

BETHEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2022  
ANNUAL REPORT







# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## MINUTES

2022 (Last Year's) Annual Celebration Minutes	3
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## MISSION

Connect, Grow, Serve - 2022 at a Glance	4-5
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## PASTOR REPORTS

### PASTOR RANDY FETT

2022 REPORT	6
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### PASTOR KRIS KURZEJESKI

Adult Ministries 2022 Report	7
------------------------------	---

### PASTOR LADD SONNENBERG

Children, Youth & Family Ministries 2022 Report	8
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## CONGREGATIONAL STATS

Worship, Pastoral and Membership 2022	9
---------------------------------------	---

## FINANCIALS

2022 Treasurer's Report	10
2022 Income Statement by Fund	11
2022 Balance Sheet by Fund	12
2022 Yearly Comparison General Fund	13
2022 Benevolence/ Proposed 2023 Budget	14

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Property Management Committee 2022 Report	15
Outreach Committee 2022 Report	15
Women of Bethel 2022 Report	16
Memorial Garden Committee 2022 Report	16
Mission and Justice Committee 2022 Report	17
Bethel Endowment Fund 2022 Report	17
Bethel Highlands Preschool 2022 Report	18
Scout Troop 140 2022 Report	19

# SCOUT TROOP 140 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

On October 19, 2022 Scout troop 140, co-sponsored by Bethel and Mt Zion Lutheran Churches, completed 93 years of continuous service to the youth of Hudson, while the Scouting of America celebrated their 112th year. Troop 140 currently has 5 youth registered as Scouts and 8 adult leaders registered for support. Troop 140 has been part of Bethel and Mt Zion Lutheran Churches' service to youth for its' entirety. In order to foster our partnership in service to Hudson area youth, Troop 140 requests that we are included as one of its' supported youth programs in any church public relations brochures and to work toward coordinating both troop and other church sponsored youth programs schedules to enable and encouraged our youth to participate in both programs. We chartered a new Cub Scout pack in 2022. Now that we have our paperwork in order, we will begin registration of interested youth.

Troop 140 supports a year-round program which includes camping, service projects, council and district event participation, and a high adventure program all organized to allow Scouts to learn and grow in life skills and leadership, and have fun in the process. The Troop works to instill leadership skills, service and respect for the community. These values, expressed in the Scout Oath and Law, are fundamental to this process: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

The Troop had several Scouts and several adult leaders attend the one week camp at Tomahawk Scout Camp. Scouts attended several sessions throughout the year to work on various merit badges. The Troop met 46 Monday evenings in 2022.

The Troop had its 56th annual Christmas wreath sale fund-raiser November-December. Troop wreath sales typically finance most of its programs and activities for the year and allows the Scouts to earn their way to Camp and other activities. The Troop gave service to the Memorial Day Flag ceremony, the Great Bethel Get-together, Hudson Golden Rule Picnic, and the Spirit of St Croix Art Festival. Additional community service was given through various Eagle Scout Projects and many individual Scout interests. The Troop continues to use its two-wheel enclosed trailer (parked outside of the Bethel Church) for hauling equipment and gear for camping and activities. It was purchased twenty-one years ago with some of the funds that the Scouts raised over the prior three years.

Troop 140 was honored to have two Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award this year. Some of Troop 140 adult Leaders are members the Northern Star Council President's Cabinet and one is a member of the Board of Directors. Registered adult leaders have met B.S.A. training requirements for leadership and youth protection. Mr. Ronald Raymond continues to serve as Scoutmaster. There are 7 assistant Scoutmasters. Longtime Scout leaders include Bethel members Charles Huntley, David Mienke, Holly Tremble and Dann Holter and Mt. Zion member Carl Meincke, who along with the Troop Committee also work with the youth.

Troop 140 goals for 2023 are:

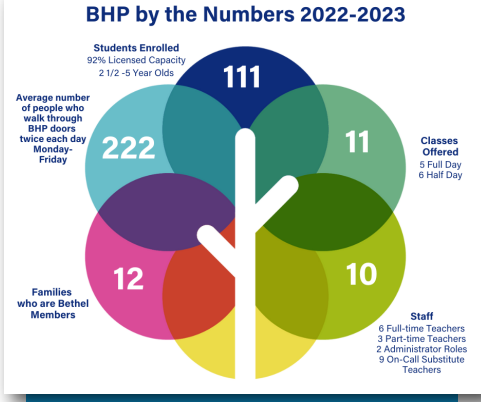
- Have one Scout complete their Eagle Scout award;
- Attend One week of Summer Camp, Scout District and Council sponsored events;
- Mentor three Scouts through their next rank advancement;
- Provide Service to Bethel and Mt. Zion Churches and the Hudson area community;
- Register Scouts for new Cub Scout Pack and initiate Pack Monthly meetings.

Troop 140 sincerely thanks Bethel and Mt. Zion Churches for their sponsorship of Troop 140 and to Bethel Church for the use of their facilities for its program.

Respectfully submitted by David Mienke, Dann Holter, Ronald Raymond, Holly Tremble, Charles Huntley, Carl Meincke, and Sam Platson







# BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

See, I am doing a new thing.... I am making a way. (Isaiah 43:19)

This has never been more evident than at BHP this school year! A change in leadership was not new for the team, nor were the many Covid related changes. However, this team's faith had them shining resilience and positivity. As I began my new role as the Director and Administrator, I was blown away by the team's commitment and passion for BHP!

This new season also comes with a new logo and refreshed website - 15 years in the making - that represents our mission and values! Think faith, nature, play, innovation, community, and sustainability. Our new multi-colored tree also represents the diversity of God-given gifts, abilities, and cultures of each child. Overlapping circles illustrate our collaborative approach with team, families, community, and Bethel.

