

Annual Report



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Report of January through December 2025

BethanyChapel.com



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LEAD PASTOR

Dr. Paul Brushaber



Dear Bethany family,

Another year has past, and God has been good. By every objective standard, we had a great 2025. Our collective efforts, combined with God's power and goodness, moved Bethany forward in every conceivable way. Our mission statement - "Opening Doors to God's Truth and Love" - is being fulfilled with increased consistency and measure. Our weekend attendance grew over 4% to over 497 (Fall 2025 compared to Fall 2024). Bethany weekend attendance has grown 65% over the last three years, so the slower growth was a little surprising. We continue to add new people and believe that our growth will continue, but is somewhat dependent upon the expansion of our connecting opportunities along the way.

Ministries grew as they assimilated our growing congregation, connecting hundreds of people to each other and to God and His Word. We hit our offering target as well, giving us the confidence to make key decisions in 2026 and beyond as it pertains to expanding ministries, adding to our missions support, compensating our staff, and renovating our facilities for future and greater effectiveness.

The following is a compilation of the many ways in which we are together fulfilling our mission and values. It is not complete as there are so many ways in which Bethany people are making a difference outside of the walls of the church as well as within its walls. But this is a short walk through 2025 just to remind us all of that has been done and where we are on the journey of creating a church that Jesus can be pleased with.

ELDERS REPORT

Aaron Mackie, Chair



2025 was another exciting and encouraging year in the life of Bethany Chapel.

The Elders and Deacons continued to enjoy strong, collaborative work together, beginning the year with thoughtful discussions around planned renovations to be completed in stages. Because of the faithful generosity of the congregation and careful stewardship of funds, we were able to budget for a full renovation project without taking on any debt or raising additional funds.

Over the course of the year, the Elders also worked to establish the terms for a new Pastor of Ministries position. This role was created to help oversee the ministries of the church, with particular focus on men's groups, seniors, missions, and connecting groups. While we received many excellent applications, one stood out from within the Bethany family. Jay Somers accepted the role of Pastor of Ministries, and we have been truly grateful for his leadership and the gifts he brings to this position.

We have been encouraged to see growth at Bethany, not only in numbers, but more importantly in depth of engagement. As we continue to welcome new people, participation has increased across youth ministries, Awana, Bible studies, and various connecting groups.

The Elders, alongside the Deacons, have continued ongoing work to organize and streamline church policies. Elder-Deacon collaboration is at an all-time high, and we are deeply thankful to serve alongside such a capable, committed, and diligent group of Deacons.

As the year came to a close, the Elders welcomed a new member, Ryan Brown, and also bid farewell to Matthew Uponi, who faithfully and selflessly served on the Elder board for nine years. With Jay Somers' transition into the Pastor of Ministries role, he also stepped down from the Elder board.

We continue to be amazed by the tangible ways God is at work at Bethany and look forward with anticipation to the year ahead.

Aaron Mackie

On behalf of the Elders

DEACONS REPORT

Andrew McCausland, Chair



2025 saw meaningful progress and improvements at Bethany Chapel.

The renovation project moved forward substantially this year, with the CE Wing now essentially complete. This represents the first major phase of our multi-year plan, and we are thankful to see it finished. The next two phases include the offices - which will be underway soon - followed by the younger Bethany Kids areas. While the project remains on budget, the schedule has slipped slightly due to labour availability. We anticipate 2026 will bring more extensive work as we continue through the remaining phases.

Financially, the church remains in a strong position. We have been blessed with an abundance of contributions over the past year, which has allowed us to fund these renovations without debt and to maintain healthy reserves. In addition, we were able to fund other improvements including replacing the grand piano.

Collaboration between the elders and deacons continues to thrive with quarterly joint meetings. The working relationship between the two boards has never been stronger. Policy work continues to progress, and there remains more to do in the year ahead.

We are grateful for our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose efforts keep the church running smoothly and make these initiatives possible. Their service is essential to everything we do.

It has been a privilege to serve on the deacon board these past five years, and I am grateful for the opportunity. The church is in a strong position, and God continues to bless our ministry.

Andrew J. McCausland
On behalf of the Deacons

We believe that the Bible is the only source of truth that can help us to live the lives for which we were created.

There are lots of great organizations that want to make a difference in the world, but churches must look both at the needs of the world today and into eternity as well. There is no true lasting help for people that does not take into consideration their spiritual lives and destinies. To be faithful to that end, we continue to build on Bethany's rich history of commitment to truth in a church world and broader culture that keep drifting away from absolutes.

In 2025, we focused on the series - HIStory...Lessons from the Old Testament; Lamb of God, (Easter); Pure Sex; and Emmanuel: God With Us, (Christmas). The Bible was also taught throughout Sunday School, AWANA, and all of the Connecting Groups, from youth and young adults, to seniors and every age in between.

In 2026, we are excited about Bethany's renewed focus on reading the Bible, as well as our church's effort to involve as many as possible in that effort. God's Word is essential for change and we are living in some form of a "post-Bible Christianity," a new term to many of us, but an apt description of much of the modern church.

We believe that changing our methods without compromising our message is essential as we bring timeless truths to each new generation.

Cultural relevance is not a program or a ministry; rather, it is a way of thinking and behaving. In the business world, the equivalent concept would be "best practices." Churches aren't always great at current best practices because we have a timeless belief system which tends to make us feel like change is bad or unnecessary. However, the manner in which we reach and connect people does change over time based on a changing world and culture. Methods change. Beliefs don't.

