

THE OPEN DOOR

1823

2023

Edinburg United Church
Loving & Growing



Vol. 798 January 2024



Thank you, *everyone*, for the abundantly generous Christmas gift. To everyone who calls Edinburg UC, UCC their faith home, thank you for your welcome, kindness, openness, and patience over this past year during this transition time. As we prepare to begin a new year, it is my hope, we will continue our work together as you prepare for your next settled pastor.

Thank you, again ~

Grace&Peace both Given&Received in the coming New Year. Pastor Susan, Interim.

I leave My Family
in your hands, God

I pray for your wonderful blessings,
May everyone feel your presence,
your strength and your love.

Reflection...

Rev. Susan, Interim

I recently had a conversation with a member who commented that I am doing more, or am more involved than they remembered interims being in the past. I shared that in 2023 (2024) interim ministry is very different than it was the last time you had an interim or even before that. The face of ministry has changed monumentally for both pastors and churches, but especially pastors. Many pastors are burned out mentally, emotionally, physically, and most importantly spiritually. Pastors both young and old are leaving ministry. Older, seasoned and experienced ministers are retiring early and younger pastors in their

30's or 40's are leaving the church. I know of one woman in her mid-forties, amazing person and pastor, who left the church and now has a Master's Degree in Education and is teaching second grade. Another young woman in her 30's attained her Master's Degree in Counseling and is working with pastors who left the church.

I realize I'm describing a situation that seems quite dim but follow along with me.

My role as your Interim isn't just to fill the pulpit and do pastoral care, funerals, and weddings until you call your next settled pastor. As Nayiri stated during her visit in September, I am your Interim and the only pastor you have, and we have work to do together in the coming year.

Think of it this way.... If you were going to invite someone to live in your guest house, you'd probably want to spruce it up. You might add a fresh coat of paint in a bedroom or the living room. You might even decide to tear down a wall or two and remodel the kitchen and bath.

Now, imagine you have a contractor standing in the middle of your guest house ready to help you do the work and you decide to wait until the guest arrives and moves in. Your new guest isn't expecting to move into a construction site ~ Yikes!

Well, I'm the contractor, and I'm ready to help you, support you, and guide you on the journey of remodeling the house. My covenant agreement with you is like a blueprint for our work together.

Ok, so much for the contractor and remodeling metaphor.

As we begin this new year, we will be installing your 2024 Council, on January 14th. In September the following members were elected to serve: Moderator and Vice-Moderator (Lisa & Jeneen), two returning officers (Barb & Lenny), two new Council members

(Cindy Jarrett & Dianne Raubacher) plus two returning members (Matt & Sabrina). It is my hope to work with the council to restructure the roles and responsibilities of each council member and you all, the folks in the pews! In partnership, we can build upon your existing ministries and new ministries in the church and in the greater community with the Spirit's leading.

One of the first tasks will be the construction of new by-laws. Thank you in advance for your patience in allowing the process to take the needed and necessary time to form a new set of by-laws that will be a sound guide for the future of the church.

Remember the PowerPoint presentation by the Transition Team which shared your thoughts and feedback. The information they gathered will provide a roadmap for the ministries of the church and a springboard for the council to begin their work and visioning for 2024.

Also too, the Spiritual Assessments that many of you did will continue to be useful as to how you are called to serve the church and God in 2024. So, find your assessment!

It can be far too easy for us to slip into a business or civic organization mindset coming up with tasks to do and looking for volunteers. If I hear the word "volunteer," watch out! We are dropping it from our vocabulary!

In the church, and in life, we *serve* God first. We serve with one another with Christ as the one who shows us how to be in relationship and community with the Holy Spirit leading us in wisdom and truth.

Did you know, the most stable geometric structure is the triangle. There it is right in front of us ~ The Holy Trinity: God, Jesus, Spirit. Keeping us grounded and growing in grace and love.

