



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022
ANNUAL REPORT



BETHEL at a Glance ~ 2022

Baptisms

Yao C. Ford

First Communion Class

Olivia Greene
Luke Barto

Xander Greene
Ella Burkhart

Kaydince Hermann
Eleanor Edstrom

Piper Aist

First Bible Class

Olivia Burch

Claire Jochner

Confirmations

AJ Aist and Adam Lingscheit affirmed their Baptisms on June 5th, 2022

Weddings

3/12/22 Steven M. Lawrence & Sharon A. Wangsness

New Members

Steve Lawrence & Sharon Wangsness

Jennifer, Olivia and Xander Greene

Melissa and Tristan Janssen

Veronica & Jim Lentfer

Dan & Jody Volk

Award Recipients

Dorothy Meyer Award ~ Ann Marie Kenitzer

Eric Hanson Award ~ Leah Thomas

In Memoriam

We had to say goodbye to these members, and we thank God for their faithful service.

Karin Engelbauer 3/7/22

Karen Hanson 8/2/22

James Elliott 11/20/22

It continues to be my great pleasure to serve as your pastor.

This past year has been filled with many blessings for Bethel and for the partnership we share in ministry and mission. Below I sketch out a few highlights for 2022 and things we can look forward to this year.

Come See Go Be: Our capital campaign has been a tremendous success. We set an ambitious goal of 1.5 million dollars and were able to significantly exceed it. This not only indicates great support for the projects (parsonage and Torvend renovation) but for our shared future. We have a vision for our future, and we have the people and commitment to live it out. I cannot wait to see the work God will do among us!

Congregational Life During/Beyond Covid: The last three years have been a major challenge for the church, both globally and locally. Bethel has done a remarkable job staying connected, providing services, offering ministries while maintaining the importance of health. As restrictions recede and options return, the question is what will we keep? What will be changed? What are the good things we have learned? One thing I am thankful for is the technical capacity of our AV team and equipment. I have had numerous people tell me they watch the services regularly from home. This is a great ministry! The streaming option has also been utilized in every funeral since I came to Bethel, allowing family members from out of town to celebrate the lives of their loved one. There are many things we can count as blessings from our Covid era.

Community Engagement: The effort to effectively reach out and connect with our community is a growing edge for Bethel. This begins with us as individuals learning how to be more effective across cultural differences. We have several IDI groups that are working together to grow in their awareness of cultural difference and people are working on their own as well. We will also continue to attend community events representing Bethel such as Cupertino Earth Day. There are many wonderful ways Bethel members and groups serve our community and make a positive difference as well.

Sabbatical: I am grateful for the leadership team at Bethel for granting a 6-week sabbatical this summer. This will be the first time I have ever received a sabbatical and I am currently working on a plan for my time away. My focus will be on intentional time for spiritual contemplation, visiting sacred sites, and some travel. I will share my experience when I return. I will be away on the last Sunday of June through the end of July. I will schedule guest preachers and clergy for pastoral care as needed.

Thank you: I am deeply grateful for the wonderful staff, leaders, volunteers, and members of Bethel. The people are the church and Bethel is blessed with gifted and committed members who do the work of ministry in amazing ways. Thank you for you do and who you are!

God's Peace,
Pastor Ben Sandin

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES – FARA BROCK, DIRECTOR

Thanks to the strong support of the congregation, Bethel finished its fiscal year with total giving only 1.7% below forecast. Total expenses were 2.7% above budget mostly due to the installation of Zoar Hall's new roof in August. The net ordinary income was -\$8,400 compared to -\$6,700 that was expected in the budget.

Throughout 2022 the church continued to address the needs of our community by donating to many local and international relief agencies. Bethel gave \$86,000 to the Synod and outside agencies with benevolence and special designated dollars. Top recipients are Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, Esperanza, Mt. Cross, West Valley Community Services, Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Synod for churchwide mission support. Bethel also continued to support scholarships for 2 students at MaaSAE Girls school in Tanzania through Bootstrap Operation.

