

# THE BRICK BULLETIN



**December 2025**

St. John Lutheran "Brick" Church  
196 Brick Church Road  
Montgomery, PA 17752

(570)-547-6423  
Email: [stjohnbrick@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbrick@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnbrick.org](http://www.stjohnbrick.org)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Greetings and Happy New Year. As we begin this new church year I pray each of you have a renewed commitment to being a servant for Christ by being his hands, his feet and his voice in your everyday life.

During Advent, a time of preparation for the Christ Child, I ask you consider getting involved with something that is outside of your comfort zone, Like reading the lessons in church, or lighting the candles, or helping with the Altar Guild, or doing the Children's Sermon. There are several things that you could do to enhance your worship experience while serving God.

On Christmas Eve there will be three opportunities for you to worship. At 4 PM there will be a service for families with young children or for those with family time later in the evening also for folks who don't like to drive at night. At 9 PM there will be service at Messiah, and 11PM at Brick for those who prefer a late Christmas Eve service.

In January I will be offering training for folks interested in providing communion to the home bound members of our churches. Also, in January I plan on starting a weekly Bible study(discussion) based on the daily lectionary readings for the week. My plan is to rotate this between the two churches. Please let me know if you are interested in one or both of these offerings.

In closing I urge you to continue praying for all of God's people as well as his creation. He gave us one earth, we need to take care of it as though it is our own. God has put us in charge of his creation as caretakers. What we call ours is on loan from God.

God Bless each of you as together we continue serving his people

Your servant in Christ

*Jim*

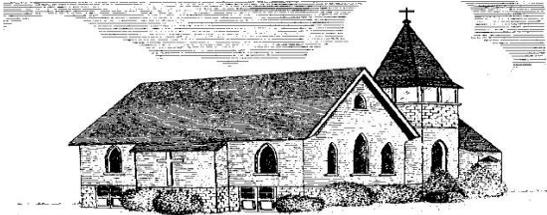


ATTENDANCE:		
	Avg. '24	Avg. '25
Jan	43	38
Feb	43	38
Ash Wed.	36	22
Mar	41	43
Maun. Thur	42	24
Easter	- /76	39/66
April	45	37
May	41	40
June	43*	39
July	45*	40
Aug	38	47*
Sept	37	36
Oct	38	36
Nov	41	
Dec	39	
Christmas Eve	76	

• Did not take into average count the Sunday we were closed

### December Worship Schedule

- November 30 – 8:30 AM Worship with Communion  
First Sunday of Advent  
Andrew, Apostle
- December 7 – 8:30 AM Worship with Communion  
Second Sunday of Advent
- December 14 – 8:30 AM Worship  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Congregational Meeting
- December 21 – 8:30 AM Worship with Communion  
Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24 – 4:00 PM Worship with Communion  
Christmas Eve @ Brick  
9:00 PM Worship with Communion  
Christmas Eve @ Messiah  
11:00 PM Worship with Communion  
Christmas Eve @ Brick
- December 25 – Christmas Day
- December 28 – 8:30 AM Lessons and Carols  
First Sunday of Christmas



#### Worship Notes:

*This month's worship notes can be found in the From the Secretary's desk Section.*

### AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, WE HAVE PRAYED FOR THIS PAST MONTH THIS PAST MONTH'S PRAYERS:



*If there are any prayer requests for today's service, the prayer request book is found on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary.*

Intercessions: Family of Steve Delany, Molly Pewterbaugh, Family of Delores Brennan, Family of Robert Burkholder, Craig McGee, Anna Murray, Jeff Feerrar, Family of John Murray, Family of Frances Spring, Family of Jack McCoy, Nancy Richart, Jean Ulmer, Bonnie Ridell, and residents and staff of long term and assisted living facilities. Finally, pray for the members of St. John's church family and all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Military Prayers: **CPT Jacob Umpstead** US Airforce, **Airman Jayce Heckman**, Sheppard Air Force Base (Deployed to England)(nephew of Dave & Shirley Doran), **Sergeant Eric Bennett** Stationed at Camp Pendleton California,

Please call the church office (570-547-6423) or email: [stjohnbrick@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbrick@gmail.com) if you have names to add to the prayer list.

**Names written in the Prayer Request book will be printed in the bulletin for two weeks. If after two weeks they need to be kept on the prayer list, please write their names in again.**



The Service Committee is once again asking the congregation to join in sending Christmas cards to our home-worshippers/shut-ins. Please bring 6 cards signed by you, placed in envelopes, and banded together. Please put them in the designated basket located in the narthex. The Service Committee will take care of delivering them to the Brick Church shut-in family member. Sunday, December 14, 2025 is the last day to bring Christmas cards to the church for our shut-ins. Thank you in advance for your participation in this wonderful endeavor!