Relevance permeates everything. It's why we sing contemporary music and have a worship band instead of an organ and choir. It's why we began renovating the building six years ago and continued in 2025, with plans for much more in 2026 and beyond. It's why we end the sermon with applications. It's why our kids have a pool table in the youth room and why they play dodgeball after church. It's why we serve good coffee. Relevance is about creating a relatable culture and giving people an experience that they want to be a part of. Every ministry has some reflection of this cultural emphasis.

Continued facility renovations and upgrades are perhaps some of the most obvious examples of our ongoing efforts to live out this value. We are now through the bathrooms, Youth Room, Christian Education Wing, and Gym. We have plans in hand for the rest of the facility, minus the sanctuary. 2026 will see the offices and early childhood wings flipped and completed. This will put us well past the halfway point both financially and physically. These changes are making our facilities a much more attractive option for all who enter and use them.

We also upgraded pianos throughout the facility. A new sanctuary grand piano allowed a subsequent upgrade to the Fireside Room. And a baby grand was added to the Fellowship Room through an estate donation from Karen Mydland's mother.

On a disappointing note, we did not receive the Community Facility Grant Enhancement from the Alberta government. Glen worked very diligently on the proposal and we would like to thank him for his efforts.

We believe that loving and grace-filled relationships fill our need for connection and touch the heart of a broken world.

There is a striking connection between social connections and religious beliefs. It is much easier to believe something if others believe it as well, especially if those others are our close family and friends. This has been proven in research and also emphasized in the words of Jesus. He commanded love for God and our neighbour. He also stated that the latter is our greatest testimony to the world around us.

Many of our church's ministries are listed here because there is a relational/social component connected with the chance to learn and grow. In

other words, we learn and grow in community as well as in the sanctuary. The Sunday sermon is delivered to a large audience, but a connecting group with 10-12 people in it allows the loving community aspect to flourish. The following includes those connecting groups in 2025.

Connecting Groups at Bethany

Every group at Bethany that meets regularly with the same individuals is considered a connecting group. Whether its third grade Sunday School, a middle school boys' group, young adults, a home group, or a women's group - they all serve both a spiritual and a social/connecting function.

We are currently engaged in an analysis, or count of, all connecting groups and their participants. Knowing the level of engagement will be a great help to determine our effectiveness regarding the value of loving community.

Connecting Groups - Bethany Kids

Bethany Kids experienced another meaningful year of ministry, made possible by the faithful service of our volunteers and the enthusiastic participation of our families. We are grateful for a strong team of 37 adult volunteers and 29 youth

volunteers who serve once or twice each month, investing consistently in the spiritual growth and care of our children.

Easter Weekend was a highlight last year. On **Good Friday**, children created Resurrection Gardens using terracotta trays and mini plant pots, which received very positive feedback from both parents and students. On **Easter Sunday**, we hosted four grade-specific egg hunts to ensure every child could participate safely and successfully. Our Grade 5-6 BLAST group completed a special scavenger hunt just minutes before the deadline—an activity we plan to reuse on a rotating basis in future years.



Good Friday
Resurrection Gardens



Connecting Groups - Bethany Kids

Throughout the year, we created opportunities for connection and fun for Grades 3-7 by hosting four **Dodgeball Tournaments**. Attendance averaged 36 students, and we celebrated our Grade 6 Sunday School grads in May with a special devotional presentation.

VBS



Dodgeball



Summer ministry was especially fruitful. **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** welcomed 66 children and 20 volunteers for a week filled with Bible teaching, Scripture memory, worship, games, science activities, and snacks.

Drama Camp also had a strong year with 23 students, and it was encouraging to see two Grade 7 students—former campers—return to serve as volunteers.



Creating Props for Drama Camp

Connecting Groups - Bethany Kids

Our **Fall Kickoff** was a joyful start to the ministry year, featuring a petting zoo, face painting, and bouncy castles that helped families reconnect and welcome newcomers.



The year concluded with our **Christmas Play**, which brought together children from preschool through upper elementary. With 57 speaking roles, every child who wanted to participate had the opportunity to do so. It was a wonderful experience for children to grow in confidence as they practiced performing on stage and using microphones. Each participant was celebrated with a small gift of treats, stickers, and toys.

We thank God for the growth, enthusiasm, and faithful service seen throughout Bethany Kids this year, and we look forward to continuing to partner with families as we help children know and follow Jesus.

Connecting Groups - AWANA / Family Night

Awana continues to be a vibrant and impactful connecting group, meeting on Friday nights and serving children ages 3-12. The program facilitates faith formation and discipleship through engaging activities such as games, songs, activities, and Bible verse memorization. This season, we enjoyed another strong enrollment, with over 150 children and volunteers participating throughout the year.

Our Friday Awana nights provide a welcoming and structured environment for children to grow in their faith while also providing a time for parents to connect and build relationships during the family time after program.



Connecting Groups - Faith Tots

Following several years of faithful service, Teja Dyck stepped down from leading Tot Time in June, 2025. We are grateful for her dedication and the care she showed to the youngest members of our Bethany family.

We are thankful that Irene Moses stepped into the leadership role of this group in September, and the ministry was relaunched as *Faith Tots*. Irene has been guiding the children through the creation account and other stories from Genesis, using engaging flannelgraph storytelling. Each week also includes a devotional and discussion time for moms, while the children enjoy supervised gym time, creating a meaningful space for both spiritual growth and community.

