fact is that the congregation built two churches in one year. Both Zieglers and Frystown were built in 1875. They had either good financing or those old farmers were rolling in dough. (-:

How well do you know.....



Amelia Dettwiler

Amelia Ruth Dettwiler was born November 15, 1954, in the Lancaster General Hospital to Mahlon and Alma Dettwiler. She has 1 brother, N. Lorne, and 1 sister, Rose Mary. Amelia lived in New Holland until the age of 2 when her family moved to Denver, Colorado, near to her Dettwiler grandparents. Sometime later, the family moved to Rocky Ford, Colorado before moving to Kansas when Amelia was 5. She attended school, first and second grade, at Hutchinson, Kansas. While living there, the family had goats, dogs, cats, ducks and a pig. The goats provided milk for Amelia since she was unable to drink cow's milk.

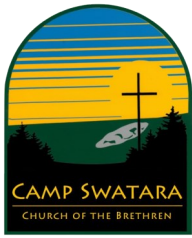
When Amelia was 7 the family returned to Pennsylvania where they would be near her other grandparents in Lancaster County. She went to the Ephrata Mennonite School until she was 16 before moving to Snyder County. There her sister met her husband and was married, leaving Amelia the only child left at home. A few years later, another move took them to Tennessee where Amelia helped her dad milk cows, paint houses, paint barn roofs and put a transmission in a pickup truck. During that time, they lost their house, barn and some animals to a fire that burned the buildings to the ground. Sometime after the fire, the family moved to Juanita County, Pennsylvania to be near her brother and his family. There Amelia worked in a nursing home and helped the men with outside work. She and her brother killed a snake in the attic of the house, giving his children a huge reason to scream.

Forty-four years ago, she and her parents moved to Frystown where she now lives with her mother and sister. Over the years there, Amelia has worked in sewing factories, gardened at home, crocheted dolls and animals, and cleaned houses at Hershey for thirty-six years before having to quit because of COVID. Now she helps her sister babysit her grandchildren while their mother works as an EMT. Her sister has become handicapped in the last 3 years and needs assistance. Amelia is living with Rose Mary, in Frystown, temporarily, and does the housekeeping chores for her and her mother and still loves to crochet.

Amelia was searching for a church home when she heard of all the good things Little Swatara is known to do for others. She became a member in Little Swatara on February 2, 2015, joining the choir for the first season she was with us. If you are unfortunate to be ill or suffer a loss, you may be fortunate enough to be the recipient of a beautiful scrapbook made by Amelia and her sister for the Women's Fellowship. Amelia does the beautiful colored pencil pictures that are included in the books.

Thanks, Amelia, for showing your love of Christ in all you do for others.

~ Jean Myers



News from Camp Swatara

Camp Swatara Family Campground Benefit Auction September 1st & 2nd, 2023

The Annual Labor Day Auction benefits the Family Campground at Camp Swatara. We would love for you to donate and join us at the auction!

Preview Friday Evening 6:30pm to 8:30pm, 7pm Children's Auction

Saturday 9:30am Auction

Father & Son Weekend September 8, 7pm – September 9, 7pm

There is a unique bond between dads and their sons and that is what this weekend is all about. Come explore the 700 acres at Camp Swatara, join in games, and learn together about relationship principles found in Scripture. Sign-up by 8/25/2023.

Registration is available at <http://cwngui.campwise.com/Customer/swatara/browser-check-reg.html>

Family Camp Movie Night(s)

Come join us for movie night at the Campground FFC Ball field. Weather permitting.

When: **2nd Saturday of September & October**. Times will vary

What to bring: Blanket or chair for seating

Price: Free for guests staying with us and who paid the day pass. If you are joining us only for the movie, it is \$2 per person.



The quilters have been busy with needles and tread, scissors and thimbles creating another beautiful quilt for this year's Disaster Relief Auction. The 84" x 96" "Daisy Days" was donated to the quilters to quilt by Brenda Brubaker.

It is the quilters hope and prayer that the quilt 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 morning, the fellowship among the quilters continues to "Bloom and Blossom with each quilt .





AUCTION



CAMP SWATARA 2023 FAMILY CAMPGROUND BENEFIT AUCTION

SEPT 1 (FRI)

6:30PM to 8:30PM: Item Preview

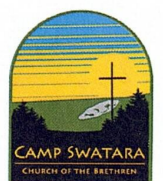
7:00PM: Kids Auction

SEPT 2 (SAT)

8:30AM to 9:30AM: Item Preview

9:30AM: Regular Auction

All proceeds benefit the Camp Swatara Family Campground.



WWW.CAMPSWATARA.ORG | (717) 933 - 5244



Little Swatara Preschool

September 2023

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

We are so excited to welcome you to the Little Swatara Preschool family. Thank you for choosing LSP and for entrusting us with your precious children. We anticipate a wonderful 2023/24 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 helps 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 but 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!



Fall Field Trips

We will have field trips scheduled soon! Please watch for important information and permission slips coming home in your child's backpack.



Show and Tell

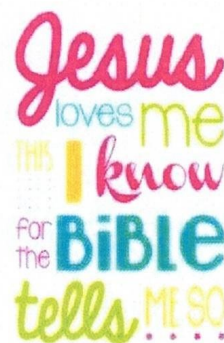
Each class has show and tell once a week. Please follow along on the class calendar to find the S&T day and corresponding letter. If the letter is T, the item could be a turtle, tootsie roll, or a picture of Aunt Trudy! Be as creative as your child would like. If it's not an obvious item, you may send a note of explanation in for the teacher.

Meet the Staff

Miss Diana will be returning for her 14th year at LSP and is the lead teacher for both PreK classes. **Miss Kathy** will also return for her 2nd year as lead teacher for both of the Preschool classes. We are so thankful for their love and dedication to our program.

Miss Sally is our new assistant teacher for the preschool classes. She has worked with children for over 25 years in a few different learning environments and has also homeschooled her 3 children. She is looking forward to teaching in preschool because she loves seeing children develop a love of learning and most importantly, to learn about Jesus.

Miss Nadine is our new assistant teacher for the PreK classes. Miss Nadine previously taught at LSP for 8 years. She enjoys spending time with her family and gardening. She is looking forward to being part of the preschool family again because she loves children and Jesus.

**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




**Class Pictures**

Pictures are scheduled to be taken October 18th and 19th. 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.



**Little Swatara Church of the
Brethren**

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Promotion Sunday Ray Keeney / pav	28 Preschool & Pre-K classes start - AM & PM	29	30	31 8:30am Quilting	1 7:00pm Camp Swatara Family Camp Auction / Kids Auction	2 9:30am Camp Swatara Family Camp Auction / Regular Auction
3	4 	5 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	6	7 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH	8	9
10 Food pantry collection Wartluft reunion / pav (S. Kauffman & Glenn Moyer) 8:45am Volunteer Recognition Breakfast 10:30am Praise Team	11 7:00pm CE meeting	12 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	13	14 8:30am Quilting 9:30am Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethel	15  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	16 Women's Fellowship Breakfast / FH & K 6-12 (breakfast 7- 10am) 10:30am Trim Healthy Mommies class / Preschool office area
17 8:30am Off the Hook Service/Fellowship Hall 12:00pm Church Potluck Meal / FH 12:30pm Spiritual Nurture meeting 12:30pm Youth Group / FH	18	19 9:00am women's fellowship meeting	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 8:30am Quilting	22	23  7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe
24 8:30am Off the Hook Service/Fellowship Hall	25	26 Ministry Team Minutes Due	27	28 8:30am Quilting	29	30 8:00am Love Feast prep / Kitchen