## BHP Wins:

- BHP Team – The average tenure of our 10 teachers is 4.7 years which exceeds the industry standard of 1-2 years turnover rate. Our high-quality program is due to the commitment and passions of Angie Haider, Alyssa Edholm, Cindy Smith, Emily Hawkins, Sally Holter, Emily Bakken, Teri Odegard, Erica Carlson, Allie Sulflow, and Missy Austreng.
- Enrollment – 92% licensed capacity in our 11 classes.
- BHP Board of Directors – this leadership guides conversations and decisions that impact our whole community. Thanks to our board: Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg, Melissa Givens, Cindy Snegosky, Kim Evers, Lindsey Weiler, Carrie Betker, Michelle Webb, Rachel Wahlberg, Lori Head, and Lois Duerst.
- BHP Parent Group – A core parent group has been built as a community whose purpose is to strengthen, enhance and encourage the educational and social landscape of the students at BHP.
- Community – BHP's Trunk or Treat event drew in 250 children (750 attendees total!)
- Specials – Spanish was added to our curriculum for exposure and global experience.
- Biblical Affirmations - The monthly chapel point / affirmation is part of our social/emotional and mental health focus. Research shows positive affirmations can help change thought patterns and influence different behavioral changes for the better.
- Collaborative Programs with Bethel – Pastries with Parents, Chapel, and Lunch Bunch.
- Partnership with Hudson School District with 4K program.

## 2023-2024 Goals:

- 95% capacity in 11 classes for 3-5 year olds
- Additional sections of high demand classes will be offered. Positive word of mouth about our innovative program, state-of-the-art facility, and trusted and creative teachers attracts many families throughout the St. Croix Valley.
- Pilot Program – Nature-based 4 Year Old Class: Research shows that children's social, psychological, academic, and physical health is positively impacted when they have daily contact with nature. This nature-based outdoor class will spend at least 30% of the class time learning outside in nature. This class will utilize the entire property for their classroom routine.
  - Expand Community Reach – Color Fun Run, Parent Education opportunities, Educator Learning event, participation in worship and Senior Luncheon.

We are grateful to be a highly regarded program in our community and we look forward to each child and family being celebrated well into the future.

Missy Austreng, Administrator and Director, Bethel Highlands Preschool

# ANNUAL CELEBRATION MINUTES

From last year's meeting on January 30, 2022

- Gathering Music – New Song Band
- Call to Order – Council President, Jeff Maki
- Opening Devotion – Pastor Kris Kurzejeski
- Appointment of the Parliamentarian (Lowell Enerson) – Jeff
- Appointment of Head Teller (Rob Brown) – Jeff
- Approval of the Minutes from the 2021 meeting – Jeff

## STATE OF THE CHURCH – SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor John summarized the past year. 2021 continued to be a challenging year, as Bethel searched for ways to connect with people. The church continues to stand strong. The last two years have also been humbling. There is no longer an accurate count on how many people are attending worship on-line and via radio broadcasts. Staff have had additional challenges with moving to live-streaming (the Downtown campus in particular). Pastor John would like to commend staff for putting in the hard work to make changes. The church is thrilled to see Pastor Kris return to Bethel and a congregational meeting is being scheduled for Sunday, February 27th to offer her a full-time call. Next year Bethel will celebrate the 150th anniversary. Volunteers will be needed for a planning committee. This is an exciting event to anticipate.

## STATE OF THE CHURCH – CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

Jeff mentioned five words that describe Bethel: Ignite, Inspire, Imagine, Interact, and Inclusive. The pandemic continues to be challenging. The Church Council gave much consideration to safe programs, including worship, youth activities, etc. Jeff would like 2022 to be focused on "Bringing people back" to Bethel. He thanked the council members for their work. The property committee has worked especially hard on technology including cameras, lighting, and security cameras. The Bethel Scandinavian Food Fest, although in a different format, was still a huge success. The finances are strong, with the 2021 offerings ahead of budget. The church ended the year with a General Fund Surplus of over \$40K.

Presentation of the New Church Council Candidates – Edith Lampman introduced 4 new Church Council candidates: Lois Duerst, Koreen Thiesen, Walker Stutzman, and Scott Denny. A motion was made and seconded to elect these four new people, along with returning members Jeff Maki and Nick Jepperson to Council. A vote was taken to be counted with results to follow.

Proposed 2022 Budget – Gwen spoke about the Budget Process and the General Fund Budget Highlights, specifically the Missions and Benevolence. A motion was made and seconded to approve this budget.

Youth Ministry Update – Pastor Ladd highlighted the fact that we all make a difference with the youth of the church. He was thankful for the youth staff who remain flexible during this time.

Building Committee Update – Jamie Johnson gave an update, thanking the committee members. They last met in July of 2021, and have a meeting planned for March 8, 2022.

Endowment Fund Update – Anne Wasmund gave an update on the status of this fund.

Benevolent Giving – Patti Thacker gave an update, referring to the 2021 Annual Report. Benevolent giving was up; we gave 10.5% of our total budget/ \$160, 214.

## New Business:

Bethel Highlands Preschool – Director Emilee Wagner presented a video highlighting 2021. Some highlights included: staff appreciation, fundraising, online registration, new brochures, and the budget.

Video Montage of 2021 – This was done by Mary Finnegan, who will be retiring. Pastor John thanked her for her service to Bethel as the Communications Director.

Recognition of Service – Outgoing council members were recognized for their service: Matt Wolf, Lacey Nolan, Patti Thacker, and Jill Nasvik.

Voting for new council members and 2022 budget was held via paper ballots. Matt Wolf reported the results of the vote, with the budget being approved, and all 6 council members elected.

New Mission Initiative – Claire Zajac spoke about the Afghan refugees housed at Fort McCoy. There are several things that Bethel and its members can do to welcome these new refugees to America, including, but not limited to: Pray, Learn, and assist with donations. More information is on Bethel's homepage.

A drawing was held for prizes.

Skip James and Tracey Jenkinson led us in a closing hymn. Council president, Jeff Maki closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Nasvik, January 31, 2022.





