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### From the Pastor

We will soon be starting in on a sermon series on outreach and evangelism very soon, and through that series, my hope is that we will become a church that will seek to reach out to the lost in and around our community. Through that, we will encounter some non-Christians, and chances are they will not have a Biblical worldview. In those encounters, it is vitally important that our worldview and our actions are not changed, but remain true to Scripture.

So what is the worldview of the culture around us? So, there are several sources that I use, especially from a Christian point of view, and one of the best is [thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org). From that website, one can read about “Ivan Provorov (a professional hockey player on the Philadelphia Flyers) who chose not to wear a Pride-themed jersey during warmups. When asked why he didn’t express support for LGBT+ causes in this way, Provorov said he respected ‘everybody’s choices’ but that he’d chosen to ‘be true to himself’ and ‘his religion.’” And of course, the media pounced. As Trevin Wax noted, “One commentator broke down in tears on air—overcome, I suppose, by the unthinkable horror that someone somewhere who occupies a place in polite society dissents from sexual revolution ideology.”

In Canada, culture seems to have completely left God and His ethics behind. “In March 2023, Canada will begin assisting the mentally ill by terminating their lives. Canada first legalized medical assistance in dying (MAiD) in 2016. Bill C-7 in 2021 expanded the criteria for MAiD beyond those who had a foreseeable death. Now, a further expansion will allow those with mental illness to receive a prescription for death.

The slope is not only slippery—the ground below MAiD collapsed into the pit of the earth. We should expect the requests of parents to end their children’s lives to soon be granted. We will not have post-birth abortion; we will have parents requesting to have their children receive the care given by medical assistance in dying. Lest I be accused of exaggeration, Quebec’s college of physicians has already (in 2021) recommended euthanizing infants and teenagers.

The euphemism “medical assistance in dying” means a medical professional will administer drugs that end the life of a patient.

In traditional language, MAiD is euthanasia. And, it’s the new normal in Canada.

The stories of people applying for MAiD in combination with the sympathetic reception of MAiD among Canadians will force Canadian Christians into conflict because any attempt to save someone’s life will invoke the ire of those who call death good and preserving life wrong.”

However, in my opinion, there is no more evidence of our culture departing from a Biblical worldview than in regards to gender. From the site, [lifesitenews.com](http://lifesitenews.com), here are just a few of the headlines: 8,000 teens now seeking puberty blockers, trans hormones in the UK, trans ideology left runaway gender-confused teen prey to sex traffickers and rapists, Christian teacher jailed after refusing to use trans pronouns set free by Ireland’s High Court, medical professionals are being trained to help kids keep ‘gender identity’ secrets from parents, a teenage girl freaks out over seeing a biological man nude in the YMCA and the media take the man’s side, 4 year olds are taught what non-binary (neither male nor female) is, and in Scotland, a rapist decided he was no longer a man only after appearing in court on a rape charge and he would be held in a women’s prison.

All of the trans headlines point to a society that is not only departing from a Biblical worldview, but is increasingly disregarding God as their Creator, especially a good Creator. They are not content with the way that God made them and are seeking to push their Creator out of their lives.

Here is why this is important to know while we witness to the culture around us. We will encounter viewpoints and a worldview that is far different than a Biblical worldview. There is always a temptation in our witness, as we seek to become friends with non-Christians (as well as we should) to give in to the way they see things, and in this culture, that means gender, sexuality, and even life and death, but we must be so rooted in Scripture and how our Creator made us, that we never falter from a Biblical worldview. That takes a lot of time in studying Scripture and prayer to ensure that we not get offtrack in the way we view all of God’s creation.

*Pastor Brandt*



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You can also find us on Facebook.

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri: 12 - 3:30 pm

Tues & Thurs: 12 - 4 pm

Pastor’s Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday

9:30 am - noon (flexible)

## New Projector for Sanctuary



On Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, AAA Sound installed a new projector in the sanctuary. Using a ladder that even Jacob would have taken notice of (Genesis 28:12) they removed the old projector and installed the new one. This new projector provides a much brighter image. It also allows a larger 16:9 image, both projected and in the YouTube videos, so the words of the songs and scripture can be larger and will be easier to read

## Fellowship

Many thanks to all of those that helped with the Annual Meeting luncheon on January 22, 2023.