Connecting Groups - Youth

The Youth Ministry experienced meaningful growth in 2025—both numerically and spiritually. While weekly attendance continues to rise, more importantly, we're seeing a greater spiritual depth in our students. They are engaging Scripture more intentionally and taking steps to follow Jesus in everyday life.

Teaching frameworks from 9Marks, Practicing the Way, and Atomic Habits helped shape a discipleship culture focused on spiritual practices such as prayer, Scripture reading, and fasting. The aim is to help students be with Jesus, become like Him, and live out His way in Calgary, so that God's Kingdom is made known in our city.

- Junior High ministry is averaging 55–60 students weekly. Some of the youth attend alongside their Awana siblings, but the primary growth has come through a group from our surrounding community. Seyitan has provided exceptional leadership and support for this group, investing deeply in students both inside and outside of weekly programming.
- Senior High is averaging 45–50 students weekly, with a particularly strong Grade 12 cohort of 28 regular attendees. Intentional planning is underway to strengthen the transition from Senior High into Young Adults ministry for this group of youth.

Worship at Salem Acres



A major highlight of the year was the Spring Retreat at Salem Acres, which welcomed 96 students for a three-day overnight experience. The retreat provided meaningful opportunities for the leaders and youth to connect, as well as for spiritual growth and shared experiences.

Connecting Groups - Youth

This past year, we also partnered with Salem Acres, Pioneer Camps, and Capenway Harbour Bible Camp, highlighting meaningful pathways for our youth to serve, grow, and pursue further biblical learning. These connections not only introduced students to future ministry and discipleship

opportunities, but also deepened our shared mission. In particular, a teaching opportunity at Salem Acres provided a rich time of connection, fostering relationships with both campers and fellow leaders.

BCY (Bethany Chapel Youth) also became an active participant in the 403 Network in 2025, alongside several larger Calgary-area churches. The primary goal of this gathering of churches from varying denominations is to see our city reached with the love of Jesus.

Looking to local missions, the Mustard Seed has become a primary partner to the ministry. Youth led a winter clothing drive late November and representatives from the organization will host a Youth Night/Workshop in Spring 2026 to raise awareness for the unhoused/poverty-stricken.

An overwhelming response from the Bethany family with clothing for the Mustard Seed



On the global mission front, plans are underway for a two-week mission experience with Pastor Wat and Jimmy. This partnership with Wycliffe Thailand and Wycliffe Canada will promote a better understanding of linguistic missions on a global scale. The plan is to provide this opportunity every two years to Grade 11 and 12 students, giving them exposure to cross-cultural ministry in a predominantly Animist/Buddhist context.

Bigger and Better game



Leaders and family praying over Grade 12 grads



Connecting Groups - Young Adults

The Young Adults Ministry met regularly later in the school year for worship, teaching, and discussion. A key highlight was an overnight retreat in Canmore, attended by 24 young adults, fostering spiritual growth and strong community.



Canmore Retreat



In 2025, we partnered with UCM at Mount Royal University, creating space for spiritual growth, community, and discipleship among post-secondary students.

Alongside this partnership, we've also very recently re-introduced bi-weekly home gatherings, meeting every two weeks to foster deeper connection, authentic relationships, and gospel-centered conversation in a more personal setting.

Connecting Groups - in Homes

Connecting Groups in homes continue to be a vital part of our church community, providing a space for Bible study, prayer, and walking alongside one another in life. We currently have eight groups meeting in homes, with two gathering at Bethany, representing over 130 individuals.

We are grateful for how God is working through these groups to deepen relationships and grow faith within our church family.

Connecting Groups - Women

This year, Women's Ministry continued to foster spiritual growth, meaningful connection, and mutual encouragement across all stages of life. Through Bible studies, events, prayer gatherings, and intergenerational ministries, women were equipped to grow in their faith and build strong relationships within the church community.

Women Together

Women Together remained a central place for Bible teaching and fellowship. In the spring, the group paused its study of Revelation to focus on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice during the Easter season, with many participants using a Lent devotional to prepare their hearts. The Revelation study conclusion was celebrated in May with a special brunch and dinner.

In September, approximately 120 women returned across three time slots to begin a new study on the life of Joseph. This year also saw the addition of three new leaders as others took a well-earned break, ensuring continued strength and sustainability in leadership.

Women's Events

Several special events provided opportunities for encouragement and connection in 2025 -

- A February Valentine's gathering featured a powerful testimony of God's love and the change that can come from finding your identity in Him.
- In May, the first Women's Breakfast welcomed 110 women for a shared meal and an inspirational personal story of faith and God's protection.
- May also saw the introduction of bi-weekly "Walks in the Park" drawing 12-20 women every other Tuesday for fellowship and exercise.
- In October, a women's event focused on gratitude and the joy and impact of serving others.



Connecting Groups - Women

Prayer Warrior Moms

Prayer Warrior Moms remained a faithful and growing ministry. Throughout the winter months, participants continued to pray consistently for their children and one another, celebrating many answers to prayer. The ministry launched strongly again in September with increased participation and the addition of a Wednesday morning group to accommodate more schedules. Mothers continue to be encouraged as they see God at work in the lives of their families.

Connection Corner

Connection Corner continues to provide a welcoming space for outreach, relationship-building, and community. Through activities such as card making, sewing, English Language Learning (ELL) gatherings, and Prayer Warrior Moms, meaningful connections were formed and strengthened throughout the year. Special events - including screenings of *The Last Supper* and *The Chosen, Season 5*, as well as sewing for the *Children's Read & Shine Summer Challenge* - drew strong participation and created additional opportunities for fellowship. Whether through creative projects, language learning, or shared experiences, Connection Corner remains a vibrant space of belonging, community, and outreach.



