



## Little Swatara Church of the Brethren

Matthew S. Christ, Pastor

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:30 AM

Sunday school 9:30AM

# Good News!

Church's Office Phone (717)933-4723 Church's Office Fax (717)933-9223

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### "All it takes in life"

Each day we awaken to a new sunrise presents a choice to be all in with God or to walk our own path. All it takes in life is the love God has for us. When we even marginally begin to comprehend how expansive His Love is, it changes everything. Our perspective on ourselves and on others becomes clearer when we realize the length God went to in loving us. Not only does he send his only son but he sends his only son to die on our behalf to be the sacrifice for our sin. Sin that separated us from God has now been removed and our relationship with God has been restored. If that kind of love which has no conditions attached is for, what can possibly stand in the way of loving others. That's all it takes.

As 1 John 4:16 reads, "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

Continued on Page 2...

## The Big Picture... Continued from Page 1...

When we fully digest these words, the quandary of life becomes clear. To live is to love and to love is to know God. To know God is to know love. Love changes the course of history. Love reminds us the greater gift of life. But why then is it so difficult to know and rely on the love God has for us? Could it simply be one word? Self? We get in our way by allowing the world to distract us and dictate what and whom we should love. Have we been conditioned to love only certain people? Could it be our Comfort is more important than offering God's love?

I can't answer these questions for you but you can easily identify the markers in your life. Day to day do we avoid certain places in an effort not to run into certain people? Do we change course if we see someone we'd rather not run into? Our lives reveal who we follow and who we follow reveals our lives. Is love the first word we wake up to? Is it the first action we demonstrate? If not, there could be so much more of God in us if we surrender to his love. Let there be more love in our lives as we learn to know God more and more.

With much love to you all.

Blessings this new year,

*Pastor Matt*

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## **Intergenerational Lunch & Game Event**

**Sunday, February 16, 11:45 - 1:30**  
**Fellowship Hall (following worship)**

Join Mark Cunningham and Anne Stokes from COBYS Family Services for a time of fellowship and games to celebrate the wonderful support many generations of the congregation provide to COBYS through their Bike & Hike, and all year long. Pizza and drinks will be provided by COBYS, please bring a side dish or dessert to share and your favorite family game to play.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP with number of attendees to Anne Stokes at [anne@cobys.org](mailto:anne@cobys.org) or 717-656-6580 x101 by Thursday, February 14th so adequate food can be provided.





December was a great month for the Junior and Senior High Youth Group. Several of our talented instrumentalists participated in an instrumental ensemble performing during the Children's Program and the Christmas Eve service. Keep a lookout for them in the future as they plan to continue rehearsing as a group to perform during holidays and special services. We also other talented youth using their acting skills as narrators for the Children's program and townspeople on Christmas Eve. It has been great seeing all of our youth sharing their talents with the congregation.

Jr high had an event the beginning of December. We did some indoor bowling and had a little get to know the new advisors Q&A.

We also had our annual Christmas party which is always a lot of fun. Walking tacos, a youth favorite, was the main dish along with other goodies. We played games including Human Christmas Present, Tape Ball and White Elephant Gift Exchange. Lots of fun was had by all!

### **Upcoming Youth Events:**

February 16<sup>th</sup> Intergenerational Games Afternoon hosted by COBYS and the Jr./Sr. High Youth:

ALL AGES ARE INVITED for a fun afternoon of game playing after second service. Bring your favorite games and a snack or dessert to share. COBYS will be providing pizza around 1:30.

March 22: Jr./Sr High Laser Tag after church at Laser Quest

July 26-August 1: Mission Trip (Location TBD).

## **Womens Fellowship News for February 2020**

Our next Womens Fellowship Meetings will be on February 6 and March 5 at 9:00 a.m. All women of our Church are invited to join us.

The Crafters Group will meet Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 9:00 a.m.

The ladies are quilting every Thursday morning. They are willing to teach anyone who would like to learn.

The Londonderry Village Auxiliary will be having a Hymn Sing Sunday evening, February 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Di Matteo Worship Center, 1200 Grubb Road, Palmyra, PA. A free will offering will be taken.

