



Making more and better disciples

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
1781 West 38th Street
Erie PA 16508

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Pastor Tim George
Care Pastor Jerry Davis

Lead Pastor's Annual Report - 2022

An annual report is more than just an account of happenings over a year, it is an opportunity to look back and praise God for what he has done. I'm reminded of the words of one of the songs we sing on Sunday mornings: "Look at the mountains we've climbed, look at how faithful he's been...look at how far we've come." 2022 has gone so quickly, but we don't want to miss the opportunity to look at the journey. This year I have been reminded that God loves his church. I'm encouraged to be a part of a community of believers who loves him in return, who sacrifice their time, talents, resources, celebrations, and more to express that love to him. I have been so encouraged this year by the workings of the body, watching individuals use their gifts to care for each other and minister to each other, as well as watching new individuals step into their giftings. It is awesome to be both a part of a body of believers like that as well as shepherd that same church.

To begin this year, we finished our sermon series studying the book of Hebrews. We then started a sermon series studying the book of Ecclesiastes, which would be a focus of much of the year. What a fun, refreshing, and challenging book to take the time to study together as a church. I had never heard a sermon series from the book of Ecclesiastes myself and was excited to take that journey together to let the truths in that book challenge and change us, and I know I was. Over the Summer we took a brief break from that series and spent twelve weeks studying twelve "things" that Jesus said – things that are hard to hear, difficult to understand, things that get twisted or we don't get right, or things that are simply profound. It was so challenging and encouraging to be presented with truth straight from Jesus's mouth. We returned to our study of Ecclesiastes and finished just before Christmas when we were reminded that Jesus is and had to be the One, the Offspring, the Descendant, the Blessing, the King, the Sin-crusher, the Messiah, the One we need. Throughout the year we also had the opportunity to be challenged by Pastor Jerry as he had occasion to share sermons that God laid on his heart.

We continued to emphasize reaching out in relationship to our community, specifically to our daycare families. We've continued our "Belate Your Date" and "Shopping Day" babysitting days to give our daycare parents a break and a few hours out. As I have occasion, I take one morning and hand out free Tim Horton's coffee, courtesy of the church, to daycare parents as they drop off their kids before work. This year our 7th annual Block Party was able to reach, influence, and build relationships with over 250 people from the community and we were able to give away over \$1,700.00 in gift cards because of the generosity, sacrifice, and participation of our church family. We continue to welcome the local rabbit rescue, E.A.R.S., to use our facility for their holiday fundraisers as well as welcome Lund Martial Arts to use our facility for their fundraisers and tournaments. We also were able to enjoy our Church Family Dinner Meetings and our Fellowship Sundays and utilize those time to become a healthier and more well-rounded picture of the Body of Christ.

God continues to bring more people through our doors. In 2022 we averaged 3 guests every Sunday. Of those guests, at least 57 were local first-time attenders. We are excited that nearly half of those have become regular attenders. As always, Pastor Jerry's Care ministry is invaluable in our guest connections and continued relationships. However, it remains a burden, a clear need, and a matter of prayer to see more of our regular attenders make an investment of commitment to the church beyond just their time on Sunday morning - an investment of commitment to the relationships, ministries, service, and spiritual growth of the body - as our non-member regular attenders nearly outnumber our members.

Looking back on 2022, compared to the "mountains of 2020 and 2021, we have only climbed small hills and valleys, but as always, God is faithful, and we are still moving forward in our goal of making more and better disciples. I look forward to what God has in store for 2023 and am already grateful for every opportunity to minister to and with every individual in this church. I thank God for all of you and consider it a privilege to shepherd you and be your partner in ministry.

Pastor Tim
Colossians 1:25-29

CARE MINISTRY REPORT

2022

Another year has come and is nearly gone and the CARE ministry annual report is here. I want to take this opportunity to review these last months, giving thanks to God for superintending the work. On October 5, I marked the fifth anniversary of this ministry and I am continuing “caring” as a retired pastor with a little gas left “in the tank”. In retrospect, it has been a blessing for me personally to work with so many of you during these years. I believe we together have made a difference in many other people's lives. I thank you for your support and appreciate the opportunity to continue doing what I love and what God has called me to do.

