



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

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"Praise the Lord"

How can we keep from singing praises to the Lord? How can we refrain from thanking Him for the blessings we have in our lives? The Lord, He is GOOD! "All creatures look to Him for their food at the proper time. They are satisfied with good things when He opens His hands (Psalm 104: 27-28)". This imagery of God opening His hands has a heartfelt sentiment to the needs of all creation. It portrays within us this concept of giving and receiving. We can be welcomed with open hands and arms into His gracious presence. We can be assured He will give to us according to His Will. Prior to this we read in v.4-5 that "the winds are your messengers, flames of fire are your servants. You placed the world on its foundation so it would never be moved." It's impossible not to praise Him as the world reveals His creativity, His genius, and His wisdom. There is such variety in all that He has made that we can't help but to thank him. Yet if we're honest, there's times we don't. The world around us seems to be moving. That foundation feels like it is shifting from beneath our feet. Whether illness, brokenness, grief, or any array of symptoms drawing us from the Lord, there's always reason to praise and thank Him. The very breath from our lungs speaks of His greatness. Psalm 104 goes on in v.29-30 to say; "But if you turn away from them, they panic. When you take away their breath, they die and turn again to dust. When you send your Spirit, new life is born to replenish all the living of the earth." Friends, God's Spirit is here and replenishing us along the way. In those moments of desperation, when life is breaking down, look up to the Heavens and let God put you back together. The hardest part of life can be when we turn inward and wonder what am I to do? How can I ever manage this mess I found myself in? God says, look to me child. I'm always here to help in times of trouble. If it seems like He's silent, it's in that silence, where we can discover the new life being replenished as we wait upon the Lord. My prayer is that each passing day you will seek the goodness of God and thank Him for the many blessings. It's the world that tries as it may to distract us from all that He is. Let not your heart be troubled. The Lord our God is with us. He goes with us in the darkest of moments and in the most glorious of times. His Name is WORTHY TO BE PRAISED!!

Blessings
Pastor Matt Christ



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Ayden Blatt | 1 |
| Lisa Hetrick | 2 |
| Clayton Bashore | 4 |
| Linda Bowman | 4 |
| Charlene Muckle | 5 |
| Noreen Gross | 5 |
| James Bowman | 6 |
| Janette M. Lebo | 7 |
| Jason Manbeck | 8 |
| Joann Ebling | 8 |
| Dwayne Foesig | 9 |

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Gary Emerich, Sr. | 10 |
| Todd Wentling | 10 |
| Louise Graby | 11 |
| Paul Heisey | 12 |
| Kristina Hoey | 12 |
| Russell Wenger | 12 |
| Ronald Wanner | 14 |
| David Brown | 15 |
| Ashley Smith | 17 |
| Sandra Shalters | 19 |
| Rosalie Denardo | 20 |
| Greg Emerich | 20 |
| Connie L. Hershey | 20 |
| Dianne Younker | 20 |
| Dorothy Gensemer | 21 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Naomi Brown | 23 |
| Brian R. Hess | 24 |
| Jean Myers | 25 |
| Ricki Bashore, Sr | 25 |
| Bruce Reed | 25 |
| Douglas Soliday | 26 |
| Linda R. Ziegler | 26 |
| Lauren Bryant | 27 |
| Gregory Ziegler | 27 |
| Tara Ebling | 27 |
| Carol Ann Bashore | 29 |
| Ricki Bashore, Jr. | 29 |
| Joseph D. Brubaker | 29 |
| Randy S. Heltzinger | 30 |

Our Sincere Sympathy

The congregation of Little Swatara Church sends their love and condolences to the family and friends of Suzanne Wichert. Suzanne went to be with her Lord and Savior on August 7th.

As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy & Christian love to the Claman family on the passing of George Claman on August 12th

As a church family, we extend our sincere sympathy & Christian love to the Yenser & Walmer families on the passing of Betty Yenser Walmer. Betty passed away on August 16th.



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** Labor Day
- 2** 7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting
- 4** 8:30 AM Quilting
6:00 PM 50+ Club meeting / FH
- 7** National Grandparents Day
Promotion Sunday
Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast / FH
- 9** 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
- 11** 8:30 AM Quilting
- 14** Food Pantry collection
- 17** Newsletter deadline
7:00 PM Online Bible Study
- 18** 9:30 AM Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evang. Lutheran Ch
- 19** 8:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
- 21** Church Potluck Meal
- 23** Ministry Team Minutes due
9:00 AM Women's Fellowship mtg / FH
- 24** 7:00 PM Online Bible Study
- 27** 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast / cafe

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

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Tue. & Thurs. 9:00 am - 12:00pm
Wed. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm



"Sunday school I like. Monday through Friday school I could do without."



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.

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



Church Treasurer Wanted!

Are you organized, trustworthy, and have a heart for service? Our church is seeking a **dedicated Treasurer** to help steward our financial resources with integrity and care.