Our Breakfast Buffet will be held on Saturday, February 22 from 7:00 until 10:00 a.m. Please come and join us.

We still have pints and quarts of chow chow for sale. Please see any member of Womens Fellowship if you are interested.

*A candle loses none of its  
light by lighting another.*

~Rumi

### **Widows Luncheon**

Tuesday February 11th at  
11:30am at the Country Fair  
Restaurant

### **WHEN BAD WEATHER ARRIVES**

And a decision is made to cancel services for the day, an announcement will be made on

**WJTL 90.3 FM Lancaster** and on the Little Swatara church website: **<http://www.LittleSwatara.org>**

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

Every Member Council Meeting will be on **Monday, February 10 at 7:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda will be Review of Annual Report -- compilation of reports from Ministry Teams and groups at Little Swatara; end of Year financial report; Bylaw Change related to reporting of offering envelope useage, Pastor's Report.

### Members Birthdays for February

Robert Lingle	1	Trevor Fessler	14	Jonathan Yenser	20
Rick Brandt	1	Michael Mattson	14	Jeffrey Donkel	21
Suzanne Miller	2	Gerald Seiler	14	Nancy Miller	22
Gail Malsbury	3	Cheryl Gates	15	Wendy Ziegler	22
Joan Sweigart	4	Jodylynn Mill	15	Eugene Stump	24
Sandra Keeney	5	Ian Hetrick	16	Kyle Yenser	24
Randall Keeney	6	Travis Gensemer	16	Violet Frantz	25
Martha Patrick	6	Kieth Brandt	17	Todd Bashore	25
Ashley Boltz	7	Gary Bashore	18	Jeremy Platchek	25
Matthew Manbeck	7	Sandra Dreibelbis	18	Rufus Merkey	28
David Hoke	8	Mark Forry	18	Terry Bashore	28
Matthew Bohn	9	Jennifer Speraw	19	Doris Hershey	28
Rebecca Emerich	9	Kevin Stupp	19		
Tucker Howell	12	Rebecca Zeller	19		
Kenneth Duell	13	Sharon Wise	20		
Carol Sanchez	13	Derek Yenser	20		

### **Wacky Wednesday–LEGO Style**

Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
6-7 pm in Fellowship Hall  
for children K-5th grade

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Mark your calendars for March 15, All Fellowship Luncheon after 10:30 Worship service. All are invited to attend. New members will be introduced. You are encouraged to bring a "Dessert" to share with all.

Don't miss out! Write it down!  
Revival Services are in March.  
Put it on your calendar! We  
are looking for a record  
number of attendees this  
year!

We start off Sunday March 15th with one service.  
Then continue to come and enjoy Revival services Monday thru Wednesday March 16th thru the 18th. Enjoy a pizza night, an ice cream night and good messages each night.

This year our speaker is Jim Ehrman



## **IT'S "WE CARE" PACKAGE TIME!**

Each year the Mission and Evangelism committee sends packages to the college and military students from our congregation. If you would like to donate items for the students, a box will be provided in the narthex upstairs and foyer downstairs.

### **ITEMS NEEDED FOR CARE PACKAGES**

*Keep looking in the bulletin for more information on the deadline for these items*

CRACKERS	QUARTERS(10/\$2.50) EA.
COOKIES	LIP BALMS
GRANOLA BARS	SMALL TISSUES
HOT CHOCOLATE MIX	WRITING UTENSILS
INSTANT SOUP MIX	
CANDY BARS	TRAVEL SIZE—
GUM	HAND LOTION
HARD CANDY	HAND SANITIZER
Q-TIPS	
POST IT NOTES	
BAND AIDS	
LIP BALMS	

### **Welcome Cody Haag**

January 26th, Cody was immersed in the baptismal waters and received into membership at Little Swatara. Cody is the son of Alicia and Mike and sister to Sara. He enjoys hunting and farming. Take a moment and say welcome to Cody.

