



The Red Brick Church in Stillman Valley

(Evangelical, Independent)

207 W. Roosevelt Road, PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084-0370

Rev. Dr. Chris Brauns

Associate Pastor David Bogner

*God might use you to increase joy both in this life and the life to come.
Would you go to the next level in involvement? Join?
Learn more about membership? Serve in children's church?*

**NOVEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH PHONE
645-2526

We are already envisioning the Christmas Gift Exchange for December 17 when our building will look like the North Pole on Christmas Eve. There will be singing and wrapping paper and people laughing and lots of celebration.



The vision is the kind of loud joy seen (and heard) in Nehemiah 12:43:

And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away. Nehemiah 12:43

But what is required for loud joy to take place?

The answer is this: *"joyous celebration requires commitment."* If we are to sing and celebrate, then we need facilities, and leaders, and committed people, and those who are committed to what God is doing at the Red Brick Church, God's work needs lots of volunteers.

As we grow commitment, we grow joy.

As one of the pastors, I am thankful for so many people who are working so hard. I wonder if each of us would consider if there isn't just a little more we can do.

Just think through this list of verbs: *join, give, serve in Sunday School or children's church, attend a Mortar Group, be here for both hours on Sunday morning, sing, pray, host . . .*



And by all means – sign up for the Christmas Gift exchange!

CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem...262-4254
Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne979-0885
Trustee Board – Brad Baker.....670-0039
CE Committee – Cara Roberts 217-621-2460
Memorial Com. – Jeff McLindsay440-2042
Mission Com. – Clayton Midtsem....262-4254
Music – Lance Mennen985-2484

FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 31, 2023

Total Approved 2021 Budget = \$559,800

Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$10,765**

Budget Giving through Oct. 31	\$473,677
Actual Giving through Oct. 31	\$492,290
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving	\$18,613
Actual Expenses through 10/31/23.....	\$449,966
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses	\$42,294



All boards and committees should begin to work on and finish up their 2024 budgets if they haven't already. The Trustee Board would like to have all budgets to them NO later than December 1st.



Please note that in order to be counted for 2023 tax purposes, all church contributions need to be **RECEIVED** by the church office no later than **DECEMBER 31st**. Any contributions received after that date, *regardless of check date or postmark*, will be counted as a 2024 contribution.

If anyone needs an update on what they have given, or has any questions at all, please contact either:

Terri Carby, Church Treasurer
630-651-9962 | niucpa@hotmail.com

Jana Cox, Church Administrative Assistant
815-645-2526 | cccoffice1@comcast.net



The Deaconess Board will be decorating the church and Brick Center on Sunday, November 19th at 11:30 am.

Anyone that would like to help is welcome ... especially some men to do some of the climbing would be wonderful. If you have any questions, contact Deb Bonne.



The Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 22nd at the Kishwaukee Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm. All area churches will be participating in the service.

COOKIE DECORATING



The deaconess board will be hosting a cookie decorating class on Monday evening Nov. 27th. Come learn cookie decorating techniques and go home with 6 frosted Christmas cookies. The cost will be \$35 and you will be able to register on-line or call Jana. **Please note:** You must be 12 years or older to attend the class.



November Birthdays!

- Nov. 3rd - Sebastian Cardenas
- Nov. 4th - Elsa Kottke
- Nov. 6th - Amy Michalek, Nathaniel Houston, Aubrey Janoski
- Nov. 8th - Berniece Martindale, Nina Wetzel
- Nov. 9th - Connie Blake
- Nov. 13th - Dale Friedrich
- Nov. 14th - Veda Geiseman, Karli Kottke
Gavin & Brynn McNeff
- Nov. 15th - Jacob Rhodes, Ron Ippen,
- Nov. 17th - Marlene Miller
- Nov. 20th - Abigail Bogner
- Nov. 21st - Dorris Dye, Carol Schaefer
- Nov. 23rd - Bekah Dray, Mya Scholl
- Nov. 27th - Millie McCoy, Greg Granath
- Nov. 29th - Mike Ennenbach
- Dec. 5th - Zach Poliska, John Anderson



Saturday, November 4th

Derby Car Cut-Out Clinic from 10 am to Noon.

Wednesday, November 8th

Pit Crew Night and Wear AWANA colors!

Saturday, November 11th

AWANA Derby

Wednesday, November 15th

Give Thanks Night and Bread of Life Food Donations. Come dressed like a chef!

Wednesday, November 22nd

No Club on the 22nd – Happy Thanksgiving!

Wednesday, November 29th

Pregnancy Care and Baby Care Donations. Bring a stuffed animal to club.

JOIN THE
Christmas Choir

Practice times are:
Monday evenings, 11/13 - 12/18
7:00 to 8:00 pm in the church sanctuary

We will sing at 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve, 12/24

2023 Cardinal Christmas
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD FROM 4:00 TO 7:00 PM

CAROLERS AT THE BRICK CENTER
CIDER DONUTS AND COFFEE
LIVE NATIVITY SCENE OUTSIDE BRICK CENTER
HORSE DRAWN WAGON AND CARRIAGE RIDES
MANY OTHER EVENTS GOING ON THAT EVENING!

Mark your calendars!

Red Brick Church
Christmas Schedule

November 1st - 27th
Everyone completes a Gift Exchange Registration Form

Sunday, November 5th
Kick-Off Christmas Gift Exchange Registration
SS Children's Choir sings at both worship services

Sunday, December 3rd
Gift Exchange profiles handed out before/after worship services
Cardinal Community Christmas activities at Brick Center
Jr High Christmas Party from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the church
Sr High Christmas Party from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Rhodes' Home

Sunday, December 10th
SS Children's Choir sings at both worship services
Children's Prelude before both worship services

Sunday, December 17th
Only one worship service at 9:00 am
No SS or 10:30 am service
Gift Exchange following the 9:00 am worship service
Christmas Caroling at Noon

Sunday, December 24th
Only one worship service at 9:00 am
No SS or 10:30 am service
Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 31st
Only one worship service at 9:00 am
No SS or 10:30 am service

From Pastor David

Two ways to be preparing for great celebration of the birth of our Savior and King Jesus before Thanksgiving: Register for the Red Brick Christmas Gift Exchange and join the Christmas Choir.

Christians celebrate the person and work of our Savior and King Jesus. He paid the price for our sins, a debt we could not pay, all for his glory out of love for us. By faith in Jesus, we find joy living with fellow adopted brothers and sisters, offering our lives to him as a living sacrifice.

As we prepare for an exciting Christmas season at the Red Brick Church, you have an important role to play. The first, and perhaps most important thing you can do now, **sign up** for the Christmas Gift Exchange taking place after the 9 o'clock service (only one of the day) on December 17. Picture in your mind organized chaos, as Bricks, young and old, weave through the full sanctuary searching for the person they will give a gift. We'll sing, pray, hear Scripture read, laugh, and smile!



RED BRICK CHURCH GIFT EXCHANGE
Sunday, December 17th, 2023
9:00 am - One Service with Gift Exchange after the service
10:30 am - All Church Soup Luncheon
Noon - All are welcome to join us for Christmas Caroling

Second, **join** the Christmas Choir. Think of this as a short-term Mortar Group learning two songs and their stories together, caring for one another, and taking our commitment to Christ to a deeper level in his church. We'll meet on Monday nights from 7 to 8 in the sanctuary beginning November 13 through December 18. On Sunday, December 24, we'll sing one song during the only morning service at 9 o'clock and then sing the second during the traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service at 4 p.m.

THE RED BRICK CHURCH
PO Box 370
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

**** RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED ****

