

# 2022 Annual Report



## Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Bethel grew in 2022 across several areas:

Bethel emerged from COVID 19 pandemic without missing a single Sunday service. When COVID 19 first hit, Pastor Dave immediately transitioned Bethel to be totally on-line. He led us, bringing people on together to provide worship and other services as they were ready. When authorities determined it was safe, Bethel opened back up while retaining the digital services developed during the pandemic. Today we can address weather and other issues readily without loss of services. We are also expanding our community of believers as worshippers who started worshipping with us on-line are continuing to do so.

Agreed upon scope, standards, and design of Bethel – A New Day facility renovation. After years of discussion about various facility needs and repairs Bethel finally addressed the issue and created a plan of action to make capital investments. It took time and dedication, but perseverance paid off and a plan was carved out of a large list of interests. The plan basically addresses the sanctuary including support areas, and immediate HVAC and roof repairs. Since it's likely to be another generation before it gets done again, we're trying to do it right.

Secured financing for renovation and major facility repairs. Bethel staffers diligently studied financing options, selecting the optimal package of funding and financial services for our congregation. This will allow us to significantly reduce interest costs and allow us to pay off commitments when the opportunities present themselves.

Restructured staffing to better address Bethel's service needs. As our facility and service needs have changed and openings developed, replacement staff were brought on with particular skills in communications and facility project management. The benefits of these changes have been to help parishioners participate more fully in their journeys towards Christ.

Worship operations were redesigned to share the joy of engaged worship in the form of worship teams. While this was developed closer to the end of 2022, it's another step being taken by the Bethel Leadership to engage all parishioners where they are and help them in their three-dimensional life of faith. We reach **OUT** with our message, **IN** with support and learning, and **UP** as we worship God.

While Bethel may have missed a really big celebration for our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it has made major strides in preparing for the next 200 years!

Yours in Christ,

John Fredericksen, Ph.D.

President

## Annual Pastor's Report 2022

### Our Mission Statement

*A community growing deeper in faith and wider in love!  
(Ephesians 3: 16-17)*

### Our Vision Statement

*We strive to live the three-dimensional life of Jesus: UP, IN, and OUT  
(Mark 9: 2-29)*

### Some significant events from 2022:

- 1) ***New Day Initiative and Sanctuary Renovation:*** At our February 6, 2022, congregational meeting the motion to approve the Sanctuary and Facility renovations as part of the New Day Initiative recommended by the Council, Trustees, and New Day Team was approved unanimously by acclamation.

Along with the ongoing sanctuary renovation, we have already replaced our roof and two HVAC units. We will be updating our nursery, lower Bethel bathrooms, the Prayer room, and the Christianson room. We've updated the Martin Luther library to become more usable and organized. The Christian Education wing has been painted and updated. A new ramp has been installed which makes both entrances to the sanctuary handicap accessible.

All of this would not have been possible without the energy and vision of **Kathryn Carpenter** who, along with **Betty Puffinbeger**, have been leaders in this process for several years. Their leadership, and especially Kathryn's expertise as an interior designer, has been invaluable. Likewise, **Dave Shoberg**, who has served as our main point of contact with Kee Construction, **Traci Shoberg**, and **Kim Williams** have been integral as well. We blessed by their leadership.

- 2) **Staff Additions and Changes:** I am so blessed by our Bethel staff. They are and continue to be the “engine” that allows Bethel and our ministry to thrive.

**Kim Williams** has been our constant in the office, and now serves wonderfully as our Bethel Administrator. **George Donovan** continues his wonderful work with our regular musicians **Alex Kimble, Charlene Romano, Barbara Simmons,** and **Darline Demott** to provide weekly excellence in worship with an eclectic musical variety. **Kristin Siebert** and **Melissa Siebert** continue to serve ably and lovingly as our High School Youth Ministers. **Edie McGoff, Gretchen and Matt Meade,** and **Patty White** remain trusted and valued staff members whose work, while behind the scenes, remains integral to our ministry.

We also have welcomed two wonderful new additions to our staff in 2022. **Dave Shoberg** has answered the call to serve as our Facility Manager and has already been a huge asset to our ministry. His efforts in helping with the renovation, by upgrading our facility, and leading our efforts on worship streaming and the potential use of solar panels at Bethel has simply been irreplaceable.

Additionally, we are blessed by the addition of **Nina Davis** as our new office manager. Her energy, creativity, reliability, and giftedness make her a wonderful new “first face” of Bethel. We have expanded our weekly office hours with her addition and know that our communication and organization have been greatly enhanced with her being on board.

