



WAY OF THE LORD

Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



WAY OF THE LORD *Church*

who we are

our purpose > the greatest commandments

to have an intimate covenant relationship with God and reflect His glory throughout all creation

our mission > the greatest commission

to love and disciple every generation into the family of God

our path > the greatest journey

to follow Jesus on the way of the Lord with lifestyles of worship, discipleship, fellowship, and stewardship

connect > join the community

scan the QR code below and discover how to connect



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WAY OF THE LORD

Church

our values

the four ships lifestyle

We are passionately committed to follow Jesus on this narrow way of the Lord with lifestyles deeply rooted in 1) worship, 2) discipleship, 3) fellowship, and 4) stewardship.

the seven mandates

There are seven specific areas that are close to the heart of God and connected to our unique assignment that we call *our mandates*: 1) **unity in the worldwide church**, 2) **Israel**, 3) **government**, 4) **life**, 5) **First Nations peoples**, 6) **the persecuted church**, and 7) **the salvation of Muslims**. Our aim is for God's Kingdom to come with transformation in people's hearts and reformation in society as we partner with the Holy Spirit through prayer and strategic action.

the 1 Corinthians 14:26 approach

The church - the *called out* ones who *gather* - is an interconnected body (1 Cor 12), motivated and strengthened by love (1 Cor 13; Eph 4:16). We are a unified family that walks in the power of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 14). When we gather together, each person not only belongs, but contributes to how Jesus is building up His Body through the unique gifts He has given them (1 Cor 14:26).

teamwork & elder-led

We do not have a senior pastor. Why? The early church was led by elders who operated as a team to build up the Body of Christ. We practice and promote this approach in every church ministry because teamwork really does make the dream work.

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PSALM 78:4, 7

*We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the Lord,
about his power and his mighty wonders.
So each generation should set its hope anew on God,
not forgetting his glorious miracles
and obeying his commands.*

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

All throughout Scripture, the dream in the heart of God has been to cultivate Christ-centered family environments that compassionately and courageously empower each successive generation to follow Him wholeheartedly.

At Way of the Lord Church, our aim is to love and disciple every generation into the family of God. Part of this journey is to successfully pass the baton of leadership and disciple-making to the next generation. Hence, we are proud to be setting in three of our elders-in-training as permanent elders this year at our annual meeting: Andrew Anderson, Chris Massoglia, and Sam Mayes.

Our Senior elder, Larry Alberts, continues to serve as our *Apostolic Oversight*, providing exceptional covering and leadership for our church and elder team. Jake Givand's role on the elder team has transitioned to *Administrative Elder* to adroitly help shepherd our community and manage many of the moving parts on our campus, both church and school related. Also, since his installment a year ago, Sam Mayes has been doing a fabulous job as well, for both the church and school, as our *Director of Discipleship*.

The Holy Spirit is continuing to strategically position and place each member on the elder team in roles that will best shepherd and empower each person in our community to thrive in the work of ministry Christ has given them.

[See below for both our leadership structure and roles chart.]

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The primary question that was birthed out of the elder's strategic planning process two years ago (led by Brian Rupe) was "*How do we steward a shared vision for fathering and mothering the next generation here on campus between all the "next generation ministries?"*" (i.e., ACTS, NCS, WOTL's children's and youth ministries, and our homeschool families).

The **Next Gen Team** was created as a strategic alliance to begin to answer that question. The team crafted a *discipleship road map* for our young people from birth into their college years with *10 key mile markers*. This team designed various *unifying events* such as the *Harvest Festival*, the *Holy Spirit Encounter Night*, and the *Blaine Garage Sale Outreach*.

This strategic planning process also helped spark a rekindling and retooling of our church's purpose, mission, journey, and identity statements. Furthermore, we launched a *vision series* that not only articulated our mission but also brought clarity to the *four-ship lifestyle model* we are pursuing here in our community: *worship, discipleship, fellowship, and stewardship*.