Responsibilities include:

- Managing budgets and financial records
- Overseeing donations and expenses
- Preparing reports for church leadership

Accounting experience preferred.

This part-time paid position is perfect for someone who wants to support the church's mission in our community.

Join the Little Swatara team---apply today!
Contact Jamie Wise for more information.

Answer

C (See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:2)



Lunch N Learn @ Londonderry Village September 25th with Dr. Peg Speirs

"EXPLORING CREATIVE VOICES OF THE 1900'S"

Join Dr. Peg Speirs to explore the work of artist (s) active in the 1900s, focusing on their contributions to the art world and the cultural context of their time. Topics may include their artistic style, influences, and the legacy they left behind.

Dr. Peg Speirs is a Professor of Art Education at Kutztown University. She holds a B.A. in Studio Art, an M.A. in Art Education, and a Ph.D. in Art Education with a Women's Studies minor from Penn State. Dr. Speirs co-edited *Contemporary Issues in Art Education*, has written about art for social justice and curriculum development, and introduced the Women in the Arts course at KU. She also co-authored *The Dinner Party Curriculum Project* and served as Interim Associate Dean in the College of Visual & Performing Arts from 2014 to 2018.

RSVP & Lunch Information

Attendees must RSVP to attend. If you plan to purchase a lunch through our organization, you **must order by September 18th, 2025**, through the form linked below.

RSVP and/or Order Lunch Here: <https://bit.ly/3ZsYEI6>

"If God is your copilot, swap seats."

—Anonymous



"Comforting Words"

The longer we live, the more we see the need for comfort amidst the world. Comfort comes in many forms including verbally and written. But the most powerful comfort I've experienced comes through touch. That gentle hand upon yours, that warm hug, that arm wrapped around your shoulder just somehow makes all the difference. Add to that comforting words such as, peace be with you, it's going to be ok, God is with you and that precious word fills our soul.

Jesus even tells us "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I." John 14:27-28 NIV

Read these words over and over and let them permeate to the core of your being. I find great comfort knowing Jesus is coming back to us. I pray you too find comfort and peace in these words. The world may try to find ways to steal that joy and comfort, but Jesus remains faithful to the very end. How many of us truly need that comfort right now? It's all yours dear friend. Peace is with you. Comfort is upon you. With much love.

taken from Church of the Brethren "NEWS" 8/2025



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!



The Wednesday evening **Online Bible Study**

will resume on September 17th at 7 PM.
This will be a 6-week study - "Reclaiming the Sabbath".

If interested contact Dianne High for program materials. Cost is free

A sense of humor

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

—Anonymous

Did you Know?

The offering collected during Sunday School helps Christian Ed with



Vacation Bible School expenses, the Lenten and Advent devotionals, Bible presentations, the Easter Festival, Children's Day entertainment, the Christmas Children's Outreach among many other things. Please consider the benefits to these ministries when considering your Sunday School offering.

WIDOWS



LUNCHEON

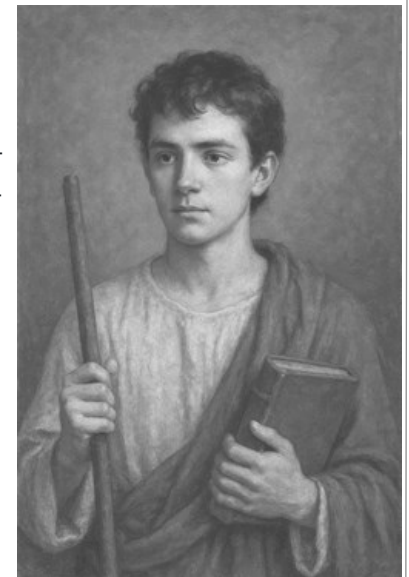
The next Widows luncheon
Tuesday, Sept. 9th
11:30 a.m.

The Country Fare Restaurant
Myerstown, PA

Bible Quiz

Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.



Answer on page 3



September Mission of the Month

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

Harvest Home Sunday will be on October 12th. October's mission of the month will be the Food Pantry. We will be collecting canned or boxed goods, and cash donations on Harvest Home Sunday. Please place donations in or around the display in the narthex or downstairs.



Londonderry
Village

Cathy Snell Memorial Golf Tournament
Thursday, September 18, 2025 1 p.m.
start Royal Oaks Golf Club
3350 Oak Street, Lebanon, PA

Londonderry Village will host its annual **Cathy Snell Memorial Golf Tournament** on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at Royal Oaks Golf Club in Lebanon, PA. Check-in begins at 11:30 am. and the tournament starts at 1:00 p.m. Open to the public, golfers of all skill levels are invited to join us for this popular outing.

Golfer registration includes greens fees, use of cart, coupon for lunch at the clubhouse, practice balls and a hot buffet dinner. The scramble format allows golfers to play their team's best ball throughout the round. Tournament prizes are awarded for three flights. Golfers also have opportunities to win auxiliary and hole-in-one prizes. Tee sign sponsorships are also available and greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you for a wonderful day on the greens.