	DECEMBER 7	DECEMBER 14	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 24 4PM	DECEMBER 24 11PM	DECEMBER 28
<b>WORSHIP LEADER</b>	Jim Girven	Jim Girven	Jim Girven	Jim Girven	Jim Girven	
<b>GREETER</b>	Esta Meisel	Connie Batdorf	Connie Batdorf	Ken Blessing Kitty Blessing	Michelle Smith	Ira Bitler
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Nick Puzio Alex Puzio	TBD
<b>LECTOR</b>	Jeff Harvey	John Karichner III	Kelly Puzio	Rae Ann Karichner	Michelle Smith	N/A
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Nancy Jarrett Julie Bennett	N/A	Dorlan Books Deb Books	Ken Blessing Kitty Blessing	Steve Puzio Kelly Puzio	N/A
<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</b>						



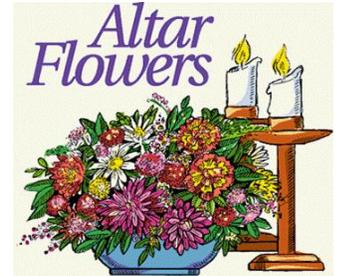
### Communion & Altar Committee

December 2025 :

**Julie Bennet and Tami Mausteller**



**Church Bulletin**



It is important to remember that the ministry and the mission of St. John continues on a year-round basis.

While it may not be possible for all members of the congregation to maintain their previous stewardship practices during these uncertain times, the church strives to meet its obligations to the greater church and the local benevolence programs which rely on our support.



Tithes and offerings can be mailed to the Church at 196 Brick Church Road, Montgomery, PA 17752. The continuing support of our mission hallmark of St. John's tradition of faithfulness. Even in uncertain times, are church for the world, and, these days, we need each other, just as world needs us.



St. John "Brick" Church will continue to live stream our Worship Service every Sunday morning on our Facebook page AND continue to upload every Sunday Service to the church's webpage on the same day.

**Please support our church by buying Weis cards.**

They are available on Sunday mornings before Worship Service. You may also buy them at the church office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:00am to 1:00pm.



Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for sponsoring altar flowers and Sunday bulletins. If you would like to sponsor flowers or bulletins and cannot come to the church, please call the church office (570-547-6423) to reserve the date you would like. **Altar flowers are (2) vases for \$37.00 or (1) vase for 18.50 and bulletins are \$10.00 per Sunday.**

**The following Sundays are currently available:**

Flowers:	Bulletins:
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	December 7 <sup>th</sup>
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	December 21 <sup>st</sup>
	December 28 <sup>th</sup>

**2026 Flower Sheet will be up December 7<sup>th</sup>!**

### **St. Pauly Textile, Inc.**

Here at St John Lutheran Church, we commonly refer to the St. Pauly Textile, Inc. as St. Pauly shed which is **located in the back of the parking lot across from the parsonage garage.**



Donations of good used clothing can be placed in the shed at any time. It is available to not only the people of St. John, but also to anyone who would like to donate. The church is paid so much per pound for the clothing. St. Pauly thanks you so much for partnering with them. They truly appreciate all the support you continue to give to the clothing shed program!

**\*\*At times the clothing donations pile up in front of the drop-off window and need to be moved. A big thank you to Paul Pentz for overseeing this.**



# COUNCIL

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December Council Notes:

On November 4<sup>th</sup> the Bishop responded with a contract (via email) for both churches to sign and return. Last week the councils met together and reviewed the contract and revised several points. We will be sending the revised contract to the Bishop. Upon a mutual agreement with the Bishop, the contract will then be presented to the congregation for approval.

December is here and we need congregational members to step up to serve on the various committees and church council for the upcoming new year. There is a need to be interested in serving the church because we need to call a minister and increase our membership. Talk to the members who have slipped from our Sunday morning worship and encourage them to return to the fellowship.

Mark your calendar to attend the Annual Congregation Meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.



The star tree is up and if anyone would like to donate an unwrapped toy (no clothes) Please return by December 19<sup>th</sup>



### Mark your Calander!

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held December 14<sup>th</sup> after worship. Plan now to attend.