# CONNECT

## WORSHIP

### Weekly Worship

- Sunday | 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Youth Led Worship
- Radio Broadcasts
- Cable TV Broadcast
- Livestreaming of the 8am and 9:30am services on Bethel's Facebook page, YouTube Channel and Website

### Special Worship

- CCH Worship
- Martin Luther King, Jr with Jearlynn Steele
- Lenten Services
- Holy Week Services
- Easter Services
- National Day of Prayer Service
- Outdoor Worship services
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Blessing of the Animals
- All Saints Cemetery Service
- Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Christmas Eve Services
- Christmas Day Service
- New Year's Eve Service

## MUSIC & DRAMA

- MLK Services
- Skit Guys dramas for Wednesdays in Lent

## EVENTS

- Annual Celebration
- Taste of Scandinavia
- Senior Adult Luncheons
- Fall Kick Off
- Simple Gifts Concert
- Advent Happenings

## CLUBS/GATHERINGS

- Book Club
- Quilting
- Hardanger
- Embroidery
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- Bethel, Brews and Bros.
- Women of Bethel
- Pastries with Parents

## PRAYER

- Lenten Devotional
- Weekly Prayer Group

## BIBLE STUDIES

- Pastor Bible Studies
- Sunday Adult Bible Study
- Men's Saturday Bible Study
- Women's Gatherings

## PERSONAL GROWTH

- New Disciples Classes
- Christian Women's Retreat
- Adult Education
- Global Leadership Summit
- Earth Day Stations

## SACRAMENTS

- First Communion Teaching
- First Communion Services
- Baptisms



# MISSION & JUSTICE COMMITTEE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

It has been a very busy year for Mission and Justice ministries. Our traditional areas that we support include keeping our Mission and Justice booklet updated, which we invite everyone to pick up and explore, as well as promoting a variety of service opportunities from Feed My Starving Children, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and Lutheran World Relief School Supply Drive to Operation Help Giving Tree to just name a few. We are also excited to announce that, with your help, we collected \$10,000, the most money ever, to help provide scholarships to students in Tanzania. You also helped us to donate \$1,400 for Afghan Refugees and \$42,000 for Ukrainian Relief efforts.

In 2022, the Northwest Wisconsin Synod challenged Bethel to develop a new ministry related to caring for the environment, and thus the Mission and Justice Committee created a new ministry that has evolved from being called the Green Team to Bethel Creation Care. Our new committee will focus on promoting ways our community can help care for God's creation, and trust me, they have some great things planned for 2023.

The even better news is that our efforts extend beyond our walls and city to serve people abroad. We worked hard to connect with mission partners and others this year to offer an intergenerational mission trip to Tanzania for 14 individuals from June 24-July 8, 2023. It's been since 2018 that Bethel sent a mission team to Tanzania.

So, from everyone on the Mission and Justice Committee and the Bethel Creation Care Team, we want to thank you for your partnership in creating all the amazing things that we have been able to do here at Bethel to live out our faith.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg

# BETHEL ENDOWMENT FUND 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Endowment Committee's purpose is to fulfill the mission of Bethel by educating the congregation on how they can support this ministry, assisting donors in their giving, distribution of grant requests and administering fund procedures and policies of the Bethel Endowment Funds. The endowment funds are to be a permanent resource for sustaining the work of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Eight grants totaling \$10,600 were awarded from the Bethel Endowment Funds in 2022. Grant monies went to help fund: Hudson Area Backpack Program, Operation Help, Our Neighbor's Place, Bethel Highlands Preschool, Bethel Women's Retreat, Bethel Summer Youth Intern, Bethel BeFriender Ministry, and the Bethel Creation Care Team.

Bethel partners with Thrivent Charitable to manage the funds. The funds are divided into two categories - the Outreach Fund that supports those in need outside of the Bethel Church and the General Fund that supports the needs inside the Bethel Community. As of the end of Q3 2022, the fund balances totaled: Outreach Fund: \$29,559 and General Fund: \$202,010. The amount available for grant distribution is based on the fund's 10-year average rate of return (4.6%).

Committee members include Pastor Randy Fett, Tim Rutten (council representative), Anne Wasmund, Ron Johnson, Adam Wilt, Dave Benson, and Galina Powers. A brochure that outlines how the funds work and how you can help support this wonderful ministry in your giving, will or estate planning, is available at the Welcome Desk or the church office.

Anne Wasmund, Endowment Fund Chairperson



# GROW

## YOUTH

- Bethel Highlands Preschool
- Faith Milestones
- Sunday School
- 6th & 7th Grade Faith Formation
- 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation
- High School Youth Group (grades 9-12)
- Vacation Bible School
- Christmas Program
- Bethel sponsored Boy Scouts
- Sunday Childcare
- Summer Camp
- Youth Summer Mission Trips
- College Aged Ministry





# WOMEN OF BETHEL 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

What a wonderful year this has been. We were able to do a full scale Scandinavian Food Fest. I personally need to thank each and every one of you for all the time and talent you put into this event. We cleared around \$19,000 this year. With that said we did hand out \$12,900.00 for various grants which are as follows: Koreen Theisen \$500.00 various items needed for events, Women's Retreat Musicians \$500.00, Replacement Folding Chairs \$600.00, Hudson Public Library \$500.00, Anniversary Quilt \$250.00, Hudson Area Senior Center \$500.00, Be Friender Ministry \$1000.00, Turning Point \$500.00, Grace Place \$500.00, Backpack program \$500.00, Operation Help/Source \$500.00, Our Neighbors Place-RF \$500.00, Ruth Gathering Group-LWR School Kit \$250.00, Bethel Quilters \$1000.00, Computer Rotation \$1000.00, Hannah Erickson-Branding Expenses \$300.00, Naomi Gathering Group-GHM Shipping \$500.00, Jacob Summerville-Clinical Pastoral Education \$2000.00, Carole DeJardin-Continuing Education \$1500.00.

