

2024-2025 Annual Report



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Church Council

Church Council —2024-2025

Council Officers

- *President — Jim Herr
- *Vice-President — Mary Jo Mikulski
- *Secretary — Annette Lang
- *Treasurer — Harold Seamon

President — president@bethellutheranchurch.com

Council Info — council@bethellutheranchurch.com

Council Ministry Areas

- Care — **Jill Duncan**
- Christian Education — **Gary Helgemo**
- Communications — **Annette Lang**
- Evangelism — **Steve Middleton**
- Fellowship — **Jim Herr**
- Finance — **Tom Hooper**
- Missions — **Randy Baskerville**
- Property — **Jeff Reising**
- Small Groups — **Steve Horton**
- Stewardship — **Mary Jo Mikulski**
- Worship/Music — **Linc Schneider**
- Youth — **Sarah Manro**

The Church Council is the governing body of Bethel Lutheran Church. Twelve members serve three year terms, with three members rotating on and off each year. Some of the Council responsibilities include long range planning, visioning, setting goals and staff support. The Council meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month.

Financial Team

- **Accountant** — accountant@bethellutheranchurch.com
- **Financial Secretary** — contributions@bethellutheranchurch.com

Church Staff

- **Holly Eldredge** — holly@bethellutheranchurch.com, 317-773-4315



Staff Reports

Interim Pastor

Pastor David “DJ” Smith



What a wonderful blessing to be with you as Interim Pastor. Our journey will be one of collaboration, confession, and celebration.

Together, with God’s help, we will move toward God’s preferred future for Bethel Lutheran Church. With God’s help, the Holy Spirit will lead us through the necessary steps to welcome your next pastor.

From its founding, Bethel has heeded the call of the Great Commission and the commands of Jesus to love our neighbor. I encourage each of you to read and pray over the ministry activities described in this report. Then, listen for where God is calling you to serve. Why? Because each of us is endowed with amazing and unique God-given gifts for the upbuilding of community. There is no better place to let your light shine than “in, with and under” a community centered in Jesus Christ.

This report could be received merely as words and statistics. But as the people of God at Bethel ‘report’, it is testimony and confession to what God has done, is doing, and will yet do through us in the name of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Together in Christ,

Pastor David “DJ” Smith

Pastoral Acts from July 2024 to May 2025

Baptisms – 0

First Communicants – 2

New members – 1

Celebrations of Life – 4

Office Manager

Holly Eldredge

The office has been focusing on administrative duties and making sure the Pastor and all ministry areas are being helped when needed. Some of the primary projects each week are the *Bethel Happenings*, our Weekly Staff Meeting, the Engagement Sheets, along with bulletins for healing services, funerals, Advent and Lenten services, along with different ministries to help them with their creating and printing needs or whatever else they require. All ordering for the office and events and property needs has been streamlined through the Office Manager, and she has been working with the Finance team to make sure all spending is wise.



We continue to have our **Weekly Staff Meeting** every Tuesday at 10:30a, where we discuss the week's needs and goals and how to get it all done to the Glory of God! I send out a summary report to the Council each week as an effort to keep us all on the "same page." The transitions of pastor changes has proved to be a challenge. We are committed to get through, all the while keeping good communications going between Staff and Pastor and Council.

The **Weekly News (Bethel Happenings)** is running smoothly, and the Tuesday "turn-in day" for all information that week has been going well. The "Weekly Spotlight" has been going well, and our weekly meeting helps us to gather information each week along with pictures and news members send in to the office. The *Bethel Happenings* has become a source of news for members but also for giving announcements each weekend at the services.

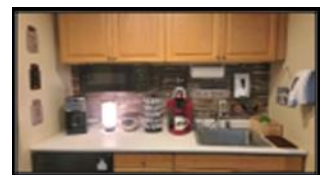
The **Information Wall and Sign-up Sheets** on clip boards are still a great tool in gathering information and volunteer sign-ups. Members and volunteers know where to go and gather information or sign up for events and ministries, and ministry leaders can all go to one location to find out real-time information. Volunteers often call the office to have Holly sign them up and Leaders often call to get a picture of the sign-up sheets to see who has signed up.