During 2022, the country began lifting COVID restrictions which permitted us to lift most of our limits so we could continue striving for normal. It afforded me greater opportunities to visit outside the church. I made visits to those in nursing homes and rehab facilities when a need existed. I have frequented the local hospitals where needs and requests were made known. Also during the year, I conducted funerals for Hazel McDowell, Darlene Benschhoff (Brian's mother), Dick Long, Helen Kockritz, and Eleanor Porter,

In April, we did an “Easter Blitz” which took us into the adjacent south neighborhood with many helpers passing out over 200 Easter “Blitz bags” with invitations to attend our Easter Sunday services. I believe it was profitable and worthwhile as many contacts were made as a result of efforts by our church family. We also mailed out 45 personal Easter invitations urging families and individuals who have visited before to attend our services.

I preached the Good Friday service along with a few times when the opportunity presented itself. I strive to welcome guests and friends who attend our worship services and attempt to give assistance and counseling where needed. I have developed with our Greeters a program to get materials to our first-time visitors so that they will know something about our church and leave us with contact information. We want all visitors to feel welcome and I work to follow-up with them and encourage them to return.

So, what's next and what will be new for 2023? That is a good question as only the Lord knows what opportunities we will realize during the new year. If the Lord allows me to continue as your CARE pastor, I hope to not only continue doing what I have done this year, but to intensify efforts to get visitors to return, to help attenders know for sure they are saved, and to welcome new members to our church family. I want to be able to help others with spiritual issues as well as physical needs. I want to be a friend to everyone and to make myself available for counseling and guidance where needed. I long to make an impact on more lives and to be more creative in outreach.

I thank you for your support and covet your prayers as we move into the new year. I am always open to your suggestions and ideas and appreciate you that have helped to visit and to make deliveries. So, let's move forward committed to the observation that Jesus made when He saw the multitudes: “He was moved with compassion”. (Matthew 9:36). May we sense that compassion for others and set our sites on doing more. Remember, CARE means “Concerned Action to Reach Erie”.

Pastor Jerry Davis

CHURCH CLERK ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

MEMBERS

As of December 31, 2022 the total church membership was 65.

BAPTISMS

During 2022 there were no baptisms.

BIRTHS

Dan & Chelsea Houck welcomed Lilly Charlotte on September 23, 2022.

DEATHS

We were saddened by the passing of:

Kent Freeman on January 10, 2022. (Husband of Ethel Freeman)

Richard (Dick) Long on March 17, 2022. (Father of Mary Riley & Shelline Long)

Helen Kockritz on September 26, 2022. (Former member)

Eleanor Porter on September 27, 2022. (Mother of Salina Kennedy)

Dennis Gillenwater on November 18, 2022. (Former member & BCS Administrator)

NEW MEMBERS

Kelcie Fenton was accepted into membership on December 13, 2022.

MEMBERS REMOVED

Gail Patterson requested to be removed from membership as of January 22, 2022 as she moved from the area.

This concludes the report for the Church Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Larson
Church Clerk

Annual Deacon Report for 2022

God has blessed us abundantly this past year. Attendance has been consistently good. Offerings have been generous. And there has been a friendly spirit among members and regular attenders. For these reasons, we thank God for His work among us.

Deacons that have served in 2022 were as follows: Jon Anderson, John Gribbin, Tom Gribbin, Jim Henneman, Rob Hess, Mike Myers, and Wally Staab. We would like to give a heartfelt thank-you to Jim Henneman, who goes off the board, having served for many years. Tom Gribbin has served as Chairman, Mike Myers as BCS liaison, and Jon Anderson as secretary. Jim Henneman served as transportation liaison and Rob Hess was vice-chairman.

We would like to thank Mike Myers for his hours of selfless service to keep the building and grounds of Bethel Baptist Church in good shape. His work is noticed by all of us on the Leadership Committee. We would also like to thank the many who serve by setting up chairs, working in the nursery, helping with Children's church, and the music and technology teams who lead and stream our worship services.

We look forward to seeing more people come to know the Lord through contacts with the people of Bethel. While we encourage more people to become members, witnessing for our Lord only takes a willing heart to proclaim the Good News to those in need.

