



# LIFE STREAM CHURCH

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**20  
24**

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# 01

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHRIS

### GREETINGS LIFE STREAM FAMILY,

A little over a year ago the Life Stream leadership put in place a group known as the Search Team. Their purpose was to pursue the Lord's will for Life Stream. They deeply believed in what God was doing and committed to a time and season of deep prayer and seeking the Lord together. The Search Team put in countless hours praying, pouring over resumes, conducting interviews, and communicating their findings with the church. Holy Spirit began to move. There was a stirring of great unity among the staff, Elder Board, Search Team, and the congregation. In time, the Lord revealed His will, but that only tells a part of the story.

**The pages that follow share the greater story of the last year. God has moved in power through the ministries of the church.** We are so blessed as a church. We have an amazing staff team, hardworking, self-sacrificing, with fire and passion for the work of God, who for the last year have absolutely unified around the vision of seeking Life Stream to thrive. We have a dedicated and humble Board of Elders, who have set aside their own personal agendas, to serve in unity in the Spirit in the bond of peace. We have been blessed with phenomenal interim pastors, both Pastor Wes, and Pastor Jack, invested to see Life Stream thrive. We have also been blessed by the love and support of the Great Lakes Region of the Wesleyan Church. When I read these pages my heart fills with gratitude for God's faithfulness over the last year.



We are so thankful as a family that the Lord has brought us to Life Stream Church. We have felt incredibly loved and supported and know that together we are going to watch God do exceedingly more than we could ever hope or imagine. Let's step out of the way and watch God move!

I feel as if the Lord is speaking to all of us, it is time for us as a church to put ourselves on the pathway for an encounter with God. Let these words fill your hearts with awe and worship: **"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen" (Romans 11:36)**. As we look towards the future, let us set aside anything that will hinder, and let us fix our eyes on Jesus!

You Are Loved,

**PASTOR CHRIS**  
LEAD PASTOR



# 02

# MEET THE TEAM



**Chris Carroll**  
Lead Pastor



**Aaron Spratling**  
Executive Pastor



**Jeff Bond**  
Worship Arts Pastor/  
Technology Director



**Josh Dollendorf**  
Generations Pastor



**Nick Brock**  
High School Pastor



**Lori Bond**  
Creative Arts Director



**Katie MacDonald**  
Kids Director



**Jaime Sheridan**  
Events and Facility  
Coordinator



**Chelsea Darling**  
Executive Assistant



**Nancy Dyke**  
Office Coordinator



**Duke Schut**  
Finance Coordinator



**Lexi Winger**  
Communications Director





**Braden DeVree**  
Video Engineer



**Emily Denbow**  
Worship/Tech  
Assistant



**Ben Bird**  
Interim Production  
Engineer



**Sara Wiggins**  
Generations Assistant



**Steve LaBrecque**  
Facilities Staff



**Rob Coffey**  
Facilities Staff



**Rachel Hugg**  
Custodial Staff



**Joan Kleinjans**  
Custodial Staff



**Melissa DeVree**  
Communications Director



**Megan Wyngarden**  
Groups Coordinator



**Mikal MacDonald**  
Facilities Staff

This past year a few team members transitioned off our staff. We want to say **THANK YOU** to Melissa, Megan, and Mikal for the ways they stepped in and served Life Stream this past season. We are so grateful for your obedience to God's call. Life Stream is **BETTER** because of you!



# 03

# CELEBRATE THE WINS

The most important step you will ever take is to believe that Jesus is your Lord, Savior, and King, through whom you can receive forgiveness of sins and become a child of God. Each step that you take in faith is important and we are honored to be a part of that journey. Let's celebrate some WINS from the past year!

## STATISTICS

**830** Average In-Person Attendance

**501** Average Online Attendance

**41** Salvations

**51** Baptisms

**34** Bibles handed out

**43** New Members



**“Praise the Lord.  
Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens.  
Praise him for his acts of power;  
praise him for his surpassing greatness.”  
Psalm 150:1-2**





# 04

# SPECIAL EVENTS



## MINISTRY FAIR/CHURCH PICNIC

Our Ministry Fair and Church Picnic were combined this year as we worked through the sermon series "We're All In This Together." We were able to celebrate all of the ministries and volunteers we have at Life Stream Church with a great meal together! Over 100 people signed up to volunteer that day.

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY

As we entered into the busy holiday season, we designated our weekend services prior to Thanksgiving as "Celebration Weekend," an opportunity to pause and be thankful for God's goodness. This year, this weekend involved baptisms, worship, and a meal following both services.