Members needed to serve on Church Council! Help shape the future of St. John "Brick"



**WREATHS**  
— across —  
**AMERICA**

### Wreaths Across America December 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

Volunteers needed to lay wreaths. If you have a loved one you would like to lay a wreath for contact Coleen email [lillybella26@gmail.com](mailto:lillybella26@gmail.com) for Brick Church notify Bob at (570)419-7208

Fairview Cemetery Program 10:00am

Brick Church Cemetery 11:30am

Clinton Baptist Cemetery 12:30Pm

Mt. Zion Cemetery Montgomery 1:30pm





## Music Notes December 2025

Light. It's what we crave more than almost anything else. Light is so important that it was the first thing God made as He created our universe; He divided the light from the darkness. Light is very important in the Hebraic tradition; Hanukkah commemorates the miracle of a single day's worth of oil that miraculously burned for eight days and is known as the "Festival of Lights". This holiday remembers the triumph of light over darkness, religious freedom over oppression, and faith over idolatry.

It's worth thinking about this thing called "light" during what is easily the darkest time of the year. We cover our homes with Christmas lights, give glittering holiday parties, and burn festive candles. We actively seek and create light. Besides "physical" light, though, there is also the "light of knowledge," and with the coming of Jesus, we have both. As Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the Light of the world." The deep saron blue paraments of Advent are highlighted with gold and white, foretelling the arrival of the promised Light. The scriptures are full of references to light as well: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light!" (Isaiah 9:2); the phrase in our liturgy "a light to lighten the Gentiles" is from the biblical prophecy in Luke 2:32, where the prophet Simeon proclaims that the infant Jesus will be a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel;" and my personal favorite, "Arise, shine, for your light has come!" (Isaiah 60:1). This is the verse that started the congregational candle lighting during Christmas Eve services in my birth church, and these words remain with me to this day.

Christmas hymns also tell of the Light that God is giving us: "Break Forth, O beauteous Heavenly Light," "The Everlasting Light" in "O little town of Bethlehem," "Go tell it on the mountain," which references the shining of a "Holy Light," and "The First Noel" features the literal light of the star that guided the wise men, which "gave great light" which "continued both day and night". God even marked the place of Jesus' birth with a huge light: the Star of Bethlehem. And then we have "Silent Night, Holy Night! Son of God, Love's pure Light!"

The Light of Jesus' coming will make itself known in our churches this Advent as we light the candles of the Advent wreath. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). The Chrismon Trees will be lit, filling the sanctuary with light that reflects off the gold and white ornaments. On Christmas Eve, there will be candle lighting in both churches.

"Light" will be evident in the music as well. Messiah's choir will present "The First Light of Christmas" by Mark Burrows as the anthem on Christmas Eve, and we'd like to assemble a choir at Brick for Christmas Eve as well. If you're interested, please let me know NOW. The organ music for the services will also feature pieces focusing upon the concept of "light." We will sing carols that talk of God's love for us, manifested as a little child who would become the Light of the World.

Please join us in worship this Advent and Christmas Season as you are able! Above all, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Yours in the Light of Christ . . . . . *Jeff Harvey*



**Poinsettias Order form** can be found on the table in the narthex. Or can order by calling the office Monday-Thursday 9am- Noon. This year they are \$7 per plant and can be purchased in Red or White varieties.

**Orders are due by December 14<sup>th</sup>.**



*Thank you to Esta Meisel, Nancy Eck and Nancy Jarett for spearheading the placement of the beautiful candle arrangement for All Saints Sunday. It definitely was a lovely addition to our service.*

*We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the Seafarers' bags initiative. This collective effort made a meaningful difference for many individuals. The Service Committee took the lead by purchasing items to fill 12 Seafarers' bags. In addition to these, parishioners generously filled another 12 bags, bringing the total number of prepared bags to 24. All Seafarers' bags were delivered to the Synod office by Dennis Gruwer. We would like to express our special thanks to the Service Committee for handling this endeavor and to Dennis for ensuring the delivery of the bags*

*I would like to extend my thanks to those who sent cards and prayers during my recent illness as well as the loss of my sister Maxine Secules. All your kindness and support has been heartfelt. ~Ken Eck*

*Members of St. John Lutheran, Thank you for your donations to footprints. All our clients are very appreciative for what they receive. Without many hands we would not be able to carry this mission out. Footprints of Montgomery ~ God Bless*

