

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.

Interim Pastor

Rev. Randy A. Bond

Director of Music Ministries

Brian P. Luckenbill

Facilities Attendant

Shirley J. Shupe

Office Administrator

Kathy A. Oberly



**SOUPER
BOWL
SUNDAY**

Souper Bowl Sunday February 8, 2026

Join the fun, cheer on your team, and help feed our neighbors at the same time! On Souper Bowl Sunday, wear your **favorite sports jersey** to church and bring a **can of soup or other nonperishable food item** to donate.

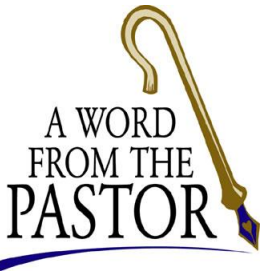


This year we're adding a **friendly competition!** There will be **two collection areas**, each representing one of the Super Bowl teams. Simply place your donation in the area for the team you'll be cheering for and help your team win while supporting a great cause.

All food collected will be shared with **Helping Harvest clients** during February. It's a fun, easy way to turn game-day spirit into a meaningful act of service.

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Dear friends!

I am excited about coming to St. Thomas to serve as your pastor!

I know that the term interim is attached to my title, but I'm not at all thinking of it that way. I want to be your pastor. I want to fully invest in our church, and I want to build relationships with you and grow with you in Jesus.

I'm aware that your search for a pastor has stretched over several years of time. I also know that there have been times when you thought you had identified someone to serve as your pastor only to lose that opportunity. Each time I learned of those disappointments, I've felt pain in my heart for you. I've been praying for you periodically and especially in recent months.

After prayer together with my wife, Deanna, I decided to apply for the position of Senior Pastor. Deanna was completely in agreement, assessing that I've been sensing the pull of the Holy Spirit towards your church for probably about three years. I really thought by the time I stepped away from Zion's Church in Hamburg, you would have certainly filled the position. However, after retiring from active ministry for the past eight months, I'm ready to move into full-time ministry with you.

Why? St. Thomas is one of my childhood churches. (Christ Little Tulpehocken was my first childhood church.) I grew in my faith here. I went to Good News Club here, and it was in this church under the leadership and influence of Reverend Kehler that my father Arlan Bond sensed his own call into the ministry. I want St. Thomas to thrive and fulfill God's calling in serving this community for the Lord, and I want to partner with you in that effort.

Over the past month, I've been in the church building several times. I've seen the different rooms and been reacquainted with some of the spaces of my past. So...I've seen the church. That is I've gotten to know the church building, but my greatest desire as I begin ministry with you is not to know the church building, but to know the church. And the church is you. Not the physical structure, but the people of the church.

So as I begin ministry among you, I'd like to come for a visit! I'd like to come to your homes and spend some time getting to know each and every one of you. If you're a member of the church or an attender of the church, I'd like to visit you and get to know your story and give you a chance to know me. I can't effectively be your pastor without knowing you!

So come January, I'll be hitting the road! I might call you, or maybe Kathy, our wonderful church secretary, will be calling on my behalf. But please answer!! Let me come for a visit. The house doesn't have to be neat. You don't need to give me anything to eat or drink. I just want to get to know you! And to help you when I reach out, my number is 610-301-2606. Save the number in your phone so that when I call you, you'll know I'm not a telemarketer. And if you really don't want to connect with me, when you see my number, you'll be better able to avoid me!! (Ha, ha!)

Again, I'm really happy to serve as your pastor. I hope the time I'm able to serve you is not measured in weeks or months but years. Years to grow together in Jesus Christ and his love,

May God bless each and every one of you!