This year, a *building development team* of leaders from both the church and school was formed to explore expansion and renovation options on the campus. Many creative ideas and options are being thoughtfully considered and prayerfully discerned.

Additionally, as a means to continue to build the ark as a covenant community in the last days, we are eager to share a piece of the vision God has given us, including some innovative ideas related to building development at a **VISION NIGHT** on **Saturday, October 26th**. We will not only celebrate what God *has* done in our community, we will be pioneeringly and strategically casting our gaze toward the incredible dreams God has for this community, our campus, and beyond.

We are asking you, as our own family community, including the wider Body of Christ, to take a leap of faith with us into the future that is as bright as the promises of God.

He is able to do exceedingly more than we could ever ask or imagine (Eph 3:20-21).

The Way of the Lord Elder Team

WAY OF THE LORD MINISTRY UPDATES

WAY OF THE LORD YOUNG ADULTS

WOTLYA was born August 2023 out of a desire to create a space to encourage and equip people in their 20s and 30s to run after the deeper things of God together. We've had worship nights, bible studies, teachings on various topics, discussions on the B.L.E.S.S. book, and established relationship with Steiger ministries attending some of their events. We also fast as a group every Monday from 6a-6p. We've been hosted by several couples and received ministry and teaching from Tim and Robin D'Albenas, teaching from Hans and Vicki Martens (WOTLYA elder oversight), and teaching from Jim Anderson.

Recently, we have sought the Lord on the direction He desires for this group to go in at this stage and feel that He wants us to focus on providing vision for why we are meeting as young adults weekly. Some topics we will cover in a series are biblical body life and covenant community, starting with a focus on intimacy with Christ in these areas. The Lord spoke to us that it all starts with intimacy and reminded us of what Larry has said for years: *"The characteristics of the end times church are 1. Intimacy 2. Purity 3. Unity 4. Power."*

As a first step in providing vision for WOTLYA, we have created a mission statement for the group: *Readying people in their 20s and 30s for the work of the ministry through strong community and walking in our Christ-appointed identities.*

~ Michelle Owodunni, Alyson Cherrier, & Jason Brodin

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth group has been full of life this past year even though our numbers are down. Some of the themes of the past year have included: prayer and fasting, fruits of the spirit, and sexuality unmasked. We also were blessed to have more Northside students join us for youth groups and for some of our events. Our biggest event was our first ever Feed My Starving Children and 30 Hour Famine combined with Northside middle school students. This event was very successful and we look forward to repeating it every year or every other year. The boys have also continued to go on their annual trip to the ranch in Nebraska and the ladies to the Markuson's cabin near White Earth.

We would appreciate prayer for this coming fall as we are considering starting Wednesday night family nights which would be a fairly significant shift from the standard youth group. Thank you!

~ Sam Mayes, Jason Brodin, Gavin Gillen, Talitha Buuck, and Brittany Doktor

HEALTH MINISTRY

Now in its fourth year, HM has covered “the bases” of Grief Support and tending to immediate needs of “physical health issues.”

We live in a culture whose health (in all dimensions – physical, mental, and spiritual) is experiencing great stress from the impact of the disintegration of the nuclear family unit, nutritional issues, and the impact of our turning away from a biblical foundation.

If the Way of the Lord community is counted worthy and ready to receive refugees sent to us by Holy Spirit, there is much work to do - to be prepared to receive them.

Health Ministries is relying on His truth and wisdom and is ready to go forward and help equip the community.

- ~ Chris Resch, RN Lead, FCN
- ~ Shauna Massoglia, RN, FCN
- ~ Jennifer Molitor, Correspondence Assistant
- ~ Craig Warzaha, NAMI Support Group Leader

ACTS BIBLE COLLEGE

ACTS Bible College is a ministry of Way of the Lord, beginning here in the summer of 2006 under Donald Pfothenauer as president, after being founded in the mid-1980's by Alan Langstaff at Antioch Christian Fellowship in Eden Prairie. Larry Alberts was instrumental in bringing ACTS here as a training center for ministry-leaders and as an adult education arm of the church. Sharon Brodin, her father Ivan Schalla, deacon Dennis Korynta, Sunday speaker and part-time missionary Brian Buuck, and former Sunday speaker Dale Gilmore have been among the teachers at ACTS, along with the dean Lance Wonders. Pastor Larry, Pastor Don, and elders Chris Massoglia, Sam Mayes, and Andrew Anderson are among the many who have taken classes at ACTS since its work began here 18 years ago.