We also look forward to being a positive addition to our community in events such as our block parties. The building is also used by a few nearby community groups for special events.

We pray that God will use us to further His kingdom in the Erie area.

In His Name,

Tom Gribbin, Chairman

2022 Music Ministry Report

To the Membership of Bethel Baptist Church,

**“We want our music services to unite generations and cultures
in the corporate worship of God our Father.”**

This year, we have added several new songs, rotated songs regularly, as well as retired some other songs to allow all those who attend our Sunday morning service to hear songs that are familiar to them. Every song we add is thoroughly examined by the team and Pastor Tim to make sure it aligns with what the Bible teaches and with our core beliefs as a church.

We are blessed with enough volunteers to be able to rotate our teams each month so every volunteer can have a break. Currently, Pastor Tim George and Luke Grimes are our lead singers and guitarists. Jon Anderson is our only piano player; however, Karis Fenton, when home from college and available, has been willing to assist with piano to give Jon a well-deserved break. Sharon Trevino and Josiah Fenton rotate on keyboard. Mike and Melinda Myers, Tamim Fenton, and Sharon provide vocals along with Pastor Tim or Luke.

After using it every Sunday for about 2 years, the time came for the cajon to be replaced as the wear on it began to affect the sound it produced. Jon was gracious to provide the church with a new cajon in December.

As of now, we have a good amount of flexibility for the music team, and we would love to see more people interested in sharing their musical talents to the benefit of the church! We appreciate your continued support of our music ministry! We love to worship with all of you in person and with those who join us online.

Thank you,

Hayden Trevino – Music Ministry Lead

Missionary Report 2022

Praise the Lord for the faithful workers we are privileged to support in various mission fields! It is exciting to see how God is working through these faithful people as they share the Gospel to those who may have never heard it; and those who have heard, but not chosen to follow the Lord. Many believers are then disciplined and trained to teach and preach the Bible in their own countries, and areas where God has placed them.

We need to be constantly upholding our missionaries in prayer! Some are in dangerous situations, but continue to witness. To effectively pray, we encourage you to read the letters that the missionaries send, updating us on praises, prayer requests, and what's happening in their particular ministry. Copies of these letters are made available for you to pick up, read, and PRAY!

We also try to hand out prayer cards every few months with prayer requests for each missionary. Please keep them, and use them to guide you in your PRAYER time for our missionaries!

I have had the privilege of introducing our children to our missionaries occasionally in Kid's Worship, explaining what a missionary does, where they might live, and how they need our prayers.

Our Missionary Budget for 2023 shows an increase in support for Gil & Denise Thomas (ABWE- Good Soil), and the addition of support for Maurice Goeleyen (Central African Republic).

We have recently been informed of the retirement of Dan & Debbie Weimer (BMM-Alaska). They will not need our full support. We will be looking into re-distributing part of their support among the needs of other current missionaries.

Marcia Gribbin

Youth Ministry Annual Report - 2022



Our mission, as Bethel Baptist church, is to make more and better disciples. The goal, of FUSE youth ministry, is to focus that mission on teens. Based on that goal, the purpose of FUSE, is to help unite teens with God's purposes. We don't want to just repeat the rules of being a Christian and teach teens how

to "do Christianity." Our desire is to help teens understand how the Bible fits in their own life, how they can be the most effective disciple of Jesus possible. We want them to know God on a personal level and serve him with every aspect of their life.

Our numbers have been low over the last few years, but we are able to minister to teens from four families and the occasion visitor. This last year, along with Dan and Sam Eberlin, who are awesome mentors for the teens, we met every other week (due to the other ministries and responsibilities that I have as well as continuing to lead the Youth Group). Our group currently has more of a "small group" feel to it. Together we've discussed Frequently Asked Questions about the Bible and looked at "If, then..." statements regarding the Theology and Christianity.



Our church's mission applies to every age. This year we addressed an area of need in ministry regarding our upper elementary kids in the 4th-6th grades. That age group has aged out of KidsWorship and participates more fully in the church service, but we still wanted to give them an environment and opportunity to learn and grow as disciples, specifically to make their faith their own. The name 213 ("two-thirteen") youth comes from 2 Kings 2:13, where Elisha had to take up Elijah's mantle and own his faith and ministry. With the help of my wife,

Katie and Hannah Clark as an additional mentor, we started meeting in September once a month on the first Sunday night of the month. What a great encouragement and ministry it has been. I'm so glad God led us to see this need and reach into the lives of our kids in this way. We've had a great time with an average of 12-13 kids as we have fun together and also work through Tony Evans' Kingdom Quest Bible Study.