There is another triangle in the church as well. Each side supporting the other to build relationships and partnerships in Christian love and grace.

- ❖ The first side, the body of Christ with many members: Romans 12:4,5.
- ❖ The second side, the elected leadership called to serve God and the body of Christ.
- ❖ The third side, the Pastor who is the Spiritual leader of the church.

First, we serve God then we serve one another and our neighbor, in relationship, partnership and covenant, building a healthy church that is "Loving and Growing in Christ!"

What does your Vision & Mission in Ministry look like? We'll explore that too ~ here's a little secret, you've already begun defining both! I can see it unfolding all the time ~ Spirit is leading you and God is being God!

I've written a lot. So, cliff notes:

- ❖ Thank you for your patience in the process of developing new by-laws.
- ❖ Look for the Transition Team's feedback from you to be a guide for your work and ministry ahead.
- ❖ Dig out your Spiritual Assessments (Paul said something about Spiritual Gifts in those letters he wrote).
- ❖ Never again will we use the word "volunteer" inside the church walls. We are called to *serve* in very small ways and big ways (remember Paul ~ toes, and ears are just as important as arms and legs.)
- ❖ Remember those triangles:
Holy Trinity: God, Jesus, Spirit
TRI-Church: Body of Christ,
Leadership, Pastor.
- ❖ Envision getting ready for your new guest ~ your next settled Pastor!

Peace, Grace & Compassion in 2024



Twelve
Days of
Christmas

Symbols and Scripture

A partridge in a Pear Tree

Jesus ~ Matthew 23:37

2 Turtledoves

Old & New Testament

2 Timothy 3:14-17

3 French Hens

Faith, Hope, & Love

1 Corinthians 13:13

4 Calling birds

4 Gospels

John 21:24-25

5 Golden Rings

Pentateuch or Book of the Law

Psalms 119:1-2

6 Geese a-laying

6 Days of Creation

Genesis 1

7 Swans a-swimming

7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Romans 12:6-8

8 Maids a-milking

8 Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-10

9 Ladies dancing

9 Fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

10 Lords a-leaping

10 Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

11 Pipers piping

11 Faithful Disciples

Acts 1:13

12 Drummers drumming

12 Points in the Apostle's Creed

Romans 10:9

Dec. 25 ~ Day 1 Bonus: What does the pear tree symbolize?

Dec. 26 ~ Day 2 Bonus: How many books are in the Old & New Testament together?

Dec. 27 ~ Day 3 Bonus: What does the Bible say is the greatest of these 3 gifts?

Dec. 28 ~ Day 4 Bonus: Name one or more of the four Gospels included in the New Testament.

Dec. 29 ~ Day 5 Bonus: Name one or more of the books of the Pentateuch.

Dec. 30 ~ Day 6 Bonus: What did the Lord create on each day of creation?

Dec. 31 ~ Day 7 Bonus: Before reading the Scriptures, name one or more of the gifts of the Spirit.

Jan. 1 ~ Day 8 Bonus: Before reading the Scripture, name one or more of the Beatitudes.

Jan. 2 ~ Day 9 Bonus: Before reading the Scripture, name one or more of the fruits of the Spirit.

Jan. 3 ~ Day 10 Bonus: Before reading the Scripture, name one or more of the commandments.

Jan. 4 ~ Day 11 Bonus: Before reading the Scripture, name one or more of the Eleven faithful disciples.

Jan. 5 ~ Day 12 Bonus: Recite some or all of the points (phrases) in the Apostle's Creed.





