



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**Commit your work to the Lord,
and your plans will be established.**
Proverbs 16:3



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

Our church is committed to five core values.

- 1. BIBLE** — We believe expositional, gospel-centered Bible teaching is the foundation of church health. At CrossWinds, we keep our finger in the text.
- 2. COMMUNITY** — We believe authentic relationships that serve one another fulfill Christ's mission in the church. We are committed to relationships where we can use our gifts to serve one another.
- 3. NEIGHBORING** — We believe that good works create goodwill to help us share the good news. As a church, we don't want to take from our community; we want to give to it. We want our love for the community to soften hearts so more can hear the good news of Jesus.
- 4. FAMILY** — We believe in reaching children with Jesus and teaching the family to follow Jesus together. Our goal is not to disciple children instead of their parents but to support parents as they teach their children about Jesus at home.

5. CULTURE — We lovingly engage culture to reach people with Jesus. While we don't follow the latest cultural fads, we intentionally engage modern culture to communicate Jesus' never-changing message in an ever-changing world.

As we look to 2025, we have two goals.

- 1. Reaching our community by serving our community** — On both of our campuses, we plan to become more involved in serving our neighbors. We look forward to developing more ways to serve.
- 2. Reaching beyond our community with the gospel** — We are asking God to show us the right place and time for an additional campus and exploring how we can better partner with our missionaries.

I invite you to join us in our mission to reach people with Jesus and honor Christ together.



**Dr. Kurt Trucksess
Lead Pastor**

2024-2025 ELDERS

Dave Smidt	Jake Rouse
Mark Olson	Sam Hanson
Robert Morris	Brant McKibben

2024-2025 DEACONS (SPENCER)

Berkley Hanson	Karmen Brown
Ben Thomas	Steve Fox
Aayan Thomas	Pam Fox

2024-2025 DEACONS (SPIRIT LAKE)

Elwin Doorenbos	Paul Weeks
Lisa Doorenbos	Lisa Weeks
Dawn Geisinger	

**A Message from Our
Lead Pastor**

02

**Reaching People
with Jesus**

04

**75th Anniversary
Celebration**

05

**Out Spencer
Campus**

06

**Our Spirit Lake
Campus**

08

**Elder
Report**

10

**2023-2024 at a Glance
& Financial Update**

11

REACHING PEOPLE WITH JESUS



God Provides Amidst Flood

When Jesus's mission brings us to care for one another.

In June, our entire region was jolted by the fury of nature. Torrential rains and a "perfect storm" of other variables transformed the familiar landscape of Spencer into a watery expanse. The floodwaters, surging and relentless, breached the city's defenses - inundating homes, businesses, and roads. The once vibrant community was plunged into turmoil, as residents scrambled to safety, their lives upended by the devastating deluge.

Amidst the widespread devastation, a beacon of hope emerged in the form of (the capital C) Church. From preparing & serving hot meals to a widespread supply distribution effort; the unity we saw amongst the body of Christ was nothing short of miraculous. The Spencer campus of CrossWinds in- particular was able to play a pivotal role in these relief efforts. Recognizing the urgent need for shelter and support, our church swiftly mobilized its resources to join forces with other churches and community organizations. In partnership with our 'North Mall neighbors' at Iowa Lakes Community College,

CrossWinds transformed its spacious facilities into a haven for flood victims.

The shelter at CrossWinds became a lifeline for hundreds of Spencer residents living north of the river. With an average of 100-150 people taking shelter each night, the church provided a safe and comforting space for those who had lost their homes. Volunteers, driven by compassion and a shared sense of community, worked tirelessly to ensure the well-being of the displaced residents. They provided prayer, blankets, clothing, and emotional support - offering a glimmer of hope in the midst of despair. Our pastoral staff went into the affected areas to minister to hurting people while our administrative team managed shelter operations. People from both campuses of CrossWinds came together like never before to assist with relief and activate very specific prayer chains.

The partnership between CrossWinds Church, the City of Spencer, Iowa Lakes Community College, and other churches proved to be instrumental in the success of the shelter. Together, we were able to provide a vital service to the community, demonstrating the power of collaboration and neighboring in times of crisis. This is a great testament to God's divine power if you consider that our church was not initially designed to be a shelter and the majority of our congregation was to formally trained in disaster relief - but staying true to our mission and core

values - we saw people transformed into the hands & feet of Jesus during the first days of flood relief by neighboring and reaching people with His life-changing message.

