

CHURCH PROFILE FORM

St. Thomas
Church



Section A Church Information

Name of church: St. Thomas Church

Denominational affiliation: Non-denominational
Formerly UCC, but St. Thomas is currently associated with
the Evangelical Association of Reformed and
Congregational Churches.

Mailing address: 536 N. Main Street
Bernville, PA 19506

Telephone: (610) 488-6702

E-mail address: stthomaschurchsearch@gmail.com

Web address: www.stthomasbernville.org

Search Committee Chairperson:

Shirley Adam
496 S. Northkill Rd.
Bernville, PA 19506

Telephone: (484) 333-2745

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Section B Congregation Information

Membership:

	2021
Church members	345
Average attendance at 10:30 AM worship	110*
Average participation of children/youth in Sunday School	25*
Average weekly participation in adult education	30*

* During Covid

Demographics of Congregation:

Age of membership:		Community
8%	0 to 20 years old	22.6%
24%	21 to 40 years old	20.5%
33%	41 to 60 years old	30.6%
25%	61 to 80 years old	22.6%
7%	Over 80	3.5%

Family units of membership:		Community
16%	Couples with children at home	19.6%
44%	Couples without children at home	45.8%
38%	Single/Widow/Widower	6.7%
2%	Single parent with children at home	6.6%

Strengths of Congregation:

- Works well with our current Pastor
- Count on the support of our Church
- Encouraged to use their gifts & talents
- Cares about one another
- Consistory sets a good example
- Vacation Bible School
- Sunday School Program
- Missions Support
- Blended Contemporary/Traditional Worship Service

Weaknesses of Congregation:

- Resistance to Change
- Counseling Services
- Ministry to Singles

Section C Church Finances

Church Income:

	<u>2021</u>
Benevolence	\$ 22,331.30
Members current envelope offerings	\$222,673.48
Plate	\$ 26,636.25
Special	\$ 5,250.40
Endowment Gift	\$ 20,000.00
Rentals	\$ 343.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 825.14
Total:	\$298,059.57

Church Expenses:

	<u>2021</u>
Operating Expenses	\$235,912.75
Building Expenses	\$ 38,731.15
Benevolence/Missions	\$ 42,331.30
Total:	\$316,975.20

Endowment:

	<u>2021</u>
Balance	\$714,305.15
Given to Missions	\$ 28,373.10

Indebtedness:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>If Yes, enter balance</u>
Mortgage		X	
Building		X	
Organ		X	
Sound System		X	
Digital Sign		X	

Capital Campaigns over the last 20 years:

	<u>Initial Amount</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>Beginning Date</u>	<u>Ending Date</u>
New Social Hall	\$550,000	\$0	3/2002	3/2011
Organ	\$152,000	\$0	12/2002	4/2007
Sound System	\$69,286	\$0	12/2007	5/2010
Air Conditioning in Sanctuary	\$68,160	\$0	6/2010	2/2011

Additional Assets held by Church:

	<u>Current Amount</u>
Investments	\$120,691.55

Description of Property Assets:

- **Original Church** - Built in 1897, Interior wood decor, stained glass, seats 800 to 850 people in the sanctuary/balcony, library, administrative offices, 2 Sunday School rooms.
- **Beatrice Hall** - Built in 2002, multi-purpose area with updated kitchen, 7 additional Sunday School rooms in addition to Chapel area and elevator.
- **Organ** - 2003 Aeolian-Skinner organ by Walker Technical Company; 4 manual, 90 digital ranks
- **Sound System:**
 - Sound:
 - Mixing Board: Behringer X32 Digital Mixer
 - Wireless Transmitters: (12) Audio Technica System 10 Pro ATWRU13 and ATWR3100C
 - 5 dedicated monitor channels
 - Video:
 - Switcher: Extron MVX 4
 - Video Scaler: Hall Research Technologies TVB-250 Video Processor
 - Camera: Bosch
 - Projector: Hitachi CPX 9110 – XGA 10000LM DLP
 - Laptop:
 - HP Envy 17t-cel100 (Purchased 2019)
 - Chapel:
 - Epson Cinema 8350 Projector
 - Denon AV Surround Receiver AVT-S530BT
- **Other:**
 - Handicap Accessible
 - Onsite parking

Parsonage:

- None

Section D Community

Demographics of Community:

Educational level:

Completed less than high school	12.8 %
High school graduates	37.4%
Some college/vocation school	15.4%
College graduates	25.2%
Graduate school	9.1%

Occupations:

Finance	5.4%
Farmer / Agriculture	1.7%
Laborer/Manufacturing	23.5%
Professional	8.9%
Education / Healthcare	23.0%
Wholesale / Retail	15.1%
Transportation	4.3%
Accommodations / Food Service	6.4%
Utilities	1.3%
Art / Entertainment / Recreation	1.5%
Other	8.9%

Racial/Ethnic composition:

African American	.4%
Asian	.3%
Caucasian	94.1%
Hispanic	3.4%
Other	.4%

Population of immediate area:

- 7,167 people in Zip Code 19506
- 2,868 total housing units in Zip Code 19506

* **Note:** Our area has been growing with building developments and commercial warehouses.