- 3) **Bethel Adapting Congregational Visioning:** During May, June, and July, Bethel held three intentional gatherings for the purpose of allowing the congregation a time to share their input and shape a vision of focus for the coming year/years. The gatherings produced four main areas of focus:
- a. *Developing diverse income streams to support our ministry.*
  - b. *Develop fellowship and community building opportunities for Bethel.*
  - c. *Develop a vibrant Seniors ministry.*
  - d. *Begin process to receive a “Reconciling in Christ” designation for Bethel.*

- 4) **Organize around UP, IN, and OUT Vision:** During 2022, we have been intentional in highlighting our vision statement, modeling the three-dimensional life of disciples of Jesus. We have reorganized our ministry teams into these three areas, we have developed our MSP to also reflect these three areas and have divided our council into three teams of three people each to help oversee and lead these areas.
- 5) **Pastor Dave's Sabbatical and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination celebration:** It goes without saying, I hope, that your love, support, and friendship is something that I cherish and value very much. Please know that the month-long sabbatical in August that you allowed me to receive was truly a gift. It was a blessed time away which allowed me to rest, recalibrate, and renew my energy for ministry after the events of 2020-21. Likewise, the surprise 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination gathering on Reformation Sunday was humbling and life-giving. The memory books, the secret arrival of my family, and the spirit of love and grace that permeated that day is one that I will never forget.

A sincere thank you to **Vonda Wilt, Lee Braithwaite, and Diane Milburn** for their leadership on the Council. Their thoughtfulness and ongoing commitment to helping Bethel be a place where ALL ARE WELCOME is contagious.

Likewise, I give thanks for our 2022 Executive team, led by our President **John Fredericksen**, Vice-President **Vonda Wilt**, Secretary **Bruce Lothrop**, and Treasurer **Betty Puffinberger** and the remaining members of council **Dustie Fisher, Curt Grymala**, and **David Look** for their wonderful leadership and vision.

We are delighted to welcome back **Traci Shoberg** as President for 2023 and welcome, for the first time, **Rachel Carlson**, as Vice-President. Along with these long-time members of Bethel, **Brian Davies**, a recent new member, has also joined the council and brings a wealth of talent and church leadership to the council and congregation.

Finally, I offer a sincere and heartfelt **Thank you** for all the ways that you have gone above and beyond to help support Bethel. I believe that 2023 will be a "watershed" year in our life together, as we work together to build a new future, a new vision for who we are and who we can be together!

*Your Sibling in Christ,  
Pastor Dave*

## **Bethel Worship Attendance and Membership Statistics for 2022**

Our average Sunday worship attendance for 2022 was **142**, with breakdown averages of 91 in person, 30 via Facebook, and 22 via YouTube per week.

During 2022 we had **158 families/individuals** make a financial contribution to Bethel's ministry.

*Members* have officially joined Bethel.

*Attendees* have not joined Bethel but attend/give regularly.

Member households = 151

Attender households = 24

**Total households = 175**

Adult attendees = 62

Child attendees = 14

**Total attendees = 76**

Adult members = 263

Child members = 44

**Total members = 307**

Adult members/attendees = 325

Child members/attendees = 58

**Total members/attendees = 383**

# **Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church**

## **2022 Council Team Reports**

### **UP Dimension Report**

*The UP dimension includes those activities and actions that keep us connected to God, and include worship, Bible study, prayer groups, and their support systems. The Up dimension leaders on council for 2022 were Betty Puffinberger, Lee Braithwaite, and David Look.*

Highlights of the year:

1. Establishment and training for six worship assistant teams to begin in 2023.
2. Our Intercessory Prayer team of Urve Crowder and Shirley Strosnider were diligent and faithful in regularly praying for our congregational prayer requests.
3. Pastor Dave, Jennifer Lafollette, and Bruce Lothrop conducted a yearlong Disciple II class with a total of 11 different attendees. The following people have now completed both Disciple I and Disciple II:
  - a. Barbara Simmons, Darline Demott, Beth Garner, Stephanie Mahan, Carol Cain, and LeeAnne Marple.

4. Adult Forum classes included the following topics: Why Theology Matters, The Meaning and Message of Fasting, A Christian Response to Racism, a Lenten study on the book "The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus", a study of Luther's A Freedom of a Christian, and a study of the book "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life."
5. George Donovan, Darline Demott, and Pastor Dave all participated in the Pride Worship Service at 5050 Taphouse as part of the Winchester Pride weekend in September.
6. Liturgical Arts prepared various arrangements and décor to complement the Biblical texts, adapted to worshipping in Fellowship Hall.
7. We offered Lenten midweek worship and Advent midweek worship opportunities.
8. Rustic Christmas was moved to Fellowship Hall with Dave and Ian Shoberg creating a stable-themed setting.
9. The Worship Ministry Team met quarterly to coordinate various worship details.
10. Technology changes in worship have allowed us to help more people get trained. More helpers are welcome.
11. We sadly said goodbye to Charlene Romano (flute) as a regular music ministry participant.