**Sewing bags
for the
"Read & Shine
Summer
Challenge"**



2025 has been a year of spiritual growth, fellowship, and service across all areas of Women's Ministry. From enriching Bible studies to vibrant events and intercessory prayer, our women have faithfully engaged, supported one another, and celebrated God's work in their lives. We look forward to another year of connection, discipleship, and joyful service to our community.

Connecting Groups - Men

Men's Ministry at Bethany Chapel had another strong and meaningful year in 2025, providing a variety of opportunities for men to connect, grow in faith, and build lasting relationships through fellowship, study, and shared experiences.

Men's Breakfasts

A key pillar of the ministry continues to be the Saturday morning men's breakfasts, held on the last Saturday of each month from January to April and September to November. These gatherings focus on food, fellowship, and connection, and include a short video or speaker followed by table discussion. The cost has remained at \$5, with newcomers and those under 18 attending free of charge. Average attendance is approximately 60 men, primarily older men, with a consistent core of younger participants (ages 14–22). These breakfasts serve as an important gateway for newcomers and friends of Bethany men, creating space for meaningful conversations that often do not happen in a Sunday service setting.

Men's Gatherings

New this year, our Men's Gatherings group offered a fall hike to Fullerton Loop and a fun night out at Activate - an indoor games facility. These gatherings are meant to provide social opportunities for men to connect with one another, as well as to spend time with their children.

Fullerton Loop



Men's Book Study

Also new this year was a small group study using the book, *Dialed In*. This group of 16 men have been able to have deep discussion around men's roles as leaders in their families, church, and community, fostering spiritual growth and strong relational bonds.

Men's Discipleship Group

The Men's Discipleship Group continued to meet in 2025, with 8–15 men gathering online each week. The last Thursday of every month allows for a meeting in person at Bethany, followed by breakfast. This group is focused on in-depth Bible study, prayer, and fellowship, with regular prayer for personal needs and for Bethany Chapel as a whole. This year, the group completed a study of the book of Acts.

We are grateful for the many volunteers who make Men's Ministry possible; their dedication and service continue to strengthen and sustain this vital ministry.

Connecting Groups - Seniors

Seniors Ministry

The Seniors Ministry remained vibrant, with monthly socials averaging 85–90 attendees. Highlights included guest speakers, musical guests, a spring games and chili lunch attended by 35 seniors, and a new Christmas luncheon that welcomed over 130 participants.

The Christmas event featured a catered meal, seasonal music, and a message reflecting on Mary's willingness to serve God. After 17 years of faithful service organizing the Senior Socials, Wendy Pelletier and Kerry Davidson, stepped down, leaving a strong legacy of care and community.

**Seniors'
Christmas Social**



Grandparenting Ministry

The year began by completing the Grandparenting Matters and Equipping Intentional Grandparenting courses. In February, the church hosted the Legacy Coalition Grandparenting Summit, with 53 parents and grandparents attending to learn how to intentionally invest in the next generation. A new grandparenting session began in October, continuing the vision of equipping grandparents to leave a lasting spiritual legacy.

Connecting Groups - Breaking of Bread

This connecting group faithfully meets weekly to worship God and to celebrate the Lord's supper. They read Scripture together, occasionally share testimony, sing hymns, and spend time in prayer. Attendance has remained fairly steady in 2025, with an average of 20 people participating.

Special Events

This year, our Special Events created meaningful opportunities for service, connection, and celebration across every season. From hands-on projects that improved our facilities to joyful gatherings that brought families together, each event reflected our commitment to community, an outward focus, and shared purpose.

Serve Day

Our annual Serve Day marked the beginning of the spring season with energy and teamwork. A number of volunteers came together with staff to care for and improve our spaces, both inside and out. We're thankful for the extra hands that allowed us to work through a variety of projects that day.



Fall Kick-off

Our Fall Kick-Off was a highlight of the year, drawing a full house — or more accurately, a full parking lot! We were especially thankful for the warm weather, which allowed us to gather outdoors once again. Our time together featured plenty of food, face painting, bouncy houses, and a petting zoo.

Beyond the fun and festivities, the event provided a wonderful opportunity for connection. Families, friends, and newcomers gathered to build relationships and explore ways to get involved in the fall season. It was a joyful and welcoming start to a new ministry year.



Special Events

Bethany Celebrates 75 Years!

This summer was a particularly memorable one as we celebrated 75 years of God's faithfulness to us. Many who had attended over the years joined us for service, a slideshow, and a church-wide lunch.

Some children and grandchildren of those who sacrificed to build the church 75 years ago were on-hand, as was Fran Blair, one of the very first congregants of Bethany Chapel. What a blessing to reflect on the many lives that have been changed through God's work here.

Fran Blair



Merry & Bright Family Carol Night

The year concluded with our Merry & Bright Family Carol Night, a warm and worshipful celebration of the Christmas season. All of our worship teams led us with carols and children enjoyed a special Christmas story narrated by Aaron Dyck.

Following the program, everyone gathered for fellowship over hot chocolate and homemade Christmas treats, creating space to connect and celebrate together. The evening provided a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the season, rejoice in Christ's birth, and strengthen the bonds of our church community.



