

GOOD NEWS

JOINING JESUS IN HIS WORK OF RENEWAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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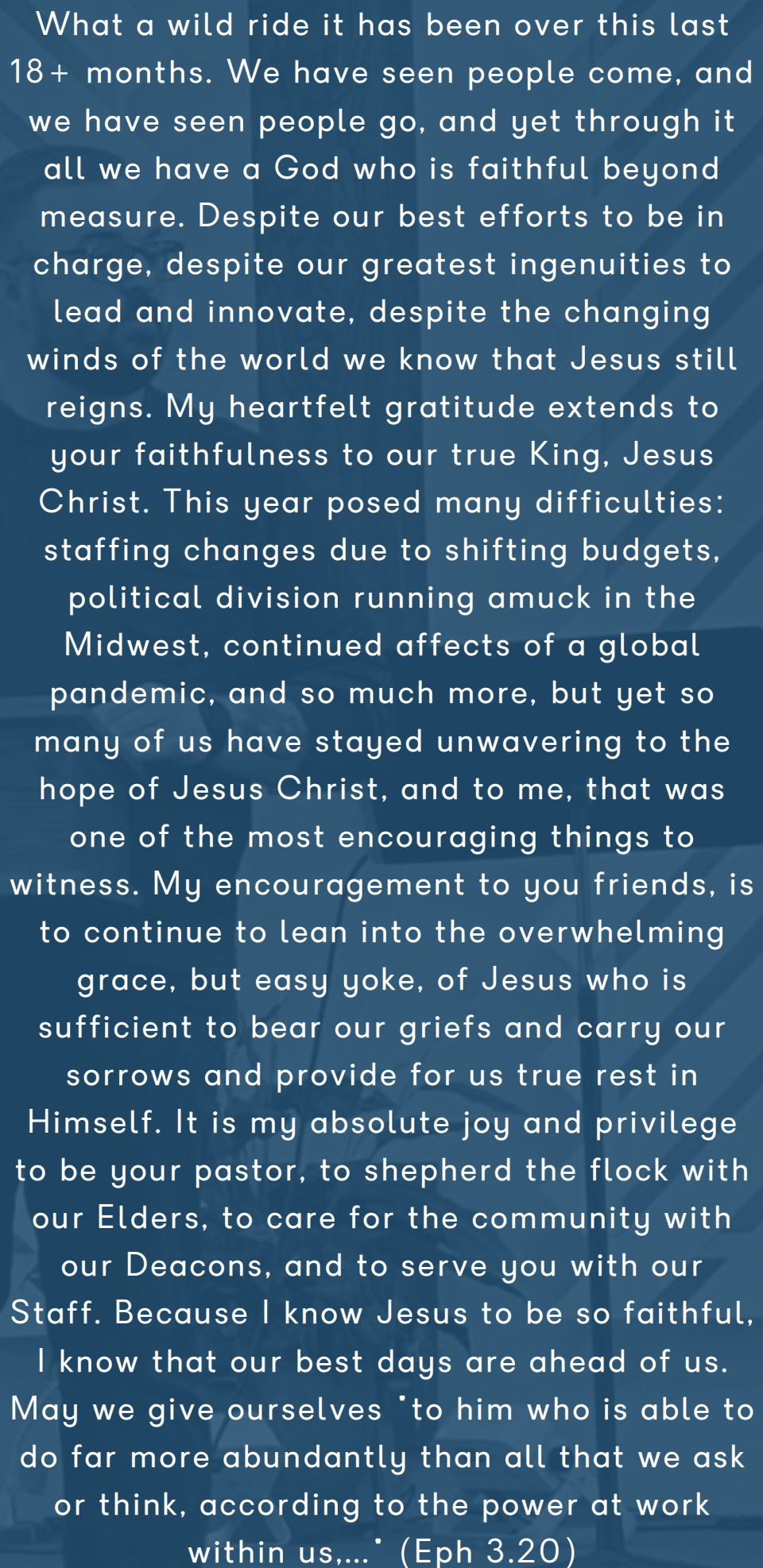
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What a wild ride it has been over this last 18+ months. We have seen people come, and we have seen people go, and yet through it all we have a God who is faithful beyond measure. Despite our best efforts to be in charge, despite our greatest ingenuities to lead and innovate, despite the changing winds of the world we know that Jesus still reigns. My heartfelt gratitude extends to your faithfulness to our true King, Jesus Christ. This year posed many difficulties: staffing changes due to shifting budgets, political division running amuck in the Midwest, continued affects of a global pandemic, and so much more, but yet so many of us have stayed unwavering to the hope of Jesus Christ, and to me, that was one of the most encouraging things to witness. My encouragement to you friends, is to continue to lean into the overwhelming grace, but easy yoke, of Jesus who is sufficient to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows and provide for us true rest in Himself. It is my absolute joy and privilege to be your pastor, to shepherd the flock with our Elders, to care for the community with our Deacons, and to serve you with our Staff. Because I know Jesus to be so faithful, I know that our best days are ahead of us. May we give ourselves 'to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,...' (Eph 3.20)

BRANDON MORROW, LEAD PASTOR

OUR MISSION

our mission as a church is to join Jesus in his work of renewal.