Chalking the Door

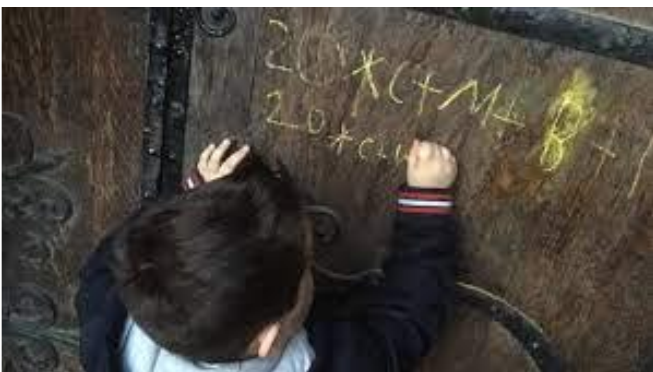
An Epiphany House Blessing 2024

You are invited to bless your home on Epiphany, January 6, 2024. In this custom your family gathers to ask God's blessing on your home and on those who live in or visit your home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in your home, your comings and goings, your conversations, your work and play, your joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance (or on the entrance stairs) the following:

20 + C + M + B + 24.

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. **1)** They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. **2)** They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2024 is the year.



Blessing the Chalk

"Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Write the Blessing Over the Door

20 + C + M + B + 24

Then offer the following prayer:

"Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen"

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

Adapted from Daryl Moresco, OCarm.

From Lisa , Church Moderator

Happy New Year Edinburg Family...May your coming year be filled with many Blessings for this New Year.

I Peter 1:3 (NIV)

Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.



GUESS WHO?

Starting Jan. 7th on the connect card you will be able to guess who this is!! Do you already know, don't tell anyone else. I will announce in the next newsletter who all knew!!!



Senior Funday

Wednesday, January 3rd from 11:30 to 2:00, Come out and enjoy the fun!!!

Bring a dessert or something to share. All are welcome



Movie night at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 6th. All are welcome. The movie will be Beethoven or a Turtle's Tale, you can vote on the connect cards. The one with the most votes will be shown.

Bring a chair (if you'd like) and a drink. We will have popcorn!!!



Our congregational meeting will be held on January 21st, after services. Please plan on attending.

WE NEED PEOPLE TO HELP TAKE DOWN AND PUT AWAY THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AFTER SERVICE ON DEC. 31ST.

Adopt a kid
School lunch

We will again be raising money to help those in need for school lunches at Southeast School. Anyone wishing to help, please put the donation in a colored envelope and write "lunch" on the envelope. The church will match total of donations, up to \$500.



Save your can tabs and give to Diane Ringer to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

People have mentioned that they would like to have more fellowship time.

Found some wacky "holidays". If anyone or a group would like to pick one of the days (or something different) and plan something, just let Cyndi know so it can go on the calendar and the newsletter.

Depending on the event, council approval might be needed.

Sun., Feb. 4: Homemade soup day

Wed., Feb. 7: Send a card to a friend

Sun., Feb. 11: Get out a guitar day

Sun., Feb. 11: Visit a shut-in day

Sun., Feb. 25: Chocolate covered nut day

Sun., March 3: Cold Cuts day

Sat., March 30: Take a walk in the park

Sun., April 14: look up at the sky

Sun., April 28: Poetry Ready day

Sun., May 5: World laughter day

Sat., May 11: Eat what you want day

Sun., May 19: Pizza party day

Sun., May 26: Paper airplane day

Sun., June 2: Donut day

Thurs., June 6: Drive In movie day

Sun., June 9: Donald Duck Day

Sun., July 7: Strawberry sundae

Sun., July 14: Shark awareness

Sun., July 21: Ice cream day

Sun., July 28: Milk Chocolate Day

Sat., August 3: Watermelon Day

Sun., August 4: Friendship Day

Sun., August 4: Chocolate Chip Cookie Day

Sun., August 25: Banana Split Day

Sat., August 31: Eat outside day

Sun., Sept. 15: Make a hat day

Sat., Sept. 21: Mini golf day

Tues., Oct. 1: homemade cookie day

Fri., Oct. 4: Taco Day

Sat., Oct. 5: Do something nice day

Sun., Oct. 6: World smile day

Thurs., Oct. 10: Nacho day

Sun., Nov. 3: Sandwich Day

Sun., Dec. 8: Brownie Day

Sun., Dec. 22: Cookie exchange day

Every month we will be showcasing two members from the Church to learn more about them. This month is Martha Bradfield (oldest and longest member of the church) and Russell Shambach (2nd oldest and longest) !!!!