I am blessed to work with volunteers who “behind the scenes” keep Bethel’s infrastructure running smoothly:

- Liz Tribby who manages office IT and membership records;
- Dave Larsen, Bethel’s Treasurer;
- Bethel’s Finance Committee: Dave Tribby, Brett Deutscher, Joan Christensen, Ann Marie Kenitzer, Jack Wedgwood and Pastor Ben;
- Mark Evashenk on benevolence and special designated giving;
- Kathy Arnold and the Audit Committee;
- Brad Martinson who oversees Bethel computers and the internet and telephone network;
- Brian Schuette who optimizes Bethel’s campus wireless network and
- Holly Lofgren who managed Bethel’s Assets.

I look forward to another productive and inspiring year with Bethel’s amazing staff and volunteers!

ADULT MINISTRY – MARY DEUTSCHER, DIRECTOR

Hard to believe it’s already been over a year since I rejoined the Bethel Staff! I’ve really enjoyed all the excitement of 2022, including welcoming our new members with orientation and lunch, planning dinners on Wednesday nights before the Lenten services, putting together a new pictorial directory (it’s coming soon!), bringing the “Come See, Go Be” vision for the Capital Campaign to life with visual communications, and then getting us all together for a great BBQ lunch and Italian dinner so we could see what the future can bring to Bethel! I especially loved going back through all the historical photos – it’s really inspiring to see all the changes over the years and what all we’ve accomplished together so far! A big thank you to Joann Weberg for all her help with the Capital Campaign events, those who volunteered during our photo session days, and Phyllis Gaffney for her help during Lent dinners.

As we have almost gotten back to “normal” activities since the pandemic, we are gradually bringing back events and ministries as we can and as everyone is comfortable with. Supper Clubs,

however, have not restarted and are a great way to connect both old and new members. **Supper Club** groups of 6-8 are formed through sign-ups a few times a year and members take turns hosting dinner. Please let me know if you are interested in helping me get this ministry going again.

Many of our **Worship & Music** behind-the-scenes roles are in need of new volunteers, so if any of these roles speak to you, please reach out to me for more information: **Ushers, Lectors, Deacons, Coffee Hosts, Security Team, and Offering Counters** (second service). Thanks to all our support teams who keep things running smoothly each week!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES – AMANDA LAUGHLIN, DIRECTOR

Kid Connection Sunday School met outside for Kid Connection January through May and then September through October. We met back in the classrooms November and December.

Music Opening Lead - Amanda Boniface

Kid Connection Teachers – Lauren Kettner, Patrice Sera and Bailey Freckmann, Cathy Stahl, Minnie Sudarsanam, Harumy Miruas, Lourdes and Ricardo Miruas.

Valentine's Party – Held on a Sunday, February 13th after the second service. The 3rd – 5th grade group met separately for games and pizza and families of younger children participated together.

Take Out Church - Summer 2022– “Be a friend like Jesus” based on, John 15:15 “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you”
John 15:15 – in a gift box (reminding us that friendship is a gift), filled with Flat Friends (Kid Connection Kids made drawings of themselves) and these were copied and put into each box. Friendship coloring and worksheets, friendship bracelets, Jacks(game) to play with our friends, M&M friendship candy prayers and crayons.

First Communion Class – we had seven children participate in our First Communion class with Pastor Ben and me. We made bread together on Maundy Thursday and that bread was used for communion. Participants were, Olivia Greene, Xander Greene, Piper Aist, Kaydince Hermann, Luke Barto, Ella Burkhart and Eleanor Edstrom. Cathy Stahl helped with this event on Maundy Thursday. All children received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday.

Easter Egg Hunt and Craft fun! - Sunday April 17th, on Easter in between services. All children who were here for worship were invited to join us. We also invited Tulip Kids Families.

VBS 2022– Monumental – Was held on Monday, July 11- Friday July 15. It was mainly outside as we were still erring on the side of caution regarding COVID. We did meet inside for Videos and wore masks while inside. We also kept the numbers of participants lower this time. We had 22 participants and 25 volunteers. As our Service Project, Robyn Winegardner organized a Store. The kids shopped at this store during the week of VBS and all the food went to West Valley Community Services. The kids collected 605 pounds of food. Tulip Kids also participated in this service project.

First Bible Class – in October - Two third graders took this class with me, Olivia Burch and Claire Jochner. They received their bibles during the Children’s Message on All Saints Sunday.

Kid Connection Halloween Fun was held on Sunday October 30th (Reformation Sunday) during Kid Connection. Children wore their Halloween costumes, we played games, decorated pumpkins, and had a Halloween costume contest that was led by our very own Kayla Burkhart.

KCHO- Kid Connection Hang Out is a once a month gathering for Kid Connection Kids after the Second Service. We had one of these events in 2022 and will continue them in 2023. The Confirmation age kids help with this event.

Secret Angels – Bethel Members prayed for a child during the season of Advent, wrote them a note and this along with a little gift was given to our Kid Connection Children at our “Happy Birthday Jesus” party.

Kid Connection Christmas Program – A Christmas Jubilee - Our Gifts we Give to Baby Jesus- Each child chose to participate in something they enjoyed doing. We had children who sang in our choir (Directed and led by Barb Larsen and Amanda Boniface), some children shared a poem, some danced, some shared their artwork and we even had someone play the guitar. This was shared at the second service on December 18th.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party - December 18th – was held during Kid Connection time in our classrooms. We celebrated Jesus’ birthday by watching a movie, arts and crafts, playtime and eating cupcakes.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE – TOM HOEGEL, DIRECTOR

Dear Bethel Friends!

It is with great joy and gratitude that I enter my 39th year of fulltime ministry at Bethel. I never imagined as I began to work with our Sr High youth in 1984 that my journey would keep me this close to my home congregation. Well, I’m still blown away by the honor of working with you all.

2022 has been a big year for our congregation and for me. My job title changed to the Director of Congregational Life and while I still do much of the same work I always have, it has been great to work more with all ages as we continue to explore what it means to Do Life Together.

This has also been a big year for Bethel as we embarked on our Capital Campaign led by Pastor Ben. The work of designing a refresh of Torvend Hall and the surrounding grounds has been a blast as I got to work alongside some great members. The response to the campaign has been inspiring and we are looking forward to putting our plans into action the coming several years.

Another great addition to our staff has been the addition of Brian Schutte and Adam Klopfenstein to our Sunday Morning AV team. They manage the technical aspect of our weekly worship and regularly fill in where needed. Thank you, gents!

We also expanded Rachel Sudarsanam's position to include working with our Sr High students Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. As a fellow child of the congregation and alumni of our youth program it is a treat and blessing to have her work with our kids. Yay Rachel!

A couple other items of mention are the work of our Out & About Team planning monthly events and the Labor Day Retreat Team who brought us together at Mt Cross for the 1st time in three years. I'm excited for us all to experience the many opportunities coming in 2023.

Thanks to each of you for making Bethel the congregation it is today. We have and will always have lots of work to do to be more diverse and relevant. Let's continue to encourage each other with a spirit of love. What a great ride. ☺

Peace, Tom

CONFIRMATION (6th – 8th Grade)

SUSAN LEAVITT AND ROBYN WINEGARDNER

Confirmands celebrated 2022 by returning to Bethel and having all of our Sunday classes onsite – Zoom is good but in person is so much better and so are the donuts. After completing our New Testament study using “The Story” AJ Aist and Adam Lingscheit Affirmed their Baptism on June 5th. Summer highlight was the annual Rock 'n Water week where 23 adult chaperones, Confirmands, Senior High Youth and friends participated in another awesome adventure of camping, whitewater rafting, kayaking and community building. We attended the Labor Day “Fish Outta Water” Retreat at Mt Cross for our kickoff of the Year of the Small Catechism. We added four new 6th graders to our Confirmation group of now ten. We continue to have monthly mini-Retreats where we attend Worship together, lector, spend quality time with Pastor Ben and have lunch. We don't have all of the answers but we do ask a lot of questions and have a lot of joy, laughter and community building. Best couple hours of the week.



WORSHIP & MUSIC – BRIAN SCHUETTE, MINISTRY LEAD

2022 - The Worship and Music Ministry team works behind the scenes to prepare Sunday service plans. The team meets as-needed. In 2022, Bethel extended the season of outdoor worship for our contemporary service. Bethel continues to offer in-person and live streaming of both the traditional and contemporary services on YouTube.

A JOYFUL NOISE Handbell Choir – Chris Hogan, Director

Twenty twenty two was a year of getting back to normal for A Joyful Noise Handbell Choir. We closed out our 2021-2022 season continuing to play in person. Unfortunately at the end of the season, we lost a long-time member, Krystal Curtiss, who left for college over the summer. Fortunately, when we started again in the fall, we were able to bring back Jill Burkhart, who has been with the choir since the beginning, bringing our complement back to 7 players. Some highlights include "[Meditations on Beautiful Savior](#)" (2/27/2022), "[Praise Him, Praise Him](#)" (4/10/2022) (4 players), and "[Gaudete](#)" (12/11/2022).

As we look forward to 2023, we are open to new members while continuing to stretch the playing capabilities of our current members to take on new challenges. We are also looking forward to joining the mass handbell Spring Ring at Valley Church on April 22.

ALL BETHEL CHOIR – Melody Wright, Director of Liturgical Worship

We thank Mike and Sylvia Halloran again for their countless hours preparing and leading choir rehearsals, creating recordings and videos this past Winter, Spring and Summer during the pandemic. Their heroic efforts are deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

In September, my role as organist these past 15 years was expanded to include directing the choir. Sylvia Halloran remains our staff accompanist. We meet in the sanctuary choir loft Thursdays 7:30- 9:00, performing a variety of sacred choral music in Resonance 95 singers masks, socially distanced per CDC guidelines. Our choir plays a vital role in leading musical liturgy, supporting the congregation in hymn singing, and performing choral anthems from a wide variety of styles and eras.

In an effort to create an inviting atmosphere for visitors or members who don't currently participate in choir, we created a pop up choir for the evening Christmas Eve service this past year, and are planning to do a similar project for the Easter Sunday morning service. Details to follow soon! We are also utilizing a music training app used by music schools worldwide called EarMaster. It features 2500 interactive exercises for ALL skill levels on intervals, chords, scales, and rhythm. Anyone interested in developing their musical skills is welcomed to participate. Please contact me for details how to join this program.

If you are interested in volunteering to sing with choir on a seasonal or an occasional basis, or participate in a small ensemble, or sing a solo, or serve as a cantor, or if you play a musical instrument, or if you're even just a friend of the choir and want to volunteer some hours to help

with the music library, please reach out. We are a warm, welcoming group and we strive to make every music volunteer feel appreciated at Bethel.

Rejoicing in what Christ has done and can do!

BETHEL WORSHIP TEAM- Clayton Johnson, Director of Contemporary Music

This year the Bethel Worship Team had eight members who participated on a rotating basis. In addition to leading the 10:45 contemporary service, we also had the privilege of leading all the outdoor worship services during the summer. Bethel has a long history of innovative contemporary worship. We are grateful to be able to continue that tradition every Sunday and look forward to another year of worshipping together.

We are ALWAYS recruiting new members. If you sing or play an instrument, please think about joining us. We rehearse before church on Sunday mornings from 8:30-10:30 in the Music and Ed Room.

THANK YOU to the 2022 Bethel Worship Team for their dedication and talent: Liz Barton, Mary Deutscher, Kara Hermann, Katlynn Rhyne, Tom Hoegel, Clayton Johnson, Adam Klopfenstein, and Brian Schuette.

ALTAR GUILD - Hope Jow and Marion Abney

We are happy to return to the sanctuary to resume our work of communion set-up and clean-up now that covid restrictions have eased. We have also resumed our tasks of changing altar paraments, and maintaining the candles and altar area. Special thanks to our team of Lois Eid, Judy Johnson, Anita Tysseland, Debby Coleman, Janice Martinson, Lorene Westmore, Sharon Parady, and Erna Trogisch. Thanks also to Susan Leavitt for baking communion bread to be served the second Sunday of the month.

OFFERING COUNTERS - Liz Tribby

We added two new offering counters this year for the first service (thank you Lloyd and Doris Darknell!) so we are fully staffed for first service. We still have openings for another 4 to 6 people to count after the second service so we could go back to counting no more than once a month.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOST MINISTRY- Marion Abney

We are grateful to be back in full service following interruptions and modifications due to the pandemic. A big thank you to our hosting team for their efforts to follow Covid guidelines. Our dedicated hosts include Ichiro Fujishiro, Sam Sudarsanam, Tori and Mark Evashenk, Ellen Aist, Steve Emmert, Vera and Roger Edstrom, Bill and Joann Weberg, Sharon Parady, and Carlos Rosa. Thanks also to Roger Edstrom and Bill Weberg for maintaining our aging coffee brewer. We continue to serve organic coffee provided by Equal Exchange, a fair trade company to support small farmers. All are invited to enjoy a hot beverage and engage in conversation as we grow

together in community. Contact Marion Abney at abney4@pacbell.net or 408-334-9598 if you would like to join our coffee team.

USHERS - Lloyd Darknell

Our team of volunteers greet people on Sundays with a bulletin and a smile, helping with offering and communion during worship. We are in need of a few more ushers, particularly for the 10:45 service. A big thanks to Rod Brunngraber, Pat Starrett, Mike & Debby Coleman, Jack & Diane Stauffer, Mica Burch, Darrell Kettner, Larry Polyak, David Nadell, Chris Freckmann, Paul Baldwin, Greg Abney, and especially Lloyd & Doris Darknell for heading up our ushering team.

MISSION OUTREACH - MARK EVASHENK, MINISTRY LEAD

Apart from making and serving breakfast at the San Jose Family Shelter, all Mission Outreach activities resumed. Financial contributions to San Jose Family Shelter were made in lieu of volunteers preparing and serving.

The baby layette program to support Sacred Heart Community Services was again well received and supported. Bethel Lutheran donated 19 baby layette kits to Sacred Heart Community Services. A big thank you to all who donated items. And special thanks to Joann Weberg and the Bethel Quilters for making the layette bags, and Sandy Siron and the Cupertino Senior Center knitting group for knitting beanie caps that were placed in each bag. The hand-made bags and beanies are a special bonus.

About 40 turkeys were delivered to the Lord's Pantry on Sunday November 20.

Bethel once again helped foster kids who went to Signs of Hope camp by collecting a towel, bathing suit, sweatshirt, and pajama set or sweatpants for 10 of the campers. During the the gift selection, we heard from a foster dad that his kids enjoyed the Signs of Hope camp more than the family vacation to Hawaii. That is just awesome feedback and validation for the love and support shown to these kids.

The Giving Tree sponsored by Help One Child was again popular with the Bethel congregation. A total of 60 gifts were donated by Bethel along with \$500 in gift cards. Help One Child modified the gift pickup this year. Bethel offered hot cider and chocolate and sweet treats, while the foster families selected the gifts for their foster children, and then assisted with wrapping at our Bethel Santa Secret Shop gift wrapping station.

The Bethel congregation showed its love and generosity throughout the year.

QUILTING - Joann Weberg

Quilting in 2022 was so rewarding. During the year our Quilting group donated 153 quilts and 150 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We also donated small quilts to the VA in Palo Alto and San Jose along with many quilts to the San Jose Heritage House and the San Jose Family Shelter.

Again, our outstanding Quilters and the Men of Monday hosted the Northern California Ingathering. The second location for the Ingathering was at St. James Lutheran Church in Redding. We had 26 Churches participate with over 400 boxes containing 1412 Quilts, 27 Fabric kits, 263 Personal care kits, 171 Baby kits and 898 School Kits. The donation of \$3800 from these Churches helped LWR with shipping costs.

The Quilting group meets on Monday mornings from 9 am until 12 noon with a dedicated group of women. The fellowship that this activity provides is so powerful. Our group of women is very unique and almost all are retired. Bethel's group has been quilting since 1997. We are always open to new members. Our biggest need is for new or nearly new sheets that are used for the back of each quilt. We are blessed with donations of cloth for the quilt tops. This material is sorted, washed if needed and cut into various square sizes. Each unique quilt is then designed and sewn. Batting for the quilts is purchased in bulk and is an ongoing expense.

We are very thankful for the Congregation in helping us support this Mission.

CIC MINISTRIES - Chris Christensen

CIC won the contract with the Sheriff's office so it gets to continue to do its jail ministry. Volunteers are now going back in for all facilities, except Juvenile Hall. The board is investing in a new re-entry ministry working with inmates after they get out to try and prevent recidivism.

SAN JOSE FAMILY SHELTER BREAKFAST MINISTRY - Chris Ford

We did not meet in 2022. The shelter has reopened, but at a reduced capacity.

CREEK CLEANUP - Hella Bluhm-Stieber

In 2022, I organized two creek cleanups on different parts of Calabazas Creek. On May 1, 2022, we had 8 adults and one child to clean up Calabazas Creek between Vallco Parkway and Tantau. Even though we were a smaller group, we collected lots of trash: 150 pounds of trash + 8 pounds of recyclables + 8 pounds of glass. It seemed that we found more clothes than before.

On Sunday, October 23, 2022, we had 9 adults and 4 teenagers come out to help clean up Calabazas creek between Bollinger and Blaney. After consolidating all the trash, we collected 9 big garbage bags full of trash weighing 50.17 kg=110.6 lbs, 4 grocery bags full of recycling (3.29 kg =7.25 lbs), and 3 milk jugs full of glass (6.685 kg=14.73 lbs). We found lots of small pieces of stuff, clothing, blankets, and also some chain-link fence and other metal.



EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP (MINISTRY LEAD POSITION OPEN)

Discipleship focuses on spiritual growth which can take on many different forms. In the past year, Bethel has offered a variety of ways people could engage. Bible studies were held via Zoom, small groups met together following health protocols, and in-person Sunday forums returned this Fall. Moving forward, we can anticipate a similar combination of opportunities for spiritual growth utilizing many different tools, with in-person and online iterations. Contact Pastor Ben bsandin@bethelcupertino.org to learn more or get involved.

WOW (Women of Wednesday) - Kathryn Montano

The Bethel Women of Wednesday continued to meet in person at Bethel throughout 2022 (taking the summer months off). We've studied several books together and watched 'that The World May Know', vol 12. WOW continues to volunteer to sort food at Second Harvest Food Bank, and we pray together and support each other. Please consider joining us on Wednesday mornings 10am-noon; contact is Kathryn Montano.

MARTHA CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY - Vera Edstrom

In 2022 we had bible study from January through June. We broke for the summer but started again in September through December. We use the *Gather* Magazine for our bible study. Each of the members are leaders for one month. We currently meet on the first Monday of each month at 12:00 noon. We have ten to twelve active members.

READERS ANONYMOUS - Kathy Arnold

Readers Anonymous met nearly every 3rd Sunday of each month to discuss a great book chosen the previous month. The books included mysteries, non-fiction, and fiction. They were: "The Diamond Eye" by Kate Quinn, "The Rose Code" by Kate Quinn, "The Girl They Left Behind" by Roxanne Veletzo, "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23" by Phillip Keller, "SS-GB" by Len Deighton, "The Saints of Swallow Hill" by Donna Everhart, "The Mercies" by Kira Millwood Hargrave, "Four Lost Cities" by Annalee Newitz, "Fortnite" by Dan Crenshaw. Love reading and laughing? Join us!

Thanks again to Debby Coleman for writing up great meeting summaries.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT - David Nadell

Men's Night Out has started meeting in person again in the church library on the 3rd Monday of the month from 7:30pm-9pm for great discussion and light Bible Study. Contact David Nadell for more info.

LIBRARY TEAM - Margaret Lund

The Library Committee continues to meet most Wednesdays. Additionally, this year we are bringing books and DVDs to share with Kid Connection every few weeks. Thank you to Debby Coleman and Natalie Rogerson for their support in this ministry.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE – (MINISTRY LEAD POSITION IS OPEN)

LABOR DAY RETREAT – Tom Hoegel

“Fish Out of Water” was the theme for this year’s 2022 Labor Day retreat. This year’s event was finally back in-person at Mt. Cross after 3 years of pandemic and wildfire related issues.

We decided on a one-day event given the challenges of Mt. Cross getting back into the swing of on-site retreats. This event was well-attended by Bethel members and friends - all of whom enjoyed this year’s inspirational speaker Pr. Alex LaChapelle. Alex’s ability to bring relevance to the Gospels’ teachings as well as his gregarious nature made for a thought-provoking and fun retreat. Though this retreat was one day, we still managed to fit in all the favorite events including the Bethel Olympics, campfire and time to just kick-back and enjoy time with friends and family among the beautiful redwoods.



Currently under the direction of interim director Jeff Barrow, the camp is looking forward to a vibrant future with renewed excitement. Soon, Mt. Cross will be hiring a new full-time director to lead them forward.

For the 2023 LDR retreat, we are looking to add an overnight option for those who want to extend their camp experience!

Many thanks to all on the Retreat Committee for their hard work and to Bethel members for continuing the spirit of this beloved annual event. Please see any committee member if you are interested in helping in this year’s retreat.

OUT & ABOUT- Molly Schrey

The Out and About Ministry is in its 13th year and going strong!

Out and About is a great way to enjoy some of your favorite places and experience new ones all while connecting with others. We encourage you to invite family and friends to join in on the fun! Committee members plan monthly fellowship events with input from the Bethel family. A variety of places and events are chosen to appeal to different ages and preferences. 2022 saw 9 events and over 150 participants.

2022 events included:

- Regale and Burrell School Wineries, Santa Cruz Mountains
- St. Paddy's Beer Tour - San Jose
- Chardonnay Eco-Sailing Tour, Santa Cruz
- Roaring Camp and Henry Cowell, Felton
- Make your own Adventure Monterey
- Oktoberfest - Ludwigs Mt. View
- Presidio Tunnel Tops Park San Francisco
- Farm Worker Tour - Watsonville (in connection w/IDI)
- Filoli Estate - Christmas Tour, Woodside



Look for events in the Bethel eNews and website. Sign-up via Eventbrite. We hope you join us this coming year for an Out and About event.

FOOD TRUCKS -Robyn Winegardner

Monthly FOOD TRUCKS returned to Bethel after a two-year, COVID, hiatus. On the third Sunday of the month folks gathered in the back parking lot to enjoy food and fellowship for about \$10 each.

We feasted on **Waffles Amore** on Easter Sunday. In May we enjoyed Indo-Chinese inspired **Asian Momo House**. June gave us **Thai Thai** for the first time. **Anytime Taco** cooked on site in July. We finished the season in August with **Pupusa Time**.



Who will we taste this year? We will see some new trucks but **Waffles Amore** will be back on Easter Sunday.

