

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



BEREAN
BAPTIST CHURCH

Find Hope Here.





We believe the gospel changes everything. With Jesus Christ as our foundation and anchor in life, we have an eternal hope that transforms how we live now. That's why, at Berean, we preach the message of Jesus Christ boldly and help people live out the gospel in every area of life.


”

And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

-Matthew 28:18-20



Coming Up by Pastor Deven



As you read this Annual Report, consider this:

After Israel crossed the Jordan River going into the Promised Land, God instructed Joshua to have each of the Twelve Tribes gather stones to make a memorial for future generations (Joshua 4). God explained that someday, when their children would ask what the stones meant, they should recount God's faithfulness and provision. They should tell the story again and again of God's power and glory.

In many ways, an Annual Report is the same. It's a way of celebrating and commemorating the great things God has done. It's not about highlighting any one person's ability or power; it's about celebrating God's work in and through us. Every life changed through Berean's ministry is a testament to God's glory.

We want to see God glorified. Like Joshua, we look into the future and hope only in God's sustaining grace for what comes next. Because God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, we can have confidence that our future is ultimately secure in him. With this unshakeable confidence, we can step forward into whatever God has for us.

What do these stories, numbers, and facts mean? They mean God is working, and to him be all the glory!

-Pastor Deven

Contents

06	Vision & Strategy
10	Worship
20	Discipleship
24	Pastor Roger's Retirement
32	Missions & Outreach
42	A Note From Pastor Deven
43	2024-2025 Budget

Vision & Strategy



3Ds & Strategy

At Berean, our mission is to make and multiply disciples of Jesus for the glory of God.

In the Great Commission, Jesus commands his disciples to go and make disciples who will obey his commands (Matthew 28). As his followers, our calling, too, is to make disciples who are committed to Jesus, not simply converts. To fulfill this mission, Berean has developed a “3D Discipleship” model, which emphasizes making disciples who are “Deep, Developed, and Deployed.”

Deep

The first dimension, Deep, focuses on cultivating a deep, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. This involves nurturing our spiritual lives through consistent prayer, Bible study, and worship. We encourage our members to engage deeply with Scripture and to seek a personal and transformative relationship with God. We want our people to treasure Christ above all else and joyfully submit to his life-giving Word.

Developed

The second dimension, Developed, is about growing in Christlikeness and equipping ourselves for ministry. This involves learning and spiritual growth through small groups, classes, and mentoring relationships. We emphasize the importance of continually developing through sound biblical teaching and practical application. We want to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12).



Deployed

The third dimension, Deployed, focuses on putting our faith in action by serving others and spreading the gospel. We believe that every disciple is called to be a disciple-maker. This involves actively engaging in outreach, missions, and local community service, using our gifts and talents to further God’s Kingdom. We aim to deploy equipped and passionate disciples into the world to make an impact for Christ.

Through this “3D Discipleship” model, Berean is committed to creating a culture where disciples are made and multiplied, living out their mission for the glory of God.



Strategy Unpacked



Celebrate

Isaiah 63:7



Goals & Objectives

Areas of emphasis we're working toward this year



Strategy

How we get there

Adjusts over time

Unchangeable



Values

Who we are becoming // 3D Discipleship & Ministry Priorities



Mission

Matthew 28

"We exist to make and multiply disciples of Jesus for the glory of God."



Beliefs

Statement of Faith

Bedrock *Jesus is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11). // His Word is our authority (2 Tim. 3:16).*



**Berean Baptist
Church exists
to make and
multiply
disciples of
Jesus for the
glory of God.**

Worship

The past year of ministry in Berean Worship brought a lot of change, but we also experienced continued fruitfulness by the grace of God and for his glory alone.

I accepted the call to the role of Worship Ministries Director in January 2024. While I've already had a lot of opportunities to grow and be stretched, the core mission of our department hasn't changed. We exist to foster Christ-centered congregational worship whenever the church gathers. Berean is committed to offering both classic and modern worship expressions on Sundays. Yet, something truly special happens a few times each year when we gather as one body and worship together in a blended format.

Our church body loves to sing biblical truth and heartfelt praise and worship, and we continue to press into opportunities to live out Ephesians 5:19-20, whether through a choir, orchestra, and hymns, a modern worship band, or a blend of both. I'm excited about what the future holds as we worship together!

- Matt Ulbrich





Christmas & Easter Attendance

Christmas:

Christmas Eve Classic
(8:30 + 10 AM) | **1,353**
 Christmas Eve Modern
(4 + 6 PM) | **2,127**
 Christmas Eve Online | **228**
 Christmas Day Online | **646**
 Total | **4,354**

Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday | **688**
 Good Friday | **740**
 Easter Saturday | **768**
 Easter Sunday Classic
(8:15 + 10 AM) | **611**
 Easter Sunday Modern
(9 + 11 AM) | **1,454**
 Easter Saturday + Sunday
 Berean Kids (0-4 yrs) | **71**
 Total | **4,332**

Attendance by Service Type

Classic | 374
(8:15 AM: **250** + 10 AM: **124**)

Modern | 897
(9 AM: **433** + 11 AM: **464**)

Berean Kids | 230
(9 AM: **113** + 11 AM: **117**)

Berean Youth | 45
 Middle School | **28**
 High School | **17**
 (all at 11 AM)

Attendance Trends

2023-2024

1,680

2022-2023

1,887





Online Viewing Stats



Only 81% of our online attendees watch from the US!

Online Viewing Story

The online streaming of our worship services is one way we connect with people locally and globally. Currently, 32 profiles in Berean's database are listed as online attendees, and our YouTube channel averages 250 online viewers per service.

During Holy Week this year, one of our members shared the Maundy Thursday service YouTube link with her neighbor of 28 years. She described this neighbor as someone who "has strong opinions about faith - or lack of it." To her surprise, she received a text from him with these exact words following the service: "I watched it tonight, and it was absolutely fantastic. There's nothing I didn't like about it."