Looking Ahead

Each of these events demonstrates the vibrant spirit of our community. Whether serving, celebrating, or worshipping together, we continue to grow in connection and shared purpose. We are grateful for every volunteer, participant, and leader who made these events possible and look forward to another year of impactful gatherings.

We believe that reaching beyond ourselves reflects the value of people as well as God's desire to be in a relationship with every person everywhere.

An outward focus isn't limited to one program or time of week—we want it woven into everything we do at Bethany Chapel, from Sunday mornings to connecting groups.

Ministry Culture

Every church has a responsibility to reach the world with the Gospel. We all inherit Jesus' command to "make disciples" (Matt 28:18-20). And we all do this with the perspective of the early church - beginning locally, expanding regionally and cross-culturally, and ultimately, reaching the ends of the earth. Luke's version in Acts 1:8 refers to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth, following this expanding geographical plan.

To be faithful to Jesus' command, we first need to be an evangelically healthy church in our "Jerusalem." We are very encouraged by the growing number of people committing their lives to Jesus in our local ministries, whether through weekend services or our many weekly ministries. Increased numbers of baptisms is perhaps the best evidence of this trend. We should always have people across the whole spiritual spectrum in all of our ministries - seekers, new believers, and mature believers. This is now happening more and more, and it's exciting.

Missions in Transition

Missions is a large part of every healthy church's outreach efforts, and we are at the beginning of a significant shift in missions at Bethany. This has been precipitated by a rapidly declining number of missionaries sent from Bethany's congregation. As of this report, the number of "Bethany sent" missionaries is four, and will be three by the end of 2026 as Amy Ohler transitions back to Canada and into another profession. This trend is not unique to Bethany as the face of missions around the world is moving to a new model - more nationals are being raised up to reach their own people, as well as those in neighbouring and language-similar cultures. This trend has many advantages both practically and economically. Nationals are a cheaper labour force and they know the language. The need for western missionaries tends to fall especially where higher education levels are still required and where there is no established national church and missionaries are still the first ones bringing the Gospel to the region.

Missions in Transition

While these changes are happening throughout the missions world everywhere, Bethany's commitment to missions is still increasing financially as 15% of General Fund giving is committed to Missions, at a minimum. With all of these changes in motion, the Elder Board has recognized a need to take a strategic planning approach to future missions funding and plans. And thankfully, some prominent leaders from a couple of large, international missions organizations have offered to help, without any guarantee of support for their respective organizations.

The Elders also wanted to create a staff connection to missions, which will ultimately land on the Pastor of Ministries once the Lead Pastor and the rest of the Elders are through the planning process. These factors, among others, factored into the Missions Committee choosing to disband in 2025 after many years of faithful service and care for our missionary family. We all thank them for decades of leadership in this ministry.

Potential Considerations and Changes

The scope of missions in most churches includes local, cross-cultural ministry that reaches a different audience than Sunday morning culture reaches, as well as regional and overseas ministries. Bethany's Care and Community Ministries would be a part of most churches "local" missions, along with ELL and the like. Missions is a logical landing place for many current Bethany activities here in Calgary. Moving some of these into the missions portfolio will be a consideration. Such a move will not impact overseas funding levels in any way as we would simply fund both at higher levels.

In reality, missions' support philosophy at Bethany has already been changing as the decline in "Bethany sent" missionaries opened the door to a relationship with Wycliffe Thailand. At that point, the door was opened to a new view of missions and mission support. We see that likely accelerating in the future. Future support criteria will be examined and possibly amended.

With that in mind, the natural next questions relate to the reasons some missionaries and missions organizations are chosen over others. Historically, Bethany roots, being a Bethany attendee, trumped all other considerations. That may or may not be the best criteria moving forward. We have a chance to do a real reset and focus on the best way to make a difference in the world with several hundred thousand dollars annually. Likely we will have some new plans and some grandfathering of past support options. Stay tuned...

Our Current Missionaries



Amy Ohler

After nearly 20+ years of ministry in the nation of Turkey, Amy was labeled a national security risk because of her involvement with the local church, quite specifically with Christian converts from Islam. As such, she had to leave and will not be able to return indefinitely. She is currently back in Calgary completing her Masters of Counselling and working as a practicum therapist at a couple of different locations. Amy's heart is still very much to serve in places with less access to the Gospel and to resources to aid in spiritual, mental and emotional growth. She is waiting for God's redirection in the future, but until then is content to serve as a Counsellor in Calgary.



Vanessa Kordupel

Vanessa serves with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) in Calgary, with a focus on senior high school students. She ministers to students, both Christian and non-Christian, to make God known in a relevant way. Schools are a challenging mission field, full of competing ideologies; students are searching for identity and need to know the good news of Jesus Christ. Vanessa mentors students, hosts Bible studies that explore how Scripture is relevant to students' lives and organizes outreach and evangelistic events. She longs for students to decide to follow Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. As the National Director of Youth Ministry for IVCF, Vanessa also develops and encourages IVCF high school staff across Canada.

Our Current Missionaries



Jorge & Gail Atiencia

Jorge and Gail serve with the Latin America Mission. Their primary ministry continues to be the formation of faithful and effective Bible expositors across Latin America. One of the primary expressions of this calling is the network of “escuelitas” - mini preaching schools - that offer training and mentoring over a three-year cycle. These learning communities continue to thrive and multiply in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Cuba, and Central America. Jorge’s passion for biblical preaching is further expressed through the mentoring of a number of national leaders, and the development of a “seedbed” project designed to nurture gifted young preachers. He periodically collaborates with the Latin America Regional Team of Langham Preaching, which seeks to provide participants with practical tools, intentional mentoring, constructive feedback, and rich fellowship, aimed at sharpening and deepening the impact of their preaching. At the annual Transformational Preaching Encounters in Medellin, Jorge models Bible exposition and leads plenary workshops while Gail often translates for visiting English-speaking professors or coordinates small group practice sessions. Jorge and Gail are based in the city of Cuenca, Ecuador.