Martha B. Bradfield

Maiden Name: Hickman

Birthday: **December 10, 1926**

Spouses name: **Harold**

Where were you born? **Edinburg**

How many brothers or sisters? **2 Brothers and 1 Sister**

High school/college? **Edinburg High School**

How long lived in the area? **All my life**

Any jobs? **38 years at Happy Day School**
Clipped cemetery monuments 1¢ a piece
Picked strawberries 5¢ a quart
Cleaned 2 houses on Saturdays
Waitress & helped cook at Wishing Well (Mrs. Grace Austin)
Nurses aid at hospital on weekends
Worked full time at hospital as nurses aid in nursery
Pyramid Rubber
Sold Faymaid lingerie
Started fostering children, total of 10 throughout the years
Drove bus for Happy Day school
Teacher's assistant for 2 years
Had own class
Bus tour guide

How long have you attended this church? **All my life**

How long have you been a member? **Since January 15, 1939**

Where were you baptized? **Edinburg United Church**

Do you have any hobbies? **Watching baseball & basketball**

What do you do in your free time? **Play solitaire on Ipad**

Any children? **3**

Any grandchildren? **1**

Anything you'd like to add? **Enjoys having people visit.**

Russell L. Shambach, Sr.

Birthday: **December 25, 1929**

Spouses name: **Arlene J. Shambach**

Where were you born? **Akron, Ohio**

How many brothers or sisters? **4 Brothers and 5 Sisters**

High school/college? **Palmyra & Edinburg High School**

How long lived in the area? **84 years (since 1940)**

Any jobs? **Goodyear (40 years) orchard worker and farmer**

How long have you attended this church? **Since 1940**

How long have you been a member? **Since March 29, 1942**

Where were you baptized? **Yes**

Do you have any hobbies? **Beekeeper and Craftsman**

What do you do in your free time? **Love to cook**

Any children? **5**

Any grandchildren? **11 Grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild (due in August 2024)**

Anything you'd like to add? **Can make anything out of nothing**

The winners of the Poinsettias from the Christmas Party



Eva Rowley

Ray Dennis

Beth Lange

Gail Rickey

Kim Bradley

Genny Pavlick

FUN WAS HAD BY ALL!!





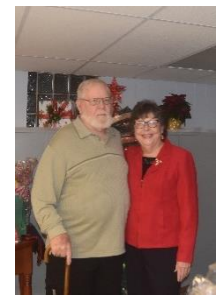
Lisa & Mike Morehead



Melissa, Tessa & Elizabeth Dills



Rick & Cyndi Oblisk



Bill & Eva Rowley



Kim and Mike Bradley



Julia & Ralph Hayes



Ron & Sue Trace



Ramona Holloway & Ray and Lin Dennis



Genny, Dianne, & Jean



Beth, Fran, Lisa, Cheryl & Kathy



Barb, Cyndi & Connie



Gail, Brenda & Joanne



Beth, Mary & Cindy



Alyanna & Cherel Todd



Rick, Cyndi, Marie, Adain, Pam & Caleb



Pam & Caleb



Marie & Adain



Pastor Susan & Caleb



Thank you to all the bell ringers.
Just a few pictures sent to me.



Summer, Jill & Charlotte Thompson



Melissa, Tessa & Elizabeth Dills



Bill & Eva Rowley



Thank you Dakota, for playing on Christmas Eve.
As always, you did a wonderful job!!!



Thank you to our choir for the lovely music.



The preschool had a visitor!!

The youth helping with the gift bags!!!