What a huge praise! Over the years, she has had so many conversations with her neighbor about faith, and he has often disliked something they've discussed, "shutting the box" quickly. She prays this change of spirit indicates that he is becoming more open to the gospel. She loves that Berean shares God's Word in a way that touches hearts deeply.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to reach people in our community and beyond with the truth of God's Word through online streaming.



Engagement & Volunteer Numbers

- 42** Stephen Ministry
- 23** Safe Team
- 18** Missions
- 34** Berean Café
- 15** Men's Ministry
- 78** Women's Ministry
- 265** First Impressions
- 16** Communion
- 20** First Connection/Membership Classes
- 80** Small Group Leaders
- 33** Prayer Team
- 26** Marriage Ministry
- 6** Photography Team

Mark & Camille Gebhard's Story of Coming to Berean

In 2018, we moved to Burnsville to care for family, making our new neighborhood our mission field. With the aid of an app and walking our dog twice a day, we memorized our new neighbors' names. One of the families happened to be members of Berean, and God used that connection to start a neighborhood Bible study together.

Mark's parents had also attended Berean, so we were familiar with the church. After visiting, we were quickly contacted by the Berean Connection Team and invited to a wonderful meal hosted by a Berean family. These connections convinced us that Berean was where God wanted us to be equipped to live on mission.

We attended First Connection to learn more about Berean and become members. Later, God led us to become table hosts in the same class, where we still serve today! As table hosts, it's neat to see how, 90% of the time, God brings mutual connections across our paths through the people who attend each month.

As we've gotten to know new people at Berean and reconnected with others from the past, we continue to see God's hand through the connections. He is good!

-Mark & Camille

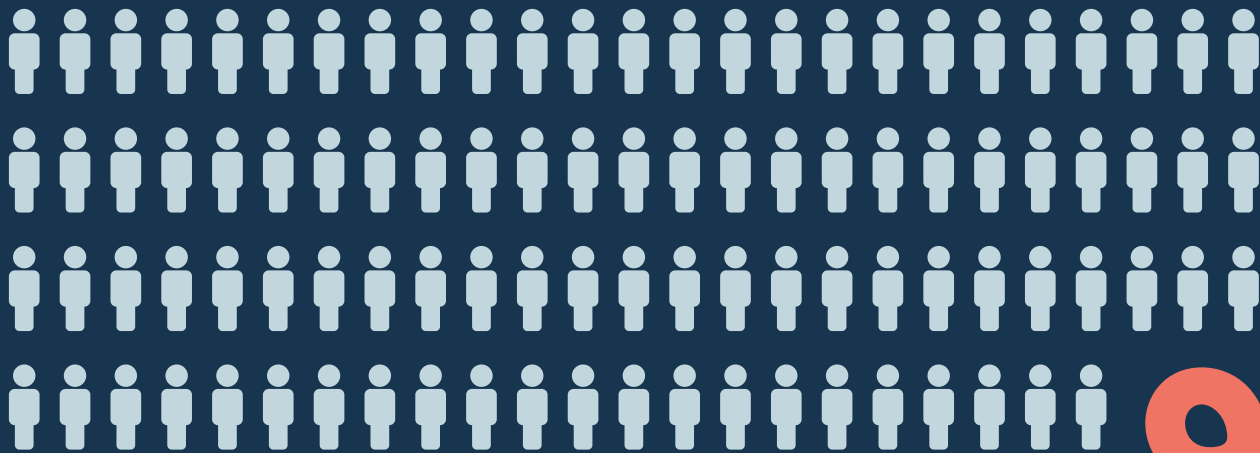


- 105** Worship
- 39** Production
- 175** Berean Kids
- 60** Youth/Young Adults





New Members



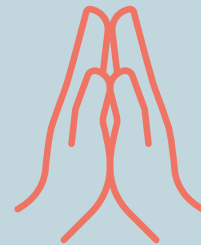
97

Prayer

Each Sunday, a prayer team is available up front to pray with attendees at the conclusion of every service. Recently, one of our prayer team members shared a story of getting to be there for someone in need.

The room was almost empty when a woman came up to request prayer for her grandson. He had a tumor and needed surgery that week. The woman had been to Berean a few times before, and, on that Sunday, felt especially encouraged by Pastor Peter's sermon on hope. She needed hope for her grandson and longed for her daughter and son-in-law to come back to church to feel that same hope while caring for their son.

After receiving prayer, the woman left feeling empowered by God to face the days ahead, no matter the outcome. Our prayer team member felt blessed to be a conduit to pray for this family in need.





Baptisms



23 Adults (19 years old+)

10 Youth (13-18 years old)

18 Kids (7-12 years old)



Christmas Eve Offering

\$35,000 donated to the Dominican Republic kitchen project

\$27,000 donated to Feed My Starving Children

\$10,000 donated to the Adziwa school project in Malawi

Total Donations | **\$72,000**

Total Offering | **\$38,846**

Berean Fund Contribution | **\$33,154**



Children's Choir

This year saw the return of our Berean Children's Choir! For Christmas, we had the joy of learning and performing the musical *All About That Baby*. Seventy-two kindergarten through fifth-grade students rehearsed delightful, God-honoring songs and dances for 13 weeks before putting on this fun retelling of the Christmas story. Our performance featured 19 students with lead roles, 16 soloists, and 7 songs with choreography.

In reflection, our children's choir members shared how much they enjoyed learning the songs and dances, connecting with their friends each week, and sharing a powerful message with those who attended the performance. Students described the children's choir experience as "super fun" and a time when they could learn about God and sing. One parent shared, "We randomly sing and laugh about the songs, especially 'Sheep Stuff.' I'm thankful for the experience they got to perform and sing on stage in church."

