

THE VOICE

of St. Thomas



536 N. Main Street
Bernville, PA 19506
610-488-6702

stchurchbv@verizon.net
www.stthomasbernville.org

Sunday Service Schedule

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship-Beatrice Hall - 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

Supply Pastor

Rev. Scott L. Shay

Director of Music Ministries

Brian P. Luckenbill

Facilities Attendant

Shirley J. Shupe

Office Administrator

Kathy A. Oberly

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A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

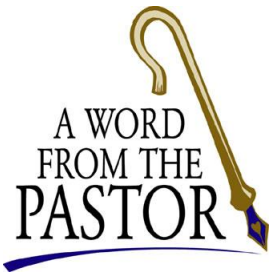
O Night Divine
DAWN OF LOVE'S PURE LIGHT

Presented by the St. Thomas Worship Choir

Saturday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21st at 10:30 a.m.





“Praying Through”

It’s been my experience that *Father God* answers prayers “at last” rather than “at first.” And I believe *He* does that, because *He* wants to see whether we’ll “chicken out” or “pray through.” If we “chicken out,” we miss the “miracle.” I’ve done both. There have been times when I’ve stopped praying about something, because *God* was “silent.” And there have been occasions when I’ve persisted in prayer and experienced the “miracle” which came “at last.”

When the *Israelites* fled from *Egypt* during what’s now referred to as “*The Exodus*,” they eventually arrived at the shore of the *Red Sea*. With the thunderous army of *Egypt* bearing down and the people complaining they should have stayed in *Egypt*, *Moses* prayed. That’s when *God* instructed *Moses* to stretch-out his “rod” over the sea, promising *He* would divide the water so the people could cross over on dry land (*Exodus 14:15-16*).

Now fast-forward about forty years, when the journey of the *Israelites* through “the wilderness” was nearly at its end. The only thing between *God*’s people and “*The Land*” *He*’d promised them was another body of water, the mighty *Jordan River* at flood stage. This time since the mantle of leadership had been transferred to *Joshua*, he prayed. *God*’s instructions. The priests carrying “the ark of the

covenant of the LORD of all the earth” were to lead the people. The instant their feet touched the water (and not a nanosecond before they did) the *Jordan River* divided, and the people were able to cross over, walking on a dry riverbed (*Joshua 3:7-17*).

In each of these miraculous instances, the leaders prayed. Then *God* told them what they needed to do after which *He* performed the “miracle.” Prayer was the “key,” because there was nothing the people could do on their own to overcome what they encountered. Just as important, though, were the actions of the leaders of the people. “In faith” *Moses* stretched out his “rod” over the *Red Sea*. And “in faith” the priests carrying the “ark of the covenant” stepped into the dangerously fast flowing water of the *Jordan River*. 1) Pray. 2) Obey *God*’s instructions. 3) Trust *God* to act.

Our beloved *St. Thomas Church* has been waiting a long time for the “miracle” of the arrival of the next full-time pastor. What, if anything, can we learn from our heavenly *Father* about how to resolve this matter for which *He* absolutely has the answer and wants to act on our behalf?

Keep praying, because if we “chicken out,” we’ll miss the “miracle” *God* has for us.

Pastor Steve



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country’s service and to offer Americans the opportunity “to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.”

Wanting to recognize more specifically America’s veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (*Isaiah 2:4*, NRSV).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Nancy Luckenbill

The Ark Builders Class was busy digging wells for Isaac. Our class is growing. It has been a while since our class had four children on a Sunday. Praise God! On another Sunday, it was Play-Doh fun.



Sunday School is Cool



Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for Sunday school. We have classes for all ages.

Labor Day Sunday, the Sunday school classes combined to watch a video about the Fruits of the Spirit. Afterward, everyone went upstairs to make fruit kabobs for fellowship time. Then Miss Bridget had a Fruit of the Spirit snack map that the children got to decorate with Fruit Loops.



On September 28, all four youth Sunday school classes packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The teachers and youth had a great time packing boxes for underprivileged children.



St. Thomas Youth

By Bridget Brandt

On August 24, some of the youth (and adults) stayed after church for pizza and to help get ready for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party that would be held the following Sunday.