I want to thank everyone who remembered me with a birthday card. It made my 97th birthday very special. I looked forward to the mail delivery everyday. Thank you for the Christmas bag stuffed with goodies and the youth who put it together. Thank you to Cindy Jarrett who delivered the bag and stayed for a visit.
Love to all,
Martha Bradfield

I would like to thank everyone for my gift card and also Brenda for my gifts from the Christmas Exchange. I would also like to thank Pat Campbell for my card, Eva for helping me (with a little of everything). Lisa for putting up with me when I'm going crazy, and everyone else who has helped me throughout the year. Cyndi

Thank you to the youth for the nice bag of goodies. It is nice to be remembered.
Bob Jarrett

Dear Edinburg Youth,
Thank you so much for the overflowing Christmas Bag. I am thoroughly enjoying it and hope you all have a wonderful Christmas!!
Bill Rohn

Caleb Oblisk wanted to thank Alyanna for the wonderful gifts he received at the Christmas party. He was very excited and happy with them!!

**I would like to thank all those who helped put the Christmas Party together !
It was a beautiful layout, music, and the food was awesome.
Such a fun time !!
I also want to thank my gift exchange person. There was no name on the gift but a big
"Thank You" I loved all my goodies.**

Beth Lange

Wishing you a safe and Happy Holiday



Thank you for the gifts and Gift Card presented to me at the Christmas party in recognition of and as a thank you for my years of paying bills for EUC. It has been my pleasure to service in that capacity, and I have enjoyed doing it. However, I feel moved to focus my time on other things.

Cyndi Oblisk has been working with me to learn the process, and I ask that you give her your full support in doing this job. She is very qualified, and I am confident she will do a fine job for us. I will be available to answer any questions she may have.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
Eva

Thank you to Lisa for the wonderful Christmas party. It was fun and nice to get to know people I hadn't really met before.
Cindy Jarrett

Liturgist for January are:



Jan. 7: Lenny reiter
Jan. 14: Connie McCambridge
Jan. 21: Barb Rohn
Jan. 28: Sue Francis

Cookie queens for January are:



7th Julia Hayes
14th Cyndi Oblisk
21st Lisa Morehead
28th Eva Rowley

MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

If you would like to do any of the following:

Liturgist: see Cindy Jarrett

Cookies: Lisa Morehead

Greeter: Sabrina Finney

FINANCE

Jan-Nov. 2023

Tithes/Offerings: \$93,150

Income: \$118,100

Total spending YTD: \$137,900

Future Council Dates

(2nd Thursday of the Month) 6:30 p.m.
Anyone is welcome to attend

Jan. 11	July 11
Feb. 8	August 8
March 14	Sept. 12
April 11	Oct. 10
May 9	Nov. 14
June 13	Dec. 12

Council members: Lisa Morehead,
Jeneen Kubula, Lenny Reiter, Barb Rohn,
Matt Finney, Sabrina Finney, Dianne
Raubacher & Cindy Jarrett

Send in something for the **GUESS WHO!** Email to
EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com or give Cyndi baby pictures or
something about yourself to let people guess who it is!!!



Have the kids, grandkids and adults color a page (or more) to hang
up at the Church!! Pictures are available at the Church or bring
your own.

Do you need to fill out a building use form?? Want to see the Church
calendar?? Go to <https://www.eucunitedchurch.org>

Click on resources and then forms (or calendar. Click on the link and it will
take you to the form.

Have you, your kids, grandkids or anyone else done something you
would like to announce??? If you would like anything added to the
newsletter, please let Cyndi know by the January 24th.

