



**LIVING
VICTORY**
— CHURCH

Annual Report

2023

THE YEAR OF SOMETHING NEW





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Can you see it?

In 2023, the Lord placed on my heart that it would be the year of something new. Based on the words of Isaiah 43, there was an encouragement for us to pay attention to what God is doing in our lives. “Don’t you see it?” He asks. Further, God informs us that He is making pathways in the wilderness, and streams in the wastelands. In other words, He is making ways for us where no way seems to be visible or possible. And He is making fresh provision, nourishment and life in places that seem to be dead and useless.

In 2023, many in our congregation experienced God in new ways. People expressed how God was showing them new things about themselves and new ways to navigate their lives through faith. There were some who made new commitments to connect more deeply with God and other Brothers and Sisters in Christ to deepen their faith walk. And, yet, others who simply restarted their faith-walk by making new confessions of their faith and being baptized.

Personally, I experienced how God provided for LVC in new ways by bringing key individuals in administrative and ministry areas to help advance our mission. I saw how God transformed our worship experience, without a Worship Pastor, through a variety of musical expressions that had a positive impact on people, both in person and online. I witnessed how men in the church expressed a desire, and demonstrated a commitment, to come together and experience encouragement and spiritual growth together. Finally, I bore witness to a financial miracle of God in my life where significant debt was erased. And God continues to bless me with financial literacy, wisdom and discipline to be a good steward of his financial blessings.

Can you see it? Can you see what God is doing in your life? Can you see what God is doing in your church community? This is a new day, and God is providing new ways.

As you look through this report, you will see how God has blessed us to be a blessing to others and to our community. You will also see how many people are reached by the ministry of LVC and the state of our financial health, as well as with how we use our resources. I pray that your heart is made as full as mine when you see all that God has done through LVC.

Can you see it?

In His Victory,

PD

Dr. Dwayne Cantrell
Senior Pastor





Mission

To advance the Kingdom of God by lifting up the name of Christ, building His people through His Word, and reaching the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Vision

To be a relevant significant ministry of Christ to all people in the City of Bakersfield and around the world.

We are a living church that strives to reflect God's kingdom by being interracial, intercultural and interdenominational. We strive to grow God's kingdom by reaching all people with the love of Christ.

Core Values

Love-Driven (Romans 12:9-21)

Inclusive (Galatians 3:26-29)

Freedom (John 8:31-36)

Transparent (James 5:13-16)

Inspired (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Non-condemning (Romans 7:21-8:4)

God-focused (Matthew 6:33-34)



Events

Throughout the year we had many events that provided the opportunity to connect and build community within the LVC family. We had game nights, a family picnic, and holiday gatherings.





SOMETHING NEW

2023 was the year of something new, including new staff, leaders, and ministries.

New Staff

We added three new staff members bringing the total number of staff to seven (paid or volunteer). Dr. Jennifer Anderson is a Christian Counselor and joined our team to provide help and support to many congregants of LVC. Laura Gutierrez joined the staff as the church treasurer. Lastly, Shannon Melendez became the Executive Administrator for LVC.

New Leaders

In 2023 we had 3 new leaders join our team. Dr. Cheryl Thompson became the CARE pastor. Pastor Keith Hollins is the leader of the LVC Outreach Ministry. Leonard Peoples Sr. leads the Audio and Visual Production team.

New Ministries

We brought back old ministries and started some new ones in 2023. The Single Women's Ministry, led by Laura Gutierrez, met once per month and provided an opportunity for single women to connect and build community. Jada Cantrell led Beauty School, a ministry for youth girls grades 6-12 that met once per month. Beauty School helps young girls learn their identity in Christ. Pastor Keith started an Outreach ministry that ministered to those in the community struggling with homelessness and addiction.



LIFTING

The Worship Experience

In 2023 we transitioned to a new worship team consisting of LVC members and guests from the community. There were 14 musicians and singers on the worship team. The team provided us with a worship experience that was spirit-led and authentic. We are grateful to have a team that followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and created an environment that was welcoming to everyone.

Baptisms

This year we had the opportunity to baptize 11 people. Before being baptized, each person met with one of the church leaders to ensure they had a thorough understanding of their outward expression of their faith. Baptisms were held every fifth Sunday.