Randy Bond



The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

-C. Neil Strait

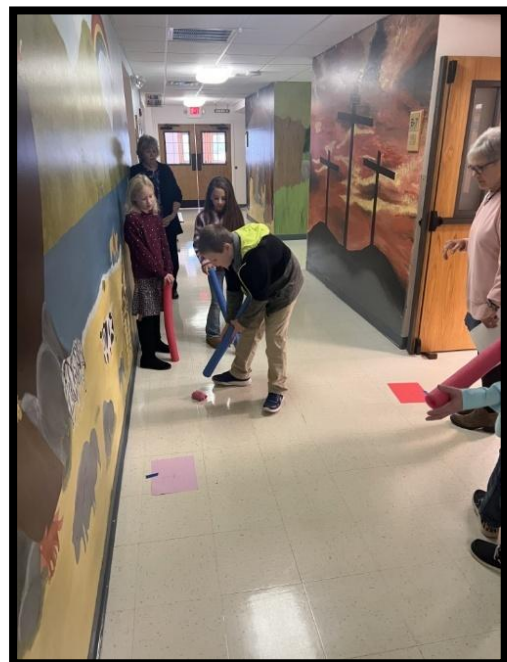
SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Nancy Luckenbill

Ark Builder Boys
The class celebrated Owen's 5th birthday.



KFC Class enjoys fun activities that tie into their weekly lessons.



Weekly Fellowship Volunteers Needed

Sharing fellowship before worship is a special part of our church life, and we would love a few more helping hands to keep it going. Volunteering is easy and usually means serving **once every month or two**.

What does it involve?

- Setting out snacks and drinks
- Making one pot of coffee
- Putting everything away afterward and washing a few dishes



Snacks are already donated or purchased by Ministries of God's Servants. You are not expected to buy anything. If you enjoy baking, homemade treats are always appreciated but never required.

This is a simple way to serve, meet others, and help create a welcoming space before worship. Without additional volunteers, fellowship may not be available every week, so please consider signing up. Your time, even occasionally, truly makes a difference.

Christmas Decorations & Craft Donations Needed

As you begin packing away your Christmas decorations, you may find items you no longer use or need. If so, please consider donating them to the **St. Thomas Shoebox Project**.

We are collecting gift-worthy Christmas decorations in good condition **to sell at our** Annual Christmas Bazaar in December 2026. Our hope is to offer an entirely fresh and appealing selection next year.

We are also looking for handcrafted items. If you have some time this year and enjoy crafting, we would love for you to contribute a few handmade items for the bazaar. All donated items help support the Shoebox Project and its mission of sharing God's love with children around the world.

If an item is something you would proudly give as a gift, we would be happy to receive it. **For questions, please contact Kelly Groff. Donations may be dropped off in the library in the Shoebox Collection Box.**

Thank you for considering this meaningful way to give. Your generosity truly makes a difference!

Fundraising While You Shop: Boyer's & Redner's Programs

Did you know you can support St. Thomas mission projects simply by doing your regular grocery shopping?



Boyer's

When you shop at Boyer's, show your **St. Thomas key fob** at checkout and the church receives **1% of your purchase**. If you don't have a key fob, please check the basket in the church library.



Redner's

Use your **Redner's Rewards Card**, then bring your receipts to church so they can be submitted for a rebate.

Thanks to these programs, we raised approximately \$300 in 2025. Every receipt and purchase helps support our mission projects and our work serving the community and mission partners around the world.

Shoebox Update

It's hard to believe another round of shoeboxes is already making their way around the world to children in need and you were a big part of it!

This year, **St. Thomas packed 152 shoeboxes:**

- **100 boxes** were packed and shipped, with shipping costs covered by the mission team and fundraising efforts.
- **52 boxes** were packed by St. Thomas families.



Our shoeboxes are headed to **Ukraine** and **Jamaica**, which was recently affected by Hurricane Melissa.

As these gifts travel to their destinations, we are already joyfully preparing for **2026 shoeboxes**, and there are many ways to get involved:

- Sewers to stitch simple straight seams for drawstring bags (all pieces are pre-cut)
- Helpers to cut fleece for stuffed bears, cats, and dogs
- Volunteers to help assemble craft kits so children can create their own keepsakes

Last year, members shared their talents through handmade dresses, stuffed animals, doll clothes and blankets, crocheted bags, washcloths, bead kits, friendship bracelets, paracord projects, knot-tying activities, and game bags with Farkle and Yahtzee. We also printed coloring pages and reusable “learn-to-write” boards.

Thanks to donated fabric, yarn, and craft supplies, we're able to provide thoughtful, high-quality items that show care and love, often at less cost than store-bought toys.