As floodwaters began to recede and the community saw federal resources start to arrive - we were able to transfer the shelter responsibilities over to the American Red Cross. The flood victims we had gotten so close with were then transitioned to a more sustainable location. Although we were sad to see them go, we were blessed by the return of several people in the coming weeks. Whether it was at a Sunday morning church service or simply stopping in to say 'hi' or thank you.

The devastating flood of June 2024 left an indelible mark on the city of Spencer, Iowa. However, the response of CrossWinds Church and the community organizations that rallied to its side serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of God through humanity. In the face of adversity, they came together to offer comfort, support, and a sense of belonging. Reminding the world of the power of compassion, resilience of the human spirit, and faithfulness of God.



75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Early in the year, a team of church members from both campuses and our extension site assembled in a room to begin planning for a milestone celebration. This team met several times throughout the year discussing way to properly celebrate God's faithfulness to this church over the past 75 years. Their work culminated on September 22nd inside the Roof Garden where 450 people gathered to worship, pray, reminisce, and consider the future of CrossWind Church. From a handful of families in a living room in 1949 to a packed ballroom in 2024 - with hundreds of people in between, encountering the life-altering message of Jesus Christ. We are grateful to have seen God's hand in so many ways and look forward to the plans He has for us in Reaching People with Jesus.



**"Commit your work to the Lord
and your plans will be established."**

SPENCER

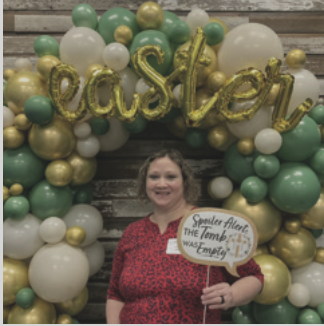


The past ministry year has been filled with countless examples of God's faithfulness—both in the highest and lowest moments of our campus's existence.

In April 2024, the Spencer campus celebrated its tenth birthday. It was a wonderful day of fellowship and worship, as we reflected on moments of God's faithfulness from the very beginning. While it is perhaps tempting to focus on the physical changes of the past ten years (moving from living rooms to the auditorium to First Christian to our current home), this service was an excellent reminder of the spiritual changes that God has accomplished in his people over the past ten years.

The stories of how God has used CrossWinds and his people in the lives of the church were a great moment of encouragement.

It would be impossible to reflect on the past ministry year without mentioning the devastation that the community of Spencer experienced on June 22, 2024, when the Little Sioux River exceeded its banks and flooded much of the community. In the midst of devastation and loss however, God showed himself faithful. The people of CrossWinds gave countless hours to serve as an emergency displacement shelter, volunteered as a government disaster food stamp location, and helped hundreds of people in the community in



the aftermath of the flood.

In the midst of grieving and loss and questions of “Why?,” God has shown himself faithful to his people and to his church. We look to the Lord with confidence that he is sovereign, wise, and good, and he will continue to accomplish his purposes in the community of Spencer even as he does so throughout the globe.

We thank God for the way he continues to use his church in Spencer and beyond, and we look forward to continuing to be a faithful presence in our community for years to come.





2024 was an exciting year of reaching people with Jesus.

This year, we studied the books of 2 Samuel and 1 Thessalonians. We will complete our study of 2 Thessalonians before Christmas. In the summer, we taught our core values and selected topics from the book of Proverbs. Studying the Bible helps us know Jesus better and love him more.

It was a year of sending staff out and adding new members to the team. In January, we hired Kevin Brown. Kevin and Tara were home from the mission field in Tanzania. With his background in communication and organizational leadership, he is an excellent help with administration on both campuses. In March, we hired Christina Mueggenberg for graphics and technology. She is also a great addition to the team and serves

both campuses. In January, Tyler Lowe, our AVL director, took a full-time job leading the concerts at the Preservation Plaza. God provided Trevor Duckett to take his place on the Spirit Lake campus. In September, we were able to hire Brayden Thompson as the pastor of student ministries on the Spirit Lake campus. Brayden is a recent graduate of Northwestern College in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Jeremy Leu, our worship director, took a job as the pastor of Riverside EFCA in Linn-Grove, IA. We are excited to see him pursue this opportunity! We replaced him for the summer with Roman Coates, who worked as a summer intern. Roman is a great addition to the team. Before leaving, Pastor Jeremy Leu completed his EFCA license exam. This year, Pastor Jordan also completed his ordination with the EFCA. We are thrilled for both of them.