BUILDING

HIS PEOPLE



The Kingdom Community Ministries (K.C.M.) & LVC Partnership in 2023 marked the fifth year of their connection. This partnership allows for LVC family members to take advantage of a discounted rate to receive Christian counseling from trained ministers within KCM. LVC provided \$6,000 in 2023 for biblical Christian counseling. 13 people received individual Christian counseling and services throughout the year. Spiritual, mental and emotional healing continues to be a cornerstone of our ministry and this kind of support will continue to be available to LVC family members in 2024.



LVC continues to be the hub for the development of Simply Radiant Magazine. In 2023 they continued pursuing the process of changing the publication into a mag-book . When completed, this change in format will allow the magazine to be distributed digitally all around the world!



Leadership Development

In 2023 our All-Hands Team returned to monthly in-person meetings. This team includes all of our volunteers across all teams at LVC. In these meetings we focused on spiritual and leadership development and dove deeper into the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of LVC.

Victory Kids

Victory Kids went from being offered one Sunday a month, to three Sundays a month in 2023. There are now 16 volunteers that help with set up, teaching, assisting, clean up, and administrative duties. Victory Kids continues to be a place where children look forward to going to church. The Bible is taught in fun, simple lessons with crafts and games in a loving, safe environment. Children learn about the love of Jesus, how to love like Jesus, and how to lead people to faith in Jesus.

Hospitality

The Hospitality Team provided a wonderful fellowship opportunity for congregants after service on the last Sunday of every month. This included healthy refreshments and festive ambiance for everyone's enjoyment. The team also created a welcoming and thoughtful experience for the special guest speakers that came to LVC in 2023.



Reaching the people of Bakersfield

The LVC outreach team, led by Pastor Keith Hollins, would go out into the community on a monthly basis. They assembled and distributed care packets consisting of toiletries and self-care products. In the winter they gave out blankets, food, and clothing items such as gloves and beanie caps. They provided temporary lodging for families while helping them get connected with long-term services. Most of all, they gave out the love of the Lord. They prayed for, and led people to a relationship with the Lord.





The Mission at Kern County

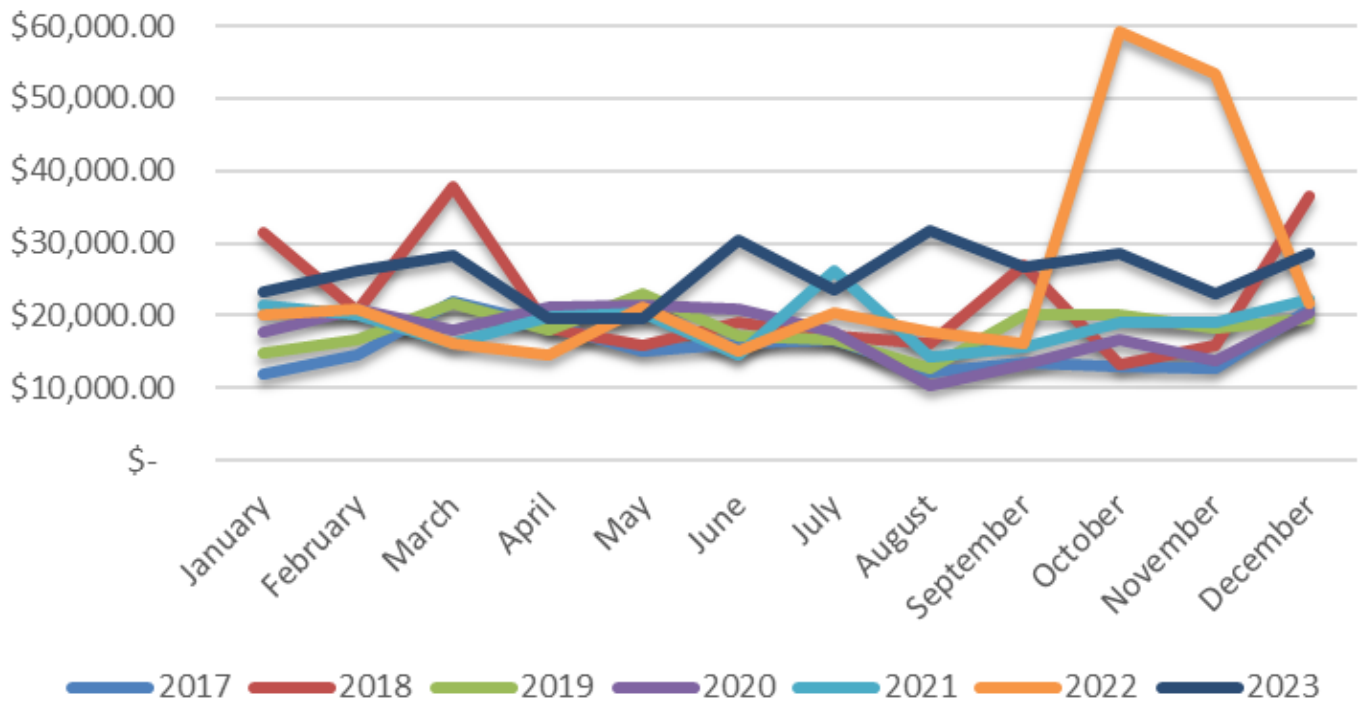
In 2023 we spent \$1,500 to support The Mission at Kern County's Annual Golf Tournament. We ended the year by participating in the Shoebox Project, in which LVC family members filled 119 shoeboxes with gifts for those residing at The Mission at Kern County. Gifts included items such as gloves, scarves, socks, toys, games, and toiletries.