## CHRISTMAS TREE WALK

Our annual Christmas Tree Walk took place for the 4th consecutive year! This serves as an opportunity for us as a church to reach out to people in the West Michigan area and invite them to reflect on the beauty of the Christmas season and the gift of Jesus Christ to our world. Over 40 evergreen trees were decorated by various businesses, families, and individuals in our community. We had a visit from Santa and his reindeer along with performances by the singing Falcons Choir and Lake Michigan Dance Academy!

Fun Fact: Between the two nights of activities, we served over 600 cups of hot chocolate.





# 05

## WORSHIP & TECH



### GOD IS GOOD!

We continue to praise God for our many faithful volunteers in audio, video, computer, worship, and creative arts, who give many hours of their time on weekends to serve the people of God. God continually blesses our team as they serve with such joy and dedication. One of the biggest blessings is watching people worship! We're always excited to see what new and creative ways we can tell God's story in worship. Singing, dance, visual arts, spoken word, and much more are used in our worship services. We are creative because we serve a creative God.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Ben Bird, who went from Intern to Production Engineer.  
Emily Denbow, who went from Intern to Worship Assistant.  
(Both Ben and Emily are still in school and working part-time.)  
Braden DeVree for making more incredible videos!



## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Song Writing clinic in August by Jeremiah Carlson - out of that we have already introduced 3 songs for the congregation (two congregational “Real Thing” and “Raise Us Up” and one special “Giving It All Away”) from that time and will continue to write more Life Stream originals.
- Mini-choirs in services. We have gotten great feedback from the congregation. People say the choir is so engaging and worshipful.
- Backyard Summer Night (A Combination of Family Night and Backyard Worship). Jason Gray performed and there were rides and games for families.
- Ash Wednesday was different this year as we did an Ash Wednesday Experience. This was in the form of an open house which ran from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- The children in The Hub have been joining the worship team on several occasions helping us lead worship.

## EXTRA SERVICES

Backyard Summer Night, Ministry Fair, Children’s Christmas Program: “Inside Us”, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday.

## WORSHIP/TECH STATISTICS

**75+** Worship and Tech volunteers

**9** Podcast videos for Christmas of various ministries at Life Stream

**2** Christmas Music Videos

**7** Team members currently writing songs

**800+** Donuts consumed on Sunday mornings





# 06

# LIFE STREAM KIDS

LIFE STREAM KIDS VALUES BIBLICAL TEACHING, INVESTED LEADERS, SAFE ENVIRONMENTS, AND FUN EXPERIENCES.

Life Stream Kids is our Children's Ministry (Birth- 5th Grade) that gathers Sunday mornings year-round. It consists of B3 (Birth - 3 years), Kid's Club (3s - 5s), the Hub (Kindergarten - 3rd Grade), and Studio 45 (4th & 5th Grade). We partner with parents to help kids build an authentic relationship with the living God, who loves them and wants to be their forever friend!

This year, we've been more intentional about partnering with parents and families. We have consistently had a monthly email for Kids Club and the Hub/Studio 45. The Parent Resource Center has also become more relevant with information and resources to assist parents in their journeys of raising Christ-like kids.

We are so grateful for our Life Stream Kids leaders, who continue to build Christ-Centered relationships with the kids in these programs!



**“Getting to know all of the kids and their personalities has been one of my favorite parts of being a leader in Kids Club! Being able to witness the kiddos grow in their love for The Lord and letting their lights shine has been such a blessing. I have learned so much about myself and my relationship with God through the kids!”**

**- Jennifer Noor, Kid's Club Leader**

**“I love building relationships with the kids and seeing their personalities shine each week. It's truly amazing watching the way God operates through them, not just in their relationships, but also in how they've influenced me as a leader and my relationship with the Lord.”**

**- Sierra Andrews, Studio 45 Leader**



## KIDS MINISTRY STATISTICS

**80+** Leaders

**14** Kids Dedicated

**27** Bibles handed out

**12** Kids Baptized

**139** Average Sunday Morning Attendance

**2** New Classrooms Opened

**1** New Family Room!

**10,000+** Eggs found during the Easter Egg Hunt



# 07

# STUDENT MINISTRY

A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN EXPERIENCE THE TRANSFORMATIONAL LOVE OF GOD AND LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE AN EVERYDAY FAITH.

## SHIFT (6th - 8th Grade)



Our theme this year for Shift has been EVERYDAY: Learning what it means to live an authentic faith every single day. We've been able to dive into topics like navigating the Bible, keeping our mindset focused on Christ, and sharing God with those around us. We've relied heavily on our incredible team of small group leaders who have invested consistently in the lives of the students in their groups and have built Christ-centered relationships over the past few months.

We have seen students take amazing steps in their walk with Jesus and have fun along the way. Join us on a Sunday night to experience fun, community, teaching, and the Impossible Shot!