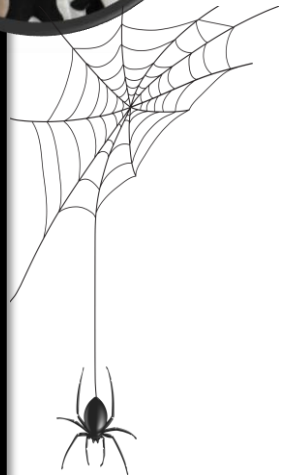
If you have ideas, supplies to donate, or would like to be part of this joyful ministry, please reach out to **Ruth LaFollette** or **Kelly Groff**. We would love to have you join us.

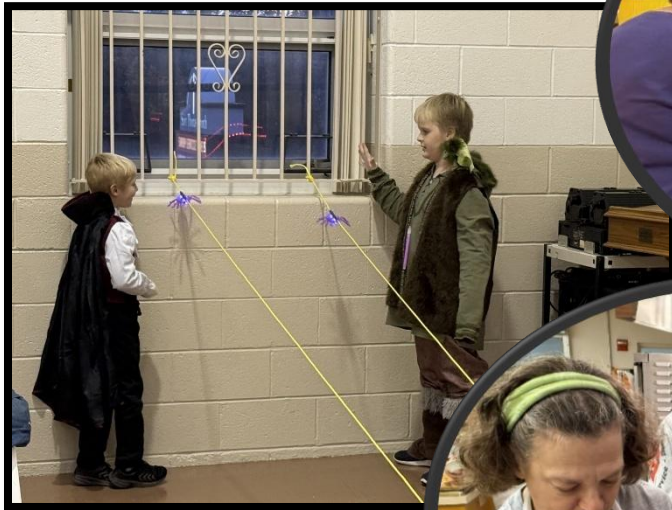


The Promise of Heaven; 31 Reasons to Get Excited about Your Eternal Home--David Jeremiah

Lord, remind us that every new beginning starts with your grace. Renew our faith, restore our peace, and help us live as your people of light and hope.

Light in the Night





St. Thomas Youth

By Bridget Brandt

On October 19, the youth went to Duncan's Corn Maze in Robesonia. We enjoyed an afternoon of fun. We went on a wagon ride with a stop at the calf barn where we got to pet calves, we made our way through the maze, and launched gourds in a giant slingshot! Thank you to Dan Wenrich for organizing this event and thank you to the Ministries of God's Servants Committee for covering the cost.







Bible Quiz



Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”



- A) Creation
- B) Beginning
- C) Season
- D) Covenant

Ministries of God's Servants

We would like to extend a heartfelt **thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Annual Vendor Sale**. You may have noticed that we were part of the **Bernville Shopping Tour**, which brought new energy and excitement to our community.



For this event, we reached out to local small businesses and invited them to participate in a special Bernville shopping day to encourage more visitors to our area. A booklet featuring all participating businesses was created and handed out to shoppers. The response was overwhelmingly positive! Local businesses reported increased traffic and sales, and many have already said “yes” to doing it again next year. Even better, additional businesses have reached out asking how they can get involved.

If you know of a small business, scout troop, school group, or other organization that would like to participate, please let us know. We will be inviting interested groups to a meeting in April or May to begin planning a bigger and better 2026 Bernville Shopping Tour.

The St. Thomas Vendor Sale was a success thanks to the many hands that made it possible. From preparing in advance to making signs, advertising, finding vendors, setting up and cleaning up, moving tables up and down the steps, working in the kitchen, making cookies, soups, and barbeque, and packaging cookies—every effort mattered. We are especially grateful to the non-committee members who stepped in to help with this important fundraiser.

While everyone likely went home exhausted, it was a wonderful time meeting members of the community and enjoying the beginning of the Christmas season together. Funds raised through this and other fundraisers help purchase paper goods for the kitchen, snacks and drinks for fellowship, and also support larger projects around the church.

Officers for 2026

- **President:** Eleanor Stickler
- **Vice President:** Deb Rumbel
- **Treasurer:** Shirley Saunders
- **Secretary:** Kelly Groff

Any community member is welcome to be part of Ministries of God's Servants. Our goal is to serve others, both within the church and throughout the community. Meetings are usually held on the last Saturday of the month, with adjustments made for holiday weekends. Our next meetings will be January 31 and February 28.