The **Engagements Sheets** have become a more prominent tool in our weekly projects as the Council has been focusing on these to communicate with members and gather information. The task of collecting the data and delivering it to the Council in a way we can all utilize to the betterment of our ministries has been given to the Office Manager.

The Office Manager continues to help to keep our events posted on **Facebook** and boosting certain events and services as decided upon. I work with the Bethel Calendar and keep it up to date with all the events going on at Bethel.

I enjoy creating **Information Slides** for the weekend services and helping with the script proofing as well as creating sign-up sheets and ads each week. I spend a lot of time helping the volunteers with their promoting, crating, and printing needs, and it is always something I enjoy doing! Let me know how we can help you advertise your event or get volunteers to sign up.

The "**Coffee Bar**" is a big "**backsplash**" and along with all your coffee, tea, and hot chocolate needs, we also now have a snack drawer for all our volunteers who get a little hungry while helping at Bethel! We hope this gives an inviting feeling to the office for our volunteers and those visiting Bethel.



Our team of **Office Volunteers** has been focusing on ministry areas and various volunteer opportunities. We have had a big need for office volunteers lately, and they have been stepping up to help out in so many ways, but especially by covering the office while Holly is away since there is no longer a pastor here. We always have great help thanks to our dedicated people of Bethel! Please let me know how the office can help support your ministry area.

. . . manage/monitor building systems: door access/security, IT network, office equipment/communications, receive/route after hour urgent calls, remote help/tech desk, database, AV & HVAC.

Notable this year . . .

Our phone/answering system was replaced and the internet/WIFI system was upgraded and has faster speeds, including reliable coverage in the Fellowship Hall & Pantry.

The office computers/software, copiers, door access, and alarm systems function well.

The Audio-Visual Systems are all working well. The AV Team continues to grow, and we have reliable support at each service. Bethel is truly blessed by these faithful servants who run the worship screens, mix the sound and control the video system each week. Our Sunday & Midweek services are streamed live and posted instantly to our website to view/share on demand.



If you're interested in joining the team, please stop by the AV Booth to see how you can help, all are welcome!

Call Committee

*Kristen Wells – Committee Chair
Susan Tobison - Secretary*

The Call Committee work continued throughout the year. We met 1-2 times per month, and every meeting includes prayer, Bible study and discussion of action items and results. We kept busy with profile revisions in the wake of the two resignations (Pastor Doug in August and Pastor Dave in February) and for changing the call to a Solo Pastor in February, due to our declining attendance.

We continued to be supported by our Call Process Coordinator from the NALC, who helped us with our profile revisions and ideas for keeping our call process active throughout the year.

We tried posting our profile and position description on the churchstaffing.com website for one month. This yielded about 10 candidates whom we reviewed individually and discussed as a group. None were a strong enough fit for us to proceed.

Three NALC candidates submitted their profiles and were reviewed. One took another call, one opted out after we changed the call to Solo Pastor, and one came to Noblesville for a “discernment” visit at the end of May.

Throughout the year, Mark Heckman has been actively networking with other pastors he knows outside the NALC. One or two may be prayerfully considering our call. One of them has scheduled a visit with us coming up in June, to preach and to lead us in a workshop about Growing in Our Discipleship.

We have learned much from meeting and talking with a variety of pastors. For example, in January, we hosted a visit from a Pastor and his wife, with whom we have been in occasional contact over the previous year. While they shared insightful ministry experiences/ideas, their conclusion was for them to remain in his current call.

In February, we met with the Executive Committee and then joined the Council in a meeting with Pastor Jess Abbot (from the NALC Bishop's office), who is assigned to us as the District Dean for our call process. This was in response to Pastor Hill's departure, and us needing to understand the overall preparation of next steps required for the changes to come. We worked with Council on the search for an Interim Pastor, which resulted in Pastor Smith ("DJ") joining us.