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

**7pm join us in the sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday service as we begin the Lenten season.**

## **Coming Up...**

### **February Mission of the Month Global Food Initiative**

#### **Join Us On Sundays**

8:15am worship service

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 worship service

#### **February 10th**

**7:30pm** Every Member Council Meeting

#### **February 22nd**

Womens Fellowship Breakfast Buffet from **7am -10am**

#### **March 15th**

All Fellowship Luncheon after the 10:30 service







### **Deepest Sympathy**

Our hearts and love go out to the family of Jennifer Emerich.

Our hearts and love go out to the family of Bonnie Sholl.

sympathy cards can be mailed to her mother, Carol Sholl, 60 Northcrest Acres, Lebanon, PA 17046 and her grandmother, Violet Frantz, 6295 Four Point Rd., Bethel, PA 19507

# FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p>  <p>10:30 service - Baptism Cody Haag Bread &amp; Cup Communion 12:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner/WF/FH</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class 7:00 PM Stewardship &amp; Ppty Ministry Team Mtg</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Ministry Team Minutes Due 6:30 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class 6:30 PM Jubilee Choir Practice 7:00 PM Joy Choir Practice 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice 7:00 PM Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Deacons Retreat/Camp Swatara 1:00 PM 50 Plus Program</p>
<p>2</p> <p>12:00 PM Spiritual Nurture Mtg 5:30 PM Scout Den Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 PM LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class 6:30 PM Jubilee Choir Practice 7:00 PM Joy Choir Practice 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30 AM Quilting 9:00 AM Women Fellowship Mtg 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice 7:00 PM Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>BSA - Valentine's Dinner (rain date)</p>
<p>9</p>  <p>BSA - Valentine's Dinner 10:30 AM Praise Team</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class 7:30 PM EVERY MEMBER COUNCIL MTG</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Crafters Meet 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare 6:30 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class 6:30 PM Jubilee Choir Practice 7:00 PM Joy Choir Practice 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 AM Quilting 6:30 PM Bethel 4-H Club Meets 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice 7:00 PM Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>7:00 AM Scout Spaghetti Dinner</p>
<p>16</p> <p>11:30 AM COBY'S Family Event/FH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class 6:30 PM Jubilee Choir Practice 7:00 PM Joy Choir Practice 8:00 PM Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice 7:00 PM Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>2:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry 6:30 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 AM WF Breakfast Buffet</p>
<p>23</p> <p>12:00 PM Pat Timmins/FH&amp;Kitchen</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:45 AM FH/Women's Exercise Class 10:00 AM Seated Exercise Class</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Ministry Team Minutes Due 6:30 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 AM Quilting 7:00 PM Sanc/Sr Choir Practice 7:00 PM Senior Choir Practice</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:00 PM Art Show Set Up</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2:00 PM PRESCHOOL ART SHOW</p>



# Little Swatara Preschool

February 2017



Dear Friends,

Hello on this cool winter morning. Everyone is coming to Preschool bundled-up in colorful mittens and hats with scarves. We are finally in the midst of winter weather for our part of North America. We have had less snow than the children and I like. So, we are making up for the lack of snow by singing snow songs. Some of our favorite winter songs are, "In My Backyard", "The Chubby Little Snowman" and "I'm A Little Snowflake". If your preschooler has not sung a winter song, please ask them to sing one for you. They are really cute and are very popular in class. It's sure to bring a smile to your face.



This being coat wearing weather we are working to have the children be independent at putting on their coats. We will start zippers and encourage the children to finish zippering. Some of the children are starting zippers already, and they love to hear our expressions of surprise when they show their teachers how well they manage those long coat zippers. Please remember to label hats and mittens with children's names so we can find the owner if they get separated from the owner.



In February our circle times stories will focus on love through forgiveness, friendship, patience and obedience. We will practice showing love to God, our families and friends; not only with words but also with actions. We show our families and friends love by obeying and doing what we are told by our caretakers. We show God love by going to church and spending time talking and singing about and to Him. We will continue to encourage acts of kindness and politeness as ways of showing love to others. While we encourage these ideas at Preschool, please reinforce them at home. Be sure to take time to let your child know how very much they are loved and appreciated by you.



