



## 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

SEPTEMBER 2025  
NEWSLETTER

9:00 am  
Worship Service

10:30 am  
SS for all ages

815-645-2526

## Cultivating a Mortar Mentality

*Would you join a Sunday morning Mortar Group this fall for God's glory and our joy?*

Mortar Groups are one of the specific ways we pursue our mission at the Red Brick Church. And they represent a philosophy (the mortar mentality) we pursue for *all* our groups and committees of assimilating, educating, and caring.

We call them "Mortar Groups" because this image pictures the biblical vision of believers' lives being mortared together (1 Peter 2:5 ff). Sharing life together is critical if we are to survive (Hebrews 10:24-25). God makes bricks with a building in mind.

As alluded to above, the priorities of Mortar Groups and the Mortar Mentality are three-fold:

1. **Assimilation** - Assimilate people into our local church: that is, tell people who we are and how they can be a part of it (1 John 1:3-4).
2. **Education** - Educate about Christ – It is through our knowledge of God that he gives us all we need for life and doctrine. Our church is striving together to be increasingly rooted in sound doctrine (Colossians 1:28-29, 2:6-7).
3. **Care** - Care for one another. The Christian community should distinctively demonstrate "love" (John 13:34-35).

Improvement in any of these three areas enhances the other two. For example, if we assimilate -- bring people further into community -- we will better educate and care for them.

Sunday mornings offer multiple options for adults to engage in a Mortar Group:

1. **Adult Sunday School Room**: sermon discussion and application to life led by Phil Guske, Jack Cook, and Dallas Turner.
2. **Church Basement Fellowship Area**: "The Book of Ephesians" RightNow Media study by J.D. Greear led by Clayton Midtsem, Brad Baker, Greg Granath, Stephen Brass, and Rev. Lance Mennen.

Both groups meet from 10:30 to 11:30 immediately following the 9 o'clock service on Sundays during the month of September.

## CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem

Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne

Trustee Board – Mike Haugse

CE Committee – Cara Roberts

Mission Committee – Clayton Midtsem

Music – Lance Mennen

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### SS Superintendent:

**Brooke Adams ~ 815-985-3178**

Welcome to 2025 - 2026 Sunday School! We are getting ready and are anxious to get our Sunday School going again. If by chance you haven't yet registered your children, please do so asap so we can be sure we have enough material for all students!

We are kicking off Sunday School for Preschool through adults on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am during the month of September. Preschool will meet in the lower level of the church and Kindergarten through High School will be meeting in the Brick Center.

There are also two Adult Mortar Groups meeting at 10:30 am. There will be one meeting in the Adult SS Classroom, and one meeting in the lower level of the church. If you have questions, please contact Brooke Adams at 815-985-3178.

### Sunday School Room Locations 9/7/25:

**Preschool** – Lower Level of Church

**K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade** – Brick Center, Room 2

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade** – Brick Center, Room 4

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade** – Brick Center, Room 1

**Jr High** – Brick Center, Room 5

**Sr High School** – Brick Center Room 3

### 10:30 am Adult Mortar Group

Adult SS Classroom

Lower Level of Church

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through August 31, 2025

**Total Approved 2025 Budget = \$609,694**

Divided by 52 weeks/year = **\$11,725**

Budget Giving through Aug. 31 .....\$410,371

Actual Giving through Aug. 31 .....\$356,312

Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving .....\$-54,059

Actual Expenses through 8/31/25.....\$389,707

Actual Giving less Actual Expenses ....\$-33,395



**One Worship Service Schedule:** We will have only one worship service at 9:00 am **through the month of September.** Sunday School for all ages will meet from 10:30 to 11:30 am beginning on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth BIBLE study**

**JR & SR HIGH YOUTH!!**

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

7:00 to 8:00 pm  
Adult SS Classroom at the Church

Studying the Minor Prophets  
Starting with the book of JONAH



### Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

M & M Night. Bring your missionary banks filled with extra change to club tonight for our first M & M Night!

### Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

We have our club favorite – Crazy Hair Night on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Get your hair wild and crazy!

### Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

We are having Neon Night tonight! Wear some Neon clothing, a neon bracelet or necklace.

# Happy Birthday!

- Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - Emilia Janoski
- Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> - Paul Baker, Estelle Jones, Brenden Wrasse
- Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> - Heber Armer
- Sept 4<sup>th</sup> - Kathleen Peterson, Baird Kreml
- Sept 5<sup>th</sup> - Conner Wrasse
- Sept 6<sup>th</sup> - Eric Larsen
- Sept 7<sup>th</sup> - Tarah Svartoi
- Sept 9<sup>th</sup> - Bob Hoernecke, Brittini Irish
- Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - Jeanne Baker, William Kottke
- Sept 11<sup>th</sup> - Shelley Herlihy, Gloria Ennenbach
- Sept 14<sup>th</sup> - Ashley Stahl, Mike Svartoi
- Sept 15<sup>th</sup> - Tania VanBriesen
- Sept 16<sup>th</sup> - Nathan Jones
- Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> - Millie Montgomery
- Sept 25<sup>th</sup> - Shawn Ross, Esme Kremel
- Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lee Hickey

## ~ Happy Anniversary ~

- Sept 14<sup>th</sup> - Nick and Chelsea Colon
- Sept 20<sup>th</sup> - Brent and Arlett Bonne

**\*\* If your birthday or anniversary is not in the monthly newsletter, please let the church office know! We want to celebrate your birthday and anniversary! \*\***

**2025 - 2026 SS PRAYER PARTNER**

*\* Register by Sunday, Sept, 14 \**

Prayer Cards will include child's name, age, & birthday.

