

CROSSWINDS CHURCH 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

reaching people with Jesus.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

Over the past year, our focus has been to:

- Reach people with Jesus.
- Complete the new Spencer campus facility.
- Update the Spirit Lake campus facility.
- Align our ministries to better reach our communities.

We completed the renovations of the new Spencer facilities and had our first service on Christmas Eve. We thank God for providing the \$800,000 for the capital campaign that enabled us to pay for the renovations in full. We are also extremely grateful for the selfless labor of many volunteers. After completing the Spencer campus facility, we began a second capital campaign to raise \$110,000 for updates to the Spirit Lake campus. As of the writing of this report, the campaign is fully funded. We thank God for the generosity of His people and their belief in the mission of CrossWinds.

One of our core values is to reach our communities by serving our communities. At Christmas, both campuses took a special offering for ATLAS ministries to help them better serve those in need in Spencer and Spirit Lake. The Spencer campus provided meals for high school teachers during parent-teacher conferences and serves many students who attend Iowa Lakes Community College. The Spirit Lake campus opens its facilities for use by school sports teams and community programs. The campus also hosts a fifth-quarter gathering for junior and senior high students after home football games.

As a church, we love to keep our finger in the text. In 2022, we completed our studies in the book of 1 Samuel, and in 2023 we began a study of 2 Samuel. In January, we took six weeks to learn about a healthy walk with Jesus in a series called *Spiritual Health*. During the summer, we studied how to honor God with our speech in a study titled *Taming the Tongue*. In the summer, we also learned how God loves to use ordinary and broken people in significant ways for his kingdom in the series *Broken Vessels*.

Our Life Groups are sermon-based. They spend time eating together, praying for one another, and applying the Sunday message to their lives. If you are not in one, I encourage you to join one. Life Groups are where we can best love and encourage one another, as Hebrews 10:25 instructs us to do.

As a church family, we are involved in a church-wide Bible reading plan known as *Take-Up-And-Read*. Our goal is to keep the Word of God in our hearts every day, not just on Sundays.

I am grateful to serve Jesus alongside you!



Kurt Trucksess
Lead Pastor

2023-2024 ELDERS

Elwin Doorenbos

Sam Hanson

Mark Olson

Robert Morris

Jake Rouse

Roland Schmidt

Dave Smidt

2023-2024 DEACONS (SPENCER)

Steve & Pam Fox

Nate & Jessica McCormick

Ben & Ayaan Thomas

2023-2024 DEACONS (SPIRIT LAKE)

Troy Black

Lisa Doorenbos

Jim & Dale Gamache

Clay & Kathy Norris

Paul & Krista Thomsen

Paul & Lisa Weeks

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REACHING PEOPLE WITH JESUS

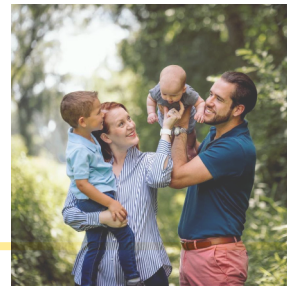
Meet the **BROWNS**

when Jesus's mission takes you to the other side of the world.

If you would have asked Kevin and Tara where they would live even just three years ago, they would have never said "Tanzania." Of course, God had other plans. Kevin and Tara have been regular attendees at CrossWinds since 2021, actively serving in first impressions, worship ministry, and kids ministry, as well as being heavily involved in life groups and other studies. Through a series of events that can only be described as the hand of God moving his people where he wants them, Kevin became the Executive Director of the missions organization STEM (Siouxland-Tanzania Educational Medical Ministries). Tara joined the staff of STEM shortly afterward.

It should be stressed that Kevin and Tara's roles at STEM were always meant to be on the "US" side of things. But as already noted, God had other plans.

In December 2022, Kevin and Tara visited the STEM location in Tanzania. There was a vacancy on the Tanzania staff that—for whatever reason—STEM was having a hard time filling. Of course, that "for whatever reason" is obvious looking back: God was preparing Kevin and Tara to move their family to Tanzania where for at least a year to be the hands and feet of Jesus.



Almost immediately upon returning to the U.S., Kevin and Tara knew God was calling them to Tanzania. This was affirmed by the encouragement of their eight-year-old son Oscar, who reminded them, "You know, I'm kind of sad to be leaving my friends and our family, but it will be worth it."

In June 2023, Kevin, Tara, Oscar, and Philip departed for Tanzania for the sake of the gospel. Kevin hopes that the story of God's work in their lives is a reminder to anyone who hears that we serve a great God who uses "broken sinners to do extraordinary things that impact the kingdom."

2022-2023

AT A GLANCE

424

average weekly attendance

Sunday Mornings

219

adults involved in life groups

Life Groups

244

total membership

Members

29

new members in 2022/20223

New Members

161

number of regular volunteers

Volunteers

79

student ministry average attendance

Wednesdays (Students)

134

kids ministry average attendance

Wednesdays (Kids)

226

kids attending Kids Camp & VBS

Kids Camp and VBS

06

baptisms in 2022/2023

Baptisms

08

child dedications in 2022/2023

Dedications

SPENCER



This past year has been one of the most memorable years for the Spencer campus of CrossWinds. After almost exactly a year of renovations, we moved into our new home in January 2023. This move could not have been possible without the countless hours of volunteer help, as well as your generosity in giving to our capital campaign. Thank you!

