



## 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

### NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526

*Don't miss the opportunity to maximize our joy this Christmas season by scattering invitations to church!*

Here are 8 November Christmas ideas that will help you plan to not miss holiday joy. And you should share them with your neighbors, family, and friends!

It's easy for the holidays to go quickly amid a flurry of activity leaving us feeling down because we never stopped and soaked in the joy of the season. Once you wake up on January 2, there isn't much you can do about the holiday blues other than attempt to scrape a half inch of ice off your windshield.

But in November there is time to take action. Here are 8 "less than a minute video ideas" that will help you *enjoy* the holiday season.

1. [Teach children to sing and enjoy hearing them](#) - Children will learn Christmas songs in Sunday School.
2. [Read the Christmas Story](#) - The Bricks will give you a Bible!
3. [Learn from Jamie how to give the favorite gift](#). Jamie Brauns wants to be known as a great grandma. This video shares one of the ways she shamelessly tries to buy favor.
4. [Know how to build joy](#) - Advent Calendars are fun for families (and we have a few to give to visitors).
5. [Read an advent devotional](#) - We have extra devotionals at the Red Brick Church. And here is [an affordable option](#) you can buy online.
6. [Unpack forgiveness](#) - Families are often messy. We head into Christmas wondering how we can find our way through awkward relational dynamics. Pastor Chris Brauns's book *Unpacking Forgiveness* helps people find their way through complex questions and deep wounds.
7. [Give simple thoughtful gifts](#) - We have presents and a Christmas Gift Exchange! We would like to give you a gift and you can give gifts too.
8. [Start a fire](#) - Christmas Eve is special. Be our guest at 4:00 PM.

Use this QR code to find more ways to make the most of this Christmas season:



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Through October 31, 2025

Total Approved 2025 Budget = \$609,694

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

Budget Giving through Oct. 31 .....\$504,170  
Actual Giving through Oct. 31 .....\$473,101  
Budget Giving vs. Actual Giving .....\$-31,069  
Actual Expenses through 10/31/25 .....\$480,055  
Actual Giving less Actual Expenses .....\$-6,954

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All boards and committees should begin to work on and finish up their 2026 budgets if they haven't already. The Trustee Board would like to have all budgets to them NO later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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Please note that to be counted for 2025 tax purposes, all church contributions need to be **RECEIVED** by the church office no later than **DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>**. Any contributions received after that date, *regardless of check date or postmark*, will be counted as a 2026 contribution.

If anyone would like 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

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## CHAIRMAN OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES

Deacon Board – Clayton Midtsem

Deaconess Board – Deb Bonne

Trustee Board – Mike Hauge

CE Committee – Cara Roberts

Mission Committee – Clayton Midtsem

Music – Lance Mennen



The Deaconess Board will be decorating the church and Brick Center on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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## November Birthdays!

- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> - Elsa Kottke  
Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> - Aubrey Janoski  
Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - Connie Blake  
Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> - Dale Friedrich  
Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> - Veda Geiseman, Karli Kottke  
Gavin & Brynn McNeff  
Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> - Jacob Rhodes, Ron Ippen  
Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> - Hazel Havelka, Shannon Ross  
Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> - Marlene Miller, Barb Exline,  
Michael Marquardt  
Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> - Abigail Bogner, Chuck Kreml  
Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> - Dorris Dye, Carol Schaefer  
Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Barrett Irish  
Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Bekah Dray, Mya Scholl  
Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> - Millie McCoy, Greg Granath,  
Brian Ledger  
Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> - Mike Ennenbach  
Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> - Sebastian Cardenas  
Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Elise Bonne  
Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> - Zach Poliska, John Anderson
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## AWANA

### Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Wear BLACK and WHITE to club.

### Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Stuffie Night. Bring your favorite stuffie with you club on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>

No Club on the 26<sup>th</sup> – Happy Thanksgiving!

### Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

M & M Night at club. Bring your missionary bank with you to club/

# Christmas CHOIR Rehearsals

**MONDAY EVENINGS!**  
**November 10th, 17th**  
**December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd**

**7:00 to 8:00 pm**

## JOIN THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR!

Join the Christmas Choir! Practices are Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, beginning November 10<sup>th</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The choir will sing at both services on December 16<sup>th</sup> and at the 4:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Our Senior Fellowship (55 and older) will meet for breakfast on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Byron Sunrise Restaurant at 9:00 am. Join us for breakfast and a time of fellowship!

## SENIORS and TEENS AROUND THE TABLE

Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Noon to 2:00 pm  
 Brick Center

**lunch | games | fellowship**

## 2025 Christmas Gift Exchange

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!**

Register you and your family TODAY for our Christmas Gift Exchange!! One form per person.

**REGISTER BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

Registration for the Gift Exchange has started and runs through November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our Gift Exchange will happen on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> following the 9:00 am worship service. The link to the Gift Exchange was emailed to everyone this week and can also be found using the QR code above. Fill out one form for everyone in your family. Contact the church office if you have any questions or need assistance filling out the form!



The Red Brick Church  
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Teach children to sing and enjoy hearing them. Children will learn Christmas songs in Sunday school.

Share our reels on Facebook & Instagram to invite people during the Christmas season!

**Share our reels** on Facebook and Instagram to invite people during the Christmas Season. Click on the QR code for a schedule of our Christmas activities at the Red Brick Church.



**Red Brick Church**  
**2025 Christmas Schedule**

**November 1st - 23rd**  
 Everyone completes a Gift Exchange Registration Form

**Sunday, November 2nd**  
 Kick-Off Christmas Gift Exchange Registration at services  
 SS Children's Choir sings at both worship services

**Sunday, December 7th**  
 Gift Exchange Profiles handed out before/after services  
 Youth Prelude before both worship services  
 SS Children's Choir sings at both worship services  
 Jr High Youth Christmas Party from 4:00 to 6:00 pm  
 Sr High Youth Christmas Party from 6:00 to 8:00 pm  
 Cardinal Community Christmas activities at Brick Center

**Sunday, December 14th**  
 Adult Christmas Choir sings at both worship services

**Sunday, December 21st**  
 Only one worship service at 9:00 am  
 NO SS or 10:30 am service  
 Gift Exchange following the 9:00 am worship service  
 Fellowship in the Brick Center after Gift Exchange  
 Christmas Caroling at 11:30 am

**Wednesday, December 24th**  
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:00 pm  
 Adult Christmas Choir sings

**Sunday, December 28th**  
 Only one worship service at 9:00 am  
 NO SS or 10:30 am service

# COMMUNION

We will celebrate  
 Communion on  
 Sunday,  
 November 16 & 23.

"... do this in remembrance of Me."

LUKE 22:19





**2025 Cardinal Christmas**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
 4:00 TO 7:00 PM

CAROLERS AT THE BRICK CENTER

CIDER DONUTS AND COFFEE

LIVE NATIVITY SCENE  
 OUTSIDE BRICK CENTER

MANY OTHER EVENTS  
 GOING ON THAT EVENING!

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

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