Kingdom Friendships

Kingdom Friendships is an Elder-initiated partnership between Bethany Chapel and Wycliffe Thailand. This relationship has been ongoing since 2016, providing financial support from Bethany Chapel and Wycliffe Thailand to focus on mission efforts in SE Asia.

Teams have gone to see the work being done through this partnership, and the plan is to continue to offer this to our Senior High youth group every two years. These trips have been a blessing both to the team in Thailand, as well as to those who have gone to visit.

The financial contributions that Bethany has made to Wycliffe Thailand have in large part helped the foundation run its operations, including:

- Support of Bible translation projects (including in “closed” countries);
- Training of pastors from both Thailand and surrounding countries;
- Outreach efforts to the poor and needy throughout Thailand;
- Administrative support for mission agencies to work in Thailand.

Bethany’s financial support for Wycliffe Thailand has varied between \$20,000 and \$54,000, with a goal to maintain ~ \$54,000 in support. Wycliffe Thailand has engaged in fundraising from local churches and businesses, however, the spiritual discipline of tithing and giving to missions is not strong in Thailand. The lack of giving to missions is partially representative of the challenging spiritual conditions that exist in SE Asia, with Christianity making up a very small percentage of the spiritual population.



Wycliffe Thailand Highlights

This year, a group of Thai mission agency organizations, including the Wycliffe Thai Foundation, came together to plan the Missions In Action (MIA+) conference. The conference was life-changing for many Thai participants, who were amazed to learn more about God's mission—in Thailand, and beyond.



Recent Highlights

- **Settled into the new office building.** By God's grace, the construction project was completed in just seven months, without causing any debt. Wycliffe Thai staff have moved in, and are using every square foot!
- **Grew the Wycliffe Thai team:** Now includes 9 office staff, 3 interns, 3 Thai volunteers, 7 foreign volunteers, and 22 self-supported members. Praise the Lord for such growth!
- **Launched two new Bible translation initiatives** - the Isan Oral Bible Translation Project in Northeast Thailand, and the Che Translation Project in a restricted-access country.
- **Held a Kairos missions course in the Northeastern city of Udon Thani.** The course's focus was how mission work is a form of worship, because it brings people closer to God & gives Him glory!
- **Held major mission events and prayer gatherings,** including Café Wycliffe events, mission mobilization seminars, and youth events. One Café event had 80 participants!
- **Expanded local support:** 16 churches now support Wycliffe Thai Foundation members; new board members and local business connections have been established. We also rejoice in the burgeoning friendship between the Foundation and the Church of Christ in Thailand. Partnerships were also bolstered regionally with organizations in Singapore, Malaysia, & beyond.
- **Celebrated academic milestones:** Wycliffe Thai member IngRaw successfully defended her Master's thesis in linguistics, and new leaders like Boonlawee have stepped into mobilization and training roles.
- **Hosted monthly prayer meetings.** About 50 participants gather each month in Bangkok and Chiang Mai to pray for outreach in Southeast Asia.
- **Carried out language survey work.** One team was sent to 20 provinces in the Isan region to better understand the language there. This work is laying the foundation for a Bible translation project.

Care Ministry

The heart of our ministry is people — walking alongside them through grief, celebration, illness, and everyday life. In 2025, that calling took many forms.

Honouring Those We Lost

In 2025, we supported several families who lost loved ones, including those with no prior church connection. It is always an honour to walk alongside grieving families as they navigate one of life's most difficult passages. Each family received full support in coordinating their memorial service, including arrangements for food, sound and media, musicians, pastoral care, and facility booking. In 2025, we said farewell to the following beloved members of our community: Ian Macleod, Ken Cochrane, Terry Chan, Sieg Bartel, and Dorothy Menzies.

GriefShare Program

In January 2025, we offered a 13-week GriefShare session that supported 13 participants, fostering healing and supportive community. A new session also began in January 2026.

Welcoming New Life

Alongside the grief, 2025 also brought great joy with the arrival of new babies into our church family. Each birth was celebrated with a visit, flowers, or a meal. Welcome to Zuriko "Zuko" Anthonius Jager (born to Daniel and Sabrina), Silas Alexander Martens (born to Joel and Evangeline), Amari Chiziri Nwachukwu (born to Sylvester and Elizabeth), and Halle Ann Lappin (born to parents Kent and Denae).

"Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn."

- Romans 12:15

Care Ministry

Visitation

Visitation remains one of the most significant and time-intensive aspects of our ministry. In 2025, visits were made to hospitals, care homes, and private residences, with consistent care extended to the elderly and those unable to attend church in-person. At Easter and Christmas, plants were delivered to all 60+ individuals on our visitation list — a tangible reminder that they are not forgotten by Bethany.

This ministry would not be possible without our dedicated team of approximately 12 volunteer visitors. Their faithful, compassionate presence is an irreplaceable gift to so many in our congregation. We are deeply grateful for each one of them.