Revelation 21:5 | "Behold, I make all things new."

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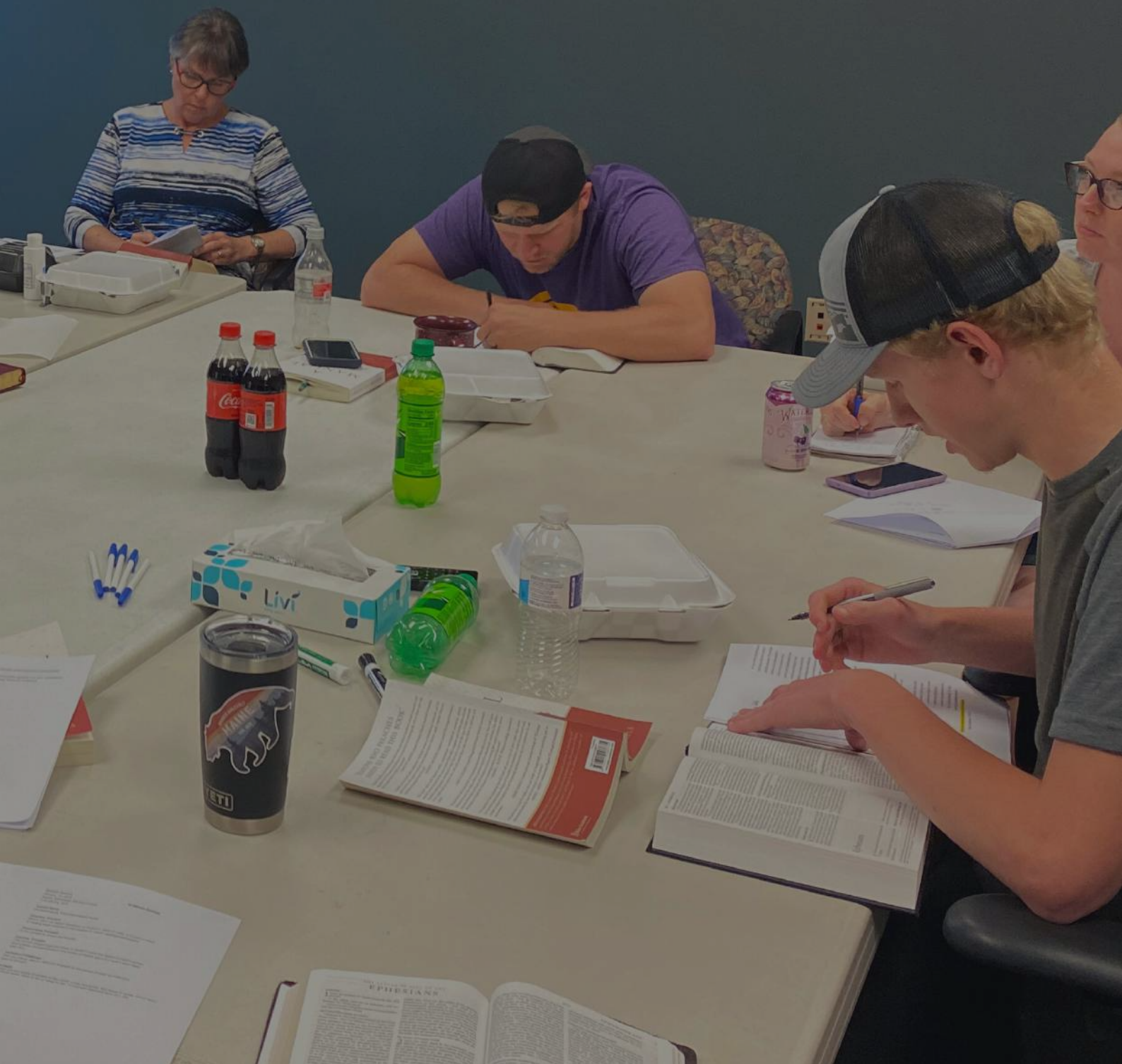
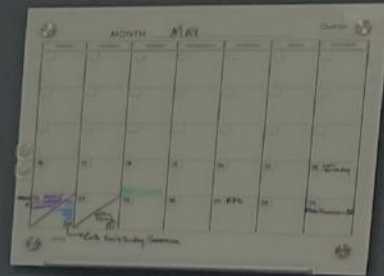
average attendance
(all parishes + online)

