



# 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

**JANUARY 2026  
NEWSLETTER**

**CHURCH PHONE  
645-2526**

**CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS  
ccoffice1@comcast.net**

*January 2026 is a monumental month in the life of our church. Pray and ask God to lead us in making decisions that will position our church for decades to come.*

What will life look like for Bricks in the future? The prayer of your pastors is for us to move forward following Jesus by faith in unity of the Holy Spirit with a shared vision to make disciples to the glory of God.

But immediately, at the end of January, we have a decision to make with regard to the master plan for the facilities in which we do this work. So the critical question today is, "Will we make a careful and prayerful decision about our facilities."

As has been said, the future of our church will not be determined by whether or not we build. The questions are, "Will we align around a shared vision of our identity as a church and will we be a humble, praying local assembly?"

**Think fast.** Several of our leaders have committed to set aside special times for prayer and fasting in the month of January. Would you join them? We have several resources to help you approach God through prayer and fasting: Select Biblical Occasions and Passages on Fasting, "Focus on Fasting" article by Pastor Chris Brauns, and a sermon about fasting by Pastor Chris Brauns.

**Count the cost.** Be in church and prayerfully engage with the sermons (as we should do every Sunday). Pastor Chris will be helping us measure the cost of following Jesus by faith and see how wonderful it is to do so obediently together.

**Engage in the conversation.** Carefully read materials shared by our leaders so you are best prepared to think, pray, and discuss the decision. Here are a several of the key resources for this project:

- Questions and Answers about the sanctuary project
- Drawings and floor plan: though not a final version, these help envision possibilities
- A letter to leadership regarding how we will go forward
- Knowing our lane as a church

The annual meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 4:00 PM *will not be* the time to raise new questions. We have another congregational question and answer time this Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

In addition, talk with your pastors, deacons, and other leaders. Ask them your questions and share your perspective. Talk with one another. And even better, pray with one another. We have three congregational prayer times planned for each of the next three Sundays from 8:30 to 8:45 AM in the Adult Sunday School Room. Let's be a church that humbly seeks the Lord's face together.

## 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

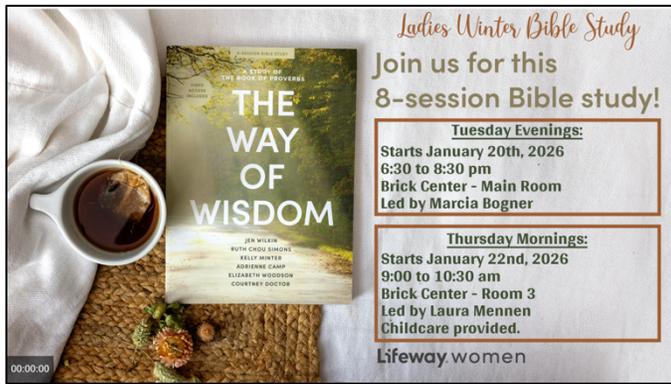
## FINANCIAL REPORT

Through December 31, 2025

An accurate end of year financial report will be presented in the 2025 Annual Reports which will be available on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

## Ladies Bible Studies

Our Ladies Bible Studies (both Women of the Word and Mom's and More) will be starting a Winter Bible study very soon! Register today!



*Ladies Winter Bible Study*  
Join us for this  
**8-session Bible study!**

**Tuesday Evenings:**  
Starts January 20th, 2026  
6:30 to 8:30 pm  
Brick Center - Main Room  
Led by Marcia Bogner

**Thursday Mornings:**  
Starts January 22nd, 2026  
9:00 to 10:30 am  
Brick Center - Room 3  
Led by Laura Mennen  
Childcare provided.

Lifeway women



**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

REPORTS  
(ONE PER FAMILY)  
WILL BE AVAILABLE ON  
JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> IN  
THE BACK OF THE  
CHURCH.



**RED BRICK CHURCH**

Be sure all reports are emailed to the church office by Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be printing and assembling the reports the week of January 12<sup>th</sup> and the 2025 Annual Reports will be available in the back of the church on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Jan. 4 - Wren Hickey  
Jan. 5 - Michael Cox  
Jan. 6 - Elizabeth Anderson  
Jan. 7 - Zeke Janoski  
Jan. 9 - Tatiana Kreml  
Jan. 12 - Grady McCoy  
Jan. 18 - Eric Long  
Jan. 19 - Leo Cardenas  
Jan. 20 - Anneliese Haak  
Jan. 21 - Rhett Brass  
Jan. 22 - Patsy Hoernecke  
Jan. 23 - Dan Exline  
Jan. 25 - Judy Foster  
Jan. 26 - Eithne Kreml  
Jan. 27 - Gwen Baker, Hope Wallin  
Jan. 29 - Michelle Spates  
Jan. 30 - Landon Haak  
Jan. 31 - Elaine Dodds  
Feb. 1 - Shannon and Grace Hickey  
Feb. 5 - Renley Svartoiem

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jan. 24 - Grady and Millie McCoy  
Feb. 1 - Brad and Tessa Baker

## Awana® THEME NIGHTS

### Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

M & M Night; bring your banks to club.

### Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

Hat Night; wear your favorite hat!

### Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

Canned Soup Donation night for the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Stillman Valley.

### Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

Mismatch Clothes Night tonight at AWANA!