Upcoming Events

Sweetheart, Friends, and Family Banquet

February 14

Avoid crowded restaurants and join us for a delicious meal, fun, and games right here at the church. More information will be shared in the weekly bulletins.

Easter Candy Fundraiser

Planning is already underway! Watch the bulletins for order forms and details. We invite you to join the fun as we make the fillings and dip them in chocolate together. Last year we had a great time and finished in just one day. This year, we hope to make even more candy so we'll have extras to sell beyond preorders.

Hope Rescue Clothing Drive

If you missed the clothing drive in October, don't worry, we plan to hold it again later in **2026**. Start cleaning out those closets now!

Kelly Groff

Secretary, Ministries of God's Servants



*St. Thomas parking lot
10 a.m. to 12 noon
January 23 & February 27*

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: This list includes current requests for our church family and for our friends with existing needs.

Praying for our church family: Clair & Karen Hess, Chaun Walter, Gary & Louise Rubright, Stefani Walter, Deb Rumbel, Gloria Gassert, Tom Bair, Spencer Watts, Dan Wenrich, Judy Guthier

Lifting our friends in prayer: Haden Long, Rachel Croyle, Riley Rejniak, Denise Troutman, Barbara Kuhns, Brenda McCauley

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

Special Prayer Requests: 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

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 all greeters, including the youth who greet in the sanctuary at the library entrance as well as in the portico area.

	Main Street Entrance	Portico Entrance
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
Feb. 1	Jay Umbenhauer	Peg Henderson
Feb. 8	Kathy Luckenbill	Cornwell Family
Feb. 15	Thane LaFollette	Beverly Hinnershitz
Feb. 22	Grace Reber	Burner Family
Mar. 1	Cindy Albert & Tom Bair	Vaughn & Shirley Saunders
Mar. 8	Jeff & Shelly Hierneisen	Grace Reber
Mar. 15	Trevor Brown	YOUTH
Mar. 22	Thane LaFollette	Betsy Reifsnyder
Mar. 29	Bob & JoAnn Stockholm	Fritz Wolf

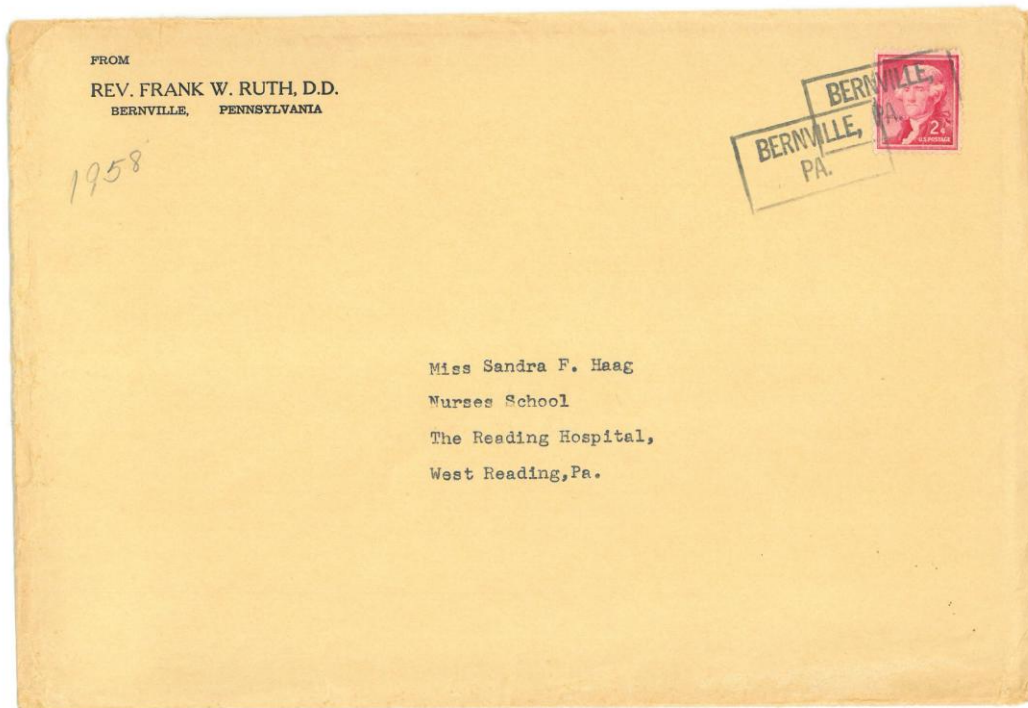
If you are not already a greeter, please consider joining this important ministry. Contact Peg Henderson at 610-693-8039, email at juncofan@yahoo.com.