I am excited to see what God is going to do in the lives of our teens and upper elementary students this next year!

Pastor Tim

Children's Ministries

Every Sunday we have classes and childcare available for children during the morning service. We provide childcare for infants and toddlers, and have age appropriate classes for children starting at age 2. We usually have between 5 and 8 small children each week in the children's wing, in addition to a large group in KidsWorship. Many people have been involved in these ministries, and their service is greatly appreciated. Because of their ministry, children are learning about God and the truth of the Bible, and being cared for while their parents are able to learn and worship, also. As we begin 2023, different people have stepped up to provide leadership over the various aspects of the children's ministry in the new year. Jean Wright will be heading up the Children's Check-In process, Samantha Eberlin will be in charge of the nursery, and Joy Gribbin and Gail Staab are going to lead the preschool ministry. We are excited to see how Bethel's children's ministry will grow and develop this year.

- Tamim Fenton

KidsWorship 2022

We are excited at the growth we are experiencing in our children's ministry this year! Our kids worship program dismisses after the song service each week. We are ministering to grades K-5th grade.

This year we have expanded our staff in our KidsWorship program to include 2 more teachers and a new helper. We now have 4 teachers rotating on a monthly basis and 3 helpers rotating on a weekly basis. We are excited to grow our staff even more this coming year.

We are using the ShareFaith program and curriculum and each teacher really uses their gifts to bring the kids the lesson in a unique way each month. For Easter we had 25 kids and for Christmas we had 30 kids who all heard the gospel message and had a Christmas party together! KidsWorship is averaging around 20 kids each week coming to our class and sometimes as many as 28 kids.

We have many new faces this year and many faithful families bringing their children each week. The kids are eager to learn and it's been enjoyable to see them grow and interact each week. We pray for God's direction in 2023 as we continue to serve and minister to these special kids.

In His Service,
Katie George

Maintenance Annual Report

There never seems to be a lack of repairs, projects, or routine maintenance here at Bethel. That's expected for a building being well used. Every day, between Bethel Daycare and Bethel Christian School, nearly every square inch of the buildings is utilized. Children, students, teachers, staff, and workers, close to 250 in all, sit in classrooms, walk hallways, use restrooms, eat lunch, play in gyms, and do all sorts of other things. With all of that activity, eventually items stop working properly or just wear out. We are blessed with willing volunteers who use their time and talents here at Bethel; or when big things break, business partners who can step in and assist.

In 2022, a majority of our budget went toward items for basic upkeep and maintenance; cleaning supplies, garbage, snow plowing, plumbers, electricians, roofers, etc.... However, we incurred high costs to repairs our boilers last winter. Even with that, only 65% of our budget was used. This was intentional, trying to keep expenses as low as possible. For much of 2022 our general fund balance was lower than in the past few years, so we tried to be prudent with the funds you give. God has never failed to provide when needed, but using what He provides through your gifts and offerings is taken seriously.

I would like to thank everyone who graciously helps. There are too many to mention by name, but know that you are appreciated! Special thanks to our custodians, Debbie Shaw and Mary Whitehill, who keep the inside of the buildings neat and clean, and to Tom Gribbin and Hayden Trevino, who keep our grass mowed.

I look forward to see what God will do in peoples lives here at Bethel.