In late March, we received another pastor profile which led to interview steps across multiple Zoom calls and the visit in May. At the time of this writing, we are not sharing the name due to his need for confidentiality as he discerns a potential new call.

The Committee continues to meet and pray together. We all seek God's will and look forward to welcoming the one whom He calls in His perfect timing.

Bethel Innovation Team

Wes Wells

Susan Tobison

innovation@bethellutheranchurch.com

In the 2nd quarter of 2025, Bethel launched a new ministry team called: **The Bethel Innovation Team.**

Following is a brief description of the purpose of the team as well as the current status:

Bethel Innovation Team's Purpose:

The team's focus is to tackle "Target Topics" and develop the best possible solutions for each Target Topic.

Here's how we approach each Target Topic:

Gathering Initial Ideas: We'll announce the Target Topic to the congregation and ask for ideas – either by email, text, or in person after each service. We call this **"Starting a Fire"** about that target topic.

Creative Brainstorming: Each topic will have a small group of congregation volunteers assigned, who will participate in professional brainstorming sessions to generate a wide range of ideas.

Organize, Analyze, and Refine: We'll refine the best ideas.

Storyboarding: We'll create storyboards to share our solutions with those affected.

Feedback and Adjustment: We'll incorporate feedback from Storyboard review.

Finalization and Implementation: We'll finalize and recommend how to execute the storyboard.

Process Mapping (if applicable): We'll create journey maps for new processes.

Bethel Innovation Team's Current Status:

Our first Target Topic was: "What should be the Interim Pastor's Ministry Focus?"

We completed the Brainstorming Session for this Target Topic, presented the Storyboard, and it has begun to be implemented.

Our second Target Topic was: "What should be the Full Time Pastor's Ministry Focus?"

We completed the Brainstorming Session for this Target Topic and are in the process of sharing the Storyboard.

Our third Target Topic was: "How can we improve our partnership with Bible Study Fellowship?"

We completed the Brainstorming Session for this Target Topic and are in the process of creating the Storyboard.

Let us know you if want to Brainstorm with us, or if you have ideas on any of the target topics as they come out. We appreciate your encouragement and prayers for our work!

Ministry Reports

Care Ministry

Jill Duncan

Bethel's Care Ministry consists of several small groups under the CARE umbrella. These groups do a variety of activities to offer physical and emotional support to Bethel members and/or their family and friends.

CARE TEAM: This ministry was led by Pastor Doug (through last August) and includes Kim Radant, Jill Duncan and Ellen Gill. The group meets on Friday mornings to update the health and/or emotional concerns of our church members, friends and family of members and our staff. Updates are made via weekly phone calls, personal visits or input from members or staff. All are lifted in prayer at the end of our time together.

Pastor Doug led us on a project where he personally delivered "graduation blankets" to about 25 students who never received them from 2017 to 2024.

Phyllis and Gale Anderson send 100 +/- cards out to anyone on our prayer chain throughout the year. Jane Nee sends cards and "grief books" to those who have recently lost a loved one.

The Care Ministry group sponsored a lecture/discussion in September on *How to Avoid Scams and Fraud Prevention*. A couple of employees from Key Bank led the discussion. In October, the group hosted the annual 80s+ Luncheon providing dinner and a program for 34 of our members 80 years or older and their guests, totaling 67 people. In addition, 26 Scouts and Bethel volunteers were served.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY: This group is coordinated by Ellen Gill. We now have 16 trained volunteers available to take communion to and pray with members who are shut-in or unable to attend services. Currently there are 4 clients utilizing this wonderful service.

PRAYER CHAIN: Kristen Wells, Gary Tobison and Jill Dietz share the responsibility of keeping the staff and congregation aware of prayer needs. Prayer requests are submitted through prayer cards in the pews, email, the Bethel web page or by calling the office. Prayer requests are compiled and emailed to the Prayer Warriors. You can become a Prayer Warrior by contacting the office to have your name added to the prayer chain list.