**Dear St. John Lutheran Church - Benevolence Fund**

*I give sincere thanks to God for laying upon your heart the ministry of the Shepherd of the Streets. We continue to serve our clients as their point of need through your generous support. Today people in need in our Lycoming County community are receiving their medications and traveling to their medical appointments because of your gifts of the Shepherd ministry. Also, today some of our clients are able to see clearly through the glasses that we have helped them to purchase. Finally we have been able to provide many of our neighbors in need with gifts of various hygiene items, which help to promote their general health and personal care.*

*I pray that God will abundantly bless you as you continue to serve Him through your generous giving.*

*In Christian Love,  
Rev. Mark D. Brumbach  
Shepherd of the Streets*

*This season be "Always giving thanks to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ." Eph 5:30*



**Brick Church Hospitality Committee,**

*Thank you so much for providing a place to fellowship with our family after the funeral of our mother Beverly Bower. It means a lot to us and we appreciate your opening your hall to us.*

*Sincerely,  
Dick and Linda Bower  
Eric and Karen Bower*

**Happy Holidays!**

*We wanted to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for your continued trust and support as we begin to round out the year. Your partnership means the world to us, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to work with you and have you as a member of the St. Pauly Textile family.*

*At St. Pauly Textile Inc. our mission has always been to provide the best service and ensure every experience you have with us is positive and rewarding. Partners like you inspire us to keep improving and striving for excellence every day.*

*Thank you once again for partnering with us and for being such an important part of our community. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we continue to grow and expand our family.*

*From our family to your, we want to wish you all a happy holiday season!*

*Sincerely,  
St. Pauly Textile Ownership*

**Footprints Food Pantry 71 Bower St Ext food distribution dates and times**

10-2 & 5:30-6:30 the 2nd Thursday & 10-12 the 4th Thursday

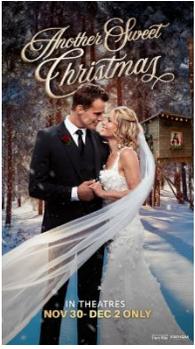
\*\*\* please bring in proof of residency as we begin our new year\*\*\*

If unable to pick up food during distribution hours \*your appointed proxy will need to do your pick up during the distribution hours and can be arranged @ the desk. We are available after hours for emergency situation food only. Thank you for understanding.



# THE DISTRICT CINEMA

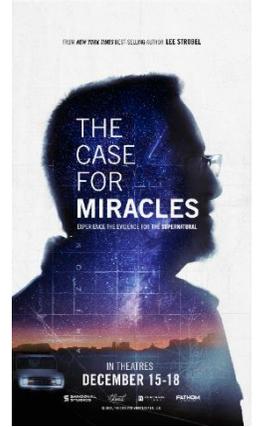
Office: 570-260-3000 | Cell: 570-506-2415  
965 Lycoming Mall Circle, Pennsdale, Pa. 17756



**THEDISTRICT.DIPSONTHEATRES.COMANOTHER SWEET CHRISTMAS** – From Great American Pure Flix! 7:00 p.m. Mon. Dec. 1 and Tue, Dec. 2.

ANOTHER SWEET CHRISTMAS follows Sophie and Sam as they create a film about their own love story. Things get complicated, though, when the filming threatens their wedding plans.

**THE CASE FOR MIRACLES** – 1 & 7 p.m. Dec. 15-18



In this gripping documentary, we embark on a cinematic exploration to answer the question: Do miracles occur today? Through the perspectives of many who claim to have encountered divine intervention, we delve into the credibility of these extraordinary occurrences. At the heart of this investigation lies the profound impact of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, serving as the cornerstone of faith and redemption. We even explore one of human faith's most difficult dilemma's, what happens when the answer is

"no"? Join Lee Strobel and director Mani Sandoval on this transformative journey.

**DAVID** – from Angel Studios!! Playing full schedule. Releases Dec. 19 but we also have an EARLY ACCESS showtime at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14



In a kingdom torn by fear and corruption, a shepherd boy is called to stand against a giant and the darkness behind him. With nothing but faith, courage, and a sling, he defies an empire and awakens the heart of a nation. From the quiet hills of Bethlehem to the roar of the battlefield, his journey will shape kings, test hearts, and reveal that the greatest strength is found in trust, not power.