NEW EMAIL: EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com

Birthdays in Blue
 Anniversaries in Red
 Events in Black
 Holidays, etc in green

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Worship 9:00 a.m. 7 Communion Diane Ringer Savannah Finney Pamela & Mathew Pribanick	New Year's Day 1 Scott Galloway	Michael Simmons 2	Dawn Booher Senior Funday 11:30 3	Ross Shaw 4 Church Council @ 6:30	Jim Schmitz 5	Don Hunter 6
Worship 9:00 a.m. 14 Installation of Council	MLK Jr. Day Ayla Gealy 15	Bill Rowley Linda Wagner Beth & Jerry Lange 16	Audra Morehead 17	Meghan Schiraldi Linda & Don Hunter 18	Amanda Baldasare 19	Wesley Shaw 20
Worship 9:00 a.m. 21 Congregational Meeting Agnes Andrasak Heather Mix	Seth Dillon Jackson Gealy 22	Marcia Kibler 23	Marcia Kibler 24	Alice McConnell Cyndi Oblisk 25	Alice McConnell Cyndi Oblisk 26	27
Worship 9:00 a.m. 28 Michelle Besaw	29	Caleb Oblisk 30	Erick Craft 31			

EDINBURG UNITED CHURCH

Unofficial Council Minutes

November 9, 2023

PRESENT: Lisa Morehead, Audra Morehead, Cyndi Oblisk, Lenny Reiter, Diane Ringer, Barb Rohn, Cindy Jarrett, Diane Raubacher.

The Meeting was called to order by Lisa at 6:40 PM and opened with prayer by Lenny.

The Minutes of the October Council Meeting were read and approved with corrections.

LOAVES and FISHERIES: Lisa shared that our Church would be responsible for providing and serving meals on April 24th and October 5th in the coming year of 2024.

YOUTH BIBLES: Cyndi O. shared that Bibles had been ordered for our Church youth. They are "Bibles for Teens" and come in a case of 20 costing \$15.49 for each Bible. The Bible was passed around for Council members to see.

SCOUT GUIDELINES: Copies of "Procedures and Guidelines for Scout Troops 355, 3558, and 7355" were distributed and reviewed. These are to be followed from hereafter for the relationship between the Edinburg Church and Scout Troops stated above.

SNOW PLOWING: This has been contracted with Gage Billiter and he has placed markers around the Church parking lot.

HAM BALLS: A sign-up sheet has been placed up for orders. It was announced that these will be being made at Church on November 29th.

BELL RINGING: Volunteers are needed to man the Salvation Army kettles at the Rootstown Giant Eagle. A sign-up sheet will be posted. Our days are December 21st and 22nd from 10 AM to 6 PM divided into two hour increments; shorter time periods can also be useful if unable to do two hours.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: This will be Saturday, December 9th at 6:30 PM at the Church and will be a catered meal.

FINANCES: Lenny reviewed these and provided a Hand Out

FLAG POLE: Status of this process was discussed. Diane Ringer moved that the Church pay for the balance, to be determined upon ordering the flag pole, of purchase of flag pole for Eagle Scout's Project of erecting an American flag pole on church property. Audra seconded the Motion. Motion passed.

TREE TRIMMING: An estimate for this has been obtained and discussion will be tabled until December Meeting.

CENTER OF HOPE: Hope for the Holidays program was discussed. Lenny moved that \$500 be donated to the Center of Hope for the Hope for the Holidays program to be taken from the Church's Mission Funds. Cyndi O. seconded the Motion. Motion passed.

CHARTER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATION: Audra moved that the Church pay the \$60 to the Boy Scout Troops as a reimbursement of COR's accreditation fee to be paid out of the Church's Mission Fund. Diane Ringer seconded the Motion. Motion passed.

PASTOR SUSAN'S AGENDA: Christmas music was discussed. Cindy Jarrett offered to explore singing at Christmas Services with other Church Members that have expressed interest or have sung in the past.