## **IN Dimension Report**

*The IN dimension includes those activities that help to build community, build friendship, support each other, and bring people together for fellowship, learning, and service. The IN dimension leaders on council for 2022 were Dustie Fisher, Curt Grymala, and Vonda Wilt.*

Highlights of the year:

1. Our Men's ministry met regularly on the first Saturday of the month at Backseat Bar and Grill for breakfast. We also offered several men's gatherings outside of Sunday, including a couple of movie nights at the home of Brian Davies, and a Christmas party at Vibrissa Bar. We also held our Annual Men's retreat for the first time in a couple of years, and did so in conjunction with the Women's ministry over the weekend of November 4-6 at Graves Mountain Lodge.
2. Our Women's ministry was very active under the leadership of Karen Nguyen, Dustie Fisher, and Barbara Simmons; including weekly Zoom on Thursday mornings, monthly First Friday fellowship gatherings, monthly Girls Night Out fellowship events, "Finding I Am" women's Bible study, and a Fall Women's retreat, "Making Sense", at Graves Mountain Lodge.

3. Bethel held an “Earth Day” celebration and fellowship on Sunday, April 24 led by our Bethel Climate Solutions team.
4. We held 2 Fifth Sunday fellowship events – Sunday, May 29, Sunday, July 31.
5. We held our Annual Shrimp Boil on Sunday, September 11 as both an in-person gathering and for pick up. We had a wonderful attendance of both Bethel and community attendees.
6. We led the celebration for our New Member Sunday on October 16, which was combined with a Godspeed celebration for parish nurse, Edie McGoff, who left to work overseas with the Red Cross.
7. On Sunday, October 31, we held Pastor Dave’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination Celebration Luncheon after worship.
8. We offered a “Hanging of the Greens” event on Sunday, November 27 (First Sunday in Advent) to help decorate Bethel for Christmas and enjoy some goodies after worship.

## **OUT Dimension Report**

*The Out dimension includes ministry we do either outside our walls or on behalf of those who are outside our walls. The Out dimension leaders on council for 2022 were Diane Milburn, John Fredericksen, and Bruce Lothrop.*

Highlights of the year:

1. We can't talk about Bethel's Outreach without talking about WATTS. Bethel supported WATTS during the week of December 4-11, 2021. Judy McKiernan was terribly missed in her leadership following her unexpected passing. Thankfully, Diane Milburn, who had been a great help with Judy for many years, stepped up as our new leader and was terrific. The week went smoothly, with tremendous support from members of the Bethel Community who generously gave their time and donated items. We are especially thankful to Alice Matvey, who knits over 40 scarves and hats for the WATTS participants every year.
2. The Bethel quilters, under the leadership of Susie Beyer and Betty Puffinberger, have renamed themselves after long-time quilter, Pat Blevins, and are now affectionately known as "Pat's Piecemakers". During 2022, the quilters added 5 new members, moved into a new dedicated quilting room in lower Bethel, created and presented 7

- quilts for Bethel's high school graduates, created and presented a Washington Commanders themed quilt for Pastor Dave's 25th ordination anniversary celebration, and have created over 40 quilts for Lutheran World Relief.
3. During Lent, Bethel gathered over 100 items of canned and boxed food for our annual food drive.
  4. In August, Bethel supported the CCAP bike tour fund raiser. Seven Bethel volunteers passed out food to riders. The event raised \$12,000 for CCAP.
  5. In September, Bethel assembled 66 Hygiene Kits for CCAP to distribute to homeless members of the community for "God's Work Our Hands" day.
  6. Bethel also was instrumental in leading the effort to begin the FREEGE program, located on Cameron Street downtown, and designed to provide free healthy food options to food insecure members of the community.
  7. Through the vision of Urve and Cliff Crowder, Bethel has become the Northern Valley "hub" for the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS). This has sparked our interest in pursuing solar options for energy and potentially becoming a "Solar sanctuary" for our area.
  8. During Advent, Bethel's Global Christmas raised \$4,845 for our mission partners in India, the Philippines, Tanzania and Guatemala.

We want to extend special thanks to the following outreach ministry leaders at Bethel:

Beth Garner - CCAP and Escuela Integrada (Guatemala)

Stephanie Mahan - Escuela Integrada (Guatemala)

Jack and Jane McAllister – OBA (Tanzania)

Howard and Earlene Kemnitz – CCS (Philippines)

Kristin DeHaven - Bethania Kids (India)

Karen Shipp – Lent/Advent food drive, Wheels for Wellness

Shari Fletcher – Veterans ministry

Diane Milburn - WATTS

Alice Matvey – handmade scarves and hats for WATTS

Terri Ramsey – Prayer shawls

**MINISTRY INCOME****TITHES & OFFERINGS**

Electronic Giving	\$144,041.87	
Cash & Checks Giving	\$199,540.44	
<b>Subtotal Tithes &amp; Offerings</b>		<b>\$343,582.31</b>