Thank You for Donating *Herald* Issues

In answer to the request in the September-October 2025 *Voice of St. Thomas*, we received donations of past *Herald* issues. Our collections are now in great shape. Thank you to all our donors, especially to the following people who donated many years: Sandy Bond, Myrle Schlappich and Carol Zellers.

How Much Did It Cost to Mail the *Herald* in 1958?

Sandy Bond's *Herald* donations included some issues with the original envelopes.



Yes, it really cost 2 cents to mail the *Herald* to West Reading in 1958. Haag was Sandy's maiden name before she married Earl Bond and the 1958 *Herald* was mailed to her by Rev. Frank W. Ruth while she was studying to be a nurse at the Reading Hospital.



Thank you to Sandy for sharing this history with us.

St. Thomas Church 2026 Committee Listing

Elders:

Shirley Adam
Bill Brandt
Rowena Henderson
Nancy Luckenbill

Deacons:

Cynthia Albert
Thomas Bair
Shirley Berger
Frank Colonna
Christopher Cornwell
Pattie Kerschner
JoAnn Stockholm
Dan Wenrich

Trustees:

Rosann Becker
Larry Groff
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
JoAnn Stockholm *

Ministries of God's Servants:

Bridget Brandt
Millie Bross
Brittany Cornwall
Kelly Groff, Secretary
Larry Groff
Donna Heffner
Beverly Hinnershitz
Louise Kiehl
Millie Lessig
Kathy Luckenbill
Grace Reber
Deb Rumbel, Vice President
Shirley Saunders, Treasurer
Vaughn Saunders
Eleanor Stickler, President
JoAnn 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
JoAnn 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

*Denotes Chairman (if applicable)

Updated December 22, 2025



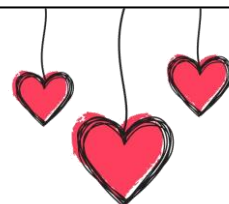
2 – Davd Degler
 4 – Christine Berger
 4 – Rosann Becker
 5 – Gary Rubright
 6 – Robert Stockholm
 6 – Cross Albert
 8 – Milli Smith



11 – Tracy Kohler
 12 – Linda Swope
 15 – Timothy Groff
 18 – Frank Colonna
 18 – Byron Bixler
 20 – Carol Degler
 23 – Sandra Fox

24 – Gale Hoey
 24 – Thomas Bair
 25 – Bruce Good
 26 – Gloria Davis
 26 – Rachel Kemmerling
 26 – Sandra Bond
 27 – Richard Reber

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!



5 – Barbara Leonhard
 5 – Evin Bogert
 5 – Wayne Leshner
 8 – Milford Hardick
 8 – Kelly Groff
 10 – Ruth LaFollette
 10 – Beverly Stoudt
 10 – Marko Carrera-Torres

13 – Jeff Stamm
 16 – Donna Heffner
 16 – Daren Zellers
 16 – Christopher Staab
 16 – Trever Brown
 19 – Dawn Bond
 19 – Carletta Potteiger

20 – Beverly Hinnershitz
 20 – Greyson Burner
 20 – Nico Colonna
 21 – Aaron Cornwell
 26 – Dennis Renninger
 28 – Dirk DeVries

Happy Anniversary

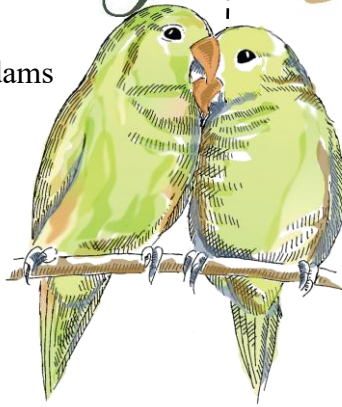


2 – Brandon & Nicole Adams
(11 years)



16 – Keith & Sheila Gilmer
(13 years)

17 – Jonathan & Tamara DeVries
(19 years)



January 4, 2026

The Love God Desires

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart.