The year was filled with projects. The pews in the worship space were given away to other churches, one of which is our extension site in Windom, MN. New chairs and lighting were installed in the worship space. A church garage with storage was completed. The spring brought severe flooding to the Spencer community. Working with the Spencer campus, we raised and distributed \$92,000 to help those on the Spencer and Spirit Lake campuses with flood damage.

This was a year of reaching our community. The AWANA program continues to grow, with 126 children in attendance. A morning Bible study for retired men continues to expand. Summer VBS on both campuses faithfully tells students about Jesus. Adrie Stecker, a recent Spirit Lake High School graduate, traveled to

Paris for a summer mission trip. We had the privilege of supporting her financially and in prayer. We celebrated seven baptisms as students and adults publicly declared their allegiance to Jesus. We began work with our local Habitat for Humanity, building houses in the Spirit Lake community. We also began work with the Tim Tebow Foundation to host a Night to Shine event. This is a prom for those with special needs.

2024 was a time to celebrate God's faithfulness. The Spencer campus celebrated its 10th Anniversary. CrossWinds Church celebrated 75 years of reaching people with Jesus. In the fall, we held a celebration service for all locations at the Roof Garden in Arnold's Park.

God has been faithful in the past. We look forward to the future!

2024 - a bittersweet year.

We praise God, the pain of many inflicted by powerful floodwaters was eased through words of encouragement, acts of kindness, and in many cases financial support. We are grateful that through “generous living”, God’s great name was glorified in practical and tangible ways.

We also enjoyed times of great celebration. In the spring, we “cheered” the 10th anniversary of CrossWinds in the Spencer community. For those participating in our founding, the 10 years have flown by. For those joining us in recent times, we are grateful each of you are part of our local church body! God is doing a great work!

All of us recall fondly the massive 75th year celebration as 450 plus of us sang praises to our Lord. Many shared how they envisioned our great God beaming upon us as we collectively gave Him honor and glory! And to think, our celebration was just one of thousands upon thousands around the globe as the sun rose on that Sunday.

Organizationally, your elders are thankful for our staff and specifically the notable unity that has grown throughout the year. We appreciate each and all of you.

Financially, we particularly appreciate the spirit giving “above and beyond” our general fund budget. You have been faithful to each and every

call to sacrificial giving whether the launch of a campus, the retrofitting of our Spencer church, the enhancements at Spirit Lake or most recently giving to flood relief.


2025 - a year of opportunity.

We are convinced God has big things in store for us. We desire to stretch ourselves beyond being a Sunday morning island by being great neighbors and by strengthening our connection within our communities. We want to discover ways each of us can become more deeply engaged cross-culturally. We pray our hearts become more passionate for sharing the gospel of Christ. In this we ask 2 things.

First, I often hear mention of “praying for our leaders”. We covet prayer for your elders and your deacons as they serve. Pray for both discernment and wisdom. Pray we have a heart for discovering God’s leading into the future.

Secondly, pray for yourselves. When you pray for leaders, remember to pray for faithful followers! We ask for your trust as we lead. We ask you to focus forward on the role God has called you to serve.

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”
Dave Smidt



FINANCIAL UPDATE

BY THE NUMBERS

Sunday Attendance

452

Total Members

245

New Members

31

Life Group Involvement

219

Dedications & Baptisms

7&7

VBS Attendance

269

Weekly Volunteers

75

General Fund Giving

\$1,025,714

from October 2023-September 2024

Capital Campaign

\$124,866

reaching people

Flood Recovery Fund

\$92,000

amount disbursed

Kids Camp & VBS

\$2,789

raised by kids

Missions

\$78,493

disbursed globally

Benevolence

\$10,444

amount received

Benevolence

\$15,000

disbursed in our communities

Christmas Eve - Spirit Lake

\$7,015.60

split between ATLAS of Spirit Lake & Spencer, and Timberbay - McQuowns

Christmas Eve - Spencer

\$2,272.13

SPENCER

spencer.crosswinds.tv
(712) 584-3151
1900 Grand Ave N (Suite A)
Spencer, IA 51301

SPIRIT LAKE

spiritlake.crosswinds.tv
(712) 336-3537
2805 Erie Ave
Spirit Lake, IA 51360



CROSSWINDS
CHURCH EFCA
reaching people with Jesus.