In His Service,

Mike Myers

Maintenance Chairman

Bethel Baptist Church
Treasurer's Annual Report for 2022

Beginning Balance January 1, 2022 **19,289.37**

Receipts

General Fund	240,378.57	
Capital Expense	13,197.00	
Other Funds	11,790.00	
Total Receipts	265,365.57	265,365.57
		284,654.94

Disbursements

Salaries	83,745.00	
Pastors' Benefits	13,702.87	
Social Security/Medicare	1,492.01	
National Fuel	7,453.13	
Electric	14,643.36	
Phone	1,436.04	
Water/Sewer	3,129.43	
Insurance	15,939.13	
Office Supplies	5,559.19	
Pulpit Supply	174.36	
BCS Scholarship	3,000.00	
Christian Education	5,437.17	
Outreach	3,482.01	
Ministry Expenses	3,990.59	
Building Maintenance	18,248.87	
Media Systems	227.85	
Media Licenses	564.00	
Transportation Expenses	2,390.83	
Missions	40,860.00	
Capital Savings Fund	10,000.00 (Transfer to Capital Expenses)	
Other	15,735.58	
Total Expenditures	241,211.42	241,211.42

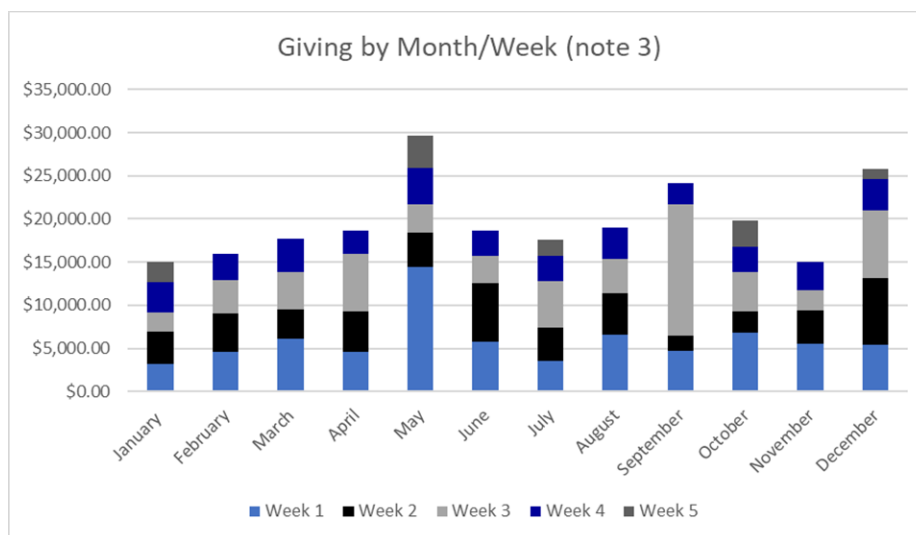
Ending Balance December 31, 2022 **43,443.52**

FUND BALANCES	Begin. Balance	Additions	Deductions	End Balance
General Fund	13,488.42	240,378.57	235,475.84	18,391.15
Capital Expense Fund	10,170.31	13,197.00	5,122.50	18,244.81
Other Funds	5,630.64	11,790.00	10,613.08	6,807.56
BALANCE	29,289.37	265,365.57	251,211.42	43,443.52

Tom Gribbin, Treasurer

2022 Financial Secretary Report

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>Anonymous</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund		(note 2)		
Offerings	\$218,436.32	72	\$8,556.50	\$226,992.82
Offset (note 1)	\$11,624.32	N/A	\$580.00	\$12,204.32
Capital Expense	\$1,892.00	12	\$0.00	\$1,892.00
Deacon's Fund	\$7,580.00	13	\$80.00	\$7,660.00
Specials				
BCS Scholarship Fund	\$2,360.00	10	\$380.00	\$2,740.00
Boiler Maintenance Project	\$1,100.00	2	\$200.00	\$1,300.00
Memorial Fund	\$30.00	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
Missionaries Christmas	\$1,095.00	11	\$10.00	\$1,105.00
Missionary Heim	\$155.00	5	\$0.00	\$155.00
Missionary Morgan	\$235.00	5	\$205.00	\$440.00
Pastor's Christmas	\$655.00	9	\$0.00	\$655.00
Total Giving Income	\$245,162.64		\$10,011.50	\$255,174.14