The Bethel Quilters were able to donate 50 quilts to LWR along with 30 Fabrics Kits (Mary Gathering), 51 Personal Care Kits (Dorcas Gathering) and 93 School Kits (Ruth Gathering). The Bethel Quilters were also able to give 60 quilts to Operation Help, 42 quilts to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and 6 quilts to LDBC Auction.

Submitted by Gail Nolan, WOB Facilitator

# MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Memorial Garden Committee oversees the columbarium, the memorial wall, and the garden.

Highlights from the past year include; we offered ice cream in the garden on June 12th and during the Great Bethel Get Together on September 11th after the 9:30am service. Eggs were again hung in the trees around the garden for Easter. The Memorial Garden policy was updated. The Columbarium Fund was updated to the Memorial Garden Fund to reflect our changed title. Our Brochures were also updated. Beautiful flowers were planted in the flower boxes as well as pots by the Memorial Wall. Winter arrangements have been placed in pots in the garden. A step by step guide was put together and printed for those who assist at inurnments. An outlet was repaired and installed in the garden-among other uses, this will be invaluable in keeping the ice cream cold during events at the garden. Volunteers filled up the calendar to water and deadhead flowers during the summer.

We are very excited to announce that a second tower is ordered and will be delivered mid-2023. Those interested in purchasing or reserving a niche in the new tower are encouraged to do so soon to help begin the process. Plaques for the Memorial Wall are placed twice a year, Memorial Day and All Saints Day.

Other plans for next year include improved lighting in the garden and refinishing the garden benches.

The Memorial Garden Committee: Patti Thacker, Dan Roeglin, Gwen Cossin, Stacy Baehman, Steve Wilcox, and Cindy Stensgaard

# SERVE

## CHURCH

- Helping Hands
- Worship Support Volunteer
- Altar Care
- Decorating Team
- Congregational Life
- Events Volunteers
- Transportation for Senior Citizens to Worship
- Handbells
- New Song Band
- Bethel Youth / Adult Musicians
- Visiting Guest Musicians
- Sunday School and Wednesday Night Small Group and Large Group Leaders
- VBS Leaders and Volunteers
- Adult Education Leaders and Small Group Leaders
- Bethel Connection Team
- College Care Packages
- Hospital Visits
- Pastor Visits
- Wednesday Meals for Youth

## LOCAL

- Columbarium
- HOME Meal
- Dorothy Day
- Grace Place
- Operation Help Giving Tree and Essentials Campaign
- Hudson Backpack Program
- Raider Network
- Habitat for Humanity
- Food Shelf
- American Red Cross Blood Drives
- Endowment Fund Grant Disbursement
- Women of Bethel Grant Disbursement
- Hudson Star Observer Pastor's Viewpoint Articles

## GLOBAL

- Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
- Kentucky Tornado Relief Mission Trip
- Middle School Mission Trip
- High School Mission Trip
- Feed My Starving Children
- LWR Health Kits
- LWR Quilting
- LWR / LDR Giving to Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Hurricane Ian Relief
- School Supply Collections
- Tanzania Student Tuition Giving





PASTOR RANDY FETT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

“Behold I am about to do a new thing” (Isaiah 43:19). This is a word for us as we begin the new year. Interim ministry is sometimes rather despairing. Transitions can be enlightening and encouraging but they can also be unsettling. Friends, you have a gifted staff and leader team here. We can be grateful for the leadership of Pastor John who retired this past Fall. There is great energy. The church is eager to seek out a bright future. Not one of us can really name what that will be. The Covid years taught us that. There is not a day that goes by that Bethel is not alive with hope. Let’s bear in mind that this is God’s new thing for Bethel. It is important to keep our noses to the grindstone, and our ears to the spirit to define Gods direction for the future.

When a staff member leaves the circle of leadership there is a gap that needs to be filled. There is an equilibrium process of adjustment that naturally happens. The book of Ecclesiastes says, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Let’s trust this, friends. God is at work here.

This January we began our Interim projects. I have been meeting one on one with staff. We have also engaged teamwork activities both with staff and leaders. Now, this month in January, we have been gathering faith stories from within the many groups of the church. We have gathered for Round Table, heart to heart, conversations. We have also surveyed the AD HOC group of past leaders, and the present leadership and staff. We did a deep dive leadership survey alongside of a healthy church inventory in order to define the baseline where Bethel is and will go with its ministry and missions. This is what an Interim period of time is all about. This is a first step to understanding and opening up the church to the Vision that God is laying out.

Upcoming Projects in 2023  
February:  
Assimilation of data both from the Round Table Conversations and Surveys. Surveys are summarized. Recommendations and observations from Interim pastor.

March/April:  
1. Transition Team assesses neighborhood, and sizing of church.  
2. Core value naming and church identity exercise with present and Ad Hoc leaders, and in worship.  
3. History gathering activities and 150th church anniversary celebration.  
May:  
1. Transition Team, in partnership with church council: Recording of the Vision, Vision Casting

and Mission Directives, Stepping Stones and Navigational points identified to achieve the Vision.  
2. Vision launched, and planning details made from there by leaders staff, and committees of the church.

I am contracted by your church, the church council, by Bethel, and called by God to do this specific work. Pray that each of these projects will be enlightening to this God Vision. Pray for the work of the Transition team.

At the end of our Interim and Transition journey, Bethel will pull together all of the threads of reflecting and planning together and call a new Pastor. It is important in this process that Bethel also review and assess its staffing and organizational structure. You, as people will determine what best fits the Vision that God has laid out, what will help facilitate the active Life of Bethel. The Vision will no doubt give texture and description to the type of pastor, the skill set and personality traits of the pastor that you need, and the responsibilities for the position. I pray that we are open to the spirit’s guidance. I recognize that we all, to some degree, want this to go by quickly, but as I say, “Don’t rush it. Breathe.” Be open to the “Thin spaces” of Gods moving spirit that are enlightening us all.