Our next Women's Fellowship Meeting will be Thursday, September 23rd, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.

Upcoming Events:

COBYs Bike & Hike: September 7, 2025.

Brethren Disaster Relief Auction: September 26 and 27, 2025.

Breakfast Buffet: October 18, 2025 7-10 AM

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

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



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.

Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library

Tuesday, September 9th at 6:00 pm

"How to Train Your Dragon"

Rated PG

Thursday, September 25th at 6:00 pm

"Lilo and Stitch"

Rated PG

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



Choir Rehearsals Resume Sept. 25th

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

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

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

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

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



Sunday, September 7, 2025

Lititz Church of the Brethren

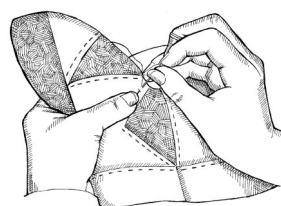
3-mile Walk • 10 & 25-mile Bicycle Rides
Tasty Tour • Ice Cream Celebration



Walk + Bike + Treat = Hope



Visit www.cobys.org/bike-and-hike for more information



QUILTING GROUP 108" x 117".

Three quilters, Vera Gross, Linda Stine and Jean Myers have been busy with needles and thread, scissors and thimbles throughout the year. Two quilts will be donated to the 2025 Disaster Relief Auction. The antique hand patched quilt is 82" x 82". The second quilt, "Spring Flowers" is

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

Update: 2025 VBS Mission Project Brethren Disaster Relief

VBS collection.....\$1,533.08

Mission of the Month
VBS Offering Project..\$2,486.00

Gathering Place Café
Donations.....\$ 953.00

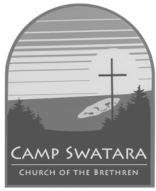
Total.....\$6,198.08

Chow-Chow Orders

We will be making chow-chow on Monday, Sept. 15th & Monday, Sept 29th starting at 8:00 AM. Please bring your jars to be refilled & place your order on the order form on the table in the Narthex, or contact any member of Women's Fellowship. **We would appreciate help both days.**

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

Quarts \$9.00 Pints \$5.00



News from Camp Swatara

Movie Night in the Campground September 13th at 8:00 PM October 11th at 8:00 PM

Join us at Camp Swatara for movie nights in the Campground under the stars (weather permitting). All you need to bring is something to sit on.



Fall Festival September 13th - 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Celebrate Fall with Food, Fun, and Friends!

Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God’s faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God’s ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God’s steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.





Little Swatara Preschool

September 2025

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

We are so excited to welcome you to the Little Swatara Preschool program. Thank you for choosing LSP and for entrusting us with your precious children. We anticipate a wonderful school year full of fun and learning. Our nurturing and loving staff are looking forward to getting to know each of their students. Over the course of the year, our staff seeks to build foundational skills that we pray 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 and also incorporate Christian values while teaching the children about the Bible and God's love for each of us.

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

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

Wishing you love and God's blessings,

Miss Sara



Contacting Teachers

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



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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Show and Tell



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

Tuition Payments

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

Class Pictures

Pictures are scheduled to be taken October 15th (Preschool 1 and PreKindergarten 1) and October 16th (Preschool 2 and PreKindergarten 3). Outback Photography of Lebanon will be taking individual and class photos once again. More information will be sent home with your child so please be sure to check backpacks daily for important paperwork.

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

Fall Field Trips

PreK 1 and PreK 3 will have a Field Trip to the Bethel-Tulpehocken Library on October 8th (PreK 1) and October 14th (PreK 3). Preschool 1 and Preschool 2 will have a Field Trip to Hetrickdale Dairy Farm on September 24th (Preschool 1) and September 25th (Preschool 2). Please watch for permission slips to come home in your child's backpack with more information.



September 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 31 | 1  Holiday - church office closed | 2 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg | 3 | 4 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Promotion Sunday Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast / K & FH | 8 | 9 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare | 10 | 11 8:30am Quilting | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Food pantry collection Wartluff Reunion (S Kauffman) / pavilion | 15 8:00am chow chow canning / kitchen | 16 | 17 Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Online Bible Study via ZOOM | 18 Quilting - cx 9:30am Packing food bags for Bethel Food Pantry / Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethel | 19  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry | 20 |
| 21 Spiritual Nurture meeting 12:00pm Church Potluck Meal / FH | 22 | 23 Ministry Team Minutes Due 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH | 24 7:00pm Online Bible Study via ZOOM | 25 Quilting - cx | 26 | 27 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe |
| 28 9:00am Brenda Brubaker Reunion / pav | 29 8:00am chow chow canning / kitchen | 30 | 1 7:00pm Online Bible Study via ZOOM | 2 8:30am Quilting 6:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH | 3 | 4 |