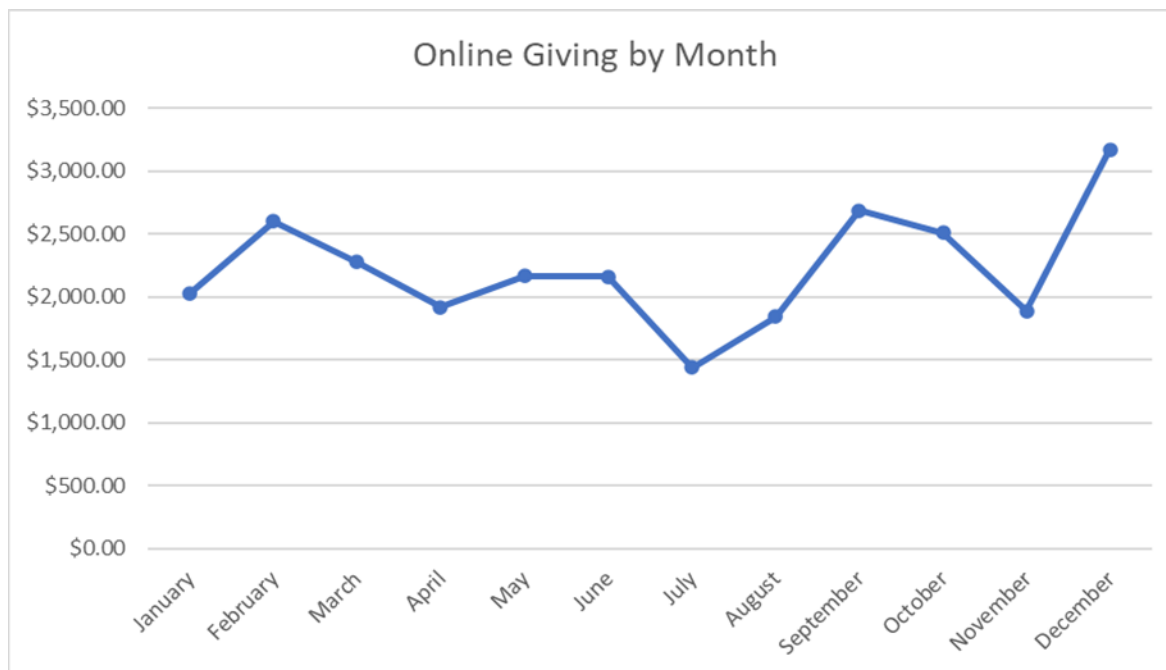


Notes:

1. Offset account money is received for reimbursement of expenses outside of budget and special events. These include but are not limited to study guides, group tickets, and other items.
2. Actual number of donors is unknown as money was received through offering plate collection process.
3. Giving stated in chart does not include specials.

Specials thanks to Pat Larson, Jim Henneman, Kayla Nguyen, Wally Staab, and Sydney Grimes for their help with counting the weekly offerings.

2022 Online Giving Totals



January	\$2,025.00
February	\$2,604.00
March	\$2,276.00
April	\$1,918.00
May	\$2,168.00
June	\$2,163.00
July	\$1,442.00
August	\$1,843.00
September	\$2,689.00
October	\$2,512.00
November	\$1,890.00
December	\$3,170.00

Total Online Giving in 2022: \$26,700.00

Online Giving totals included in Offerings Total in report on previous page.



Bethel Baptist Church Family,

I am pleased to present the 2022 Bethel Christian School annual report. I have been extremely humbled and grateful during my first year as the Bethel Christian School Administrator. It continues to amaze me how God works within our walls. I am thankful for Bethel Baptist Church's continued support and oversight of the school. Your vision continues to change the lives of the students we serve.

Bethel Christian School Board Members

Tim George (Chairman of the Board)	Mike Myers
Jean Wright (Vice Chairman of the Board)	Suzanne Leslie
Ben Reiter	Sharon Trevino
Joy Gribbin	Samantha Eberlin
Luke Grimes	

Bethel Christian School Leadership Team

Scott Kaufman (Administrator)
Becky Crays (Vice Principal)
Janet Shields (Elementary Lead)
Jen Gaskill (Daycare Director)



Bethel finished the 2021-2022 school year “warrior strong.” We had a graduating class of eight students, with about an even split between students joining the workforce or going into post-secondary studies. Budgetarily, the school was able to meet the goals of its 2021-2022 budget.

Entering the 2022-2023 school year, Bethel Christian School was blessed with higher-than-normal enrollment. The 2022 summer was spent completing building upgrades and moving classrooms to accommodate the increased enrollment.