Thank you to the 15 volunteers who partnered with the children's choir each week. Let us all remember, "He shall reign forevermore, forevermore!"



Discipleship

FAMILY OWNED SINCE

SPANING



Pete's Story

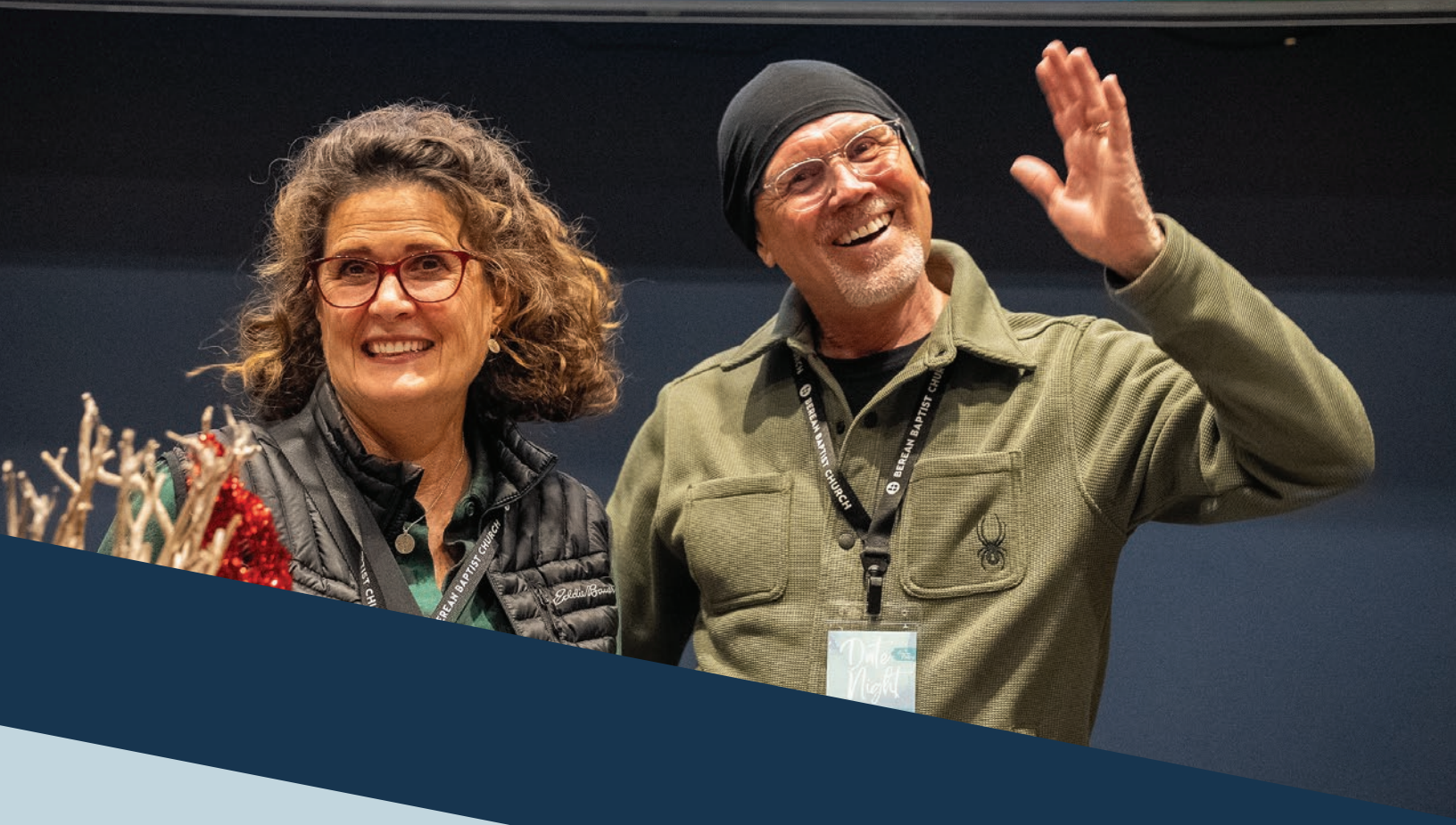
As the new Adult Ministries Pastor, I am thrilled to be on staff at Berean! My wife, Becky, and I have been married for 36 years and have four amazing children (all married).

For 16 years, we had been serving at a church in the Boston Metro area, but in the spring of 2023, it became evident that the Lord was moving us into a new chapter of life. So, we sold our house and moved from Boston to Minnesota. We knew it was the end of one season of ministry but did not know what was next. We trusted that God would restore us after a difficult season of burnout, unsure where we would call home.

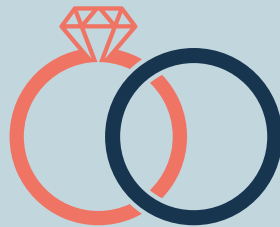
After many months of rest, the Lord made it abundantly clear that he had prepared a place for us in the Berean family. In December, I was invited to join the staff to oversee Berean's Small Group Ministry, ABFs, Men's, Women's, and Marriage Ministries. I am filled with joy and thanks for the privilege of contributing to Berean's gifted leadership team and gospel ministry.

-Pastor Pete





Marriage Ministry



In 2023, Berean's Marriage Ministry more fully realized its dream of providing multiple resources to better equip the faith family with tools to build Christ-centered homes. Marriage is part of God's design, and Berean holds the blessing and sacredness of marriage very highly. When a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the Church, and the wife partners with her husband in response to selfless love and sacrifice, they spread the aroma, light, and hope of Christ.

Berean's Marriage Ministry provides enriching *Marriage Nights*, electives for marriage enrichment, and trained and skilled mentors for couples seeking pre-marital preparation or greater health in their marriage. This past year, Berean hosted Dennis and Barbara Rainy and Matt Loehr for our *Marriage Nights*. These nights have become key communication tools for broadly sowing our marriage resources, and couples have been changed through the more intimate settings provided by our enrichment and mentoring tools.