Think about how Mary and Joseph approached Bethlehem when the time came for our Lord Jesus’ birth. There was no room for them. The door was closed. The sign read “No vacancy”. People were not ready for this transitional season. Jesus bridged the gap between us and God. Wonder with me, what our world, our salvation, would have been like without this transition. Friends, let’s name this time as a gift from God. God bless you, and Happy New Year!

“Behold I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth. It’s bursting forth. See, it has already begun. Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, a road for my people to go home, and streams in the desert, rivers through the sunbaked earth. Even wild animals will say “Thank You!” – Isaiah 43:16-21

Pastor Randy Fett



BETHEL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The main objectives of the committee in 2022 was the safety/security systems, hail damage assessment/plan, and continued general maintenance of the two facilities.

- 2022 projects included:
- Safety and Security System - Project includes camera systems and door security systems. System completed late summer 2022.
  - Hail Damage - Like many houses in Hudson, the church did not escape. All roofs except the downtown flat roof need to be replaced. Insurance to cover most of it and is planned for next summer. Did temporary repair of flat roof at Highlands as it leaked after the storm.
  - Completed the Downtown A/V system for service broadcasting.
  - Hired new Facilities manager (Cory Wong) after Matt resigned.
  - Preschool playground - New equipment, new blacktop, sealcoating and mulching completed.
  - Children’s theater A/V system failed, so vetted contractors to replace and ordered a new system. To be operational April 2023.
  - Replaced fence around Downtown north HVAC unit.
  - Continue to work on the fire protection system at Highlands replacing panels and controls as needed.
  - Continued facelift on Downtown rooms including Pastor Kris’ office, HOME meal room, and other storage rooms.
  - Ducts cleaned at Highlands campus.
  - Purchased a second van and prepared for selling of the blue bus.
  - Initiated contracting out some of the janitorial work at both campuses.
  - General maintenance at both facilities as equipment needed upgrading or failed.
  - Did energy audit of facilities for future cost reduction
  - Initial work on building a storage building and assessing needs
  - Investigating a solar energy system
  - Assessment of Highlands drainage issues around the building
- The committee’s goals for 2023 are as follows: Reroof both facilities in the summer, evaluate storage needs and propose storage building, continue to address humidity concerns at the Highlands campus, and deal with maintenance issues as they arise.
- Respectfully submitted by, Roger Pavlis

OUTREACH COMMITTEE, 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

- Provided Volunteer Support for Scandinavian Food Fest
  - Continue to send monthly birthday cards from Bethel to our senior members
  - Began a new fellowship group, “Next Chapter,” for adults in the middle stages of life (and others) who want to gather for fellowship
  - Involved in planning outings and events for the Next Chapter group
  - Committee includes: Andrea Jorgenson, chair, Jim Topitzhofer, Deb Green, Scott Swanberg, Lisa Bekemeyer, Susan Richards (Council Rep), Pastor Kris.
- Submitted by Pastor Kris Kurzejeski





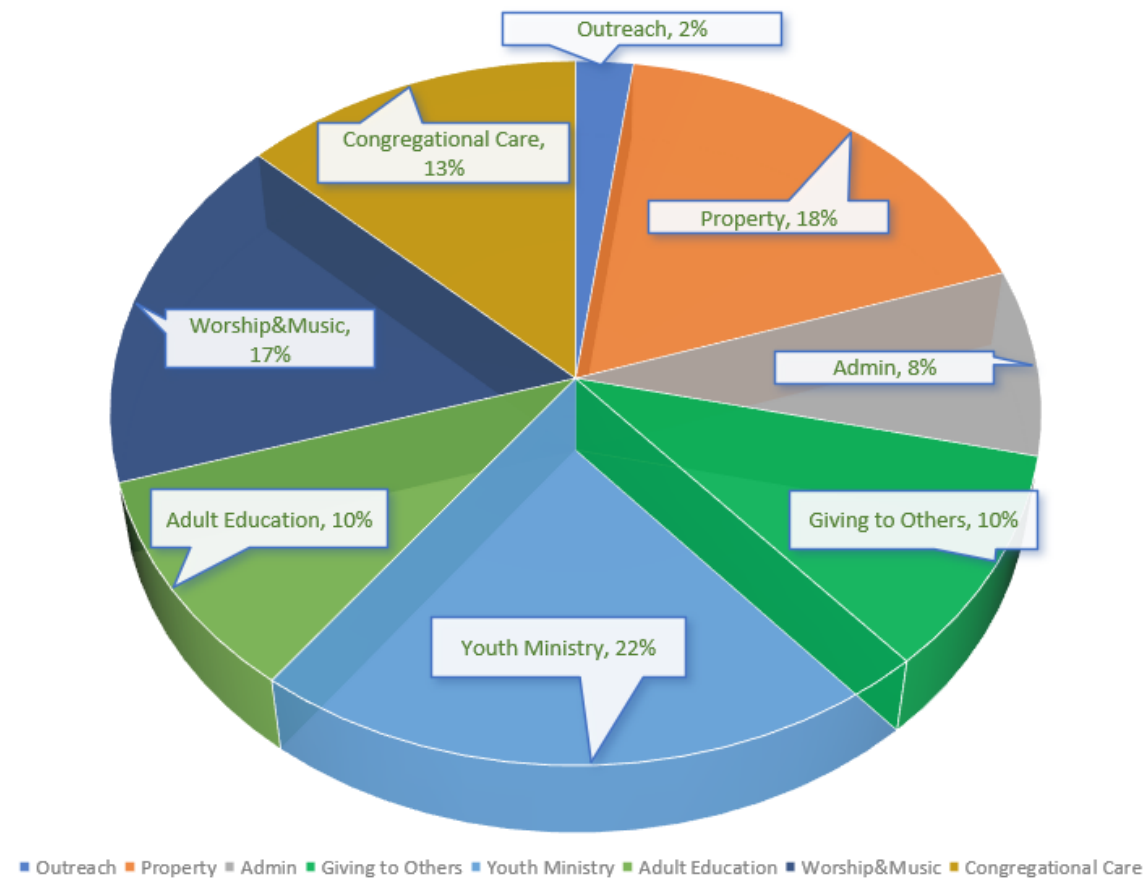
2022 BENEVOLENCE

Benevolence gifts are made from the General, Memorial and Women of Bethel Funds. In addition, many Bethel volunteers provide their time, talent and private financial resources to these and other organizations.