In addition to planned visits, we also receive walk-in visitors — individuals arriving at the church to access the pantry, seek support for mental health challenges, or simply request prayer. These unscheduled encounters are often among the most meaningful.

Prayer Letter

Prayer undergirds everything we do. Each week, a Prayer E-Letter is distributed to 148 recipients, highlighting church life, praise-worthy moments, and a word of encouragement. This ministry of intercession is central to how we care for one another and lift one another before God.

Community Outreach

Our outreach extends well beyond the walls of Bethany, reaching families and individuals throughout Lincoln Park, Glamorgan, Cyprus Villas, Shaganappi, the Sarcee Co-operative Housing communities, and Bethany Village. Through trusted partnerships with social agencies and generous volunteer support, we are privileged to offer meaningful, practical help to many in need.

Food Security Programs

Food security remains one of the greatest needs in our surrounding community, and 2025 saw a significant increase in the number of people seeking assistance. Several programs helped us respond effectively:

- **Brown Bagging for Calgary’s Kids** supplied approximately \$20,000 to support food supplements for our lunch program.
- **I Can for Kids** donated \$24,500 in grocery gift cards, which were distributed to families in need. We are currently serving approximately 37 families and 85 children through these two programs.
- Our **Community Pantry** continued to see growing visitor numbers, with Calgary 211 directing food-insecure individuals and families to us as the Food Bank reaches capacity. Pantry visitor numbers increased significantly compared to previous years - over 100% in just three years.

YEAR	2022	2023	2024	2025
PATRONS	100	106	145	210

- The **Good Food Box** program continued as a largely user-pay food security initiative, with subsidized boxes provided to families in need from the Care Fund. We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers for overseeing monthly pickup and distribution, and to our front office staff for their administrative support.

We are thankful for the dedicated volunteers who give their time every other Monday to shop for and compile food packages, as well as to the team who faithfully helps assemble them each week. We are also deeply grateful for ongoing food donations from our Bethany family, as well as from the First Church of the Nazarene, who regularly hold church-wide food drives in support of our pantry.

Touch Base & Threads (Lincoln Park)

Calgary Housing continues to allow us to use the unit at 36 Lincoln Park Way, where our Touch Base and Threads programs operate on most Wednesday afternoons. These sessions serve as an important connection point with women in the surrounding community, offering a welcoming space to share needs, receive clothing assistance, and hear about programs at Bethany.

Leadership of these afternoons is shared with a social worker from the City of Calgary. We are grateful to the many volunteers from Bethany and the local community who help make these afternoons possible.



Community Tax Clinic

In March 2025, we once again offered a free community Tax Clinic for low-income families from both our congregation and the surrounding area. Led by a dedicated volunteer team coordinator, four additional volunteer accountants helped ensure all returns were completed accurately and efficiently. The service was warmly received by returning clients, and the team has confirmed they will return for the March 2026 clinic.

Back-to-School Supplies

In the summer, the church rallied to donate school supplies for low-income families. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we were able to assemble 45 complete school kits — plus additional supplies for younger children. Parents expressed deep gratitude for the practical help this provided for their family budgets.

Camp Sponsorships

Thirteen children were sponsored to attend camps this summer, including Salem Acres and both the Drama Camp and Kids VBS Camp at Bethany. Camp experiences are often pivotal moments of faith formation, and it was a joy to help make these opportunities accessible for families who could not otherwise afford them. We gratefully acknowledge a \$1,000 donation from Camp Okotoks Society that helped offset sponsorship costs.

Salem Acres



VBS



Drama Camp



Christmas Market

Our annual Christmas Market welcomed approximately 45 vendors and more than 200 visitors. This year, we extended the event into the afternoon, to the delight of both vendors and guests. Many vendors generously donated cash contributions to our Care Fund or food items to the Community Pantry.

Special Events & Collaboration

Throughout 2025, this ministry had the joy of collaborating with fellow staff members across a range of events and initiatives. Our staff culture of mutual support and willingness to step in during busy seasons is something to be deeply thankful for.

- **The Chosen** — Season 5: We hosted a viewing series of *The Chosen* Season 5, with Q&A discussion following each episode. The group that gathered was engaged and enthusiastic, and we anticipate continuing the series as new seasons are released.
- **Serve Day** (May): Participated alongside staff and volunteers in our church-wide Serve Day, contributing to outdoor planting and seasonal décor.
- **Christmas** — Merry & Bright Event: Coordinated the annual Christmas event, including all event logistics, as well as the seasonal decor, both inside and out.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we step into 2026, we do so with hope, gratitude, and renewed commitment to the community we serve. Thank you to every volunteer, donor, partner agency, and friend of Bethany who made 2025 a year of meaningful ministry. To God be the glory.

We believe that discipling people into their full potential as Christ-worshippers is the best way to expand God's influence in our world.

People development is one of Bethany's core values — and in a volunteer organization, it is also one of the most aspirational. Developing people requires investment: of time, resources, and trust. It is a long-term commitment to helping people grow into the gifts and capacities God has placed within them.

This value is expressed in several tangible ways. Bethany invests in staff through continuing education support, recognizing that a learning

culture strengthens the whole ministry. Throughout the year, congregants are also invited into formational experiences — from women's events to our Connecting Groups in Homes — because growth is not limited to those on staff. Every member of the body is being developed, and every member has something to contribute.

The Role of Volunteers

Every church is deeply dependent on the gifting of the whole body. Staff play a vital role in organizing, leading, and teaching — but the honest reality is that Bethany would grind to a halt within days without the hundreds of volunteers who serve faithfully and regularly. The mission simply cannot be fulfilled by staff alone; it takes the whole body.