Moving into our new home is not the end of the story, however. Our new building is just a tool to accomplish the work that Jesus has entrusted to us. Over the past year, we have seen God at work in a number of different areas. Let's focus on two:

First, our new home provides us with a wonderful opportunity to minister to students from Iowa Lakes Community College (our neighbors), most of whom are international students. A bike ministry serving the students of Iowa Lakes is a runaway success, and we regularly have students serving in various ministry areas. It is not uncommon for a Sunday morning to include people from North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. God's kingdom is indeed a global one!

Second, our new home gives us the opportunity to double-down on our ministry



to young children, as well as middle school and high school students. A dedicated student ministry room allows our students a place to call their own. Relationships are crucial, and our students have built a number of relationships thanks in part to this growing ministry.

Our Sunday morning kids ministry is flourishing in our new space, not only because there is more room, but also because the space fits the vision of how we want to minister to kids. Wednesday night kids ministry and kids camp (formerly VBS) also benefited greatly from our new home.

We've seen many new faces, including many who don't have a church home.

Of course, God was doing all these things at the Spencer campus before moving into our new facility. We continue to be about life transformation through the gospel, longing to see people join us on the mission of reaching people with Jesus.

As we enter our tenth year of existence as a campus, we are amazed at God's faithfulness to CrossWinds, and we look forward to many more years of fruitful ministry in Spencer.

SPIRIT LAKE



We are focused on reaching people with Jesus and keeping our finger in the text. Keeping our finger in the text helps us hold tight to the Word of God. Reaching people with Jesus encourages us to try innovative approaches to connect with the community. Let's highlight some of the innovative ways we are reaching people.

First, we are modernizing our facilities. After the Spencer campus moved into their new home, we began an update of the Spirit Lake campus. The updates include the modernization of stage lighting and video systems, updating outdated projectors and screens, updating house lights in the worship space, a fresh coat of paint in the worship

space, the creation of a dedicated livestream broadcast room, moving from pews to chairs, and a storage facility off the gym. The updates are intended to help us better reach the next generation with Jesus.

Second, the midweek AWANA program continues to draw in families with solid teaching and creativity. The Fall began with 183 children and adults registered for the program. Many adults work hard to make AWANA a success. We are grateful for every leader! We also have a great group of men that design creative games to draw children to church where they can learn about God's love. Games such as the outdoor obstacle course and life-size Pac-Man encourage children to



love their church and invite their friends.

Third, the Sunday morning Kids Worship program during worship services is a fresh approach that helps more children learn about Jesus in an age-appropriate way. The overall number of children involved in Sunday morning education doubled by placing children's education during our worship services instead of between them. To make this possible, God provided an amazing group of volunteers who sacrifice time every Sunday to invest in children. We are grateful for each of them. God is using this amazing team to make an eternal difference!

Fourth, we were fortunate to hire Ryan Maris

as the new director of student ministry on the campus. He has done an excellent job teaching students the Bible and trying new ways to reach them. The style of Wednesday night small groups was changed. He began a student worship team on Wednesday nights for youth group. He started a before-school Bible study. He also restarted the fifth-quarter program after home home football games, which draws up to 100 students.

While God's Word never changes, we are excited about trying new ways to reach our ever-changing world with the never-changing message of Jesus.

ELDER REPORT

75 Years - Looking Forward, CrossWinds!

Did you know 2024 is our church's 75th anniversary? It is a time to both celebrate and dedicate! How might that look?

Join the "Call to Celebration." We will do well to pause and recount the challenges and milestones of each campus! Robust celebration will shine a bright light on God's faithfulness!

Join the "Call to Commitment and Devotion." Our consumer culture subtly yet strongly squeezes us to question "what is in it for me?"¹ Preferences become demands that if not met lead many to quit. And like the ancient children of Israel, grumbling supplants gratitude. How do we avoid this trap?

The "Devoted To" Principle - In ACTS 2², Luke details the devotion of the early church.

• *Devoted to Obedience to the Teaching.* The apostles taught and the church was eager to learn and obey the words of Jesus.

• *Devoted to Fellowship.* There was "shared participation within the community." A church that makes a positive community impact participates far beyond a passive Sunday event.

• *Devoted to Prayer.* Prayer means "Lord, I marvel at your creation, your sovereignty, your love, your holiness." Is our collective CrossWinds prayer life anemic? Might we simply be self-sufficient, relying on programs to move the spiritual needle within our community?

• *Devoted to Compassion.* They were bountiful in benevolence assuring no one was lacking.

2024 and Beyond

We want to celebrate! But we must decisively move from celebration to devotion and unity. This is our call in an ever-darkening world.³ Join us in praying for the legacy of our church: that many would be saved through faith in Christ.⁴

¹ Romans 12:2 ² Act 2:42,45 ³ Matthew 5:13-16 ⁴ Acts 2:47

By the **NUMBERS**

Capital Campaign

\$110,000

fully funded

Christmas Eve

\$5,274

for ATLAS

Missions

\$101,867

disbursed across the globe

General Fund Giving

\$1,024,991

from October 2022–September 2023

Kids Camp & VBS

\$4,761

raised by kids

Benevolence

\$8,528

received

Benevolence

\$12,956

disbursed in our communities

**FINANCIAL
UPDATE**



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reaching people with Jesus.