NW Synod of WI		\$62,600		
Refugee Assistance	\$44,650	Seminary	\$3,000	
Operation Help & Source	\$13,803	Tanzania Mission	\$2,800	
Tanzania Scholarships	\$9,900	Pine Ridge	\$2,730	
LDR National Fire & Storm Relief	\$9,000	Dorothy Day	\$1,896	
Camp Wapogasset	\$7,800	Turning Point	\$1,750	
Good Samaritan Assistance Exp	\$5,725	Global Health Ministry 5 Alive	\$1,658	
Lutheran Social Services	\$5,600	Quilting Mission	\$1,483	
Raider Network at Hudson High School	\$5,457	Habitat for Humanity	\$1,200	
Lutheran World Relief	\$5,353	H.O.M.E.	\$900	
World Hunger	\$5,000	Grace Place	\$500	
Miscellaneous Benevolence	\$4,475	Women of the ELCA	\$400	
Backpack Program	\$4,150	Good Gifts	\$100	
Hudson Food Shelf	\$3,600			
Our Neighbor's Place	\$3,250	TOTAL MISSION & BENEVOLENCE	\$211,980	
Luther Point	\$3,200			

2023 BUDGETED SPENDING BY MINISTRY

This is Bethel's 2023 Budgeted Ministry Expenses including \$30,000 estimated giving through other funds.



ADULT MINISTRIES, PASTOR KRIS KURZEJESKI 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

- Twenty-eight sessions of pastor led studies this year
  - The Beatitudes: Blessed to be a Blessing (study on Matthew 5:1-12) – offered 8 sessions in January and February, including a Zoom option
  - Unoriginal Sin – a study of sin and redemption within the Bible – offered 6 sessions
  - The Gospel of John: The Way and the Word – A study on the life and ministry of Jesus as told through John’s Gospel, the most theological of the Gospel accounts - offered 14 sessions
  - Mark Wickstrom joined us for a 2-week presentation on “The Most Dangerous Book of the Bible” (Ecclesiastes). The study focused on the book, pointing out what’s really important in life and what are vain attempts at fulfillment.
  - The Women’s 2022 Retreat was held at The Inn on Lake Superior April 22-24, with the theme from Hebrews 6:19, “We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.”The featured speaker was Pastor Alicia Hilding and our retreat musicians were Tracey and Calla Jenkinson. It was a very meaningful time for many.
  - Bible Study Preparation Sessions continued for the leaders of the Women of Bethel Bible study gatherings, which meet monthly.
  - BeFriender Ministry meets monthly, as does the leadership team, and have provided a caring and supportive presence to many this year during difficult times.
  - The 150th Committee continues to meet to plan for Bethel’s anniversary celebration, scheduled for April 30, 2023.
  - Four Adult Luncheons were held: one in January with Phil and Robin Kadidlo providing music, while the state of the church was addressed by the pastors, business administrator and council president, among others. In May, Hudson High School Superintendent Nick Ouellette gave us an educational update and music was provided by Charlie Ollmann. A luncheon was also held in July with Pastor Ben Hilding and Pastor Alicia Hilding as featured speakers and musician, James Hersch, performed. At the October luncheon, Brent Peterson from the Washington County Historical Society spoke about “The Myths and Legends of the St. Croix Valley”, while the Ultimate Polka band provided entertainment.
- Submitted by Pastor Kris Kurzejeski







# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

## PASTOR LADD SONNENBERG

### 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

We have a lot to celebrate this year. Last year, at this time, we were saying, “We’re getting there,” because we moved from a state of canceling or postponing programs, because of Covid, to a state of reviving programing. This past year our phrase was, “We are doing it!” We are not just starting things back up, but we are starting new things. It truly feels like we are getting back to where we once were prior Covid.

This past year there have been some great and powerful ministries going on from a record number of kids going on our High School Mission Trip to the new 5th Grade Halloween Lock-in or a growing number of kids participating in Sunday School. This past year we also had our first-time ever Middle School Mission Trip to Duluth, MN. Of course, this is not to mention all the other events, retreats, lock ins, pastries with the preschool parents, Wednesday night programing for 6th-12th grade, Sunday School (3yr old – 5th grade), VBS and intentional one on one conversations that we continue to do.

All these ministries are thanks to each one of you for your continued prayer, financial generosity, as well as you encouraging students to get involved. As always, we couldn’t do this ministry without all of our small group leaders. I know I lift them up every year in the annual report, but it is the small group leaders in Sunday School, Middle School, and High School programing that make a difference as a mentor and role model for our youth. It is such a blessing for the youth staff to be able to work alongside each of these individuals.

One of our biggest areas we have pivoted in is our 9th Grade Confirmation program. As we continue to find ways to better connect our 9th graders with the rest of our high schoolers, we changed their start time on Wednesday nights, to align with High School Youth Group. In doing this it allows at least once a month for our 9th Grade Confirmation students to take part in High School Youth Group. In doing this our 9th Graders are more engaged and involved in High School Youth Group, priming them for continued involvement after they complete confirmation!

God is truly doing amazing things even during this time of transition. We as the Children, Youth, and Family Ministries team are so excited to see how God continues to amaze us by springing forth new life in areas and ways we never imagined.

As always, the Children, Youth, and Family Ministries team thanks all of our volunteers, small group leaders, parents, youth, congregation, as well as our spouses and significant others for their patience and flexibility as we continue to maneuver through these evolving times of ministry.

In Service to Him,  
Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg

# YEARLY COMPARISON

## GENERAL FUND PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET

Category	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	Proposed 2023 Annual Budget	% Difference 2022 to 2023 Budget
INCOME					
All Offerings	\$ 1,489,000	1,562,000	1,545,909	1,610,000	3.1%
All Other Program Income	134,300	198,940	196,084	210,000	5.6%
Use of other GF reserves			490		
Use of ERTC to Offset Deficit			42,228	28,000	
Emergency Reserve Income Recognized		32,000	77,953	69,000	
Income Total	\$ 1,623,300	1,792,940	1,862,664	1,917,000	6.92%
EXPENSE					
Missions/Benevolence	\$ 132,000	147,440	141,714	162,000	9.9%
Pastoral Ministry	403,000	404,490	408,898	410,000	1.4%
Staff Compensation	663,500	695,350	716,288	776,300	11.6%
Worship & Office Supplies	60,000	61,100	62,461	64,000	4.7%
Utilities	52,500	57,100	70,107	73,000	27.8%
Facility & Supplies	65,500	105,100	154,477	107,000	1.8%
Insurance & Miscellaneous	27,000	29,500	42,665	34,500	16.9%
Youth Ministry	102,500	123,350	92,783	125,250	1.5%
Adult Events	12,000	12,000	26,966	28,000	133.3%
Adult Education	24,000	32,500	23,437	12,500	-61.5%
Property/Capital Repairs	-	32,000	28,067	15,800	-50.6%
Communications	7,700	9,060	8,791	9,500	4.9%
IT, Network & Phones	42,000	54,600	55,984	66,000	20.9%
Music	18,500	17,750	18,459	19,000	7.0%
Continuing Education	9,700	9,500	9,527	8,100	-14.7%
Bus & Van	3,400	2,100	2,040	6,050	188.1%
Expense Total	\$ 1,623,300	1,792,940	1,862,664	1,917,000	6.92%
Total Use of Funds	Zero Balance	Zero Balance	Zero Balance	Zero Balance	

Cash Balances	12/31/2021	12/31/2022
General Assets	483,259	637,278
Capital Fund / Future Reserves	39,618	51,648
Restricted Memorial Fund	138,608	458,981
Preschool Fund	106,498	231,548
Memorial Garden Fund	37,884	37,271
WOB Fund	34,791	46,218
Total Fund Assets	840,658	1,462,944

Disclosures: Memorial Garden funds committed to new Tower = \$35,820

Council Approval for use of Reserves:

1. Sanctuary DT
2. Security/Camera System
3. HVAC at BH
4. Fence DT / CT BH Projects
5. Payroll Tax Refund or ERTC Offset



2022 BALANCE SHEET BY FUND

Bethel Lutheran Church  
Balance Sheet by Class  
As of December 31, 2022

2022 BALANCE SHEET BY FUND	General Fund	Capital Fund	Restricted Memorial Fund	Preschool Fund	Memorial Garden Fund	WOB Fund	TOTAL
ASSETS							
Checking/Savings/Holding Accounts	\$580,795	\$51,648	\$458,981	\$231,548	\$37,271	\$46,218	\$1,406,461
Other Current Assets	56,483						56,483
Total Current Assets	637,278	51,648	458,981	231,548	37,271	46,218	1,462,944
Liabilities & Equity							
Current Liabilities							
Accounts Payable	19,012		1,829			171	21,012
Credit Cards	6,464		541				7,005
Other Current Liabilities							
Befrienders Ministry Reserve	945					1,000	1,945
Restoration Reserve Restricted			353,948				353,948
Employee Retention Reserve	238,853						238,853
New Building - Gift Reserve		21,660					21,660
Prepaid Pledge Reserve	99,850						99,850
Accrued Liabilities					19,600		19,600
WOB Grants to Bethel Reserve			1,308			6,400	7,708
Emergency Reserve	122,686						122,686
Guest Speaker Reserve (MF)			3,550				3,550
Women's Retreat Reserve	415						415
Parish Nurse Reserve (MF)			4,196				4,196
Continuing Education Reserve	10,670						10,670
Bus & Van Reserve (MF)			19,244				19,244
Youth Assistance Reserve (MF)			19,331				19,331
Pastor Projects Reserve (MF)			4,944				4,944
To Be Designated Reserve (MF)			21,526				21,526
Nursery Reserve			325				325
Flowers Reserve	794						794
Endowment Gifts Pass-through	27						27
Outreach Reserve			3,500				3,500
MISSIONS RESERVE (MF)	9,800		26,024				35,824
WOB GATHERING RESERVES						10,101	10,101
EVENT RESERVE	4,480						4,480
STUDENT ACCOUNTS RESERVE	7,055						7,055
Payroll - Staff Mon Bal Accrual	7,500						7,500
Total Other Current Liabilities	503,075	21,660	457,896		19,600	17,501	1,019,732
Total Current Liabilities	528,551	21,660	460,266		19,600	17,672	1,047,749
Deferred Revenue-Niche/Plaque Engraving					15,643		15,643
Total Liabilities	528,551	21,660	460,266		35,243	17,672	1,063,392
Equity							
Opening Balance Equity	4,724	212,486		80,618	6,346	19,945	324,119
Retained Earnings	104,143	(\$184,808)	(\$3,089)	13,499	21,142	5,778	(\$43,335)
Prior Period Adjustments	(\$140)		2,500	4,800			7,160
Net Income		2,310	(\$695)	132,630	(\$25,461)	2,824	111,608
Total Equity	108,727	29,988	(\$1,284)	231,547	2,027	28,547	399,552
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	637,278	51,648	458,982	231,547	37,270	46,219	1,462,944

CONGREGATION  
STATS 2022

PASTORAL & MEMBERSHIP STATS

SUNDAYS, IN-PERSON SERVICES 2022  
173 services (includes outdoors & inside)

15,558 (299/week)

SPECIAL, IN-PERSON SERVICES 2022  
22 services (includes outdoors & inside)

6,075 (276/service)

ONLINE LIVESTREAMED MINUTES IN 2022  
(Using raw data drawn from MetaBusiness)

252,500

12/31/22 MEMBERSHIP

2439

BAPTISMS

24

CONFIRMANDS

42

FUNERALS

17

NEW MEMBERS

61

MARRIAGES

1\*

\*At Bethel



FROM THE TREASURER - 2022 REPORT

- Bethel uses six funds to account for its transactions.
- General Fund - The main operating account for all regular giving and expenses
  - Capital Fund - All capital appeal giving goes to this fund. Fund expenses include gifts designated as current facility projects, future building projects, capital appeal fundraising costs, and investments in certain long–life capital items
  - Restricted Memorial Fund - Tracks giving intended for specific non-budgeted purposes such as memorials or special fundraising for missions
  - Preschool Fund - Used exclusively for fees and expenses related to Bethel Highlands Preschool
  - Memorial Garden Fund – Tracks donations, revenue, liabilities, and costs related to Bethel’s Columbarium, Memorial Wall, and Garden, located at the Highlands campus
  - Women of Bethel Fund – Tracks revenue from the Scandinavian Food Fest, Circle donations, and WOB benevolence payments

Bethel prepares its financial statements on an accrual basis in order to appropriately match revenue and expenses. Reserve accounts are used to commit and identify funds designated for a specific purpose.

2022 Financial Statements

In 2022 the congregation once again showed their generosity in supporting the many ministries of Bethel through continued growth in offerings. Total offerings increase by 2% over 2021, with the congregation’s weekly giving being about a 4% increase over 2021. As a church council we want to extend our sincere gratitude for your continued financial support!

In 2022 we also saw many of Bethel’s activities return face-to-face, including a full return to in-person worship. As result we had the opportunity to finish critical facility projects that improve our sound, cameras, and lighting for all Bethel’s service channels. We also made much needed upgrades to the building security. Each one of these critical projects was reviewed and approved by the church council and funded through balance sheet reserve funds.

Bethel continues to operate without a mortgage, enjoy the use of better ministry transportation options, see improvements and growth for our memorial garden, and benefit from special gifts out of the generosity of our Endowment and Women of Bethel.

As we look into 2023, I wanted to share with the congregation that our balance sheet reserves hold amounts to cover the needed repairs from the hail damage in May for our buildings, a sizable payroll tax refund balance, and an emergency fund reserve. Due to Bethel’s healthy cash position, we have shifted some of these balances to mutual funds that are generating passive income to be used in support of our ministries, in 2022 alone our interest income reached \$8,250. Again, we are so grateful for your support in 2022 and look forward to the congregation’s continued commitment in 2023.

Bethel’s Audit Committee consists of three church members with financial expertise. The Committee has a written charter that outlines its responsibilities relating to oversight of Bethel’s financial controls. The Committee monitors the financial holdings and results on a monthly basis. At the conclusion of its work, the Committee reports its results to the Church Council.

Church Community Builder software is used to track member contributions. QuickBooks software is used for financial reporting purposes. Bethel maintains an “open book” policy relating to its finances such that any member is welcome to view financial detail upon request. Please feel free to contact me or members of Bethel’s office staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nick Jepperson, Treasurer

2022 INCOME STATEMENT BY FUND

Bethel Lutheran Church Profit & Loss by Class January through December 2022							
2022 INCOME STATEMENT BY FUND	General Fund	Capital Fund	Restricted Memorial Fund	Preschool Fund	Memorial Garden Fund	WOB Fund	TOTAL
Income							
OFFERINGS							
WEEKLY OFFERINGS	1,486,852	2,310	36,891				1,526,053
SEASONAL OFFERINGS	59,058		1,900				60,958
Total OFFERINGS	1,545,910	2,310	38,791				1,587,011
PROGRAM INCOME	196,083		18,459			969	215,511
Recognized from Reserves	120,671						
RESTRICTED MEMORIAL FUND INCOME			76,703				76,703
WOMEN OF BETHEL INCOME						15,913	15,913
MEMORIAL GARDEN INCOME					(512)		(512)
PRESCHOOL				672,669			672,669
Total Income	1,862,664	2,310	133,953	672,669	(512)	16,882	2,687,966
Expense							
Reconciliation Discrepancies							
MISSION & BENEVOLENCE	141,714		60,700			9,566	211,980
PASTORAL MINISTRY	408,898						408,898
STAFF COMPENSATION	716,288						716,288
WORSHIP & OFFICE SUPPLIES	62,461						62,461
UTILITIES	70,107						70,107
FACILITY	154,477		14,409		940		169,826
INSURANCE & MISC	42,665		35				42,700
YOUTH&FAMILY MINISTRY EXP	92,783		60				92,843
ADULT EVENTS	26,966		3,850				30,816
ADULT EDUCATION	23,437		450			1,000	24,887
PROPERTY	15,193		36,891				52,084
COMMUNICATIONS	8,791						8,791
IT, NETWORK & PHONES	55,984						55,984
MUSIC	18,459		6,092				24,551
CONTINUING EDUCATION	9,527						9,527
BUS & VAN	2,040		9,361				11,401
CAPITAL REPAIRS	12,874		2,250				15,124
RES MEMORIAL/MISSION EXPENSE			550				550
MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPENSES					24,949		24,949
WOB SCANDINAVIAN FF EXPENSE						2,553	2,553
PRESCHOOL SALARIES				398,438			398,438
PRESCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE				55,842			55,842
PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM				9,530			9,530
PRESCHOOL OPERATIONAL				76,229			76,229
Total Expense	1,862,664		134,648	540,039	24,949	14,059	2,576,359
Net Income	0	2,310	(695)	132,630	(25,461)	2,823	111,607