Pastor Susan's Interim/Transitional Contract Covenant Form needs to be discussed. Lenny stated that he will explore the Form from Living Waters and share the information with Council.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Rohn

Council Secretary

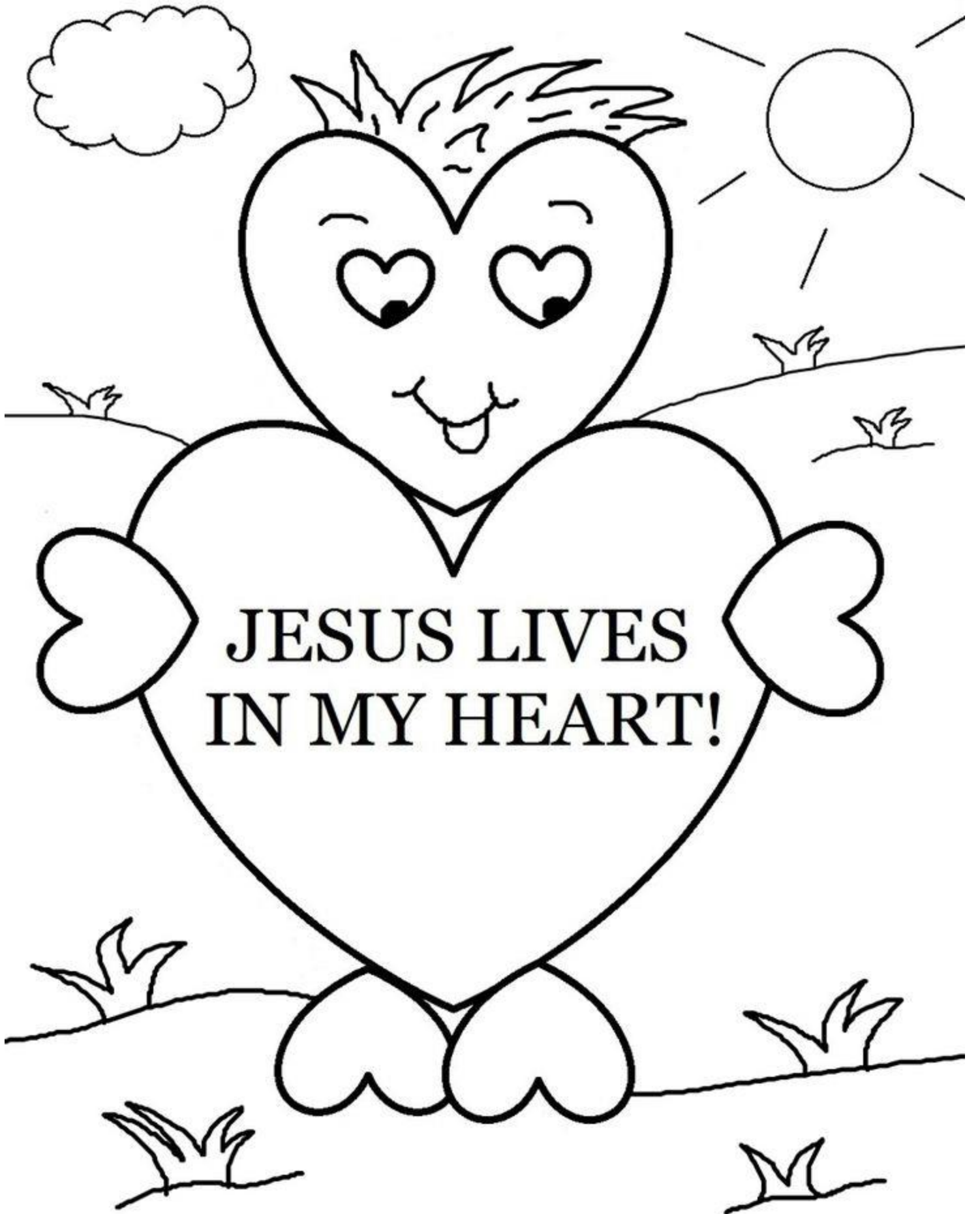
My
Heavenly
Father
Loves
Me





We love
because
He first
loved us.

John 4:19



JESUS LIVES
IN MY HEART!



The
joy

of the LORD
is my
strength.

Nehemiah 8:10



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We saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship him.

Matthew 2:11

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY