

1/25/2023



2022 Annual Report  
First Calvary Baptist Church  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077  
[www.1stcalvary.com](http://www.1stcalvary.com)

## PASTORAL REPORTS

Repeatedly, God told the Israelites to remember his works in the past. His works would be an encouragement toward the future and a statement to the character of God. We look back on 2022 with that expectancy.

We desire to be effective in ministry. A foundational truth of our existence is we exist to make disciples. ***Our mission statement is to glorify God by striving to produce loving, serving disciples of Jesus Christ.*** Our Lord has called us to fulfill this responsibility. We want to assist existing disciples in their knowledge of and obedience to their master, Jesus Christ. We want to make new disciples of those in our neighborhoods and cities and partner with those who seek to make disciples of all the nations. We believe responsibilities normally come in the form of people. Where, by God's grace, we helped people, we rejoice. Where we failed, we turn to God asking for opportunity to try again.

Measuring the effectiveness of ministry is not an exact science. Our ultimate measure can be found by examining our own individual lives. Are you walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5)? Are you growing in grace (2 Peter 3:18)? Are you fulfilling the two great commandments (Matthew 22)? As a church, do we reject the complacency, cold-hearts, and dullness toward God that churches in Revelation 2-3 displayed? Do we members exercise our gifts for the edification of our church (1 Corinthians 12)? The answers to these questions will indicate our effectiveness in ministry. This past year's highlights include:

*In General:* 45 households (125 people) call First Calvary Baptist Church home. We continued to emphasize the philosophy of our ministry, calling all of us to a serious commitment to biblical Christianity. We have three core values.

***Together We Worship.*** Every Sunday morning the whole church gathers to worship together. We sing the Bible, we pray the Bible, and we listen to the Bible trusting that God speaks to us from His Word – the Bible. The experience cannot be duplicated in private but must be shared with others who know and love our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Together We Learn.*** Every Sunday morning the whole church gathers to learn together. We study God's Word for the purpose of learning what biblical Christianity is and how the Bible should shape our world view. Gifted men and women teach all ages from our children to our adults with the result that we learn the Bible together.

***Together We Live.*** Every week the whole church lives together in small groups. In neighborhoods and towns near our church building and far away, the people of First Calvary Baptist Church meet to ***connect*** with each other, to ***care*** for each other, to ***converse*** with each other about God and His Word, and to ***chase*** the lost, the fringe, and the wandering. God designed us to live together 24/7/365. As a local expression of the Bride and Body of Christ, we expect all who call First Calvary Baptist Church their home to worship, learn, and live together.

As we move forward in 2023, our embrace of this philosophy will determine the effectiveness of our ministry and the approval of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2022 was a year of stability for our church as we recovered from the broad impacts in 2021 COVID-19. We gained church members and lost none to death or relocation.

During our adult education hour, we were blessed to have multiple members teach the classes. Class offerings included *Pastor's Choice*, *Christians in the Workplace*, and *Praying the Bible*.

Our small groups were greatly impacted by COVID-19 and have been slow to recover, but we have seen progress in member engagement and commitment. Our small group leaders were Dave & Sherri Carpenter, James & Jennifer Chesebrough, Tony & Lori Reinhardt, and Mike & Brenda VerWay.

In our Sunday worship we read the Word of God weekly, we joined together in corporate prayer, we gave in our financial offerings, and we received the preaching of the Word of God primarily as Pastor Mike VerWay preached through 1 Corinthians, the shorter minor prophets, and Joshua. Two of our deacons, Dave Carpenter and Patrick McNamara, filled the pulpit in Pastor VerWay's absence. We blessed to have Pastor Chris Pitts preach to us one Sunday as he took leave from the US Air Force. During the summer months, we met on Wednesdays for praise, prayer, and study. There, Pastor VerWay taught us selective truths from Baptist catechism.

- We celebrated the Lord's Table twelve times over the course of the year.
- We engaged in church wide prayer as we gathered for two Friday Night Prayer meetings and two Saturday Morning Prayer meetings.
- We met our annual financial commitments and fulfilled our goals for our mission partners around the world.
- In April we held a well-attended *Good Friday* service.
- During pastoral prayer in our Sunday morning worship, we emphasized praying by name for four individuals who need Jesus (week 1), for more babies born to our church families (week 2), for former vocational staff members serving in other churches (week 3) and for the opportunity to train vocational staff (week 4).
- Our ladies ministered to one another in informal teas and coffees, baby and wedding showers, and other ministry opportunities.
- Our men labored together on church projects and played on softball and soccer teams.
- In addition to our regular weekly giving, we participated in four *Abounding In Thanksgiving* offerings. The offerings funded our missions partners around the world. We also received benevolent offerings at our Lord's Table worship to assist those within our church and the community in need of financial aid.
- We received written missions reports on a regular basis from all our supported missionaries, and multiple missionary guests visited us.
- In November the cities of Sunfish Lake and Inver Grove Heights used our church building as precinct voting location.
- We concluded the year with traditional holiday events.

## CHILDREN AND STUDENT MINISTRIES

*Children's Ministries:* Understanding God's intentions and his desires for the family, our church actively pursues opportunities to come alongside parents and children to help them have a family that honors God and obeys the biblical commands. We believe in children's ministries because we believe God has given to us the responsibility to teach the Bible to our church. For the children of our church, our purpose in children's ministries is to teach the Bible to children. Our Sunday School is the means by which we assist parents in teaching the Bible to the children of our church. We serve children and families from 2-years-old through grade 12. Children's Sunday School teachers and staff in 2022 were Jennifer Chesebrough, Miranda Gamayunov, Lydia Huntington, Nick Johnson, Bruce Martin, Theresa Payan, Tony Reinhardt, Brenda VerWay, and Summer Waits.

Throughout the year several activities sought to evangelize and disciple the children of our church and community, including the Fall Festival and Winter Carnival at Camp Chetek, family fun nights, children's breakfast with our pastor, and a week of summer camp at Camp Chetek.

*Student Ministry:* We believe in student ministries because we believe God has given to us the responsibility to teach the Bible to our church. For the middle school and high school students of our church, our purpose in student ministries is to teach the Bible to our students. Our student ministries are how we assist parents in teaching the Bible to the students of our church.

During 2022, our middle school and high school students participated in numerous service and social activities and attended winter and summer camps at Camp Chetek.

We believe one of the best ways to disciple teens and prepare them to be the next leaders

of the church is to involve them in ministry opportunities where they work side by side with faithful ladies and men. Throughout the past year, you will find teens involved in the ministries of our Sunday morning worship service and in tasks connected to our facilities and members. Several of them provided special music, worked in our nurseries, and helped in children's ministries.

## DISC GOLF COURSE AND USAGE

The disc golf course completed its first full year. More than 3,300 rounds were recorded in the UDisc disc golf app. We can confidently add to that number hundreds of additional rounds that were not recorded in UDisc. Two Pro Disc Golf Association sanctioned tournaments (organized by PKLeagues.com) utilized our course for youth, women and men of varying age groups. Thank you to Travis Jensen for significant time and effort developing and maintaining the course and to Jeff VerWay for providing trees to line a few of the fairways. Players and those in the community shared much positive feedback and appreciation for the course. We trust the Lord will use the Bible verses posted at each tee pad. We anticipate more work in 2023 to finish tree clearing and brush burning and to improve amenities and signage. Pray for connecting and witnessing opportunities as FCBC members build relationships with the disc golf players.

## DEACON COMMUNICATION

In the past year, our pastors and deacons worked hard to direct our church toward a greater commitment to Christ as they highlighted the philosophy of ministry. Led by our pastors, our 2022 deacons were Dave Carpenter, Matt Fuller, Dan Kallestad, Patrick McNamara, and Alex Worobah. They meet monthly for prayer, study, and acting on behalf of the church according to the direction of our church constitution.

Our deacons cared for the exterior property, leading a group in lawn care and snow removal.

Our deacons led two improvement projects, including the remodeling of the auditorium stage with work performed by Travis Jensen and the replacement of driveway lights with work performed by Noah Reinhardt and Tony Reinhardt.

Curtice Huntington completed major improvements to our audio technology, upgrading our system from its original installation in 2000 to modern standards.

## DEACONESS COMMUNICATION

Our deaconesses served our church in a wide range of ministries. We are thankful for the service of Netasha Books, Sherri Carpenter, Miranda Gamayunov, Lisa Jensen, Stephanie Kallestad, Erica Karnes, and Bessie Worobah.

In 2022, the deaconesses assisted in five church baptisms, prepared the elements for our Lord's Table worship, and updated the Lord's Table linens.

Our deaconesses adorned our building with seasonal decor items, including large wreaths to balance the front stage, floral arrangements, and the bench in the welcome area. In addition, our deaconesses with assistance from Jeff VerWay dressed the entrance with seasonal greenery.

Our deaconesses hosted the Memorial Day Picnic, Wednesday prayer meeting meals, the Labor Day Picnic, the Thanksgiving Praise Service, as well as the Christmas program rehearsal meal. They worked with small groups to provide meals for families with newborns and for those needing assistance during illness, family emergencies, and at times of loss.

Our deaconesses worked with children's Sunday School classes to send cards to shut-ins and elderly for Valentine's Day and Thanksgiving.

## PEOPLE

We added 5 adults to our church membership, Our adult membership stands at 60 (see list).

Many of our young adults are attending college (see list).

## MISSIONS

Led by our deacons, our Missions Committee promotes the global missions efforts of our church.

Our support of our missions partners came from the generous giving of our church in *Abounding In Thanksgiving* offerings. Individual support levels are shown in the annual budget. During the year, we hosted Nate Wright (Uganda), Paul and Jo Anna Harmon

(Uruguay), Henry and Molly John (India), Dan Burrus (Equipping Leaders International) and John Kallin (Brazil, retired).