God is using Berean's Marriage Ministry mightily to transform families for his glory!

Small Groups

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV)

One of our primary commitments at Berean is helping people connect within the body of Christ. In the context of togetherness, we worship Christ, feed the soul, and go to the world. Small groups at Berean provide an opportunity to experience the life transformation that takes place in the context of relationships over time. As we regularly share life under the influence of the Holy Spirit, remain guided by the principles of Scripture, and point people to Jesus, we experience him more deeply.

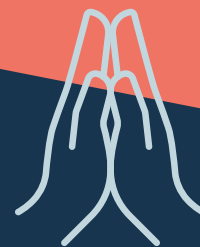
Berean has over 45 small groups. Meeting in multiple locations, these groups of varying ages and stages host 12-15 members weekly or biweekly. Their focus is on training and equipping those who attend to live for God, love people, and see the spirit of Christ in action as they serve those around them.

It is a privilege to host small-group leaders on a regular basis to facilitate training and provide resources and mutual encouragement. We look forward to developing more leaders who desire to build and stimulate a vibrant small-group culture for years to come. We are excited to see small groups at Berean become part of a greater discipleship pathway to deeply develop disciples ready to deploy into a world desperate for the truth of the gospel.





Prayer Engagement Groups



Berean has several different prayer groups. The **Rock-Solid Prayer Group** prays individually throughout the week over requests submitted on Berean's website and connect cards. The requests received often build on previous ones, and the team gets to witness God work in his way to answer the prayers over time. The **Women's Prayer Warrior Group** meets in person each week to pray over these requests and also to pray for Berean ministries and staff. One staff member commented, "It is so comforting to know that these ladies are praying for me in my role at Berean." On Wednesday nights, **House of Prayer** provides another opportunity for our faith family to gather weekly for corporate prayer, and Berean's online **Prayer Wall** allows us to pray for others all over the world anywhere and anytime. Whether we pray corporately or individually, prayer is the incredible privilege of a front-row seat to see God at work!

Pastor Roger's Retirement

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

(Genesis 1:27)

For decades in the slow cooker of culture, biblical manhood and womanhood have been under attack. The feminization and confusion of God's unique design have been a primary target of the Evil One. As a result, men and homes have become casualties. The Church typically has a variety of resources for ladies, but for men, biblical masculinity has been lost at sea with no True North, and homes have been lost.

Berean firmly believes that if men and biblical masculinity can be restored to God's design with Jesus Christ as the model, marriages, homes, churches, and our country can be restored as men lead. Men, husbands, and dads must hear, understand, and be called to God's design. They are to be courageous and selfless warriors. As men pray, love, live, and give like Christ, our homes can be redeemed and built according to God's design, and cultural renewal will result.

For decades, Berean has been blessed under Pastor Roger Thompson's Spirit-filled leadership and restorative and future-minded heart. God has used him and Joanne to help stimulate resources to support, renew, and guide the Church back to the True North of biblical manhood and womanhood. We desire to build upon the square foundation they have so selflessly and patiently laid. Berean and our region have been blessed more than we know by the Thompsons' constancy, conviction, and service to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.





Berean Parents

When raising kids, it can be intimidating for parents to know that God calls them to be the primary spiritual influence in their children's lives. At Berean, we believe the Church is called to come alongside the home and partner with parents in discipling the next generation. Through this partnership, we can give kids and youth the best opportunity to learn and grow in their faith. That is why we created an all-new ministry this year called Berean Parents.

Since its launch last fall, Berean Parents has provided valuable resources, including a new webpage and monthly parenting classes. These classes, called Parent Strong classes, have covered topics like biblical discipline, raising spiritually healthy teens, and growing faith in our preschoolers.

This year, the highlight of our Berean Parents Ministry was hosting Dr. Walt Mueller, a national Christian parenting and culture expert, to share a free seminar, "Youth Culture 101: Cultural Forces Shaping Children and Teens Today." Dr. Mueller, president and founder of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, shared insight into recognizing culture's overwhelming effects on the next generation and how to biblically navigate them as parents.



Berean Kids

In Berean Kids, we desire to see the lives of children and their families transformed by the power of the gospel. One way we do this is by taking time to learn about the missionaries Berean supports. We want kids to see firsthand how others are being the hands and feet of Jesus and sharing the gospel here and around the globe.

We believe missions is such an important part of the life of a believer, and we want kids to learn about this vital aspect of ministry. We do this by watching videos our missionaries send and learning about the organizations with whom they serve and the countries and cultures where they live. We also take time to pray for them.

What a joy it is to see our kids learn about our missionaries and spend time in prayer!



Berean Youth

This year, Berean Youth embraced a powerful new addition: prayer walls! These dedicated spaces allow students to anonymously share their burdens and joys through written prayer requests.

The response to the prayer walls has been overwhelmingly positive. Students feel empowered to express their deepest concerns, knowing their requests will be lifted in prayer by their peers and leaders. From academic struggles to family challenges, the prayer walls provide a safe outlet for vulnerability. The walls also cultivate a spirit of unity. Students actively seek out and pray over one another's requests, fostering a sense of shared support and community. Witnessing prayers answered strengthens their faith and creates a powerful cycle of encouragement.

The prayer walls have become more than just bulletin boards; they're a cornerstone of Berean Youth. They provide a platform for students to connect with God and each other, creating a space of solace and strength within our youth ministry.



Berean YA

Young adults in their 20s face some of the most defining years of their lives and often don't know how to navigate them. That is why we believe coming alongside and ministering to this age group is vital for making disciples of a generation that truly has the opportunity to change the world.

This year, Berean Young Adults started a weekly gathering on Thursday evenings, seeing numerous young adults connect with God and each other through worship and Bible-based teaching. They discussed topics such as how to level up their faith by humbling themselves like Christ, dealing with anger in a culture that promotes offense, and experiencing true worship.