HEALING SERVICE: Coordinated by our Care Pastor, Doug (through August). It is a monthly service geared to help those in need of special prayers and support during physical and/or emotional hurts. This service is typically held on the first Wednesday of the month and open to all members and non-members and is a blessing to all who attend. Most recently we have not been holding these services but hope to start back up in July.

CIRCLE OF SISTERS: Suzy Patterson coordinates this group of joyful women who get together to make and send sympathy and encouragement cards to members who have suffered a loss or in need of uplifting. They also make baptismal banners and various other banners displayed in our church. In November of 2024, they held their annual Craft Sale which helped them raise \$867. This amount was split between Water Mission and a fund to subsidize their ongoing projects.



so far!

CREATIVE SPIRITS: Cathy Crosley and Suzy Patterson coordinate this talented group of crafters. They have crocheted and knitted lap blankets for the elderly and sick, cancer caps, prayer shawls and baby blankets and hats. Prayer shawls are given to people in our healing services or to anyone who needs a hug or reassurance of love. Their big focus in 2024 and going forward has been to crochet edges on fleece baby blankets which are given to every newborn at Riverview Hospital. In 2024, they did 193, and this year they have done 113 blankets

SONSHINE CLUB: This group provides meals for Bethel members who are going through life-changing events such as birth, loss of loved ones, or surgery. A request is typically made through a Pastor or Care Team. *TakeThemAMeal.com* is used to schedule those that would like to supply a meal. Involvement for this ministry isn't limited to cooks. Gift cards for Door Dash or restaurants that deliver, are also welcome.

FUNERAL DINNERS: Risé Helgemo coordinates some type of food offered after a member's funeral or Celebration of Life, if requested. With our numbers, we are currently not able to offer a full meal but do offer a dessert bar and coffee or can help with serving and cleaning up after a catered meal.

The Care Team again wishes to thank all **volunteers** who make this ministry available and successful.

Christian Education

Gary Helgemo



In 2024 -25 Bethel's Christian Education Program no longer had children's Sunday School. We provided several Adult Sunday School with various instructors this past year.

We worked with Legacy to host their Fall Bash in October providing tractor rides, food stations, and takeaways for the



children. We also did an Easter Program for 40 Legacy Children. We provided a First Communion Class for two children, and a Confirmation class for 5-6 children.

Communications Ministry

Annette Lang



As the new Communications Council member and Council Secretary, there was a lot to be learned. The Communications Ministry partners with all Bethel ministries to help the congregation be a dynamic, life-changing church of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. The ministry uses a variety of channels to reach members and guests and keep them aware of parish news, worship opportunities and special events, both in print and electronically. Our primary information source is the

website. We also have a weekly newsletter, outside banners, Facebook site, and announcement slides. We live stream worship services on Sundays and other Holy days. Throughout the year, the communications ministry works with the office staff to produce weekly engagement cards, mailings, and information about council meetings, including making minutes public each month and having announcement slides to highlight the Council's actions.

Evangelism & Fellowship Ministries

Steve Middleton/ Jim Herr

The Evangelism and Fellowship ministries combined forces to reach out to first-time worship guests and increase activity among all members and friends.

Meals and special events were highlights of those activities. We saw great attendance at the Advent Midweek meals and got good attendance at our Lenten Midweeks, as well. The Men's Sausage and Scripture group hosted a meal at Bethel that was greatly attended during the Craft Fair.

We hosted a Movie Night and planned events in 2024 around Bingo (April), crafts (May), a concert at the Farmhouse (June), and a congregation Picnic and Fun Day (July).

We are blessed with a great committee of dedicated volunteers that make all of this go!



The financial report is detailed on page 18 of this Annual Report.