Economic Factors:

- School District
- Building Development
- Commercial Warehouses
- Agriculture
- Small Business

Church is close to:

- Blue Marsh Lake Recreational Area
- Elementary School
- Grange/Community Center
- Emergency Services
- Doctors Office
- Dental Office
- Grocery Store
- Library

Problem areas in community that our church should address:

- Number of unchurched people
- High turnover rate of Bernville residents

Church Ministries to community

- Vacation Bible School
- Light in the Night – alternate Halloween event
- Community Services / Activities
- Lenten Services
- Loaf & Ladle prior to Lenten services
- Holiday Musical Programs
- Parades
- Community Day
- Service Saturday
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas Bazaar
- Food Bank

Our church is used by the community for the following:

- Worship
- Weddings
- Funerals
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- Public Meetings
- Baccalaureate
- Emergency Shelter

School Districts that our members live in:

- Conrad Weiser
- ELCO (Eastern Lebanon County)
- Hamburg
- Schuylkill Valley
- Tulpehocken
- Wyomissing
- Blue Mountain

Section E Core Values

Statement of Faith:

1. We believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
3. We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His substitutionary and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling power and fullness the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life in this present evil world.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they who are saved unto the resurrection of life and they who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in Christ.
8. We believe in the sanctity of marriage, ordained by God, as between one man (born male) and one woman (born female). (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:21-24, Mark 10:6-8)
St. Thomas Church and its pastor(s) will not solemnize any other relationship as "marriage."
We believe any other relationship termed as "marriage" to be counterfeit and against the word of God.
This definition pertains to all church events designed for married couples.
9. This statement of faith finds its expression in the Apostles' Creed and is supported by the Heidelberg Catechism.

Vision Statement: *"Making Christ's love the center of our praise, teaching, fellowship and service."*

Statement of Polity:

1. We believe Jesus Christ is the Head of His body, the Church universal and the head of our local Church.
2. We believe our local church is in itself a complete church, and therefore autonomous and possesses all rights and responsibilities of the church led by the Holy Spirit as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.
3. We believe that our church is ultimately answerable only to Jesus Christ, and not to any association, conference, council, synod or any other ecclesiastical body.
4. St. Thomas Church is congregationally-governed, Elder-led, Deacon-supported and Consistory-operated. (See related articles of the By-laws.)
5. We believe it is proper and beneficial for our church to seek fellowship and counsel of other local churches. St. Thomas Church is currently associated with the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Churches (EA) but, as an independent congregation, retains the right to cease membership in the EA at any time.

Section F Expectations of Next Pastor

Personal Qualities

- Personable
- Compassionate
- Caring
- Listener
- Problem solver
- Team player

Professional Qualities

- Has the same core values as our congregation.
- Believes the Biblical inerrancy / Biblical theology
- Effective preacher / speaker
- Cooperation with Consistory
- Teaching Sunday School and Confirmation
- Leadership
- Conducting worship
- Conflict resolution
- Involvement in church and community events

Priorities of Focus

- Energetic in leading worship
- Focuses primarily on worship service
- Works with Consistory - set vision
- Develop Consistory / committee leadership
- Priority to visit members
- Develop programs for the Church
- Develop strong outreach in the community
- Develop fellowship / small groups
- Provide spiritual counseling
- Mentor youth leader

Section G Paid Staff/Consistory members/Committees

Paid Staff

<u>Title</u>	<u>Full Time / Part Time</u>
Youth Pastor	Vacant
Office Manager	Part Time
Director of Music Ministries	Part Time
Facilities Attendant	Part Time

Consistory members

	<u>#</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Elder	4	3	1
Deacon	8	2	6
Trustee	4	4	

Committees

<u>Title</u>
Audit
Trustees – Building / Maintenance
Christian Education
Endowment
Evangelism
Finance
Membership
Missions
Music
Nominating
Personnel
Social
Shut-In Visitors (Congregational Care)
Youth Council
Youth Group Leadership
Technology Group

* Pastor is welcome to attend any of the committee meetings.

Section H Programs/Missions

Worship Services

Eat & Greet Fellowship time - This happens between Sunday School and the Blended Service.