### STUDENT MINISTRY STATISTICS

13 Salvations

24 Baptisms

56 Invested Leaders

110+ Average Weekly Attendance

130+ Pieces of pie eaten for our Thanksgiving Celebration



The reason I love shift is because of the impact on how it made me closer to God. It has given me an opportunity to go every week to hangout with friends, have fun and learn more about Christ! I love my small group, they are amazing and stay on task and are willing to participate in the conversations!"

- Isla Lewis, 8th Grade

"I love being a Shift small group leader because it allows me to share the Gospel with students. I love getting to teach them, and challenge them to grow. It truly is a fulfilling experience!"

- Ben Bird, Small Group Leader





# IDENTITY (9th - 12th Grade)



This year's theme has been EVERYDAY. We've asked students to ask the question of what an everyday faith looks like in their lives. In asking that question, we've seen God move in absolutely incredible moments in the lives of students outside of the walls of the Church building. Students have time and again come back to the understanding that their faith isn't only on Sunday but exists every other day of the week, too.

Our MDWK programming on Wednesday nights has taken the time to ask students what questions they have and what books of the Bible they want to study. In doing so, we've tackled topics from "Why do denominations exist?" to "What does the Bible really say about Heaven and Hell?" Our students have a desire to know the truth of Jesus and on MDWK nights we talk about that truth as we encounter it in our everyday lives and circumstances.

Life Stream Student Programming is every Sunday night during the school year at Life Stream Church from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Identity's MDWK programming meets every Wednesday night during the school year in The Studio from 8:00 - 9:00 PM.



I knew I was being called to help lead high school students, so I signed up and got started right away. These girls have blessed me beyond measure, and I truly believe we have built such a special bond. It's been great being involved with Identity not only helping the sophomore girls navigate high school and their walks with Christ but also selfishly as I've learned so much. When I tell friends and family that I am helping with the high schoolers the typical response I get is 'Oh that's so nice of you to help the young women with their faith' but truly I do this because these young women are pushing me in my own faith as they look for difficult answers."

- Emily Joswick, Small Group Leader

"Identity has provided me with so much over this past year. I have been going to youth group at Life Stream since I was in 7th grade, but never went consistently. This year, I made an effort to go as often as possible. It made such a big difference in my life. I was welcomed by children my age and wonderful leaders who care about God as much as I do. I got to grow closer with my amazing sophomore girls small group and learn so much more about Jesus. My faith took a big step this year as I was offered the opportunity to give my testimony at Identity. Identity has provided me with so much this year!"

- Rebecca Holtz, High School Sophomore



# 08

# YOUNG ADULTS



**LIFE STREAM YOUNG ADULTS** is a group for people from 18-30 years old looking to connect with other people in a similar stage of life. This group has been meeting since November of 2023 for a weekly Bible study diving into Romans, Ecclesiastes, and James so far. Their focus has been on growing in their relationships with Jesus and knowledge of His living Word. Their future summer plans include continuing to meet for Bible studies, bonfires, volleyball, worship, & serving the community. God is moving in this group of young adults as they strive to know Him better through community with each other!





# 08

# GROUPS

From September of 2023 until now, Life Stream has seen growth in the numbers of small groups offered as well as the number of people attending. Since September, we launched two new Women's Groups (Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study and Faith and Feet), a new Men's Bible study (Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study), and older adult Bible study (Fellowship Group), and an additional young couples' group (Couples with Kids). In addition, we advertised a group that had been meeting and was looking for new members (Midstream on the Lakeshore). Planning Center was updated to reflect group options for interested people as well as the website and a new interview process was implemented for new group leaders.



**We have 27 people dedicated to the leadership of Small Groups and approximately 185 people connected to a Small Group at Life Stream.**

Even in the midst of pastoral transition and small group leadership transition, God is still moving and people want connection and a community to grow deeper in their faith.





# 09

# GUEST SERVICES

THE MISSION OF OUR GUEST SERVICES TEAM IS TO CREATE IRRESISTIBLE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE PEOPLE FEEL KNOWN, WANTED, AND WELCOME.

From Greeters and Ushers, to Welcome Center and Cafe Team members. Our heart is to open the doors of Life Stream Church as wide as possible to everyone in our community. We are incredibly grateful to the amazing and dedicated teams who help us create welcoming environments and exceptional experiences. We have over 100 volunteers serving on our Guest Services teams and we can't do it without them!