Missions Ministry

Randy Baskerville



Starting in 2020 and continuing into 2024, Bethel has supported 30 missions. The way we support these missions is through prayer, funding, and time. Our missions are on local, national, and global levels. We also support of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

Locally, Bethel's missions include collecting Backpacks and School Supplies Drive, Bethel Angel Tree, Blood Drive,

Creative Spirits, Fight Hunger, Food & Baby Pantry, Holiday Sharing, Juvenile Jail Ministry, Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries (LMVFM), Marilyn's Place, Reading Buddies, SERVE Noblesville, Visting NALC Pastors & other speakers, Wreaths Across America at Zimmer Cemetery, and the Fish & Chicken Fry.



At the **National** level, Bethel has supported start-up churches through prayer and funding. We also have partners who we have supported for several years which include: NALC Disaster Response; Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pensacola, FL; His Light Ministries-Ministerio Su Luz in Miami, FL; Living Faith Lutheran in Wabash, IN; Servants of Christ NALC in Robins, IA; and West County NALC in Ellisville, MO.

Globally, Bethel has a mission partner in Senbete, Ethiopia; along with its synod, the North Central Ethiopia Synod. (NCES). We are in the process of getting Pastor Gobena and his family here to Bethel for a visit in July/August 2025. Operation Christmas Child assembles boxes to send out to children all over the world who do not receive Christmas gifts. Bethel helps fund clean water in places around the world through Water Missions.



Missions Committee accomplishes a lot with the \$30,000 that is budgeted annually. Part of \$30,000 goes to pay the NALC our church's benevolence annual amount of \$6,800.

Due in part to Joann Fabrics closing, Creative Spirits has benefited this year as we have bought over \$3,000 for fleece and yarn to help with the newborn baby blankets they supply to Riverview hospital. Last year, Creative Spirits supplied over 200 blankets to the hospital.

This past year the Food & Baby pantry was short funds, so the Mission committee donated \$20,000 to help them out.

The NALC Disaster Response has been hit hard this past year with several Natural Disasters. We have previously purchased and given them 2 generators to run the shower house and trailers as well as power tools. This year we found out that the generators did not supply enough power to heat the water unless they both were used just for the shower house so we have purchased a larger generator for just the shower house so that the other generators could be used elsewhere for tools and trailers.

The Missions Committee is always looking for mission trips to have the congregation participate in. We are also looking for new members to join or for the short-term to head up of one of the various local ministries we do.

As Jesus instructed the disciples in John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Let us love one another and keep our missions going and add more.

Missions - Pantry

Annette Lang



The food pantry is one of Bethel's largest outreach ministries. On average, the Bethel food pantry sees about 70 to 75 people in the 4 days of every month it is open, and each of those people represent an average of 4 members per family. This means Bethel is feeding approximately 300 people a month that live in the community.



Thank you to Carol Hansen for her leadership of the Pantry for the last few years. Gary Tobison and Annette Lang have stepped up to fill the gap left by her resignation and are acting as co-coordinators. There is a need and an ongoing search for a parishioner who would be interested in co-coordinating the food pantry.

Property Ministry

Jeff Reising

This past year was busy like always with projects for the property, both inside and out.

As the property continues to age gracefully, it is important that we continue to prioritize work that is necessary to maintain our beautiful facility.

The biggest work we accomplished last year really helped the overall appearance of the church area and more importantly provided more accessibility to the front door. A new handicap ramp at the entrance was included during concrete work on the sidewalk and entry area. In addition, last year after that project was completed, we painted the curbing to delineate the step from parking surface to the sidewalks around the entire frontage of the building.

The painting and other cleanup and shelter painting was completed by volunteers from Crowe Inc. an accounting firm that Tom Foreman helped us connect with. They provided 12 people for their community outreach day.

We also painted the entire paintable surface area of the building including cleaning and repainting the steeple, noticeably refreshing the look and giving the steeple a shiny look, especially at night when the spotlight shines on it.

We had an unplanned expense having to replace the heating/cooling unit upstairs in the Chris Ed Building. Then just recently, we had to do the same thing on the first floor. Both units were and will continue to be a relatively short life cycle issue, due to the usage of LP gas. It is considered a “wet” gas and over time causes serious rust and decomposition in the burners and supporting metal. If we ever get natural gas availability in the neighborhood, this will drastically help this expense cycle.