\$9,626

average weekly
contribution

PARISH MODEL

In January 2021 we stepped into what we call the "Parish Model," which is our strategy for reaching NW Iowa for the gospel of Jesus Christ. God graciously led Good News (Okoboji) and Crossroads (Estherville) into a merger process where Crossroads became our first Parish, Good News Estherville.





'In today's world there is so much uncertainty and strife, and people are hurting. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to come and unload all that hurt and to find God's healing power and peace. At Celebrate Recovery we come because we know that we will not be judged by a world that is so torn. We come because God is the ultimate healer and through our faith in Jesus, we are healed!'

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT, DON BONNEY (CELEBRATE
RECOVERY LEADER)**

A STORY OF GRACE

God is writing a continual story of His goodness. He has taken our fractured stories and has (re)storied us for His wonderful purpose. If we don't have spiritual eyes to see, it is easy to lose sight of where He has been at work, how He has been so good and gracious to us. As you reflect on the last year, consider the following questions:

How has God sustained you over the past 18+ months? In what ways?

What needs did you have that God supplied? (Ex: material resources, friendship, forgiveness, etc...)

What has God promised you in this year that you are holding onto in faith and hope?

What are you asking God to redeem? (Ex: your finances, your marriage, your health crisis, a divided nation, etc...)

If Jesus has repurposed you for His own pleasure (which He has), where are you planning to use your gifts and skills to further His work of grace?

Who have you told, or are planning to tell, of God's redeeming grace and what He has done in your life?





‘I love serving in student ministry because I am able to teach the younger generation about how crazy awesome the Lord really is; and being able to express to the students how wonderfully created they are tops anything else I can do any night of the week. Being an example for them is an incredible honor.’

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT, CADY MEYER (STUDENT MINISTRY
SMALL GROUP LEADER)**

OUR LEADERS

Good News is led by a team of missionary servants that meet Biblical qualifications and serve our congregations and community in a multitude of ways. We're so grateful for their thoughtful leadership out of service to Christ.

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Our Executive Team serves at the request of our Leadership Team (Elders and Deacons) and helps lead the church in the areas of policy that uphold our mission and vision. Executive Team Members: Annette Bernier, Mary Sloan, Missy Graves.

2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

ELDERS

shepherding/care

JUDY CHRISTENSEN

Okoboji

JAMIE WALTON

Estherville

MARY SLOAN

Okoboji

JAY BIRDSALL

Okoboji

KATIE BLACK

Estherville

STEVE VANDER LEEST

Okoboji

BECKY SHULTZ

Estherville

ROD WILL

Okoboji

MISSY GRAVES

Okoboji

DEACONS

mercy/service

VAL BONNEY

Okoboji

RICHARD BAKER

Estherville

DOUG DEKKENGA

Okoboji

ERIC THOMPSON

Okoboji

DANA MOEDING

Estherville

BLAKE REINKE

Okoboji

DEAN GESCHE

Estherville

DAN CROFT

Okoboji

SETH BOYES

Okoboji

BILL EBERSOLE

Okoboji

OUR IMPACT

see the impact that God is making in and through His church

140,000+

total pounds of food

6,000+

total people served

OKOBOJI FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to several generous individuals and groups in our community, our Okoboji Food Pantry is positioned to serve our community several times a month. People from across the county experience the benefit of having their physical resources met, and during the pandemic we were one of very few pantries open to our greater community.

ESTHERVILLE MOBILE FOOD BANK

The Estherville Mobile Food Bank is a free food service to those within Emmet County and regularly serves around 500 people a month. Our food service provider, the Iowa Food Bank, speaks highly of the organization of the efforts in Estherville, particularly through the work of Linda Prince (Good News staff), and Brett Fuelberth (ILCC faculty).