Recently, ACTS offered an 18-week class on Islam and the contents of the Koran, an 18-week class on the Bible (surveying both Old and New Testaments), and a shorter 7-week class on the Sermon on the Mount. A class analyzing the challenges of so-called "Woke" Christianity will also be announced sometime in early Fall.

ACTS has graduated over 120 students in its certificate, associates, bachelors, and masters level programs over the years, although audit-student status has become more popular in the last ten years.

Lance has been dean since 1995, and begins his 30th year this Fall. Thanks to all -- especially to Audrey Halverson our bookkeeper and to Wade Scheil as director/advisor for future

development -- for partnering with ACTS in the past and for the days to come, as our Lord enables!

In Jesus,
~ Lance Wonders

APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS (AIM) TEAM

The team consists of James & Diane Weber, Hans Martens, Joey Stontz, Brian Buuck and Nathaniel & Esther Buck.

This has been an exciting year for the team! The first thing is that the name has changed from International Apostolic Missions (I.A.M.) to Apostolic International Missions (A.I.M.). We are now the AIM Team!

The biggest accomplishment was the creation and completion of "*Procedures and Protocols*" with accompanying "*DTR*" application for those sent, financially and prayer supported by WOTL. This has taken the team several months to create, edit and complete. It became official June 17, 2024.

The AIM team, representing WOTL, believes that our purpose, first and foremost, is not solely to send and give money to various missionaries and ministries. Our intention is to come alongside and partner with those who are sent out. We believe that as God is sending out His Church, He is asking for a greater level of accountability, purity, and power among the various ministries in the Body. To this end, we as a Missions Team created *WOTL Missions Procedures and Protocols*. We are asking all missionaries and ministries (whether sent, financially, and/or prayer supported) complete the "*DTR*" that accompanies the *Procedures and Protocol*.

We are making these documents available on the WOTL website under the Missions tab. We have also created a designated email to reach anyone on the team. wotl.aimteam@gmail.com

There is one other major change. Just prior to going to Nicaragua in January there was a political change that has closed the country to American Christians. Casa de Mana was forced to close. WOTL is continuing to support the poor elderly. A friend of the ministry is buying food for the poor elderly and delivering the dry/canned goods monthly. This would not happen without the support of WOTL.

We are as a church fulfilling the commandments of the Lord to care for widows, orphans and the lost. What a privilege. And check out the Mission Wall!

Blessings!

FOOD SHELF

As the costs to feed a family rise, so do the numbers of families using the Food Shelf. To date we now see over 150 families go through the Food Shelf between 2:30 -5:30 pm. twice a month. Due to concerns of congestion along 131st prior to opening, Food Shelf parking now begins at 1:30 in a designated area in the Genesis parking lot under supervision.

Every Tuesday we are open we receive 10-15 tons of food – much of which is gone by 6 pm. (3500# of potatoes, 2400# onions, 2000+ # each of cabbage, apples, melons. These numbers only increase with summer seasonal fruits & veggies.

We were blessed to receive \$12,000 from Blaine Charitable Gambling funds. We received help from Anoka County Ship for outdoor signage & brackets to finish the shelving. McCarthy's found and donated 16 additional grocery carts. We gathered a couple pallets of food donations from the Blaine Postman's Drive in May.

None of this would be possible without the 30+ volunteers who faithfully and joyfully serve to stock shelves, help with Tuesday AM set-up, aid clients through the afternoon process, help clean-up and put everything away Tuesday evening. The Food Shelf is able to reach into client's lives because our volunteers genuinely care about each family, often praying for needs during the Food Shelf.