**Starting in January of 2026 the Newsletter Deadline will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month so that the Newsletter can be printed consistently by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month so that the church news makes it everyone (fingers crossed) by the first of each month!**





## From the Secretary's Desk

So as most of you noticed I was out at the beginning of the month for LARC day or Lutheran Anglican Roman Catholic day. This was adventure I was so happy I got to go on. I learned some things, and it was nice to just get away from everything and explore parts of our religion. This day focused on the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. This should sound vaguely familiar as it is where our Nicene Creed originated. The speakers were great even though I worried after the first one because I felt like I needed a theology degree to keep up and understand him, but the rest were easy to follow, and I gained a lot out of what they had to say. It was also nice to see how the Anglicans worshiped as Morning prayer service was done by the Catholics (having Devlynn in catholic school I was pretty well adjusted to this part), then we Lutherans did the before lunch prayer service part as well as the blessing prior to lunch and the Anglicans closed us out with afternoon prayer service. I am also interested in how others' services go. There was talk about the Disciplinary Canons that came out of Nicaea I (this is something not many of us Lutheran's know about as it tends to be more a Catholic thing). Discussion of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and how it could be described in many other ways such as Parent, Child, Breath (which would be a wonderful change for Mother's day Sunday) and my favorite suggestion one God, the Word made flesh, our life, and our salvation (take a minute and think about that God who made our flesh, spoke us into existence, Jesus who died for our Sins, have his life for ours, and the Holy Spirit who brings salvation and new life to us—Word made flesh, our life and our salvation ♥). I learned of the Filioque. The Anglican speaker was just amazing, she spoke about the creed and how many of us on Sunday just breeze through it without thought of what we are saying and what it means, how very true this is. She also brought us great points like how the creed is a text of praise, like a hymn and that is a gift. St. Augustine said the creed daily not for his own benefit but as an offering to God (meditate on that for a moment, is that how you say the creed on Sunday?). She also pointed out that only three people are mentioned in the creed Mary who said yes to Jesus, Jesus himself, and Pontius Pilate who said no to Jesus. I can honestly say I never noticed that till it was pointed out that day. To say I am eagerly waiting for next year and to see what topic will be on the agenda is probably a huge understatement. So, in closing I am glad that you are understanding and that I was able to take the day off from the office and go and learn more. After all isn't that what life is about? Learning and growing?

One last little thing, I'll ask you the question that was asked of us down there that day, WHAT WAS THE ONE EVENT THAT TURNED THE WORLD ON IT HEAD? (Feel free to come in the office and share what you think it was)

### UPCOMING OFFICE NOTES FOR THIS WINTER:

- December:** Weeks 1, 2 & 3 should be normal  
 Week 4 will just be Monday and Tuesday (Maybe and hour or two on Christmas Eve)  
 Week 5 December 29-January 3 I will be taking off to reset myself before we start 2026!

\*We are headed into winter so that means the possibility of snow which could delay me in getting into the office some days especially if Devlynn's school (St. Joseph's Catholic School Danville) is on a delay or closed due to the weather. I will do my absolute best to in on time but please just keep the weather and my travel in mind when we have inclement weather.

**Please be sure to check the weekly bulletin for any updates to my weekly hours.**

### December Birthdays

Rae Ann Karichner	1
Jacob Gearhart	2
Gary Shrey	5
Charlotte Winder	10
Catherine Fulmer	11
Lacey Stugart	13
Bonnie Bennett	14
Linda Miller	16
Jordan Bitler	18
Dale Wise	18
Averie La Forme	20
Karen Pentz	21
Donald Zarr	21
Sandra Bartlow	24
Donald Murray	25
Marian Bender	31

### December Anniversaries

<i>Eric and Tara Miller</i>	6
<i>Stephen and Kelly Puzio</i>	22
<i>Clyde and Wanda Mingle</i>	31

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all! If there are any additions or corrections to the birthday or anniversary lists, please contact the church office (547-6423) with the information so it can be added or corrected.



The deadline for the January newsletter is December 22nd.

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>2</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours  <b>12:00pm Senior Citizen Luncheon</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>4</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30am Worship w/ Communion Second Sunday of Advent	<b>8</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>9</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>10</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>11</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11:30am Wreaths Across America Brick Church Cemetery
<b>14</b> 8:30am Worship Third Sunday of Advent  Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>15</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>16</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>17</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>18</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30am Worship w/ Communion Fourth Sunday of Advent	<b>22</b> 9:00am-1:00pm Office hours January Newsletter Deadline  6:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Office hours	<b>24</b> 9:00am-10:00am Office hours  4pm Christmas Eve Service  11pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30am Worship First Sunday of Christmas Lessons and Carols	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
<b>30</b> 8:30am Worship w/ Communion First Sunday of Advent  <i>Andrew the Apostle</i>						

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