Soon, we will be resealing and painting the parking lot. This too, from a longer timeline perspective, will have to be planned for more significant repair work.

The grounds crew volunteers continue to be a small but hard-working group. This spring, the Bethel Bell Bed was reconfigured to have more grass and less plant material and mulch, for a cleaner, easier to maintain area.

Projects we are looking at in the near term including replacing some window glass in Fellowship Hall, that have broken seals in the glass and the possibility of knocking down and removing the “chicken coop” building at the farm. Fellowship Hall will also be painted this summer.

Clearly, needs are there annually. Replenishing our Building Fund is a high priority for Council in the coming years.

Help is always needed on the property both inside and outside, so if you can help along the way, it is always appreciated.



Small Groups Ministry

Steve Horton

Bethel’s Small Group ministry offers an opportunity to grow faith through fellowship.

Dinner Groups were brought back in the fall of 2024, and we had 6 groups of members participate. Each Dinner Group consisted of 4-5 couples and about half made it through the entire rotation.

In 2025, we intend on having Dinner Groups twice, summer and fall/winter, to expand our reach and offer the chance to meet and develop relationships with people we don't ordinarily spend time with.

Some groups, such as Sausage & Scripture and Men's Garage Night, have developed a very nice cadence of meeting regularly. We need to do more and offer more in the coming year. There are a few volunteers who have left the church so the Small Groups Committee will be looking for new members to help.

One goal that remains is the church-wide Progressive Dinner. This event involves more people than Dinner Groups and happens all in the same evening. Select members host a group of people for appetizers, others host for entrees, and everyone meets back at church for dessert. The rotations occur roughly at the same time, given a specific timeframe for each course, so we can all arrive at church as one group.

With pastoral change happening in the last few months, it's going to be important to stay connected and these groups, and hopefully others, will provide that connection.

Stewardship Ministry

Mary Jo Mikulski



During the past year our focus for Stewardship has been THE GRATITUDE FACTOR.

God showers the riches of His grace on us. When we uncover the idea that Joy comes from God, we can foster an attitude of gratitude and live in the power of thanks. Each time we give in the offering plate or online, we receive a joy knowing that this is not a bill we are paying but a gift to God and we celebrate with thanks.

The three Gifts that result are

1. The Gift of Gratitude: we are giving out of our gratefulness to God.
2. The Emblem of Gratitude in that we wear our gratitude in all that we do for Bethel and for the community: Food, Clothing, Service. Education and most of all sharing the gospel.
3. Telling the Glory of God through our worship and our praise of the Lord in service as well as ministry.

May your giving express and show your gratitude to God for His riches to you.

Worship and Music Ministry

Linc Schneider

This year we are in the process of determining a path for the Spiritual leadership at Bethel due to Pastor Dave's retirement. Currently, it may look like an intentional Interim Pastor and then eventually a called Senior Pastor. We are in the process of forming committees to determine the best course of action for learning and welcoming what God has in mind for our future. Several lay folks have stepped up in the meantime to fill important gaps in our worship every weekend. This has been and continues to be a huge blessing to keep things in continuity for our congregants. We thank them for their service!

Our music area has been blessed with more singers and instrumentalists. This has enhanced our Country Gospel, Traditional and Praise services in a significant way. Our AV area has grown as well so we are able to provide a better product during live and online services. We have identified 3 distinct service styles (Country Gospel – Saturday 5:45, Traditional – Sunday 8:45 and Praise – Sunday 11:11). This allows musicians to concentrate in the genre they prefer and bring clarity to the congregants attending. We continue to strive to bring ministry as a musical conduit for God's Word as we seek to invite others through engagement and participation. Singing is God's most beautiful instrument. May we all make a joyful noise while attending one of these services.