Prayer Cards distributed on Sunday, September 21

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Prayer Partners Needed:** Would you commit to praying for a specific child during the Sunday School year? Our goal is to pair an adult with each child registered for Sunday School. Sign-up for a child online with this QR code. You may also call the church office. **SIGN UP BY 9/14!**



Ladies Bible Studies Begin!

Join us for this  
8-session study on faithfully  
reading the Gospels.

**TUESDAY EVENING**  
Starts September 9th.  
6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Brick Center.

**THURSDAY MORNING**  
Starts September 11th.  
9:00 to 10:30 am in the Brick Center.  
Childcare provided.

## Fall Ladies Bible Study are starting!

Both Ladies Bible Studies are doing “Navigating Gospel Truth: A Guide to Faithfully Reading the Accounts of Jesus’s Life”.

Our Tuesday evening group starting meeting on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and our Thursday morning group met for the first time at 9:00 am on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Our Thursday morning study provides free childcare.

There is still time to register before both studies start ... we would love to have you join us!

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**SEE YOU AT THE POLE RALLY**

Sunday, Sept. 14th | 5:30 to 7 pm | Kishwaukee Church  
Pizza, 9-Square, and planning SEE YOU AT THE POLE for  
Stillman Valley High School and Meridian Jr High School

AWE

Lord, I am filled with awe!  
*Habakkuk 3:2*

SEE YOU AT THE POLE

GLOBAL DAY OF STUDENT-LED PRAYER

**See You At The Pole Rally:** All Jr and Sr High Youth are invited to the SYATP Youth Rally on **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 pm** at the Kishwaukee Church. Pizza and games will be provided. We will be planning our rallies for the Jr and Sr High Schools. Bring a friend!



**Sunday, Sept. 7th**  
**FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP**  
**11:45 am in Brick Center**

Jr & Sr High Parents & Youth are invited to join us for pizza and an orientation to the upcoming year! Bring your calendars as we will fill host and sponsor roles for Sunday Youth Group, activities and service projects through the year.



**MEN'S MORTAR GROUP**

**00:00:00** **6:30 - 8:00 pm | Brick Center**



 **RED BRICK CHURCH**

**Sunday Morning Adult Mortar Groups @ 10:30 am**

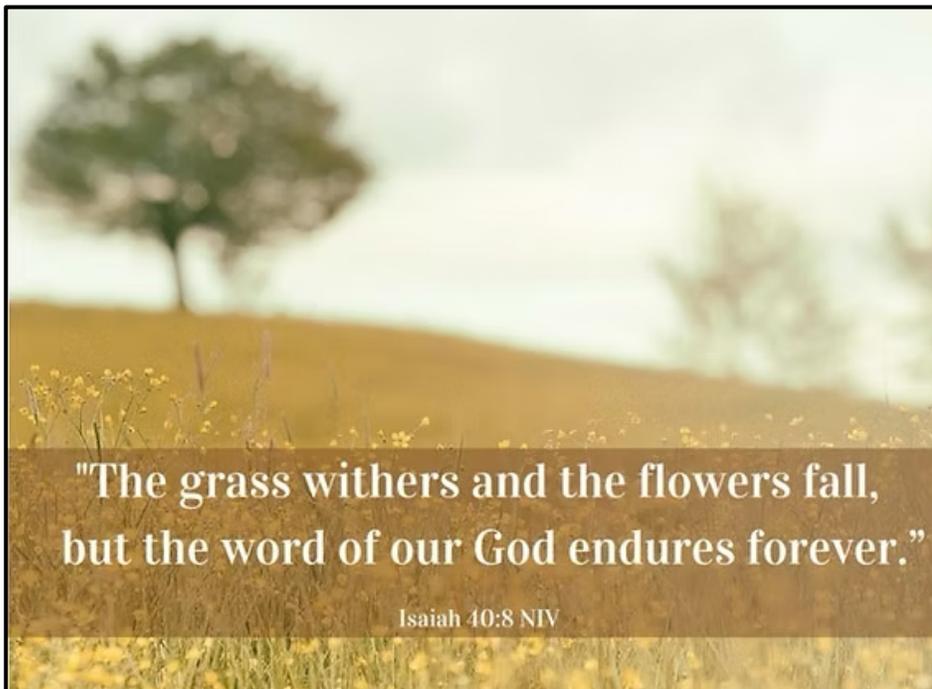
**ADULT SS CLASSROOM**  
**\*\* Sermon Discussion and Life Applications \*\***

**LOWER LEVEL FELLOWSHIP AREA AT CHURCH**  
**"The Book Of Ephesians" video study by J. D. Greear**

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

**\*\* RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED \*\***



**"The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever."**

Isaiah 40:8 NIV