We folded boxes...



Put together bead kits and game kits...



Assembled school kits...



And built a shoebox tower!



Jett
Emmett
Gio
Nico
Sophia
Avalynn
Morgan

Thank You for Your Generous Hearts!

We asked and you responded!

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated to:

- **Mary's Shelter:** Baby supplies and items for moms
- **Hope Rescue Mission:** Clothing donations
- **Light in the Night:** Candy and financial gifts for food
- **Harvest Home:** Canned goods and non-perishables shared with Helping Harvest, our monthly food bank partner



Your kindness continues to shine Christ's love throughout our community. Together, we are truly being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Fellowship Hour: We Need You!

Do you enjoy stopping by Beatrice Hall on Sunday mornings for a warm drink, a sweet treat, and friendly conversation before worship? That time of fellowship happens because of caring volunteers. We need your help to keep it going!

Could you sign up to set up, serve, and clean up, even just once a quarter? Donations of snacks or drinks are also a big blessing and help give our regular volunteers a much-needed break.



A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the kitchen. If we don't have enough helpers, this wonderful time of connection may need to pause. Let's work together to keep it alive!

Please consider signing up today. Your small effort makes a big difference!

Annual Church Bazaar: Saturday, December 6

Mark your calendars. Our **Annual Church Bazaar** is coming soon! This beloved event brings our church family and community together for food, fellowship, and fundraising to support the ministries of St. Thomas.

We need **bakers, cooks, and friendly faces** to make it another success!

- **Cookies:** Last year we sold out early. Help us stock the table with delicious homemade cookies!
- **Soups & BBQ:** Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve our famous soups and barbeques.
- **Event Volunteers:** Greet guests, sell cookies, help in the kitchen, or lend a hand with set-up or clean-up.

Even a few hours helps!

We'll also have a **Shoebox Project table** with handmade and donated items for sale. All proceeds go toward blessing children around the world. See Shoebox article for types of items.

See **Beverly Hinnershitz** or sign up in the library to donate cookies, food, or your time. Let's make this year's bazaar our best yet!

Watch for more information about other events happening that day around Bernville. Other businesses are participating to make it a Bernville Shopping Day!

Bernville Christmas Shopping Tour

December 6, 2025 ❄️ 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Participants:

St. Thomas Church ~ cookie sale, shoebox gift stand, 30 vendors selling a variety of great gifts.

Bernville Library ~ cookies with Santa

Way-Har Farms

De Antiek Winkel and Gift Shop

Knotty to Nice

Penny's Gifts and Treasures

Reifsniders Ag Center

Let's support our local businesses this Christmas season.
More details will be forthcoming.

Can You Help?

We will again be participating in the Tulpehocken Area School District Angel Tree Project. Before the end of November, look for a Christmas tree in the library with the Angel Tree tags. Each tag is a wish list from a disadvantaged child who lives in our local school district. If you choose to take a tag, or perhaps share a tag with another person, and provide some or even all of the items listed on the tag, you will truly shine the light of Jesus on a child. In turn, your heart will be richly blessed in this season of giving.



Support the St. Thomas Shoebox Project at the Annual Christmas Bazaar on December 6

Donation Wish List

We welcome handmade or like-new items, including:



Dishtowels, potholders, dishcloths	Ceramics & pottery
Wreaths & table centerpieces	Holiday tote bags or aprons
Christmas ornaments & décor	Candles & candle holders
Holiday mugs, plates, or serving dishes	Small framed artwork or prints
Handmade scarves, hats, or mittens	
Christmas knick-knacks you no longer use	



If it's festive, pretty, practical, or giftable—it's perfect for our table!

All Profits support 2026 Shoebox Project
Donation bin in the library or see Kelly Groff

Support the Shoebox Project at the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 6

The **Shoebox Team** is excited to once again have a table at our **Annual Christmas Bazaar!** Every purchase you make and every donation you give helps fill next year's **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes** with love, hope, and joy for children around the world.

How You Can Help

We're looking for **handmade treasures and like-new holiday items** to sell at our table. All proceeds will be used to purchase supplies for the 2026 shoeboxes.