We all enjoyed a pizza and salad lunch with ice cream sandwiches for a treat before the annual meeting.

Again, thank you to those that moved tables and chairs and those that helped clean up!!

Stay warm as winter seems to have finally arrived!

And happy early Valentines wishes to all of you!

Please let us know of any ideas for future fellowship events.

Thank you, The Fellowship Team

## Sewing With a Purpose

Sewing With A Purposed offered light mending to our church family members. The repair team consisted of Faith Willhoft, Pam Patmore, Shirley von Bergen and Debbie McAllister. Nine items were presented to the sewing team. Repairs ranged from a torn seam on two coats, a dress needing a few snaps, a material bag with a torn seam, a scarf designed, several other repairs and repair of a child's favorite towel to extend the life of joy (Navy Seal towel --- can you guess who might want this repaired). It brought the team joy to do these repairs for our church family to extend the life of the garment.

Words of Wisdom from Debbie ---- I always told my kids that if they noticed something needing fixin, please give it to me when it is a small hole, not when it is beyond the point of no return.....Now that's a Best Yes!



Next project will be creating eye protections for 1-2 pound babies at the Strong Hospital NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit).

We need :

2 sewing machine people

1 ironing person

5 people to clip corners and turn item right side out

## Mission Opportunity

Open Door Mission is looking for groups to make bag lunches for the people that they serve. We are looking for volunteers to make 70 lunches and donations of peanut butter, jelly, fruit cups, snacks, and large lunch bags. More information and schedules to follows. If you are interested, please contact Jen White or Sandy Partridge.

## TAG ~ Teens After God

### Who are your friends?

TAG is going great, except for the frequent interruptions to our regularly scheduled Sunday youth group caused by the Buffalo Bills success this season 😊 Now that the Bills are out of it, our teens can again focus on their spiritual development. Our group continues to work through the book of Luke during our time of bible reading and reflection each week. We read and discussed Luke Chapter 5 verses 17-26 at our most recent meeting. Take a moment to read through those verses. Each week I challenge the teens to come up with a real-life application of the scripture read, which is relevant to them in their life. What the teens took away from our evening reflection is that true faith is believing without seeing, and that it is important to surround ourselves with Christian friends.

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: January 29th, February 19th, and March 5th. Please keep all the teens of our group, and in Bergen, in your prayers. Continue to pray for God's protection and guidance in their lives!



*TAG Teens and Volunteers at a Rochester Americans Hockey Game*

## Byron-Bergen School Says Thanks

The following letter was received from Byron-Bergen Central School:

*Dear Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church,*

*Our community appreciates your generous donations to help support our 2022 Holiday Community Service Program. It is times like these that we are truly reminded of the real reasons for the season. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated by all. Community is everything and we are so grateful to have you in ours! Thank you very much.*

*Wishing you a new year full of peace and joy.*

*Patrick McGee*

*Superintendent of Schools*

*Ken Gropp*

*B-B Faculty Association President*

Through the Deacons, our church supplied Christmas gifts to a needy family in the school district.

## More Gratefulness for Our Church's Support

This letter was received from All Babies Cherished Pregnancy Assistance Center in Batavia. Our church contributed \$1,000 to the center as part of the 2022 E&M budget.

*On behalf of All Babies Cherished, I would like to thank you for your support of our ministry. With your help, we are able to continue to serve the families of this community and the surrounding counties.*

*God is so good. He supplies the center abundantly, which allows us to be generous in giving to others. God also opened many doors with opportunities to counsel and advise young moms and dads in many areas of their lives. We feel privileged to serve God in this manner.*

*We are now renovating the house that was donated to us and we are excited where this new venture will lead us. Our clients' needs are constantly changing and it is so comforting to know that people, like you, are helping to take care for those needs. Your support of our organization is appreciated and we thank you! May God richly bless you for blessing us!*

*Susan Sherman, Executive Director*

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## An Update & Blessing from Sarah Speer in the Congo

*Blessings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!*

*How are you and the dear family at Bergen doing these winter days? I pray that you are keeping safe and staying strong in the Lord. Always remember that His coming is sooner than it was yesterday.*

*Did you receive the news that your tent has arrived and is in my house waiting for our first trip in the New Year.? Thank you so much for making that happen. It is replacing an older one that has suffered some damage.*

*I have a note that I hope that you can share with the church before January and the beginning of the New Year are finished. May it encourage all of its readers and listeners.*

*Your sister in the Lord,*

*Sarah*

### The Blessing

Jesus Christ is your blessing, your life and your heritage. May you, my child, rejoice in this blessing of mine to you.