**“DON'T FORGET TO SHOW HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS, FOR SOME WHO HAVE DONE THIS HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS WITHOUT REALIZING IT!”**

**- HEBREWS 13:2**



# 10

# COMMUNITY CARE



**“EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS. IF ANYONE SERVES, THEY SHOULD DO SO WITH THE STRENGTH GOD PROVIDES, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE PRAISED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.”**

**- 1 PETER 4:10-11**

The Community Care Team is dedicated to providing comfort, hope, and support in the name of Christ to individuals and families in our church and community. They lead a compassionate group of volunteers that provide spiritual and emotional support in times both good and bad. They also discern and provide practical help in the form of groceries, emergency financial assistance, and more.

**We are blessed to be the hands and feet of Christ!**

## COMMUNITY CARE STATISTICS

- 20** Chaplains
- 34** Meals shared
- 14** Prayer shawls shared
- 414** Cards sent out
- 28** Baby items delivered
- 53** Plants & Gift Baskets delivered
- 42** Food Pantry families per month
- 376** Manna Meals bags each week



# 11

## LOCAL & GLOBAL PARTNERS

The Mission Action Team is honored to be faithful stewards and humble servants overseeing the local and global mission endeavors of Life Stream Church. Even in difficult times, faithful giving has allowed us to be generous with our resources and we give God all the glory! Through your generous giving to Life Stream missions, we have been able to partner with numerous local and global partners to impact the Kingdom of God. It is through these gifts that we can share God's love in our own community and around the world!



# \$63,000

WAS GIVEN BY THE MISSION ACTION TEAM TOWARD LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS IN 2023/2024



### LOCAL/GLOBAL MINISTRY PARTNERS

BETHANY INTERNATIONAL - BRIDGET'S HOUSE - GLOBAL PARTNERS - HOPE FOR TELA - IGNITE YOUR FAITH MINISTRIES (HAITI) - KEYS FOR KIDS - KIDS HOPE - LIVING GIVING TREE - LOVE INSPIRED OUTREACH - LIFE STREAM FOOD PANTRY - LIFE STREAM HELP FUND - MISSIONGO - MORIAH MINISTRIES - MUSKEGON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY - ONE DAY NICHE - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - POSITIVE OPTIONS - REACH THE FORGOTTEN - REMEMBRANCE RANCH - RIPPLE EFFECT - SUMMER MISSION TRIPS: SHIFT & IDENTITY - WESTSHORE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY - WORLD GOSPEL MISSION

# 12

# GET CONNECTED

## SERVICE TIMES

**SUNDAYS | 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM**

LIFE STREAM CHURCH  
6561 LAKE MICHIGAN DR.  
ALLENDALE, MI, 49401

## LIVESTREAM

[WWW.LIFESTREAMWEB.ORG/WATCH-LIVE-SERVICE](http://WWW.LIFESTREAMWEB.ORG/WATCH-LIVE-SERVICE)  
[WWW.LIFESTREAMWEB.ORG/SERMON-LIBRARY](http://WWW.LIFESTREAMWEB.ORG/SERMON-LIBRARY)



## STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@LIFESTREAMCHURCHMI



@LIFE STREAM CHURCH



LIFE STREAM MEDIA



LIFE STREAM WORSHIP



# 14

## 2023 - 2024 BUDGET REVIEW

### 2023-24 FINANCIAL SUMMARY (JUNE 1, 2023 - APRIL 30, 2024)



#### GENERAL FUND

Budgeted Income: \$1,558,700  
Actual Income: \$1,426,893  
Actual Expenses: \$1,255,680  
Net Income: \$171,213

#### BUILDING FUND

Budgeted Income: \$27,500  
Actual Income: \$23,846  
Actual Expenses: \$1,000  
Net Income: \$22,846

#### LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH FUND

Budgeted Income: \$82,500  
Actual Income: \$69,781  
Actual Expenses: \$64,267  
Net Income: \$5,514

#### FULLY RESTORED CAMPAIGN FUND

Pledges: \$1,729,717  
Receipts: \$1,428,766  
Completed Projects: \$1,076,916  
Fund Balance: \$351,850

#### HELP FUND

Actual Income: \$12,314  
Actual Expenses: \$5,751  
Net Income: \$6,563

#### BUILDING TENANTS FUND

Budgeted Income: \$146,667  
Actual Income: \$130,749  
Actual Expenses: \$29,932  
Net Income: \$100,817

### COMING SOON:

In an effort to continue growing in communication and transparency as a church family, the Finance Team is working on launching a Financial “Dashboard” report in The Current as a way to give regular updates to the congregation.

Fiscal Year End Financial Reports will be available for review by June 15, 2024.





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## LIFE STREAM CHURCH

6561 Lake Michigan Drive Allendale, MI 49401  
616-777-0365 | [www.lifestreamweb.org](http://www.lifestreamweb.org)