As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."



This is the true mark of a Christian - love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine - God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?



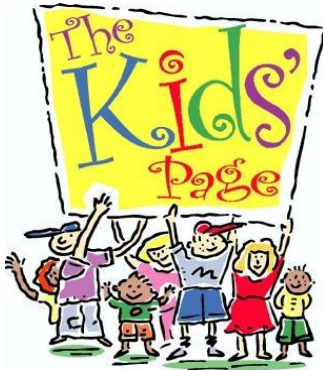
Love one another.
1 JOHN 4:7

Christian Symbol

CORNERSTONE - The cornerstone is a symbol for Christ. It has Old Testament roots in Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 28:16). In the New Testament, Christ is called the cornerstone in Ephesians 2:20.

The IHC and XP on the stone's sides are abbreviations for "Jesus" and "Christ" in Greek.





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

Isaiah 54:13



Celebrate the beauty of winter with
these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:

Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)



TRANSLATE GOD'S WORD

The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.

"Translate" the verse below using the code.

CODE	E=△	L=□	R=+
A=■	G=●	M=↗	S=■
B=X	H=◀	N=⌈	SH=☼
D=◀◀	I=▲	O=⊗	T=♪
	K=	P=□	TH=♥

Y

W F

W

W

U

Proverbs 3:13

Answer: Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding.

**FAITH
HOPE
LOVE**

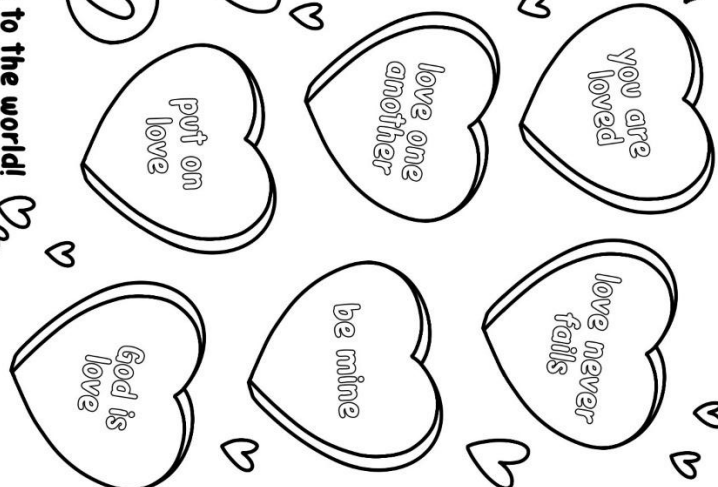
the greatest of these!
1 Cor. 13:13



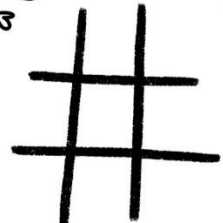
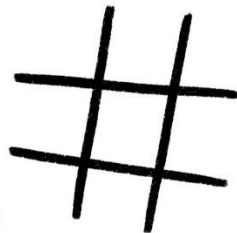
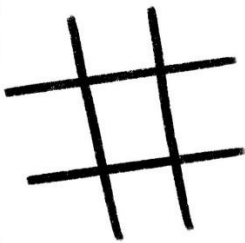
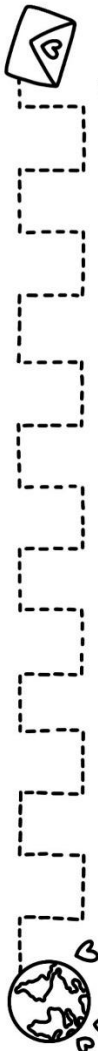
**L O V E L
O E L O V
V O V L O
L E L**

How many times
can you find the
word "love"?

GOD'S CANDY HEARTS



Help spread God's love to the world!



Play tic tac toe
with X's + O's!





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.