~ Cindy Stokes

NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2023-24 School Year:

Staff Highlights: God was faithful to bring the artisans that we needed including more from the WOTL body. We are grateful for the many blessings that came through Lisa Coffland, Ramona Smith, and Abbie Stokes who have retired.

Teachers each prayed for God's Word over them for the school year for spiritual and professional growth. We watched the students grow in serving the Lord and be nurtured spiritually and academically with the school theme of 'TEAM.' There were various events that NCS and WOTL joined together. A big thank you to Joey Stontz, Chris Cross, and Brian Rupe who were some of the main chapel speakers who brought God's Word to life.

There were trials and warfare, but God proved to be our shield, protector, and provider for staff, parents, and students.

2024-25 School Year:

New Staff: Crystal Specht - Kindergarten teacher, Brandi Hammond - music teacher, and Kyle Sally - PE teacher.

Enrollment is down and we are believing for each class to be full (approx. 15 students). Due to low interest, we have put our prekindergarten on hold and will press into the Lord to start it up again in the fall of 2025. We are blessed with the families from Way of the Lord that have enrolled their children here at NCS.

Pray for wisdom/guidance as we seek together with the Body of Christ to raise up a Godly generation. Pray for our teachers. We need God's grace, wisdom, and armor as we train up the next generation for the Lord as they live in these dark days.

~ Marjean Halverson

LIFE GROUPS

There are currently 11 active *Life Groups*, plus various other discipleship and accountability groups that consistently meet as well. Our life group leaders met once during the year to discuss "*what is working well*" and "*what can use improvement.*" We enjoyed a pizza lunch together.

Two new groups may start up this coming year under the leadership of 1) Matt and Linnea Massoglia and 2) Colin and Mary Akehurst. A group leader's meeting is being planned for this September or October.

Current Life Groups:

- Jake & Ali Givand's (all ages - prayer, fellowship)
- Steve & Sally Ackermann's (older adults - prayer, bible study)
- Andrew & Brittan Anderson's (all ages - fellowship, accountability)
- Brian & Anja Buuck's (all ages - prayer, fellowship)
- Wade & Kathleen Scheil's (all ages)
- Joe & Cindy Stokes' & Kendric & Shamera Samuels' (adults)
- Chris & Shauna Massoglia's (Young families - fellowship, accountability)
- James & Diane Weber's (adults)
- Lance Wonders' (adult men - fellowship, accountability)
- Kathy Alberts' (young single women - discipleship)
- Young Adults (prayer, fellowship)

~ Wade & Kathleen Scheil

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Over the decades, this church has walked in a unique, remarkable, time and multi-generation-tested Levitical and priestly call to minister to the Lord; and we sense that call more than ever as we continue to gather unto Him. We sincerely desire His presence and will not compromise in our individual, familial, and intergenerational pursuits of Him in the place of praise and worship, even in the midst of massive disruptions, whether that be new babies or brain tumors! [*Congrats Jamie and Linnea!*]

We are continuing to hold in tension the promotion of both reverence and freedom in worship, especially when it comes to the young ones in our midst. My encouragement to all of us is to continue to ask God for His help in laying aside our preferences for the sake of our convictions, which is to see the next generation get caught up with the Lord in praise.

We have an amazing worship team of over 30 gifted, talented, but most importantly “called” singers, musicians, and sound & media techs that faithfully minister to God and also faithfully serve this congregation with long hours of behind the scenes work that no one sees. Please honor them for their love and service! There is always an ebb and flow with who is able to serve on the worship team in a given season, and among many others, we certainly miss Matt Wennerlund’s presence and expertise in the sound booth. We pray he will be back soon! Also, we will dearly miss Chris Ferriere, as he is moving to Florida at the end of August.

No matter who comes and goes, no matter the season, we continue to seek the “new song” of the Lord, whether that is a written or spontaneous song that carries the Father’s heart. Also, one goal this year is to have both live and studio recordings of original “new” songs by our worship leaders (whether written or spontaneous songs) available for our community and beyond.

