



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

## 2025 BAPTISMS

BY MIKE STEFFY, EPHRATA DISTRICT COORDINATOR

**“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.”**

This command from Jesus calls us to lead others into discipleship, and on September 27, 2025, I had the incredible honor of witnessing six of our young ladies at TNT take this life-changing step in their faith journey.

But I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge everything God orchestrated leading up to this unforgettable night. Each year, TNT hosts a retreat at High Point Camp where our staff and volunteers take more than 60 students for a weekend filled with laughter, games, very little sleep, and powerful moments in God's Word. During this retreat, our students were challenged to take a step forward in their faith and wow, did they respond! Some committed to joining our Alpha Bible study, others decided to begin reading Scripture alongside their leaders, and many made the profound decision to give their lives to Jesus. **God was clearly moving as twelve young ladies from my Ephrata Youth Center chose to join our Alpha Bible study.**

In the weeks that followed, these young ladies faithfully attended each Alpha session, and our volunteers poured into them with love, encouragement, and truth. As we walked through the series, we talked about the importance of baptism for those who had accepted Christ, and I was humbled and overjoyed when **six of them expressed a desire to be baptized and publicly declare their faith.**

Which brings us to that beautiful evening on September 27th at Ephrata Community Church. Each student wrote a personal testimony to be read before their baptism, and let me tell you they did not disappoint. Their words were clearly inspired by the Holy Spirit and reflected lives genuinely transformed by Christ. Watching these young ladies boldly proclaim that they are Daughters of the King brought tears to my eyes. It was equally moving to see so many family members gathered to celebrate this defining moment in their lives. The night concluded with a sweet time of fellowship among families and friends, and I'm confident it ended with a joyful smile from our Heavenly Father.

“

Transforming lives through the power of Jesus Christ



# 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY

BY KURT ZIMMERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TNT is celebrating its 25th year of ministry, and what an incredible journey it has been. A lot has changed since the year 2000. Back then, YouTube, Facebook, and Snapchat didn't exist, Smartphones weren't even on the market, and the top movie of the year was Mission Impossible 2.

Much in our culture has shifted, but one thing has not: TNT's mission has remained the same, to see young lives transformed through the power of Jesus Christ.

One of the most meaningful ways we pursue this mission is through partnerships with our local schools. TNT is blessed to work alongside three school districts: **Ephrata Area, Warwick, and Hempfield**. We desire to be a bridge between the school and the local church, stepping into a crucial role where we can serve students while also partnering with school administrators and staff.

Whether it's leading before-school Bible studies, talking with students during lunch, offering mentoring, or simply being a consistent presence, we are grateful for every opportunity to bless our schools and serve our community.

Our focus is simple: **we want to "connect the unconnected."** Just as Jesus sought out those who were overlooked or disconnected, we work with school leaders to identify students who may be struggling, isolated, or in need of encouragement. Over the years, we've learned that public schools are not the mission field itself, they are full of adults who deeply care about the students in their buildings. **These administrators, teachers, and counselors increasingly see TNT as a valuable resource, helping support the very students they love and serve every day.**

Twenty-five years is something to celebrate, but we believe God is still opening new doors. We are praying for even greater favor, influence, and opportunities to reach more students with the hope of Christ through on-campus ministry and our evening youth centers. We desire to see the next generation encounter Jesus and be transformed by the gospel.

**Here's to 25 years of God's faithfulness and to many more ahead.**



2000



2008



2017



# WHAT'S NEW AT TNT

## BEACH RETREAT UPDATE, STEVE WEAVER

TNT Youth Ministry took 14 students and 7 small group leaders to Harvey Cedars Bible Conference on October 31 - November 2 for Beach Retreat 25! The theme for the weekend was "The King," and the speaker, Nick Vargas from LEFC, took our group through Luke 9:23. Students were encouraged to consider what it means for them to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus. Leaders had great conversations with students about evaluating friendships, addressing sin, surrendering more of their lives to Jesus, and being more intentional about pursuing their relationship with Jesus. We have loved seeing this group of students mature in their faith over the last couple of years, and we saw them respond to the Spirit's nudging in amazing ways over the weekend! A couple of other highlights included a Survivor-themed game played throughout the weekend, off-campus adventures to a lighthouse and local shops, and spending some time on the beach on Sunday morning.



The Winter Blast 26 youth center retreat will take place **March 6-8**. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund for these retreats, you can donate online at <https://tntyouthministry.churchcenter.com/giving> and choosing "Trip Scholarships" from the drop-down menu, using the QR code, or mailing a check earmarked "Trip Scholarships" to **510 Stevens Rd, Ephrata, PA 17522**.

Scan to donate now!



## SAVE THE DATE: TNT BANQUET MAY 18, 2026



You are invited to attend the TNT annual fundraiser banquet!

**WHEN: MONDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2026**  
**WHERE: LEFC 419 Pierson Rd, Lititz, PA 17543**

We look forward to sharing how the ministry is encouraging students to take steps in their faith journey and are being transformed by the power of Jesus Christ.



510 Stevens Rd.  
Ephrata, PA 17522

717-381-1688

office@tntyouthministry.com  
tntyouthministry.com

 @tnt\_youthministry

 @TNTYouthMinistry



We are excited to announce the start of **Bible2School Release Time** for **Clay Elementary School 2nd grade students** on **January 13, 2026**. This program will be held at **Ephrata Community Church** on **Tuesdays** during lunch. Transportation will be provided to and from the class. You can register students by picking up forms in the school foyer.

If you have questions about the program or are interested in volunteering, email [bible2school@ephratacommunity.church](mailto:bible2school@ephratacommunity.church).

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