Donation Wish List:

- Dishtowels, potholders, and dishcloths
- Wreaths & table centerpieces
- Ceramics or pottery pieces
- Christmas ornaments & décor
- Candles & candle holders
- Holiday mugs, plates, or serving dishes
- Small framed artwork or prints
- Handmade scarves, hats, or mittens
- Holiday tote bags or aprons
- Festive knick-knacks you no longer use

If it's **festive, pretty, practical, or giftable, it's perfect** for our table!

Why It Matters

Every dollar raised helps share God's love in tangible ways, turning small items into life-changing gifts for children who might never have received one before.

See **Kelly Groff** for more information or to drop off your donations. Your holiday treasures will go on to bless others across the globe. A gift that keeps giving long after Christmas!

Shoebox Project 2025 : Final Information

What an amazing Packing Party!

A huge *thank you* to everyone who helped. In just a short time, we filled **100 shoeboxes** that will soon travel from St. Thomas Church into the hands and hearts of children around the world!

Funding for this ministry comes from so many generous sources: proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar and Yard Sale, the Redner's and Boyer's shopping programs, and individual donations dedicated to the Shoebox Project. The Mission Team also helps cover the remaining costs for supplies and the \$1,000 shipping fee. Together, we make this ministry possible!

Pack Your Own Shoebox

There's still time to join in the joy of giving! Please consider packing a box (or two!) with your children or grandchildren. Last year we sent 154 boxes. Can we send a few more this year?

Deadline: All shoeboxes must be returned to **St. Thomas Church by November 16** so they can be dedicated and prayed over before being sent to the next collection site.

Include:

- At least **one "WOW" item** (a toy or gift that will make a child's eyes light up)
- School supplies and fun toys
- Optional personal note or photo

Do NOT include: soap, toothpaste, food, liquids, or war-related items.

If you pay the **\$10 shipping** online through Samaritan's Purse, you can register your box and later see where your gift travels. It's a beautiful way to pray for your recipient by country!

Shoebox Store: Sunday, November 2

Stop by our **Shoebox Store after worship** to pick up affordable items for your box! You can:

- Pack an entire box for \$25 + \$10 shipping, or
- Choose a few items to fill your own box.

We have wonderful selections, many purchased in bulk or handcrafted with love by our St. Thomas members!

Handmade Blessings

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped make these beautiful handmade items this year:

Item	Quantity
Drawstring Bags	105
Stuffed Animals	54
Frisbees	105
Yahtzee Bags	34
Small Purses	25
Washcloths	150
Stuffed Balls	42
Scrunchies	185
Hacky Sacks	30
Marble Bags	25
Reusable Menstrual Pads	130
Drying Straps & Wet Bags	26

Each stitch, each piece, and each prayer helps bring joy and the message of God's love to a child across the globe.

**Thank you, St. Thomas, for
continuing to be the hands
of Christ through this ministry!**

St. Thomas Church Presents:

8-BIT CHRISTMAS

Family Movie

FRI DECEMBER 12TH

6:30PM

BEATRICE HALL

HOT CHOCOLATE
COOKIES

POPCORN

BYO Blanket/Chair

536 N. Main Street
Bernville, PA 19506

St Thomas is an Affiliate of the Evangelical Association
CVLI License #505468535



*St. Thomas parking lot
10 a.m. to 12 noon
November 21 & December 19*

Adult & Teen Challenge is still looking for calendars, cards for holidays throughout the year, and non-holiday cards as well. Drop off in the box on the office door on Sunday or, the office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon to drop them off. Please be sure to call in advance to make arrangements before stopping by.





If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, you will find bright orange “Prayer & Praise Request” cards throughout the church. A Prayer Box is located in the library to drop off the cards after filling in your request. You can also place them in the offering plate.

Prayer Requests

Current: Heather Edgar, Pastor James Snyder, Beth Stoltzfus, Daniel Wolf, Jr., Clair and Karen Hess, Shawn Stauffer, Troy Corson, Deb Rumbel, Gary & Louise Rubright, Jesse Dutcher, Riley Rejniak, Denise Troutman, Chaun Walter, Ernie Ebling, Sr., Gloria Gassert, Stefani Walter, Alicia Rodriguez, Raul Torres, Leonilda Rivera, Dan Wenrich, Haden Long, Barbara Kuhns, Jo Ann Stockholm, Joel Jackson, Tom Bair, Spencer Watts, Rachel Croyle

Nursing Home / Homebound: Betty Henne, Kim Kissling, Anna Mae Smith, Sandra Fox, Phyllis Krause, Donald Triviets, Scarlett & Charles Seifrit, Myrle Schlappich

Other: Care Givers, Pastoral Search Committee, Missionaries, Persecuted Christians, United States (especially elected persons in authority), Community Requests

Military: Brandon Adams, Nicholas Englehart, Cassandra Englehart, Zachary Rollins, All Veterans

Candles That Tell a Story



Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent. Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior - “the light of the world.”

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people - “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles-it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

St. Thomas and Rev. Thomas C. Leinbach Pictures

St. Thomas Church in 1897

No sidewalks and no porches at the two front doors

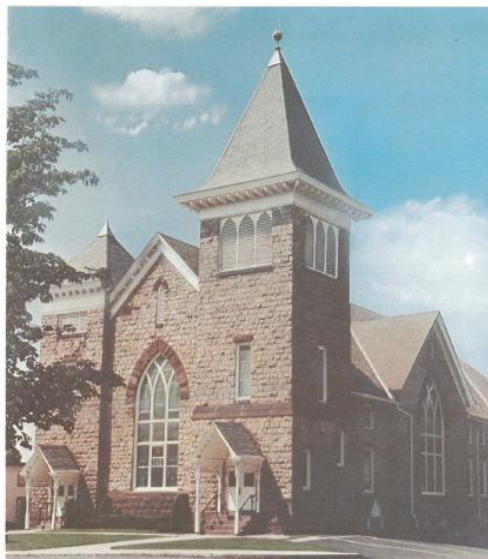


Later postcard picture (with space for a 1-cent stamp on back)

Sidewalks and porches are now present



St. Thomas picture used on the front of *The Herald* and bulletins from the 1970's to the early 1990's



Rev. Thomas C. Leinbach, pastor of the Reformed Congregation when St. Thomas was built



Rev. Leinbach



Back of photograph

Look at the back of the photo. C. (Cyrus) G. Blatt was a well-known Bernville photographer and (Reading) *Eagle/Times* newspaper correspondent for Bernville news. The building that was his home and “photo gallery” still stands at 501 Main Street, although the diagonal entrance to the building is no longer there. See the picture of the building as it looked then on the next page.

Mr. Blatt identified himself on the back of his photos and with a sign on his house (see red arrow on house picture on next page) as “C. G. Blatt, Artist.” He operated the photo gallery from 1878 to 1909. In the same building, he had a candy store for the school children (his house was directly across the street from a school), and his daughter had a millinery shop.

Note that the picture back identifies his location as “S. E. Cor. (corner) of Main & 4th Sts., Bernville, Pa.” In 1875 Mr. Blatt paid the borough a fee of \$5.00 for the privilege of parking his photographic wagon on the street at that location. Mr. Blatt also notes on the picture back that “Duplicates can be had at any time.”

The house picture and information is from *Bernville Pennsylvania 1851-1976*, Mrs. Pearl B. Kline and Mrs. Janice C. DeLong, Collaborators, published by the Bernville Bicentennial Committee, 1976, pages 47, 131.

Cyrus G. Blatt & Photo Gallery

Advertising sign on
house reads:

“C. G. BLATT ARTIST”



Rev. Thomas Calvin Leinbach began his pastorate on Christmas of 1860 at North Heidelberg Church and on March 3, 1861 at the Northkill Church, Bernville. Rev. Leinbach served a period of 48 years – until 1909, and he catechized and confirmed 24 classes of new members in the Old Northkill Church/St. Thomas Church.

Rev. Leinbach delivered over 10,000 sermons, baptized 6,061, confirmed 4,076, married 1,835, and conducted 3,107 funeral services.

Rev. Leinbach was pastor for six Reformed congregations:

- North Heidelberg Church in North Heidelberg Township,
- Northkill/St. Thomas in Bernville,
- St. John's (Host) in Jefferson Township,
- Christ Little Tulpehocken in Jefferson Township,
- Zion's in Strausstown, and
- St. Daniel's (Eck/Corner) Church in Robesonia.

Rev. Leinbach was described as “kind, sympathetic, and charitable.”

He was the son of Rev. Thomas Hartman Leinbach who organized the Northkill Congregation in 1826 and served as pastor until 1851.

Rev. Thomas C. Leinbach received his education in the public schools and at Myerstown Academy and Franklin and Marshall College. He completed his Theological Course at Mercersburg Seminary.

The information on Rev. Thomas C. Leinbach and Rev. Thomas H. Leinbach comes from *History of St. Thomas United Church of Christ 1897-1997*, page 42.

Confirmation Day, April 16, 1892, with Rev. Thomas C. Leinbach



1892 is before St. Thomas was built and this confirmation took place in Northkill Church. See red arrows above. Rev. Thomas C. Leinbach is the first person on the left in the second row. Sallie L. Hiester, the great-grandmother of current St. Thomas member Lynette Davis, is the second person from the right in the second row. Sallie married George Sheidy and Sallie's niece was Jennie (Kramer) Koenig whose memories of her 1905 Confirmation Class were published in *History of St. Thomas United Church of Christ 1897-1997*, page 81.

This confirmation day picture is also published in *History of St. Thomas United Church of Christ 1897-1997* on page 76 and more confirmand names are listed there, but each name is not identified with a particular person on the picture. With this information, we can now specifically identify one of the confirmands.

Thank you to Lynette Davis for donating these pictures for Heritage Hallway in St. Thomas Church.

GREETER SCHEDULE

Time: 10:10 till the start of the service.

Where: Main Street entrance or the lobby of Beatrice Hall (portico entrance) to welcome members and visitors entering from either the rear entrance (along Rte. 183) or the portico entrance.

How: Provide a warm smile and a hello to those entering, as well as directions for visitors. Bulletins will usually be on the table next to the Main Street entrance or on the table in the Beatrice Hall lobby. Please hand them out as you extend a greeting.

Thank you to Rowena Henderson or the youth who greet in the sanctuary at the library entrance.

Individual members of the youth of St. Thomas may be joining you in greeting. Please encourage them as they seek to serve as greeters alongside you.

Thank you!

	Main Street Entrance	Portico Entrance
Nov. 2	Betsy Reifsnyder	Jeff & Shelly Hirneisen
Nov. 9	Helen Renninger	Wenrich Family
Nov. 16	Carol Zellers	Fritz Wolf
Nov. 23	Thane LaFollette	Trevor Brown
Nov. 30	Vaughn & Shirley Saunders	Jay Umbenhauer
Dec. 7	Chris & Brittany Cornwell	Grace Reber
Dec. 14	Peg Henderson	Kathy Luckenbill
Dec. 21	Thane LaFollette	Beverly Hinnershitz
Dec. 28	Burner Family	Bill Brandt
Jan. 4	Fritz Wolf	Cindy Albert & Tom Bair
Jan. 11	Thane LaFollette	Millie Lessig
Jan. 18	Betsy Reifsnyder	Dan & Shirley Berger
Jan. 25	Helen Renninger	Carol Zellers

If you are not already a greeter, please consider joining this important ministry. Contact Peg Henderson at 610-693-8039, email at juncofan@yahoo.com.

St. Thomas Church 2025 Committee Listing

Elders:

Shirley Adam
Bill Brandt
Rowena Henderson

Deacons:

Cynthia Albert
Thomas Bair
Shirley Berger
Nicole Henne-Brown *
Frank Colonna
Pattie Kerschner
Jo Ann Stockholm
Dan Wenrich

Trustees:

Rosann Becker
Glenn Rumbel
Kevin Zellers

Endowment:

Thomas Bair
Donna Heffner
Thane LaFollette
Ted Sweeney (Advisor)
Eleanor Stickler
Daniel Wolf

Finance:

Kelly Groff
Thane LaFollette
Shirley Saunders
Eleanor Stickler

Audit:

Millie Bross
Donna Heffner
Grace Reber
Betsy Reifsnyder

Nominating:

Cindy Albert
Tom Bair
Peg Henderson
Ruth LaFollette

Missions / Outreach:

Kelly Groff
Russ Hinnershitz
Brian Luckenbill
Grace Reber
Deb Rumbel
Jo Ann Stockholm *

Ministries of God's Servants:

Bridget Brandt
Millie Bross
Brittany Cornwall
Kelly Groff, Secretary
Larry Groff
Beverly Hinnershitz
Louise Kiehl
Millie Lessig
Kathy Luckenbill
Grace Reber
Deb Rumbel, President
Shirley Saunders, Treasurer
Vaughn Saunders
Eleanor Stickler, Vice-Pres.
Jo Ann Stockholm
Becca Wenrich
Daniel Wenrich
Louise Wolf

Christian Ed:

Bill Brandt
Bridget Brandt *
Erika Colonna
Chris Cornwell
Rowena Henderson
Nicole Henne-Brown
Gale Hoey
Pattie Kerschner
Brian Luckenbill
Nancy Luckenbill
Ginny Schmehl
Louise Wolf

Tech Team:

Frank Colonna
Gio Colonna
Kelly Groff
Larry Groff *
Ruth LaFollette
Brian Luckenbill
Jay Umbenhauer

Congregational Care:

Bill Brandt
Bridget Brandt
Millie Graeff
Judy Guthier *
Peg Henderson
Rowena Henderson
Beverly Hinnershitz
Gale Hoey
Millie Lessig
Brian Luckenbill
Nancy Luckenbill
Grace Reber
Jo Ann Stockholm
Louise Wolf

Worship Ministries:

Rosann Becker
Judy Guthier *
Peg Henderson
Rowena Henderson
Brian Luckenbill
Deb Rumbel
Bob Stockholm
Louise Wolf

Pastor Search:

Shirley Adam
Nicole Henne-Brown*
Brian Luckenbill
Jay Umbenhauer
Dan Wenrich



5 – Edwin Bogert III
 6 – Scott Bond
 8 – Katelynn Ebling
 8 – Veronica Bair
 9 – Aubrey Burner
 10 – Michelle Neiswender
 11 – Daniel Wolf, Sr.

15 – Courtney Burner
 15 – Fran Darlington
 18 – Kim Stricker
 20 – Myriah Troutman
 22 – Jamie Tomko
 24 – Dawn Weidman

24 – Owen Rabenold
 25 – Joe Hirneisen
 26 – Christopher Cornwell
 29 – Larry Groff
 30 – Jeffrey Becker

If you know of a name that has been omitted from the birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office so that we can update our records. Thanks!



2 – Justin Stricker
 5 – Shelby Kramer
 5 – Serafina Colonna
 6 – Emmett Walter
 6 – Jett Walter
 8 – Laura Henderson
 8 – Avalynn Brown

9 – Allison Strunk
 10 – Gene Klinger
 12 – Clayton Kramer
 14 – Rachel Bross
 14 – Rebecca Bross
 15 – Gail Stamm
 16 – Evelyn Fox
 18 – Tyler Stricker

18 – Walter Focht, Jr.
 21 – Sierra Wengert
 25 – Bill Brandt
 27 – Courtney Luckenbill
 28 – Cynthia Albert
 30 – Grace Reber
 30 – Philip Himmelberger
 31 – Owen Staab

Happy Anniversary



- 3 – Douglas & Courtney Burner
(13 years)
- 4 – Glenn & Deborah Rumbel
(30 years)
- 16 – Richard & Grace Reber
(62 years)
- 22 – Dennis & Janet Renninger
(56 years)



- 8 – Gary & Mary Brower
(24 years)
- 25 – Gary & Louise Rubright
(17 years)



Christian Symbol

CIRCLE — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.

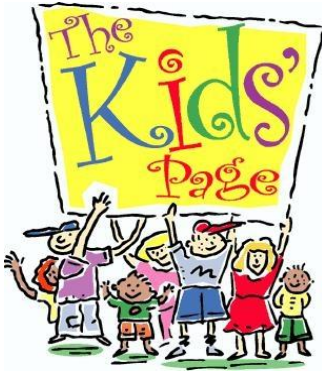


Bible Quiz



Who told Mary that her child would be called “the Son of the Most High”?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph



All your children shall be taught by the LORD,
and great shall be the peace of your children.

Isaiah 54:13



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 _____;
_____ among the _____ what he has _____.
_____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of
_____ his _____.

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

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



Celebrate the season of gratitude by
creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.



Give thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Nativity Word Scramble

- STBALE _____
- HEEPS _____
- NLGEA _____
- TSAR _____
- GAMREN _____
- JHPOES _____
- OENYDH _____
- EUSSJ _____
- SHNGI _____
- YMAR _____

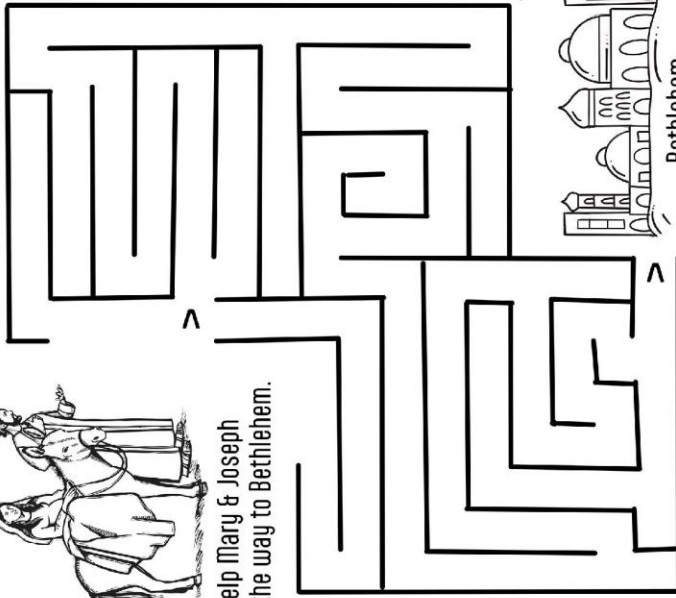
Word Search

H	R	L	Y	V	E	L	A	B
O	B	L	E	S	S	O	A	R
L	R	G	I	F	T	V	S	A
Y	E	G	F	P	S	E	B	T
J	O	Y	A	T	A	E	B	S

JOY, LOVE, GIFT, HOLY, BLESS, STAR



Help Mary & Joseph find the way to Bethlehem.



Bethlehem

Color the Christmas ornament & then cut it out to hang.



merry christmas



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COME Worship WITH US

Sunday School-9:00 a.m.
Fellowship-10:00 a.m.
Worship Service-10:30 a.m.



Sunday School

With outstretched arms and loving hearts, we welcome you and invite you to join us for Sunday School. We have classes for the youngest children up to the oldest adults. Please join us in our journey of faith and see where God leads us!



Ark Builders-Up to Preschool

HIS Kids-Kindergarten to Second Grade

KFC (Kids for Christ)-Third to Sixth Grade

Bible Livin' Teens-Seventh to Twelfth Grade

Chapel Class-Adults

Mezzanine Class-Adults



Breakfast & Bible Study-Held the first Saturday monthly. Men and women meet for great food and a time of Bible study and sharing. Currently on hold and to be continued.

Ministries of God's Servants-Monthly meetings and various projects and social events, as well as the Christmas Vendor Bazaar offer times for fun and friendship (formerly the Women's Guild and Social Committee).

Service Opportunities-Service to our church and community is a meaningful and satisfying way to show God's love and get to know other members of your church family. No matter what your talents or interests are, there is a place for you. Consider serving with the Care Team, Children's and Youth Ministries, Meals Ministry, Music Ministry, Helping Harvest Food Bank, Greeter Ministry, Missions/Outreach Committee, and various other committees and teams.

Outreach Opportunities-These include Light in the Night, Easter Egg Hunt, Family Promise of Berks, Bernville Community Day, GriefShare, Angel Tree Project, and others.