CARE MINISTRY – JOANNE STENSAAS, MINISTRY LEAD

CARING CONNECTIONS - Joanne Stensaas

Caring Connections is a prayer ministry that seeks to be action-oriented to do God's work. We meet monthly, in-person, or on Zoom, depending on the weather and health concerns, sharing information about needs in the congregation, and other loved ones. This information is gleaned from prayer lists, Pastor Ben, and Caring Connections team members. Care is demonstrated in a variety of ways, including: birthday cards, sympathy cards, get well notes, congratulations, phone calls, and home visits.

Moving forward, Caring Connections members may also serve as home communion ministers and other forms of visitation. We have added something new: a healing/anointing service for the mind, body, and/or spirit by Pastors Ben and Kelly, as part of the communion service. We are planning on having food trucks available to the community in the Spring or Summer, and pet blessings with other churches in September or October.

PRAYER BYTES - Robyn Winegardner

Prayer Bytes continues to be an opt-in ministry where folks receive a few Prayer requests each day via email for, and from, members and friends for our church family, local community and world. All are invited to join nearly 80 current subscribers and receive these daily Prayer Bytes and opt out anytime. Also, all invited to submit Prayer requests anytime. Just send your requests to the church office or Liz Tribby or Robyn Winegardner.

Prayer, a gift to share and a gift to receive.



FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP – BRETT DEUTSCHER, MINISTRY LEAD

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Robyn Winegardner, Brett Deutscher and Pastor Ben Sandin

In 2022, we focused our messages to the congregation in June, and virtually collected Faith Promise cards on June 26th. Robyn, Brett and Dave Tribby gave stewardship announcements at worship services, highlighting generosity, and building our spiritual lives on a firm foundation of Biblical bedrock.

Planning for our Stewardship campaign started in April, and Faith Promise card follow up with members continued into July, with a final report generated in August. The report showed an increase in both dollars pledged and number of Faith Promises, as over 100 Faith Promises were received. We are extremely blessed by the level of giving by our Bethel family, which assists Bethel leadership with responsible budget decisions each year.

Thank you for the generous giving of your resources, for both Faith Promises / General giving toward Bethel and its ministries as well as for the Capital Campaign that started in 2022. We look forward to continuing our ministry with you in 2023!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Doreen Baldwin, Susan Leavitt and Robyn Winegardner

The Nominating Committee worked closely during the full year with the Council President, President-Elect and Pastor Ben Sandin to recruit qualified candidates for open council positions in 2023. This included the Youth member at Large in the summer, and almost a full slate of Council in the Winter. Strong collaboration between Nominating committee Council leadership and Pastor Ben found excellent candidates.

Additional duties included securing nominations for Audit Committee and the next Nominating Committee.

We thank Bethel members for being receptive to trying new committees to support Bethel and its ministries.

TECHNOLOGY & ADMINISTRATION

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT - Liz Tribby and Brad Martinson

Things have been quiet this year in office technology. We did install another update to our church database (Shepherd's Staff) that allows us to send out giving statements by email to those who prefer that option.

WEB MINISTRY – Dave Arnold

We maintain the web site for Bethel Lutheran Church at <https://www.bethelcupertino.org/>. This provides a comprehensive and current view of the activities at Bethel for visitors and members alike. It is Bethel's virtual front door to the community. The most popular pages are the home page, the church calendar and the sermons page.

Each week, there were on average 150 user views of Bethel's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/BethelCupertino>, in 2022. These are mostly worship services, but also include staff videos.

160 new events were submitted to the Bethel calendar in 2022.

576 updates were applied to the web site in 2022.

Google Analytics reports 200 page views per week to our home page. An estimated 50% of views are from members. 40% of views are from mobile devices.

Google Search reports 320 impressions and 9 clicks per day.

Thank you to all the Ministry Leaders and staff that contributed to our Annual Report.



BETHEL

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