Building upgrades include:

- o Painted the lobby and stairwell in the Andrus Building.
- o Replaced all drinking fountains in the Andrus Building and Main Building with bottle fillers.
- o Reconfigured furniture to accommodate accessibility in Jean Burns’ new classroom, which included the removal of millwork and replacement of floor tiles.
- o New whiteboards were installed in the 4th grade classroom, the middle school English classroom, and the high school Bible/History room.
- o Removed and stored the music equipment in the computer lab and reconfigured it to accommodate the space requested by the IU5.
- o New stools were installed in the art classroom.

During the summer of 2022, Bethel Christian School was blessed to be able to hire two new teachers for our kindergarten and newly separated 3rd grade classes. 3rd and 4th grades were previously combined, but due to an increase in class size, these were split into two separate classrooms. Along with these two new hires, we had the opportunity to bring one of our part-time teachers on full-time this year. God continues to bless our school by providing qualified teachers to educate and nurture our students.

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to bring back long-time traditions and start a few new ones. We hosted our annual family fun night, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) night, and a new “Fly Away with Me” paper airplane competition this year. Our all-school Christmas concert brought over 500 people through our doors to hear the message and hope of Jesus. We were also excited to bring back hot meals at lunchtime. We serve 3-4 hot lunches each week, which have been welcomed back by our parents. High school boys’ volleyball, elementary and middle school cross-country, and 4th–6th grade basketball have also been newly added. These events give our students and families a time to connect as part of our Bethel community, so we are thrilled to get back to them in person.

Bethel Christian School
Bethel Baptist Church
Annual Report

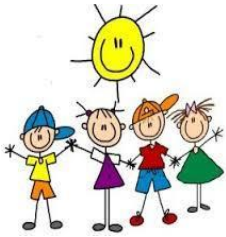


We ended the 2021-2022 school year with 143 students and started the 2022-2023 school year with 145. Our school verse for the year is ***“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”*** Psalm 28:7. At Bethel Christian School’s kickoff event for the start of the year, we shared this verse and explained to both the parents and the student body that our goal for the school year was for our students to be on fire for Christ. I am happy to report that our teachers are working hard every day to either ignite that spark or feed the fire that is already burning in our students' hearts.

We currently have 147 students, with a few more enrolling late in the year, and are on track to again meet all budgetary goals for the 2022-2023 school year. Please join me in praying for the spiritual health of our student body so that God will continue to move within their hearts. Pray for enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year, for the leadership team, and for the Bethel Christian School Board as we tackle the issue of classroom space in a growing school. Thank you for your continued support of the school’s mission!

Respectfully,

Scott Kaufman



Bethel Daycare and Preschool

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6 Our prayer is that we continue to plant the seeds for the children to remember the Love the Lord has for them. We do this through Bible stories, devotions, and the daily care they receive.

We currently have a staff of 2 full time, 11 part time and 4 per diem. The daycare is very blessed to have the staff and families we do!

Current Enrollment as of Dec 2022

- 15 Toddlers (Ages 1-3)
- 25 Preschool (Ages 3-4)
- 25 PreK (Ages 4-5)
- 50+ School Age Kids/Summer Camp (6-12)

Fundraiser

We were able to hold our Annual Bike -A -Thon. Families and kids always enjoy this fundraiser. We set up a race track inside this year as the weather didn't cooperate. We made over \$1500.00 on this fundraiser.

Outreach

This year the Church held **Belate Your Date** and a **Christmas Shopping Day** for families in the daycare. The families always look forward to these days and it's a great way for families to connect to the church and its members.

The Lord continues to bless the daycare ministry by sending us children to fill our classrooms and wonderful staff to take care of them. It's a pleasure to continue to serve as the Director of Bethel Daycare and Preschool. I look forward to this next year and what the Lord has for us.

In His Service,
Jen Gaskill

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

2023 OFFICERS

DEACONS:

Dan Eberlin

Luke Grimes

Wally Staab*

*only able to serve half each year

TREASURER:

Tom Gribbin

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Erika Trevino

DEACON STEWARD:

Rob Hess

BCS SCHOOL BOARD:

Pat Larson

Jean Wright (2ND Term)

Samantha Eberlin

Luke Grimes