Blended 10:30 AM - The service consists of an hour of worship including

- Singing both Contemporary worship songs and hymns (Celebration Hymnal)
- Prayer
- Offering
- Children's sermon
- Music by one of the choirs (children's / worship / bell)
- Sermon with a visual presentation optional
- Quarterly communion – Open communion for those who have made a profession of faith (bread and grape juice)
 - Average Attendance – 200 Pre-Covid / 125 Current

Special Services:

- Lent (with community churches)
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunrise
- Thanksgiving Eve (with community churches)
- Christmas Eve

The Easter and Christmas services include special musical presentations during the service.

Pre-Covid Services included an 8 AM Contemporary and a 10:30 AM Traditional service.

Sunday School (Pre-Covid)*

- 0 to 2 years old with Parents
- 3 & 4
- K thru 1st
- 2nd & 3rd
- 4th to 6th
- Jr. High (7th & 8th)
- Sr. High (9th thru 12th)
- 3 different Adult classes for all ages
 - * Some classes currently combined.

Groups

- Women's Guild
- Men and Women Bible Studies
- Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting and Bible study

Missions

- Bible League
- St. Thomas Bible School- VBS
- Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child
- Samaritans Purse
- Child Evangelism Fellowship
- Chosen People Ministries (Robert & Joanna Walter)
- Christar (Liz Miller)
- Christian Missions Charitable Trust (Colleen Redit-India)
- F.R.E.E.
- Family Promise (food for family meals)
- Helping Harvest
- Over 100 Compassion Children Sponsored by members and other church groups
- Salvation Army Angel Tree
- Christmas gift collection for local school students in need
- Women's Shelter Mitten Tree collection
- Glad Tidings India
- Radio Bible Class/Daily Bread
- Adult & Teen Challenge
- Christian Aid Mission, Barner Academy
- Pioneer USA (Alan & Helena Keenan)
- TEAM (David & Emily Cetola)

Section I Future Goals

- Greater involvement of the congregation
- Emphasis on youth and post high ministry
- Community outreach
- Younger families
- Singles
- Non-traditional families
- Grow leaders and teachers
- Develop new and innovative prayer opportunities

SUMMARY

St. Thomas Church is seeking a Lead Pastor who is an effective preacher and speaker, compassionate and caring, and who will care for the spiritual needs of each member of the church. We are looking for a person who will encourage people to relate their faith to their daily lives and who has a strong commitment and loyalty to their faith. They must be effective in planning and leading worship. Also have a sense of direction for their ministry and will work to build a sense of fellowship among people with whom they work. We are looking for a humble, servant leader who reflects the wishes / views of the congregation.

This person will be working with the consistory that consists of four elders, eight deacons, four trustees and members from the Sunday School. Our staff consists of a part time Office Manager, Director of Music Ministries and Facilities Attendant. In addition, our Women's Guild is an essential part of our church and the community.

We are located in a beautiful rural setting that is only 10 miles away from major shopping areas.

We welcome any pastoral candidate who agrees with our Core Values and ministries. If you are interested in joining the exciting time at St. Thomas Church, please submit your resume via e-mail to stthomaschurchsearch@gmail.com.

We also ask that you submit a survey with your resume. The survey can be found on our website at <http://www.stthomasbernaville.org> under the Pastor Search tab, or on the next page.

Sincerely,

Shirley Adam
Search Committee Chairperson

St. Thomas Church

Dear Candidate,

Please answer the following questions:

- YES / NO** Are you ordained? If so, what denomination_____.
- YES / NO** Do you support infant baptism and adult believer baptism?
- YES / NO** Would you teach Confirmation Classes based on the teachings of the Heidelberg Catechism?
- YES / NO** Do you agree that Confirmation Classes are to lead to church membership?
- YES / NO** Do you believe that marriage is only between one man (born male) and one woman (born female)?
- YES / NO** Do you believe that The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testament, is the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written?
- YES / NO** Do you believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential?
- YES / NO** Do you believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His substitutionary and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and glory?
- YES / NO** Do you believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- YES / NO** Do you believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling power and fullness the Christian is enabled to live a godly life in this present evil world?
- YES / NO** Do you believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in Christ?
- YES / NO** If you are married, do you anticipate your spouse will be an active participant in the church?
- YES / NO** Do you consider yourself a humble, servant leader who reflects the wishes / views of the congregation?

Please use the other side to answer the following questions:

What do you consider your strengths?

What do you consider your weaknesses?

Do you support women in church leadership as a senior pastor?

Would you be willing to work with other local pastors, both male and female?