He is my precious son of love and compassion. His companionship and leadership in your heart and life will open yourself to mean all the glory of my kingdom.

Fear not His true and powerful ways in your life, for He will never destroy that which is of eternal value. He will indeed remove that which is worldly and earthy in you to the depths of your being.

Oh learn to trust Him in all things - the little and the big - moment by moment - until you will meet Him face to face!

He knows you from the inside out and will pay attention to each and every detail.

By the means of my Spirit, you will be conformed to the image of Jesus.

Let your light (Jesus) shine before men that they might glorify Me, that their darkness may turn to light and that they will come to the path (Jesus) which leads them to me, the Father.

Rejoice in Me and you will have an abundant life!

*Sent by Sarah Speer from the Congo*

*January 2023*

Sarah works with lepers at the Kimia Care Center in the Congo. Our church supports her work in the annual E&M budget.

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## Update from Berti Berhami in Albania

Our church has a decades-long relationship with Berti who ministers through CRU. Again this year, he continues to be part of our E&M annual budget. Here are some snippets from a year-end summary of 2022. If you want to subscribe to his newsletter electronically, contact Gregg McAllister.

From Berti: *We are in awe and filled with thanksgiving for what God has allowed in our midst and for the privilege to be a part of it. Your faithful prayers and generous financial partnership with our staff and ministry has played a vital part in seeing such spiritual fruit. Be encouraged and join us in praising God for this amazing opportunity to have an eternal impact in Albania and to the ends of the earth.*

*Summer is the most fruitful seasons in our ministry. This year, our staff teams together with our international partners led outreach efforts and summer camps in 20 major cities across Albania. A total of 1,371 people participated in these camps. Nearly half of them had a unique and life-changing experience discussing the truth of the gospel, and 71 indicated that they put their faith in Christ.*

*After outreaches in cities, students who were interested to know more about faith were invited to a retreat at The Lighthouse beach camp, where our staff and volunteers invested in them on a more personal level. Additionally, the camp was made available to local churches for family retreats. The campground was fully booked throughout the summer, with a total of 751 participants. In total, 381 people had a wonderful experience in discipleship and fellowship; 370 youth heard the truth of the gospel. Of those, 23 professed to have placed their faith in Christ, and 18 were baptized in the Adriatic Sea.*



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## Foodlink Returns in March

Mark your calendar for March 16, when we will resume Foodlink distributions in the church parking lot. We will need plenty of volunteers, as always. Time will be the same: we begin unloading at 3 pm and plan to start the distribution by 4:00 pm. If volunteers can arrive by 2:45 pm, that's a great help. We are usually done by 5:30 pm.

If you have questions about volunteering, contact Gregg McAllister at 585-738-6141.

Foodlink has provided us with some terrific items to make the distributions go easier. We have received six additional wagons that patrons can borrow to collect their food and take it to their cars. Also, we were given two popup tents to keep our registration area dry. We will also receive plastic bags to repackage items that have come in large crates, such as potatoes, assortments of small dairy products, and other vegetables.

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## Meet Uli from Mexico, Our Missionary of the Month

Well, you can't really meet him and shake his hand, but we will connect with him through the wonders of technology. He will be able to speak with us live during one of our worship services.

Uli has been supported through our church's E&M budget for many years. He and his family minister to a poor section of Mexico City. After years of street ministry, they are in the process of building a church facility.

Watch for the date in February when he will be speaking to us during our service. He always brings us exciting updates of how God is moving through their work.

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## Remember to Pray for David & Family

We were blessed in January to meet through Zoom with David, who is ministering in Southeast Asia. Remember to pray for him and his work. Pray also for their three sons, who are adjusting to many new things living in a different culture and educational system.

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## Lenten Offering Will Be Used for Missions

The E&M Committee will recommend a special mission offering during Lent that begins on Feb. 22. Watch for more details to come.