Along with the Thursday night gatherings, Berean Young Adults had thriving small groups, monthly Sunday breakfast fellowships, and special events, such as lake parties and game nights. With God's leading, Berean Young Adults has a vision to create a movement of Christian, young-adult disciples in the South Metro.





BK Inc. Story

Our special needs ministry, BK Inc., has been growing! With this growth, we've opened a new sensory room. We are thankful to have a safe and secure place for our BK Inc. kids to have one-on-one time with their volunteer companions. The BK Inc. ministry has wonderful volunteers who pour weekly into the hearts and lives of our special needs children and their families. What a blessing it is to share the love of Christ with them!

One of our BK Inc. parents shared, "The heart of this ministry beats with Jesus-filled compassion as two dedicated adult companions take turns selflessly volunteering their time to ensure my son's safety, guidance, and redirection during Sunday school with his preteen peers. With their steadfast presence, he has flourished, showcasing remarkable growth in his attention skills over the past year. The ministry also takes safety very seriously, and I appreciate the peace of mind so I can attend a worship service, something in the past I wasn't sure I'd ever be able to do."

EQUIP & Berean Institute

At Berean, we believe the gospel changes everything. With Jesus Christ as our foundation and anchor in life, we have an eternal hope that transforms how we live now. That's why we boldly preach the message of Jesus Christ and help people live out the gospel in every area of life. Whether you are new to faith in Jesus or have believed in him for a long time, we want you to grow in your knowledge and ability to live a transformed life. We also desire to help you take the gospel to the world through local and global outreach.

The EQUIP class helps prepare the body of Christ to carry out the Great Commission of sharing the gospel with all nations. It engages participants through teaching and discussion about who we serve and how to share Jesus well with our neighbors and community. It also provides training to share the gospel by transitioning everyday conversations into gospel conversations simply by starting with the brokenness around us. We all have a unique opportunity to interact with people from diverse backgrounds throughout our community, and we must be equipped to welcome and serve them well!

"Disciple-Making: Leading People to Jesus in Your Everyday Life" is a one-day intensive training that teaches us how to share our faith with others in a relational and effective way that points them to Jesus. It focuses on how to walk with someone after they've expressed their faith in Christ, how to love our neighbors without being a professional evangelist, and how to share the gospel through practical steps.

5 EQUIP classes

59 people trained

2 Disciple-Making classes

12 people trained



Retirement of the Library

For decades, the Berean Library was a cherished ministry for our faith family. Many deep, meaningful conversations were held within its walls to discuss the ideas of Christian authors, allowing library perusers to grow spiritually and intellectually.

The library offered a peaceful setting for its patrons to share thoughts and feelings, housing resources for Bible leaders, teachers, and families. Parents had access to well-chosen books and DVDs to reinforce the spiritual growth of their kids, and adults could choose from a wide selection of fiction and nonfiction books, written by well-known Christian authors. Our collection even included books by members of our Berean family!

Thank you to Marilyn Sandstrom for establishing this cherished ministry and to the many volunteers who devoted their time and hearts to making the library a special place for all to enjoy.

When the library closed in the spring, attendees were invited to take the resources. We pray the treasured collection continues to help people grow in their faith for years to come!

Staff Fasting & Prayer

Just as Nehemiah saw the need for prayer and fasting prior to rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, Berean has the opportunity to strengthen our church through these same spiritual disciplines.

We hold an intentional prayer time at noon on the first Tuesday of most months, and our faith family is encouraged to fast from dinner on Monday to dinner on Tuesday. These monthly gatherings, led by Berean Pastors, guide us through Scripture and responsive prayer.

Praying corporately and in small groups, along with the discipline of fasting, helps us dive into a deeper experience of spiritual growth and transformation as we are reminded of our complete dependence on God. All are invited to attend these gatherings!



Staff Chapel & Discipleship

We want our staff to love working at Berean and to see them grow and thrive as disciples of Jesus. Most Tuesdays at 11 am, we gather for Staff Chapel, which features worship, prayer, and developmental content. We also serve together, hear from guest speakers, and listen to devotionals shared by our team.

Staff discipleship can look different from time to time, but it should always bring the staff together and closer to God. We also have intentional times of fasting throughout the year, and our staff is encouraged to regularly spend time in prayer.

As a staff, we strive to infuse prayer into everything we do—whether in planning meetings, coaching sessions, or sharing personal requests. Each Wednesday, our pastors also pray for our staff, church, outreach, and the submissions that come through the prayer ministry email. We want to be a praying church, and we seek to model that through our pastors and staff.

Please continue to pray for our incredibly gifted and hard-working team. May God make Berean a great place to work!



Why Church Membership Matters

There's often confusion and a lack of teaching about membership in many churches today. You might wonder, "Does church membership really matter?"

The short answer is "yes!" Here are a few reasons why:

Christianity isn't meant to be a solo journey. We all need a community to walk with us, speak into our lives, and help us grow in sanctification. We won't find this at the community center, sports league, or by "doing church" on our own.

Church membership also places us under pastoral care. While Jesus is the true Shepherd, pastors and elders act as undershepherds, providing guidance, care, and accountability for us as they submit to Christ.

Membership also gives us insight into our church's work and lets us tithe toward something we're invested in—seeing God work through our local church. It can inspire us to use our gifts to serve and build God's Kingdom in our community.

Interested in becoming a Berean member? Start by attending our First Connection event on the first Sunday of the month!



Missions & Outreach



Lakeville Campus



I'm Pastor Peter Barnaby, and I recently moved from Canada to Minnesota to serve as Berean's Lakeville Campus Pastor. Our family's journey from the Great White North has been significant for us all and filled with excitement and anticipation as we see what God has in store for our big step of faith. Leaving behind the familiar to embrace a new church community and culture has been challenging but also full of rich blessings. My goal at Berean is to build upon the foundation laid by many of our devoted brothers and sisters in Lakeville, further strengthening a vibrant community rooted in the love of Christ to see the gospel spread to the glory of the Father.