We praise the Name of the Lord
We praise His Name forevermore
In endless days we will sing
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God



'The first thing to understand about the Benevolence fund is that it's meant to be spent. The Bible is clear that God's gift of salvation was extended to all of us long before any of us were deserving of it (Romans 5:8). That aspect of God's character should be reflected when the Benevolence fund helps satisfy someone's need in a time of crisis. There are specific, approved uses of the fund, and there are several prohibited uses, but never let that be confused with deservedness. And, while there are financial limits in the Benevolence policy, we must remember that every resource – material and immaterial, inside and outside the church – is already God's (Psalm 24:1). Therefore, when we fill a request, it is not the church's money being spent, but rather God's grace and love being extended through us in the form of financial assistance.'

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT, SETH BOYES (DEACON)

THE NUMBERS

want to see some fun statistics?

18

total baptisms

50+

welcome gifts given
to first time visitors

22

kids at VBS
(Estherville)

10

missions supported

9

Journey participants

60+

leaders trained

12

prayer team
members

55

avg total youth group
attendance (all
parishes)

THE NUMBERS (CONT.)

we found more!

+204

new Facebook likes
in 2021

800+

people reached every
quarter on Instagram

258

avg online viewers
per week

1,700+

total hours watched
= 71 days of content
watched on YouTube

**APRIL 18
(992)**

most attended Sunday
(including online)

2

new interns in
summer 2021

106

sermons preached

215,000+

number of people
reached via social
media





Several years ago we started dreaming up different ways to partner with area organizations to better extend our reach through this part of the country and to better steward God's resources. A conversation began with the Okoboji Bible Conference Ministries about a joint/shared staff position, and how we might better partner together as we share a similar mission to the Lakes area and beyond. After a lengthy search, and through the course of a global pandemic, Good News and OBCM have found our new shared Facilities Manager. We're grateful for the opportunity to celebrate our shared resources, and to celebrate God's faithfulness to both of our organizations. We believe the Kingdom is better together.

**ON OUR JOINT FACILITIES
MANAGER POSITION IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
OKOBOJI BIBLE CONFERENCE
MINISTRIES**



Baptism is God's sign and seal of His faithfulness to His people. In baptism we received the sign that we are God's people, and have received the seal that God's promises are our promises through the Holy Spirit.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT, SUMMER BAPTISMS

WHAT'S NEXT?

Where are we headed?

"... so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God..." - Colossians 1:10

WHY THE CHURCH?

God's mission is saving the world through His Son, Jesus. The church is the instrument through which God carries out His mission. The church is not called on to decide whether she will carry on the mission or not -- she can only decide whether she wants to be the church.

OUR 2022 THEME: CULTIVATE

To cultivate is to break up the soil in preparation for sowing or planting. God is calling the church to join in on the labor of preparing for harvest. Jesus said the fields "are white for harvest," (John 4:35) and we are to prepare ourselves, and others, to do the dirty work of planting seeds, watering others in the living water of Jesus, and establish our own roots deep in Christ.

TO THE DEEP END

"The church is like a swimming pool in which all the noise comes from the shallow end. But most of the wisdom is to be found in the deep end, among those who have taken the time and cultivated the habits and disciplines to learn to swim in deeper waters. If we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, then we need the kind of sustained learning that leads us into the deep end of the pool." - W.H. Vanstone

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HOW DO WE GO DEEP?

We go deep by cultivating the sustainable habits of Jesus and His Kingdom, by giving ourselves over to being formed to the more abundant truth of the gospel, and living into the unforced rhythms of grace.

GROWING DOWN

In 2022 we will be growing down deep by growing in our Biblical literacy through adult education classes, leader training, and seminars/retreats meant to grow the whole disciple. We believe that healthy and multiplying adults bleed over into every other area of ministry in our church and help to lead flourishing families and communities for the sake of the gospel.

GROWING OUT

The gospel reminds us that we do not belong to ourselves, but rather Christ has called us to Himself for the sake of others. We hope to grow our reach with the gospel by a focus on multiplication and group discipleship and to see that we are a part of a larger story and tradition by increasing our focus on global missions and celebrating what God is doing in the world.





Good News, I want to thank you all so much for your faithfulness. I think we can say confidently that this past season has not been easy, and yet at the same time, say confidently that the Lord is at work here in our communities. Between all of our different ministry areas, we have worked alongside Him to meet the needs of those around us. From the food pantries to the resource closet, to the after school program, Good News is faithfully living into what God has called us to be as a church: a people who live for more than themselves. As we enter into this next season, may we continue to keep our eyes fixed upon the God of glory. May He continue His work or renewal both in our hearts and in our communities. It is such a privilege to serve Him alongside you!

**JESSE ORTTEL
ESTHERVILLE PARISH
PASTOR**



God above all else and live
"See the Father give you everything you need."
rightfully, Matthew 6:33







GOOD NEWS

COMMUNITY CHURCH