



The Sower

“Planting seeds of faith and fellowship in East Cocalico Township and beyond.”

The Sower is a ministry of the East Cocalico Church of the Brethren.

PO Box 288, Reamstown, PA 17567 (4 Bunker Hill Road, Stevens, PA 17578) 717-336-7616

Web Site: EastCocalicoChurch.org

Facebook: East Cocalico Church of the Brethren

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”
Acts 1:8

January, February, March 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

As I came into the church office this morning, I marveled at what a beautiful day it was. Blue skies, sunny, no snow (sorry for those of you who love snow!). Perfect. It got me thinking about not only our church, or even the wider Church of the Brethren, but “church” in general. Is the church as we know it today, “perfect”? Is it what Jesus had in mind? What exactly was His purpose in establishing the church? I highly doubt that Jesus was striving for people to concentrate on building beautiful cathedrals, although many enjoy worshipping in these magnificent structures. I don't read anywhere that Jesus's intent for His followers was to make judgement calls on other people, Christian or not. And I have never heard that Jesus wanted His disciples to keep the “Good News” to themselves, hoarding it away like squirrels hiding nuts for the winter. No, I think we can find rather easily in our Bibles what Jesus's idea for the church of the ages was to be. In Matthew 28:19, we read that the risen Jesus spoke to the remaining eleven disciples and told them, *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”* Likewise, in Mark 16:15, Jesus is quoted as saying to the Eleven; *“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”* After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples absolutely knew what their mission was to be. After Pentecost, when Peter addresses a large crowd, Acts 2:38 tells us, *“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.’”*

Sunday Mornings

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM



How do we make disciples - or followers - of all nations? We tell them of Jesus crucified and then risen from the grave to pay that penalty for our sins that we could not. We tell them of the need for repentance of our sins. We preach this Good News to anyone who will listen. *That* is the message. *That* was the purpose of Jesus establishing His church. The church is not a “place” that we come to. It's not even the “things” that we accomplish for God in the name of Jesus. The church is a mission established by Jesus to take the Gospel to everyone. If we really understand the Great Commission, then we get it - people need to hear and understand that repentance of sins and forgiveness is through Jesus alone. All other issues that seem so important that churches concern them-

selves with are secondary to that.

Years ago, my brother belonged to a church that had lost most of its membership over the years. Before deciding to close the church for good, the deacons agreed to go home and pray intently if closing was the right thing to do. When they met again the following week, they revealed to each other that in one way or another, they all felt that God was telling them to “get out of the way.” They interpreted that, to the best of their ability, to mean, “preach the Gospel - Jesus saves”- and that *only*. So that is what they did. For the next year, they preached the saving gospel of Christ only, and hundred came to their church to hear the Word. And then, a thousand came. And the people stayed and brought others to hear the Good News weekly, because hearing God’s message and knowing that you can be forgiven through Jesus never gets old. Today, they still have a thriving church because, as my brother says, “People just want to hear that they can be forgiven. That’s the most important thing. Then God can and will take care of all the rest of the stuff in their lives.”

We are the church and Jesus states that we have a mission. That mission is to present the Good News as He intended it to be presented to others, pure and simple. Jesus saves. Perfect.

Blessings,

Pastor Cyndy

Q1 2026 Mission Project

Our mission project for Q1 2026 is food collection for Peter's Porch in Denver, PA. Peter's Porch is a food pantry ministry that has several locations in Lancaster County, including Faith United Evangelical Church in Denver. Due to the economic difficulties in the fall and early winter of 2025 food pantries are struggling to keep shelves stocked for those who need assistance. If you need suggestions, the list of items they would appreciate receiving is shown to the right.

▼ What food donations are needed?

Canned, Jarred, & Pouched Foods

Fruits and vegetables
Meat, poultry, fish, chicken
Beans
Soups
Sauces (tomato, spaghetti, pizza)
Salsa
Broth or Stock (chicken, beef, vegetable)

Grains, Pasta

Tortillas or taco shells
Pasta
Rice

Breakfast & Cereals

Cereals (consider whole grain varieties)
Oatmeal
Pancake mix

Snacks

Crackers
Popcorn

Baking & Cooking Supplies

Instant nonfat dry milk
Flour
Sugar
Seasonings (salt, Black pepper, Baking Powder, Baking Soda, Cornstarch, Cornmeal)

GAME AFTERNOON!!

Coming soon! Will Include Snacks. :) Everyone Is Welcome. Stay Tuned for Details.



Operation Christmas Child 2025

Shoebboxes were filled again this year for Operation Christmas Child. We sent 25 boxes, stuffed to the gills with gifts for boys and girls who have little to call their own!

Cookie Baking - December 2025

On Saturday, December 6, a group of cookie bakers gathered in the church kitchen and baked cookies. Lots and lots and lots of them!



A Good Time Was Had By All!

COOKIES!

1. Eggs



2. Butter



3. Flour



4. Mix 'em up!



Eastland Alpaca Farm - Nov. 2025

On a cold, cold Tuesday in November, a group of hardy East Cocalico folks made a trip to Elizabethtown to visit the Eastland Alpaca Farm. Everyone had an enjoyable time, especially those who held the babies!. The photos were taken at the farm.