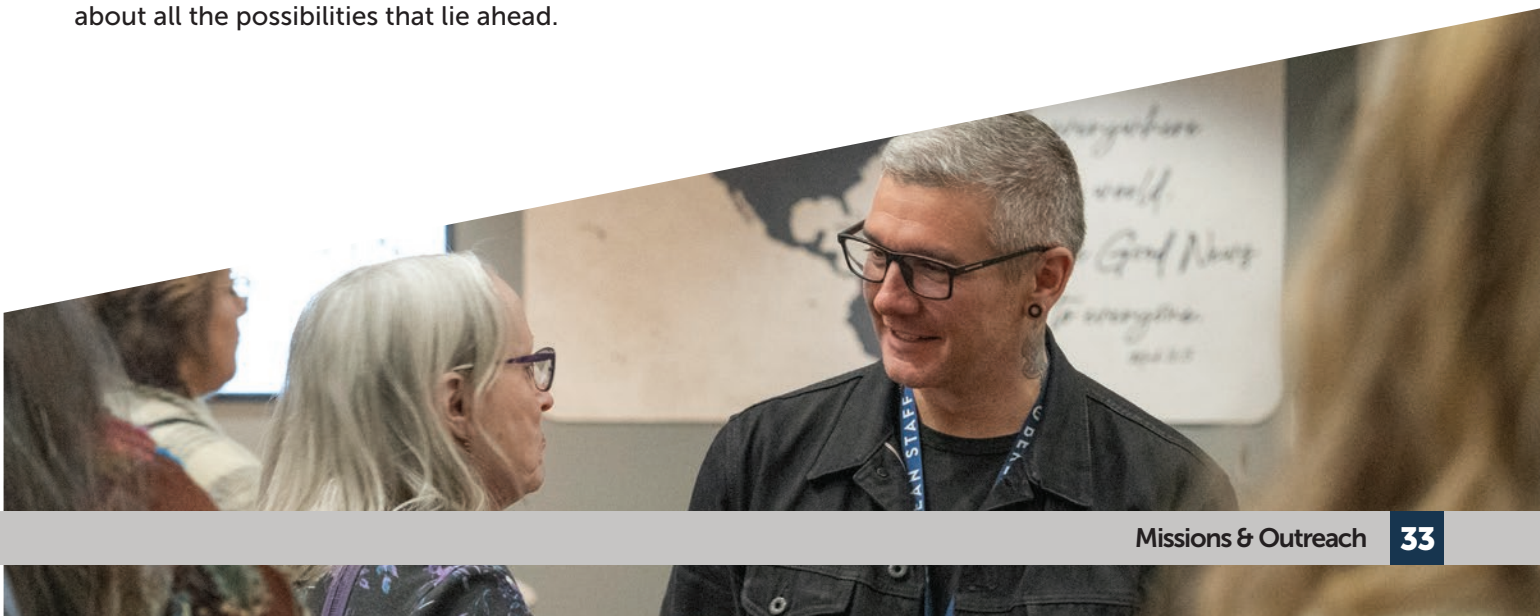
Currently, the Lakeville Campus is experiencing a season of growth and development. We've been hosting monthly Lakeville Gathers events, which have been instrumental in building momentum and fostering a sense of community among our members. Our building team has been actively scouting potential locations for our permanent campus, and we are excited about all the possibilities that lie ahead.

Looking to the future, we have several exciting initiatives planned. This fall, we will continue to build a strong community presence through outreach and promotion of the new campus. As God leads us closer to being a physical presence in Lakeville, our monthly gatherings will begin to look and feel more like Sunday morning services with an emphasis on worship, preaching, and praise.

I am so excited to see what God will do in the year ahead. Thank you for praying and for supporting us on this journey!

Blessings,

- Pastor Peter



Local Outreach

Amnion

Berean loves all kids, especially babies! In addition to collecting \$20,687.50 in donations for Bottles for Life, Berean had 80 walkers on their Walk for Life team at Amnion's annual event. This walk raised over \$11,850 to support Amnion's mission to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and protect and advocate for the sanctity of all human life, born and unborn.

Feed My Starving Children



As a member of the South Metro MobilePack Leadership Team, Berean is a partner host of Feed My Starving Children's MobilePack. This year's event was held at Hosanna Church in Lakeville. This interdenominational outreach enables churches to work collaboratively for the greater good and invite the community into our buildings for a positive and no-pressure experience. This year, we packed 1,928,664 meals to feed 5,284 kids for a year. Berean gave \$37,000 to support this ministry.

Giving Tree

Each November, the Berean elves get busy shopping and finding the perfect gifts for families represented on our Giving Tree. This year, we supported 16 Berean families, 5 HopeKids families, and 15 Neighbors, Inc. families for a total of 104 children. Over two dozen volunteers worked hard to carefully wrap and tag each item before our delivery teams hit the road with their precious cargo. We received several cards and notes of appreciation for making the Christmas season a little more special. Each family also received an invitation to attend Christmas services at Berean.

HopeKids



HopeKids is one of our partner organizations that strives to restore hope and transform the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions, their families, and the communities they serve. They do this through ongoing events and activities that provide a message of hope and assurance that families do not have to go through their battles alone. In addition to quarterly financial support and adopting some of their families through our Giving Tree, Berean holds an annual Easter Eggstravaganza. This year, over 100 children and their families came to eat, play games, have their faces painted, sing, dance, and hunt for over 3,100 eggs. We received several cards and notes of thanks for hosting this special event.