I just wanted to remind us that we have a digital archive of all our services and worship times (minus Friday night intercession). Anyone with the password (wotfire) can access all of WOTL & GUH’s past livestreams via our church website under the sermons tab.

~ Joey Stontz

HOUSE OF PRAYER

The church and the Way of the Lord House of Prayer (WOTLHOP) receives multiple prayer requests every week (on average 4-7). The office receives approximately the same number. The WOTL No Reply prayer requests sent from the church email are usually for the whole Body to pray and are reviewed on an individual basis.

Here is a brief breakdown:

→ HOP Prayer request emailed was approximately 98 requests.

- WOTL No Reply emailed approximately 96 requests. These requests are usually different than the HOP requests.
- Total Emailed prayer requests = 194

The WOTLHOP, the engine that drives the ship of our church, is open 24 hours a day, although many slots still need to be filled! We continue to hear many amazing testimonies of how God has poured out His Spirit each day. Our prayer room has many early morning openings and most of Saturday open. In the past six months, two new people have committed to a prayer shift.

The HOP Prayer group has added six new members.

Here is the breakdown for the daily open spots!

- Sunday: 13 Open Spots
- Monday: 12 Open Spots
- Tuesday: 11 Open Spots
- Wednesday: 15 Open Spots
- Thursday: 11 Open Spots
- Friday: 12 Open Spots
- Saturday: 18 Open Spots

Prayer Slot/Times

- 76 Prayer slot/times covered
- 92 Open Prayer slot/times

~ John Zupek

ALTAR & PRAYER TEAM MINISTRY

Starting June 30, 2024, the Altar team ministry schedule. We added seven new team members. The new team members are: Sam Scheil, Alyson Cherrier, Michelle Owodunni, Charlie and Louann Cherrier, and Robin and Tim d'Albenas. Instead of scheduling specific team members for the 5th Sunday of the month we will institute all team members available to come forward to minister.

In the Fall, we will do a refresher training and revisit the Deliverance Team ministry. The foundation for the deliverance teams have been laid out. The Deliverance team members are Brittany Doktor, Ruth McCabe and John Zupek.

A huge thank you to all team members for their service.

~ Andrew Anderson & John Zupek

OUTREACH

This year has been a season of equipping and application. We have had several testimonies of people who are growing in their willingness and ability to make Jesus known. While the main goal of the BLESS style that we have adopted is to reach out to our neighbors, this long-term model of implementation has had the benefit of weaving BLESS into our daily lifestyle and foundation. As we move forward with the remainder of the book, it is our hope that we can fully embrace these principles, especially during the holidays, using that time of brokenness as a catalyst to reach out as individuals and as a congregation. House groups are a great way to share both testimonies, as well as having some accountability, to take steps in a right, Gospel sharing direction. We also intend to invite church members to join in with several upcoming Gospel outreaches, by partnering with other streams of the Church. It is our hope that we will launch a consistent community outreach sometime in early 2025.

~ Colin & Mary Akehurst

DEACONS

Deacon Team: Steve Ackermann; Audrey Halverson; Doug Weikert; Geri Buck; Dan Buck; Kyle Salley; Niki Inoue; Barb Star. Elder liaison: Hans Martens

Accomplishments over last year:

- Annual fall cleanup was a success; spring cleanup was rained out. Geri organized flower bed cleanup and flower planting events. A big Thank You to all our cleanup volunteers!
- A tree cutting day was scheduled for April 6th, led by Dan Buck. We removed 7 dead or dying trees, six of which were Ash trees that had been infested with Ash borer disease. We are again thankful for the volunteers who came out to help! A special Thank You to Buck Landscaping for providing the saws, Bobcat, and truck to make the job
- Abby Stokes resigned from the church janitor position on June 7th. Doug had requested to be allowed to retire from doing church maintenance, so we advertised for these positions on 6/13.
- Kyle Salley was hired starting July 1st for the church Maintenance position.
- Damaris Buuck was hired starting July 15th as the church custodian.
- There are many annual inspections required, including the kitchen, elevator, fire sprinklers, fire extinguishers, fire panels, fire dept inspection.
- Will soon be requesting quotes for the annual snow removal contract.
- The Deacon Team was asked by the Elders to identify and prioritize a list of capital improvement projects. We have received approval and funding to proceed with the top 6 items.
 1. New Security Cameras and DVR for Genesis Building
 2. Door Security System for the Sanctuary Building