Bethany is genuinely marked by a spirit of volunteerism. It shows up every day — in the greeters at the doors, the teams behind the scenes, the small group leaders, the children's ministry volunteers, and the many others who give their time and talents week after week.

Serving in Your Gifting

Not everyone is called to do everything, and placing people in roles that don't align with their gifts rarely serves anyone well. The best approach is to create space for people to explore, observe, and try — and then to trust that God will make clear where they are most fruitful. Sometimes that clarity comes through the affirmation of others who can see gifts from the outside; sometimes it comes simply through stepping in and discovering how God shows up. Bethany remains committed to creating those opportunities - to helping people find their place in the body, develop their gifts, and contribute to a mission that is larger than any one person or team.

We believe that faithful prayer and prayerful faith unleash the activity of the most powerful Person in the universe.

Bethany is a community deeply rooted in prayer, believing that God not only hears our prayers, but delights in answering them. Prayer is not a formality at Bethany; it is a living, active practice that shapes our community, sustains our ministry, and invites God's presence into every dimension of church life. Throughout 2025, we have seen prayer continue to strengthen and unite our church family in meaningful ways.

Prayer Groups & Intercession

Several groups within Bethany gather weekly with a shared commitment to intercession. Among the highlights of this past year was the formation of a second group of our Prayer Warrior Moms, a group whose members pray Scripture over their children with intention and faith. Our Grandma Prayer Team — six dedicated women who intercede regularly for their grandchildren — continues to model the quiet, steadfast prayer that undergirds so much of what God does in families across generations.

Our staff team also begins every meeting in prayer, taking time to lift up individual congregants by name. This practice keeps the people of Bethany at the centre of our leadership, and ensures that our church family is continually covered in intercession by those who serve them.

Prayer in Weekend Worship

Prayer remains a central thread in our weekend services. Pre-service prayer gatherings create a focused, worship-filled space for seeking God's presence before the congregation arrives. During services, our elders are available to pray for healing, and a dedicated prayer team intercedes for the needs that are brought forward each week. These practices reflect our belief that corporate worship is incomplete without corporate prayer.

The Prayer Newsletter

One of the most consistent expressions of Bethany's prayer culture is our weekly Prayer Newsletter, received by 148 individuals who faithfully lift up both needs and praises on behalf of the congregation. This network of intercessors represents a quiet but powerful ministry — and we continue to witness the fruit of their faithfulness in the life of our church.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the ways God has moved in response to the prayers of His people. We look forward to another year of seeking Him together — standing firm in faith, growing in the practice of prayer, and continuing to witness His work in and through this community.



APPENDICES

Bethany Chapel

This past year brought many meaningful moments in the life of our church family. We welcomed four new babies, celebrated nine baptisms and a child dedication, and received 17 new members in our congregation. We also mourned the loss of five brothers and sisters who had been part of our community here at Bethany. Through it all, we have continued to walk through life together as a family.

Births

- Zuriko “Zuko” Anthonius Jager (born to Daniel & Sabrina Jager)
- Silas Alexander Martens (born to Joel & Evangeline Martens)
- Amari Chiziri Nwachukwu (born to Sylvester & Elizabeth Nwachukwu)
- Halle Ann Lappin (born to Kent & Denae Lappin)

Baptisms

- Brodie Osborne
- Ellie Dyck
- Ben Munnings
- Luke Munnings
- Jordan Denis
- Evie Dueck
- Fariba Salbi
- Ana Christina Abad
- Irene Moses

In Loving Memory

- Ian Macleod
- Ken Cochrane
- Terry Chan
- Sieg Bartel
- Dorothy Menzies

Child Dedication

- Amari Chiziri Nwachukwu

New Members

- Wilf Phillips
- Terry & Alice Chan
- Ryan & Kristina Brown
- Larry & Doreen Child
- Jonathan & Rachel Schorr
- Konyinsola Dasilva
- Beryl Hayworth
- Paul & Shelley Munnings
- Frank & Sherry Krulicki
- Peter & Gail Crockford

LEADERSHIP TEAM

As of Dec, 2025

Ministry Staff

- Dr. Paul Brushaber - Lead Pastor
- Jay Somers - Pastor of Ministries
- Mary Dyck - Care & Community Director
- Jen Brum - Women's & Seniors' Director
- Will Moran - Youth & Young Adults' Pastor
- Rachael Stewart - Children's Ministry Director
- Kenzy Jali - Children's Ministry Assistant
- Lisa Hicks - First Impressions Director

Operational Staff

- Glen Bailey - Operations Director
- Rayanne Hutchins - Interim Administrative Assistant
- Shawntel Brooks - Permanent Administrative Assistant (on leave)
- Joseph Jali - Lead Custodian
- Kelly Poirier - Food Services Director
- Peter Menzies - Audio Director
- Marie Pinkle - Bookkeeper
- Debra Unrau - Administrative Assistant

Custodians

- Matthew Burgess
- Mel Dow
- Maria Hunter
- Darrell Krien

Elders

- Ryan Brown
- Dr. Paul Brushaber
- Stephen Chuang
- Barry Lappin
- Aaron Mackie, Chair

Deacons

- Darren Brooks
- Robert Hohls, Treasurer
- Andrew McCausland, Chair
- Andrew Palaschuk
- Chris Prefontaine
- Gaylene Sawatzky