Operation Christmas Child

This year, Berean was the South Metro area collection site for Operation Christmas Child. In addition to the 2,235 boxes donated by Berean, an additional 14,526 boxes came through our doors from our community. Dozens of volunteers worked hard to collect boxes, check contents, count them, and load the trucks before they traveled to their final destinations of Chile, Paraguay, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Grenada, and some sensitive countries.



Pan-O-Prog



Over 1,500 people attended the Berean-hosted Family Tailgate Party at Lakeville's Pan-O-Prog. We partnered with the Lakeville Lions to serve 1,500 hot dogs, and guests also enjoyed complimentary cotton candy, ice cream, face painting, bounce houses, inflatable archery, and more. We engaged the Lakeville community to build relationships with our neighbors in this area.

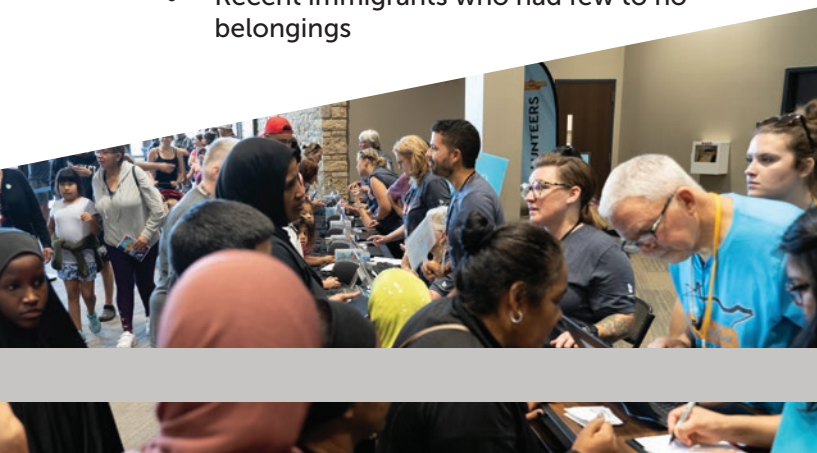
School-A-Palooza (SAP)

School-A-Palooza exists to develop relationships and connections with families who need extra support getting their kindergarten through 12th-grade students ready for school.

Invitations were sent to the three school districts surrounding Berean with assistance from the school resource offices to get invites into the hands of families who needed them most. In addition to receiving clothes, shoes, backpacks, and school supplies, families had the opportunity to enjoy a hot breakfast, pick up groceries for their entire family, and get haircuts for their kids. Our partners at Sleep in Heavenly Peace gave away 159 twin-sized beds and bedding to families so their kids did not have to sleep on the floor. The impact of SAP was far-reaching and tangibly served our community.

SAP impacted:

- Grandparents raising grandkids
- Foster families who had "instant" families
- Moms and dads who were working hard to "keep it all together"
- Single moms
- Recent immigrants who had few to no belongings



Together For Good (TFG)

Together for Good is a Christ-centered ministry that creates pathways for the local church to come alongside vulnerable children and families. The need for this ministry is immense and growing. Many secular agencies call TFG to seek help for clients who are facing hospitalization, homelessness, unemployment, addictions, and domestic abuse.

Berean TFG volunteers:

- Pray for one another
- Walk alongside parents
- Provide for physical needs
- Welcome kids
- Speak up for TFG
- Host children in their homes



- 927** Families served
- 3,000** New backpacks
- 2,500+** Kids K-12th Grade
- 1,500** New coats
- 44** Partner sponsors
- 300** Pairs of winter boots
- \$100,000+** Total raised
- 3,600** New pairs of shoes
- 22,500** School supply items
- 42,000** Pounds of food
- 2,275** Adult and kid Bibles
- 300+** Volunteers sorting and preparing in advance of the event
- 500+** Volunteers the day of the event

Countless prayers, gospel conversations, and invitations to come to church



Global Missions

Dominican Republic

Over the last decade, Berean has partnered with Iglesia Roca de Salvación in Consuelito, Dominican Republic, to bring the good news of Jesus to the villagers. This partnership has included a focus on building the church and preschool so the villagers can worship and grow in God's Word and the children have a safe place to learn and receive care.

In March of 2024, a team of 20 from Berean went to Consuelito to fellowship with local believers, make home visits, evangelize in local villages, host a men's Bible study and kids' Bible club, and officially open the completed school kitchen. Because of the work of this local church and the Holy Spirit, our team witnessed six people accept Jesus during the men's event, kids' club, and home visits!

\$35,000 given

to the Dominican Republic
for kitchen equipment
(part of the Christmas Eve offering)

20 people

sent to the Dominican Republic

11 years

visiting the Dominican Republic

"Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'"

(John 4:35b-37)

Global Outreach

28

global partners supported

3

short-term mission teams sent
(Uganda, Dominican Republic, Indiana)

3

vision mission teams sent
(Uganda, Dominican Republic, MENA)

Missions & Outreach Center

Jesus told his followers to go everywhere in the world and tell the good news to everyone. Participation in this global mission is not optional. Every Christ-follower has a role to play, not just a select few in a “missions club.” At Berean, we seek to glorify God by sharing the gospel locally and globally.

Berean leadership continuously guides our congregation toward strategic missions. To highlight the importance of this effort, the Missions & Outreach Center, fondly referred to as the MOC, was designated to be in a central location of the church, making it a visible pillar of our core values.

This space, which launched at the start of our 195 Missions Conference, has fostered engagement and collaboration with our global partners. It has provided a place for them to tell their stories, connect with congregants about missions, and share how others can get involved to see the transformative power of Jesus in our community and around the globe. The goal of all these efforts is to spread the gospel worldwide!

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”
(Matthew 24:14)

Missions Conference Story

Berean, thank you for your commitment to proclaiming the gospel of Christ’s Kingdom worldwide! As the former Pastor of Global Outreach at Berean and a global partner for the last thirteen years, Lisa and I were thrilled by the 195 Missions Conference in November. It was a joy to have a dedicated missions week and hear Pastor Deven’s heart for global missions. We were so encouraged by the outstanding attendance and enthusiastic participation from Berean’s various ministries. The Sunday messages were inspiring, and the gatherings had a palpable energy that lifted our spirits.