**FACILITY USE INCOME**

Other Facility Use	\$3,350.00	
<b>Subtotal Facility Use Income</b>		<b>\$3,350.00</b>

**OTHER INCOME**

Interest & Investment Income	\$2,432.10	
Misc Funds (Thrivent Choice, Amazon Smile, etc)	\$798.22	
<b>Subtotal Other Income</b>		<b>\$3,230.32</b>

**TOTAL MINISTRY INCOME****\$350,162.63****MINISTRY SPENDING****COMMITMENT TO****THE WIDER CHURCH**

Virginia Synod Benevolence Commitment	\$20,000.00	
<b>Subtotal Wider Church</b>		<b>\$20,000.00</b>

**WORSHIP**

Altar, Sacrament & Sanctuary	\$556.22	
Rustic Christmas	\$2,989.83	
Resources & Publications	\$2,888.13	
Worship Music	\$3,640.82	
Worship Sound & Video	\$3,892.62	
Supply Pastors	\$1,500.00	
Worship Staff Salaries, Taxes & Benefits (Minister of Music, Nursery & Musicians)	\$30,098.99	
Other-Worship Ministries	\$400.00	
<b>Subtotal Worship</b>		<b>\$45,966.61</b>

**LEARNING**

Disciple Bible Study	\$93.91	
Sunday School	\$1,786.96	
Other-Learning Ministries	\$24.99	
<b>Subtotal Learning</b>		<b>\$1,905.86</b>

**SERVANT**

Other-Servant Ministries	\$750.00	
<b>Subtotal Servant</b>		<b>\$750.00</b>

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

Student Relationship Ministries	\$1,244.04	
Youth Staff Salaries, Taxes &	\$9,979.15	

## Benefits

Appreciation & Celebration	\$537.58	
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<b>Subtotal Congregational Life</b>		<b>\$11,760.77</b>
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CARE

Devotional Materials	\$145.45	
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Quilting	\$51.23	
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<b>Subtotal Care</b>		<b>\$196.68</b>
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MINISTRY SUPPORT

Administration	\$12,087.54	
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Communication	\$3,197.79	
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Finance & Insurance	\$14,168.01	
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Hospitality	\$257.67	
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Human Resources	\$2,485.63	
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Safety & Security	\$2,941.58	
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Staff Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	\$47,928.10	
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Pastoral Salaries, Taxes &	\$130,997.30	
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Benefits		
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Utilities	\$42,699.86	
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Facility & Property	\$54,913.49	
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Other-Ministry Support	\$277.71	
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<b>Subtotal Ministry Support</b>		<b>\$331,954.68</b>
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MORTGAGE EXPENSES

Interest Expense	\$20,104.22	
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Principal Payments	\$11,129.42	
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Line of Credit Repayment	\$550.00	
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<b>Subtotal Mortgage Expenses</b>		<b>\$31,783.64</b>
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<b>TOTAL MINISTRY EXPENSES</b>		<b><u>\$424,318.24</u></b>
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<b><u>TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)</u></b>		<b><u>(\$74,155.61)</u></b>
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Mortgage Principal Balance as of December 31, 2002		\$573,720.19
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**DESIGNATED GIVING****FOR THE WORLD**

World Hunger Appeal	\$25.00	
Tanzania Missions	\$10,270.00	
The Philippines Mission	\$5,035.00	
India Mission	\$5,110.00	
Guatemala Mission	\$5,160.00	
Global Christmas	\$4,855.35	
General Global Missions	\$135.00	
Harvest Sunday	\$2,450.60	
Student Missions Scholarship	\$10.00	
<b>Subtotal For the World</b>		<b>\$33,050.95</b>

**FOR THE COMMUNITY**

CCAP	\$550.00	
Good Samaritan	\$2,521.50	
Bright Futures	\$126.45	
Jones/Joyner Music Fund	\$5,814.55	
<b>Subtotal For the Community</b>		<b>\$9,012.50</b>

**FOR THE BETHEL****COMMUNITY**

Mortgage Paydown/Principal Payments	\$16,593.55	
New Day Renovation Work	\$25,190.31	
Events	\$6,017.59	
Youth (Wing-a-Thon, Events)	\$3,288.27	
Books & Merchandise	\$381.00	
Seminarian Fund	\$350.00	
88 Keys	\$2,542.98	
UVA Toy Drive	\$1,000.00	
Memorials	\$500.00	
Memorial Garden Account	\$350.00	
Yard Sale	\$235.00	
Easter Lilies	\$189.00	
<b>Subtotal For the Bethel Community</b>		<b>\$56,637.70</b>

**TOTAL DESIGNATED GIVING****\$98,701.15**