- a. This includes the replacement of the computer system and hardware.
- 3. North Entrance Handrail for Sanctuary Building will be replaced
- 4. Remodeling of the sanctuary downstairs Bathrooms
- 5. Replace siding for Genesis Building
 - a. Siding will match the Food Shelf.
 - b. This will also include the restoration of the front entrance.
- 6. Replace siding for Garage (same as Genesis)

~ Steve Ackermann

WAY OF THE LORD BUDGET	Actual	Monthly	Monthly
	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Budget	Budget	Budget
Net Income	35,516	31,000	35,000
GUH Income	242	500	0
Building Usage	241	400	200
Interest Income	1,252	1,250	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	37,251	33,150	36,200
Missions	-3,150	-3,150	-3,500
Apostolic Oversight	-700	-700	-700
Ministry Designated-Youth	-100	-100	-200
Ministry Designated-Children	-100	-100	-200
Ministry Expenses	-321	-450	0
Staff Salaries	-15,894	-18,000	-19,000
Administrative	-1,955	-1,700	-2,000
Capital Improvement	-1,200	-1,200	-2,000
Loaves & Fishes	0	0	-1,100
Utilities/Insurance/Tax	-4,776	-5,500	-5,500
Repairs & Maintenance	-1,501	-2,000	-2,000
Seasonal Grounds	-265	-250	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	-29,962	-33,150	-36,200
EXCESS REV(EXP)	7,289	0	0



JESUS

He is the Head of the Church

APOSTOLIC OVERSIGHT

- Advisory authority for wisdom, input, protection, arbitration, and ministry
- Connecting the local church to the international body of Christ

ELDERS

- Governing leadership whose responsibilities include prayer, teaching, strategic planning, vision and mission, decision-making, caring, praying for the sick, and servant leadership

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

- Advise, counsel, and/or give input to the elder team
- Includes elders, and possibly deacons, pastoral leaders, and selected individual members

DEACONS

- Serve as extensions of Elder's responsibilities
- Assist in ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of the church
- Meet the needs of members, especially widows, orphans, the poor, and single parents
- Care and maintain for our physical property

PASTORAL LEADERS

- Serve as extensions of Elder's responsibilities
- Leading family and life transformation groups
- Minister to members and those in home groups
- Handle practical day-to-day care of the church body

JESUS

The Firm Foundation. The Chief Cornerstone. The Word of God.



WAY OF THE LORD *Church*

ELDER ROLES

LARRY ALBERTS

- Apostolic and spiritual oversight

JAKE GIVAND

- Administrative Elder
- Pastoral care
- Finances
- NCS school board member

LANCE WONDERS

- Resident Theologian
- Dean of ACTS Bible College
- Senior Ministry / Pastoral care
- Adult Education
- NCS school board member

HANS MARTENS

- Building development & maintenance
- Deacon liason
- Missions team liason
- Pastoral care

JOE STOKES

- Pastoral care
- Food shelf liason
- Director of Encouragement

SAM MAYES

- Director of Discipleship
- NCS liason
- NCS school board chair
- Youth & children's ministry liason

CHRIS MASSOGLIA

- Life / Home Group liason
- Finances
- Pastoral care
- Government & life mandate
- Preaching & teaching

ANDREW ANDERSON

- Marriage & family ministry
- Prayer & altar ministry
- Pastoral care

JOEY STONTZ

- Worship Pastor
- House of Prayer liason
- Website & communication
- Counseling / Pastoral care
- Preaching & teaching