Lisa and I were especially blessed by the many opportunities to connect with other missionary partners and Berean attendees at the tables in the Commons and over meals throughout the week. Another highlight was the Prayer Night for the Nations. The prayer time around the tables was rich, and the food was amazing. What a joy to hear how the Lord is at work in the lives of our missionaries and the impact of their ministries on the global advancement of Christ’s Kingdom.

Conferences like this provide a special opportunity for missionaries to connect and share about their ministries face-to-face with their sending partners. Berean, we are so incredibly grateful “because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:5). We want to thank you all for your encouragement, support, and investment in the Lord’s global Kingdom work.

For the sake of his name among all the nations,

-Scott Countryman

Pastor and Global Partner



Uganda Mission Trip

On February 28, a team of seven Berean ladies departed for Uganda to spend 14 days with Karen Hoglund, one of Berean's own missionaries. While in Uganda, our ladies got to know other missionaries on Karen's team, learned about Ugandan culture, went on a tour of Kampala, and, most importantly, helped lead a retreat for 89 Ugandan women from Karen's church.

One of the highlights for our team was the missionary prayer tea Karen hosted in her home. The ladies heard the missionaries' stories of serving on the mission field and had the opportunity to pray with them. This was an encouraging and uplifting time for all.

The retreat was held at a beautiful location set against Lake Victoria. Most of the Ugandan ladies had never been on a retreat before. Our team blessed them with tote bags made by Berean's Giving Hands ministry filled with fun items donated by Berean ladies.

While on the retreat, the Ugandan ladies experienced worship, small-group Bible study, trust activities, and relationship building. They studied 1 Peter together, and the theme of the weekend was "Digging Deeper." The worship time was an amazing picture of what heaven will be like – every nation, tribe, and tongue praising Jesus!

Our team is so thankful for Berean and all who gave financially to make this trip possible. This mission trip truly involved the entire church, from the Giving Hands ladies making tote bags to the women's groups donating items to the ABFs giving financially to cover the retreat fees!



Missions Budget

Benevolent Giving/Local Outreach
Total Disbursements | \$430,334

\$34,539.73 Berean families in need

\$181,270.52 Crisis needs in
Dakota County

\$6,000 360 Communities

\$5,000 Sleep in Heavenly Peace

\$101,000+ School-A-Palooza

\$12,000 HopeKids

\$5,000 Open Door Pantry

71 Singles assisted

12 Single dads assisted

112 Single moms assisted

42 Families assisted

\$5,000 Arrive Ministries

\$37,000 Feed My Starving Children

\$5,000 The Dwelling Place

\$1,000 CATCH transitional housing

\$3,000 Community giving program
through Burnsville Police

\$5,000 Law Enforcement Labor
Service Benevolent Fund (supporting
families from Burnsville shooting)

Benevolent Ministry

Berean's Benevolent Ministry assisted 237 people/families this past fiscal year. The total assistance distributed toward crisis needs was \$215,810, with \$181,270 given to those in our community and \$34,539 to families within Berean. Most of the people we served were single moms. Health and job-related issues were the biggest contributors to the financial crises they faced.

The Benevolent Ministry continues to focus on addressing people's spiritual needs as well as their physical needs. Our goal is for those we serve to experience Jesus' love in a tangible way so they can ultimately experience the hope found in him. Each appointment is an incredible opportunity to discuss with those we serve where they are on their faith journey and what they are struggling with spiritually so we can point them to Jesus. We pray with each person, encourage them to visit Berean on a Sunday morning, and refer them to some of our additional ministries and resources.

Recently, we assisted a single mom in our community with past-due rent. During our follow-up call, she stated that the prayer time meant just as much to her as the financial assistance we provided. She asked if she could contact us again for prayer and additional spiritual support. We praise God for the ongoing opportunity to disciple this young mom and many others in our community.



Year End by Pastor Deven



As we've closed out another remarkable year at Berean, my heart overflows with thankfulness. The Lord has blessed us abundantly, and I am excited to share some highlights of our journey from 2023-24.

Over this past year, we reimagined our mission and vision language: "Berean exists to make and multiply disciples of Jesus for the glory of God." Making disciples of Jesus is why we are here and what we are committed to. By adopting a "3D Discipleship" framework, we've clarified that we want to make disciples who are "Deep, Developed, and Deployed" for gospel impact. This new approach to our life as a church is consistent with the past and sets us up to honor Christ as King in the coming years.

Our worship services were a time of powerful encounters with God. At our Faith Family Celebration on May 19, we enjoyed incredible combined services with a blend of worship styles. We saw 21 baptized that day alone and 51 in the fiscal year!

Through our Elder-Led Prayer Nights and sermon series, including "Living in Depth," we were challenged and inspired to grow in intimacy with Christ and take steps to help Berean be a church centered on prayer. This commitment to prayer was evident as we came together to seek God's guidance and intercede for one another. May we continuously be reminded to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

As we step into a new year of ministry, we carry with us the lessons learned and blessings received. I am confident that God has even greater things in store for us. Let us continue to walk in faith, serve with love, and grow in unity. May we remain steadfast in our mission to glorify God by making disciples who are "Deep, Developed, and Deployed."

Thank you, Berean family, for your dedication, prayers, and support. Together, we are making a difference for Christ's Kingdom.

-Pastor Deven

2024-2025 Proposed Budget



Ministries | \$2,497,482

Personnel | \$3,736,090

Debt Reduction | \$986,040

Capital | \$138,500

Total | \$7,358,112



309 Co Rd 42 E | Burnsville, MN 55306
952.432.7168 | bereanmn.com