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## Veteran Artwork Given



Ben, one of the Eagle Star veterans, presented our team with one of his watercolors. We will place this on our mission board for a time. Come take a look & admire!

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## Veteran Ministry Team Update

The Veterans Ministry Team visited the VA Women's facility in Batavia. We presented the 12 women with handmade scarves and small gift bags of hygiene products and pens and note pads with BEPC name. A special "Thank You" to the Mayne family for relaying all the scarves made by their daughter Mindy.



## Kidsquest Upcoming Events

- Elementary Age Basketball League (Nerf) in late February to March
- Easter Activities
- Spring Field Trip

If you would like to help out with Kidsquest, please see Brandt

## A Peek at the Church Calendar

### Weekly

- Sunday, 9:15-10:15 – Sunday School
- Sunday, 10:30-11:45 – Morning Worship
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays - TAG from 6 - 8 pm
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm - Prayer for Door of Hope
- Thursday, 6:00-7:00 am – Son Risers (continuing to meet on alternating Thursdays for breakfast and on ZOOM)
- Saturdays, 11 am - Kid's Quest
- Newsletter Deadline on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month
- First Sunday of the month - Food Collection
- Last Saturday of the month - Door of Hope Coffee House

### Other Goings-On in February:

- February 1 - Sewing With a Purpose @ 9:30 am
- February 5 - Fellowship meeting after worship
- Beginning on February 12 and continuing on Sundays through April 2 - Lenten Study @ 6 pm
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 19 - TAG @ 6 pm
- February 19 - Lenten Study @ 6 pm
- February 20 - Presidents' Day - No Office Hours
- February 22 - Ash Wednesday
- February 25 - Newsletter Deadline
- February 25 - Door of Hope Coffee House @ 6 pm
- February 26 - Lenten Study @ 6 pm

## Anniversaries & Birthdays

### February Birthdays

- 2 - Dave Wright
- 2 - Bill Engle
- 4 - Robert Cosgrove
- 5 - Nancy Alfes
- 7 - Emily Caccamise
- 8 - Rebecca McNear
- 9 - Joan Edwards
- 13 - Renee Berggren
- 16 - Danielle Foeller
- 18 - Christin Snell
- 19 - Wendy Hutchurson
- 20 - Marty Hammack
- 26 - Cyndy Jones

### February Anniversaries

- 16 - Dave & June Hahn (60 Years)

### March Birthdays

- 4 - Judy Ward
- 4 - Debbie McAllister
- 8 - Susan Brownell
- 10 - Stu Freeman
- 18 - Kay Harmon
- 21 - Faith Willhoft
- 24 - Sue Kobel
- 26 - Jacob Buckland-Seward
- 26 - Matthew Foeller
- 29 - Paul Lattimer
- 29 - Allen Ruge

### March Anniversaries

- 29 - Dave & Chris Wright (15 Years)