We are seeking all individuals who would like to sing and or play an instrument either in Country Gospel worship on Saturdays at 5:30, Solo's for 8:45 and with the Praise Group at 11:11. We are actively seeking a full-time organist who we would like to lead our 8:45 Service, Accompany Soloists and eventually maybe accompany a choir for 8:45. Bethel is always looking for singers and

musicians. If you are interested, please let us know! Our current coverage consists of volunteers and part-time organists.

We will need to do significant repairs to the organ due to wear and tear over the years. These repairs will be done over the Summer. Other equipment repairs for now have been completed. However, this is always ongoing. In-ear monitors were updated, and some equipment was replaced. Some of the wedge monitors that are used by the vocalists were replaced, too.



Altar Guild, Usher teams, Readers and the AV area could all use volunteers to assist in the worship services. It is a great way to get involved and serve with really no training needed, just a servant heart.

We continue to do live and recorded music streaming of the church services which reach those who are unable to attend. The staff and Pastors can get the weekly services to the congregation through the internet and the web page. Usually, Sunday Morning Services are recorded for on-line viewers.

We are always seeking those who have joy for the Lord! There are plenty of opportunities to serve in a unique way at Bethel through Worship and Music.

In 2024, the Bethel Youth Ministry for Middle and High School students continued in much the same fashion as last year.

The Midweek Youth Group continued to meet every Wednesday from 7-8:30pm in 2024 during the school year, taking the summer months off. It continues to be a small, but fun, group. With this group, we planned a successful Comedy Night for the church in February earning more than \$700 for youth activities.

This year, with the help of Risë and Gary Helgemo representing the Education Ministry and Pastor Doug Gast, we also started Confirmation classes back up after a year with no classes. Because we had not offered any Confirmation class in a year, we chose to open Confirmation to any middle or high schooler who would like to attend. It was a little bit of a rough beginning as Pastor Doug left Bethel just as the class started in September, and there was some miscommunication with Pastor Dave Hill in which he thought he was leading the class. But we rebounded and had a great year of classes led by Sarah Manro. There are about 6 regular students ranging from 6th grade to 10th grade. We had engaging conversations, they asked great questions, and we pray together regularly. This has been a very positive thing for Bethel!

Our biggest challenges remain the same as last year. We lack a full-time Youth Director and have low numbers of youth in the church. Youth is being run solely on volunteer support.

2024-2025 Financial Report

Bethel Lutheran Church 2024 General Fund Annual Report

	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Difference
Income/Contributions			
Total Contributions Receipts	642,049	628,314	13,735
Interest Income	55	0	55
Other Income	12,015	34,528	(22,513)
Total Income	654,119	662,842	(8,723)

Expenses			(Red Indicates Over Budget)
Youth Expenses	31	2,250	(2,219)
Christian Education Expenses	1,770	3,700	(1,930)
Council Admin Expenses	14,253	20,927	(6,674)
Missions	30,000	30,000	0
Mortgage Expenses (prin+int)	164,001	163,320	681
Office & Supplies Expenses	24,741	24,250	491
Pastoral Expenses	2,244	5,600	(3,356)
Salary & Benefits Expenses	244,619	320,049	(75,430)
Property Expenses	54,606	47,540	7,066
Utilities Expenses	59,311	65,931	(6,620)
Worship & Music Expenses	10,289	10,140	149
Total Expenses	605,865	693,707	(87,842)
Excess Income/Expenses	48,254	(30,865)	79,119

Fund Balances	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
General	96,578	105,468	153,722
Building	114,256	120,741	63,644
Youth	21,120	25,709	25,308
Pantry	12,013	6,666	14,014
Designated	147,710	133,045	165,557
Missions	89,498	90,965	74,527
Preschool	19,394	0	0
Columbarium	25,473	27,646	27,649
Total All Funds	526,042	510,240	524,421

Summary of Revenue/Expenses January Through April 2025

	January	February	March	April	Year to Date
Revenue	42,443	32,981	72,812	35,775	184,011
Expenses	55,949	37,574	59,345	66,331	219,199
Net Total (loss)	(13,506)	(4,593)	13,467	(30,557)	(35,189)

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