## STAFFING

Our staff works in a wonderful office environment. Rev. Mike VerWay has been our senior pastor since December 2000.

Rev. Chris Pitts joined our pastoral staff in December 2019. Pastor Chris is currently deployed at Malmstrom Air Force Base (Montana) as chaplain in the United States Air Force with the rank of captain.

Summer Waits provided extensive help for our administrative tasks.

Emily - music director  
Jeff - youth coord.

## BIRTHS

Sylvia Chesebrough to James & Jennifer Chesebrough

## BAPTISMS

Sue Barlee      Nathan Hummel      Heidi Pitts      Andries Steyn      Illana Steyn

## MARRIAGES

## WITH THE LORD

## COLLEGE STUDENTS

Laura Fuller (Concordia – Moorhead)  
Isaac Huntington (North Dakota State University)  
Lydia Huntington (Northwood Technical College)

Ashton Reinhardt (Concordia University – St. Paul)

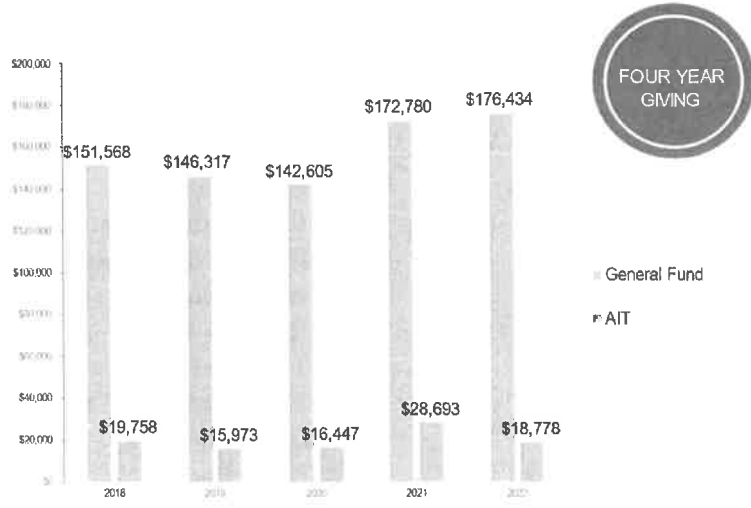
Maria Retting (Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science)

Rutina Barlee (St. Thomas)

ADULT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (NEW MEMBERS IN BOLD)

1. **Rufina Barlee**
2. Emily Bicalho
3. Fernando Bicalho
4. Mike Books
5. Netasha Books
6. Terri Books
7. Dave Carpenter
8. Harold Carpenter
9. Ingrid Carpenter
10. Sherri Carpenter
11. Tracey Carter
12. James Chesebrough
13. Jennifer Chesebrough
14. Delores Daggett
15. Lilah Donnelly
16. Vern Donnelly
17. Dale Edwards
18. Danielle Fuller
19. Matt Fuller
20. Eddie Gamayunov
21. Miranda Gamayunov
22. Amanda Hartmann
23. Dave Haumersen
24. Kathy Haumersen
25. Curtice Huntington
26. Katie Huntington
27. **Lydia Huntington**
28. Lisa Jensen
29. Travis Jensen
30. Nick Johnson
31. Dan Kallestad
32. Stephanie Kallestad
33. Eric Karnes
34. Erica Karnes
35. **Levi Lohmeyer**
36. Patrick McNamara
37. Bruce Martin
38. Rebecca Martin
39. Theresa Payan
40. Tony Payan
41. Chris Pitts
42. Katie Pitts
43. Ashton Reinhardt
44. Lori Reinhardt
45. Noah Reinhardt
46. Tony Reinhardt
47. Maria Retting
48. **Andries Steyn**
49. **Illana Steyn**
50. LeAnn Thorburn
51. Mike Thorburn
52. Brenda VerWay
53. Jeffery VerWay
54. Mike VerWay
55. Dan Waits
56. Shelly Waits
57. Summer Waits
58. Pam Waller
59. Alex Worobah
60. Bessie Worobah

The following people were removed from membership:



**2022 GENERAL FUND BUDGET ACTUALS**

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Salaries & Benefits	97,000	97,154	(154)
Operating	45,080	36,542	8,538
Ministries	10,850	5,742	5,108
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>152,930</b>	<b>139,428</b>	<b>13,492</b>

**2022 AIT REPORT**

Missionary	Commitment	Disbursed
Brewer	1,800	1,800
Baker	450	450
Chelli	1,500	1,500
Coelho	1,500	1,500
Gutierrez	1,500	1,500
Harmon	1,500	1,500
John	1,300	1,300
Kalin	650	650
Kettawell	550	550
Mitchell	650	650
Parrow	500	500
Peterson	550	550
Raju	1,500	1,500
Shekar	1,300	1,300
Williams	450	450
Wright	1,500	1,500
Special Projects	2,500	1,578
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>18,778</b>