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



# Church Finances

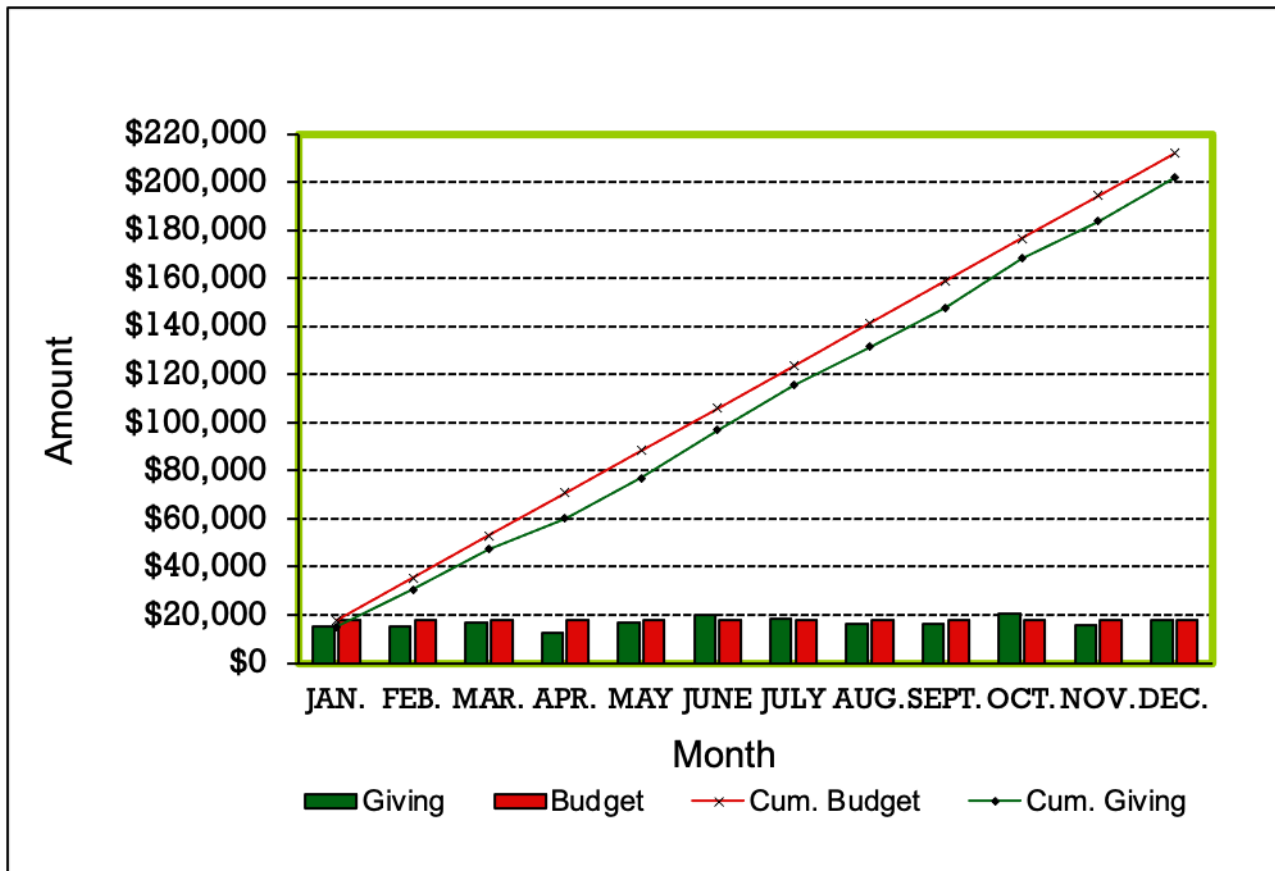
## End-of-Year 2022

*“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Luke 12:32-34

Giving for December was good, \$18,070, and greater than the monthly goal of \$17,658. Overall for the year giving to the budget was \$201,793, \$4,000 higher than last year, and the highest giving level in the history of the church.

Our expenditures for the year, however, were also the highest in our history, \$212,853, and even exceeded the budget by a small amount (\$957). These high expenditures and the negative impact the current large rate of inflation had on our investments drove the Accumulated Income Fund (AIF) into negative territory (-\$536) at the end of 2022. Already, however, there have been some gifts into the AIF for 2023, and the balance is back in the black today.



**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2022****OPERATING FUND****Income**

Sunday offering:	\$11,847.75
Net Online Offering:	\$2,432.47
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$57.47 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$3,790.00

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<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$18,070.22
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$260.36
<b>Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)</b>	<b>\$18,330.58</b>

**Expenses**

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$24,536.33
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	\$0.00

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<b>Net Expenditures for the Month</b>	<b>\$24,536.33</b>
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$3,790.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$6,210.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

**OPERATING FUND BALANCE****\$4.25****DESIGNATED FUND**

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$13,806.48
New Designated Receipts	\$2,919.50
Total Designated Expenditures	\$2,384.32

**DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE****\$14,341.66****TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund)****\$14,345.91****OTHER FUND ACTIVITY****Accumulated Income Fund**

- December expenditures

-\$10,000.00

**Current Balance (12/31/2022)****\$-536.18****Organ Fund**

- December Deposits

\$1,700.00

**Current Balance (12/31/2022)****\$62,358.51****Gillette Fund**

- Building Supervisor

-\$3,000.00

**Current Balance (12/31/2022)****\$179,283.86****Technology Reserve**

- TV and camera
- From remaining budget for worship – equipment

-\$1,418.98

\$479.48

**Current Balance (12/31/2022)****\$1,326.96****Property Reserve**

- Gift

\$5,000.00

**Current Balance (12/31/2022)****\$12,173.17**