**PLEASE JOIN US**

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER MEETINGS**

Sundays: January 11, 18, 25  
8:30 am - 8:45 am  
Adult SS Classroom

**PRAYER MEETING**



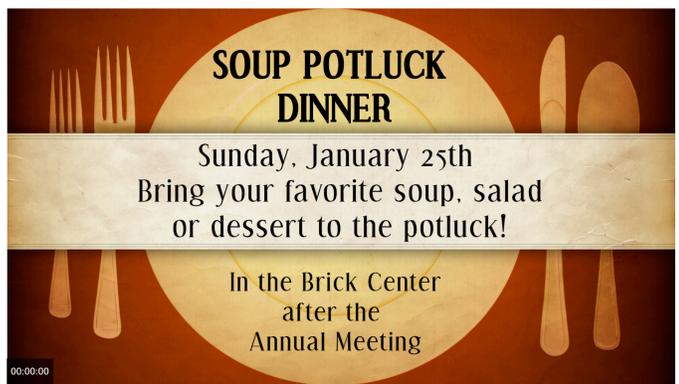
**RED BRICK CHURCH**



Our annual meeting this year will be on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm** in the church sanctuary. Reports for the annual meeting will be available in the back of the church on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> for all active members and non-members. Please bring your report with you back to the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Extra copies will not be available at the meeting.

Please be sure and review each report prepared by all committees and boards prior to the annual meeting. We will not be going through each report individually but will open up the meeting by addressing any questions and concerns from the congregation in regard to these reports. After all questions have been answered, we will vote to approve the reports as a package.

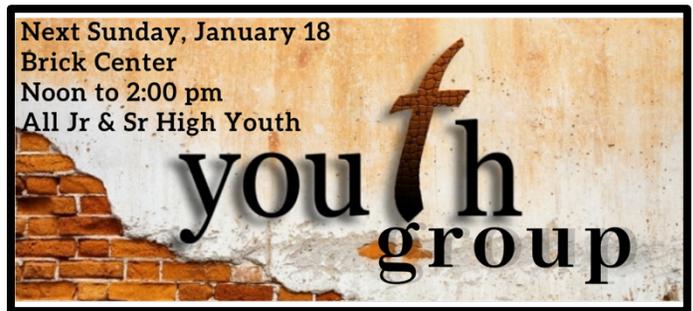
As members of a congregational church, we have both a responsibility and privilege to come and have a voice and vote in deciding issues our church faces for the upcoming year.



Following the Annual Meeting, everyone is invited over to the Brick Center for a Soup Supper. Please bring your favorite soup, salad, or dessert to the potluck! Tableware and beverages will be provided.



Last Thursday of the Month Men's Gathering on January 29<sup>th</sup> in the Brick Center. Plan on joining us the last Thursday night of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Dates scheduled so far in 2026 are: 1/29, 2/26, 3/26, and 4/23.



## YOUTH GROUP WINTER CAMP



# FROM PASTOR DAVID . . .

6th through 12th grade Bricks, register for [Winter Camp](#) today!

Don't wait until it is too late to register for Winter Camp 2026 at Expeditions Unlimited in Baraboo, Wisconsin, Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 15. The final deadline to register is Friday, January 30, 2026.

The cost per student is \$130 but don't let that be a reason not to attend. Our church generously sponsors students who can't afford it. And the value is tremendous: transportation to and from camp, six meals, cabin accommodations, four chapel sessions with a theme from the lips of Jesus, "Who Do You Say That I Am?", and lots of fun activities with young Christians from three other like-minded area churches: Christ Church, Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris, and Rock Valley Bible Church.

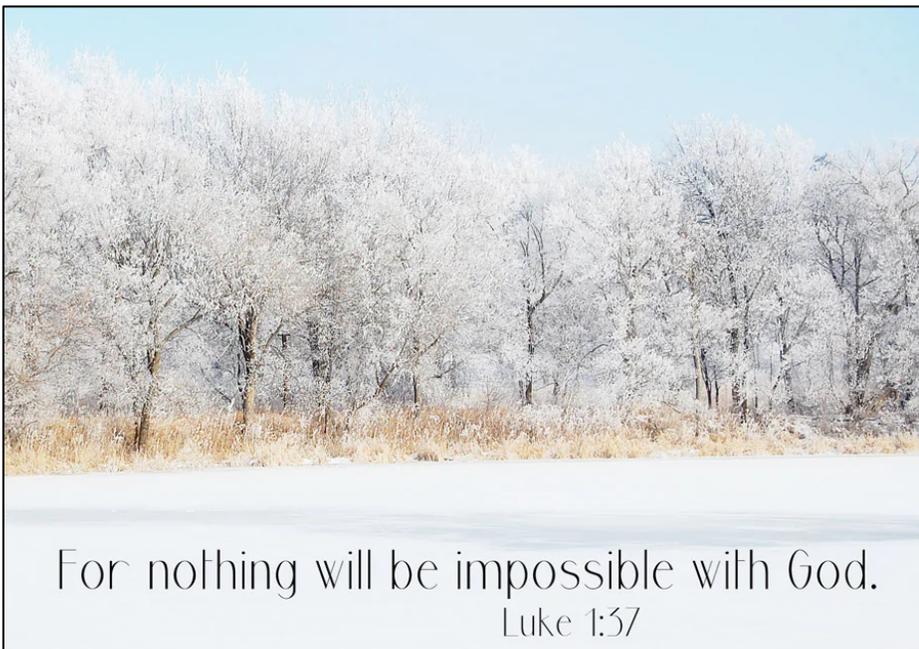
Don't delay, register [here](#) today! Use the QR code below to register!



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

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



For nothing will be impossible with God.  
Luke 1:37