We love each preschooler and know they are special to God. He designed each child in their own unique way. We are blessed to have them as members of Little Swatara Preschool family. Love grows here. Should you have any questions concerning your child or the program, teachers are available to meet with you upon your request. Also, I can be reached at (717)933-4500 or (717)274-9875.



With love, Miss Cindy





## Student Winter Art Show

Please plan to attend Saturday, February 29, 2-4:00pm for a Student Art Show. Your child's works of art will be on display. There will be art activities and Art Gallery and an Art Piece Chinese Auction. Light refreshments will be available. It is a free event for Little Swatara Preschool families. We are asking you sign-up if you are planning to attend. This is so we are properly prepared for those attending. You may sign up in your child's classroom hallway, or call Miss Cindy at (717)933-4500. Leave your name and the number of people attending the Show. We hope to see you Feb 29. Snow date March 14. (We are in the process of scheduling an Usborne Book Showcase).





## Valentine Celebrations

Each individual class will be having a Valentine celebration. The dates are as follows:  M/W class ~ Wed, Feb 12.  Pre K 1 & 3 ~ Thurs, Feb 13.



If your preschooler wishes, they may prepare and hand out valentines to classmates. A class roster will be sent home soon. Your child does not have to participate in handing out cards if they do not want to.

Young children often do not understand the concept of card exchange. Each child will make a valentine holder and all classes will have a small celebration. There will be a snack sign-up sheet posted in all class-

room hallways. If you are willing to contribute an item, either sign-up or telephone Miss Cindy.

Thank you for all you do to make your child's experience at LS Preschool special.



**Presidents Day** We are scheduled to be in class on Monday, February 17. Please notify your child's teacher if your child will not be attending.



## Foul Weather Closings:

In cases of bad weather, we will follow these guidelines: Preschool closings will follow Tulpehocken School District's policy for closing school due to bad weather.

If Tulpehocken Elementary is :

-closed due to bad weather we will be closed, all classes canceled.

-2 hour delay we will operate on a modified schedule. The morning classes (M/W and PK 1), will run 10 am-12 noon. The afternoon class (PK 3) will run 1-3pm. Extended days ( PK 1) will run 10am-3pm.

-3 hour delay we will cancel the morning classes and the afternoon class will operate on a normal schedule.

Bad weather delays and cancellations are listed at the bottom of the television screen of the following TV stations: WGAL Channel 8 - Berks Cable 8, WFMZ Channel 69.

Little Swatara Preschool will attempt to post foul weather notices on our Facebook Page.



## 2020-2021 Preschool Year

Registration for the 2020-2021 Preschool year begins March 2. We will be offering three morning classes and one afternoon class. The Preschool classes will meet twice a week and Pre Kindergarten class will meet three times a week. Please note the Pre Kindergarten classes are intended for children who will be enrolling for Kindergarten fall of 2021. If you are interested in any of our classes, contact Miss Cindy (717) 933-4500 or (717)274-9875.



### The Chubby Little Snowman

The chubby little snowman, had a carrot nose.  
Along came a bunny, and what do you suppose?  
That hungry little bunny was looking for his lunch.  
He ate that little snowman's nose. — Nibble, Nibble, Crunch!

### In My Backyard

In my backyard I can see, A happy little Chickadee.  
On a branch he sings to me, God made you and God made me.  
Chickadee come have a treat.  
Here's some food for you to eat.



“  
★  
THUS SAITH THE  
*Lord*  
THE KING OF ISRAEL,  
I AM THE FIRST  
★  
AND  
★  
*I am the last*  
★  
AND BESIDE ME  
*There is no God.*”  
~ II Chronicles 15:7

## January Newsletter 2020

**Thank you!** To all who contributed to the newsletter for the month of February. The **DEADLINE** for the March edition is **Wednesday February 18th**. Email [ashlylynn21@gmail.com](mailto:ashlylynn21@gmail.com)

***Don't make Breakfast  
February 22nd!***

Women's Fellowship  
breakfast at the church. More  
details on page 4



Life always offers  
you a second  
chance. It's called  
tomorrow.”



**Good News!**

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

~Romans 6:23

**What should I put on my calendar?**

See page 6 and page 7