Church Partnerships

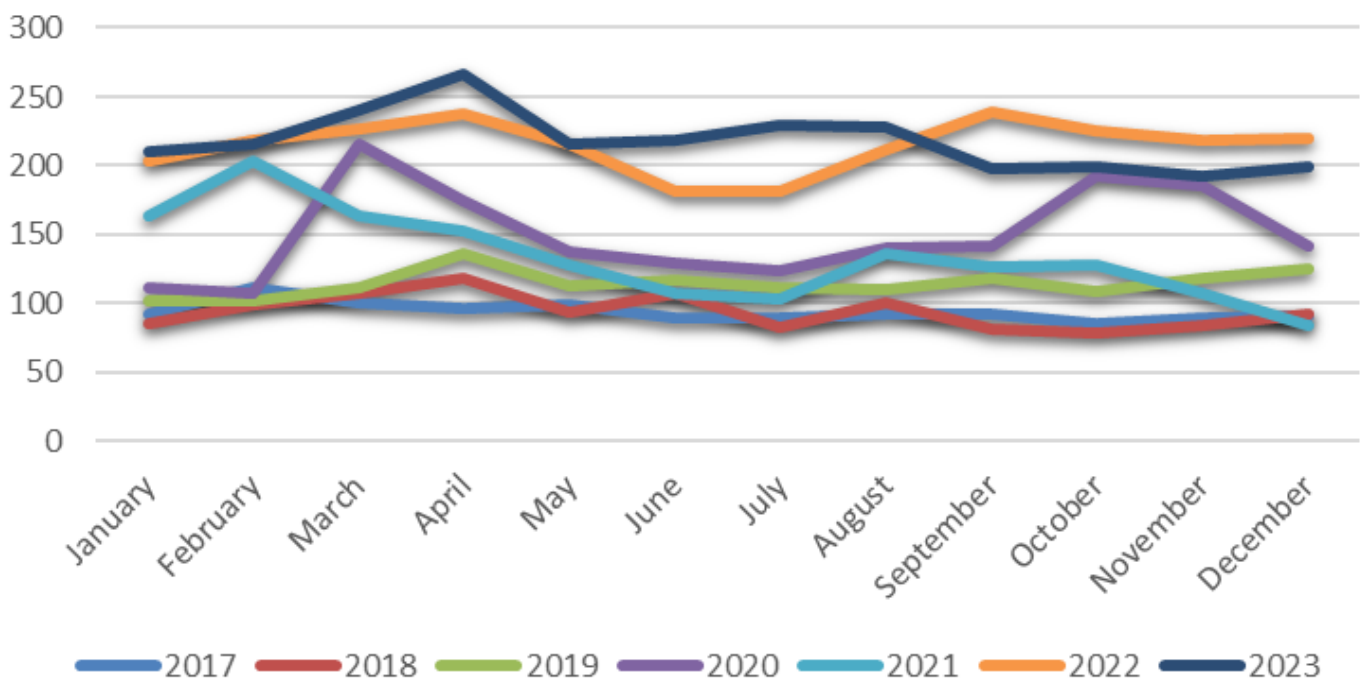
This year we partnered with other churches by donating to their ministries to send youth to camp and purchase items for a Back to School event where the community was able to receive backpacks and school supplies for the upcoming school year.



2017-2023 REVENUE TRENDS



2017-2023 ATTENDANCE TRENDS

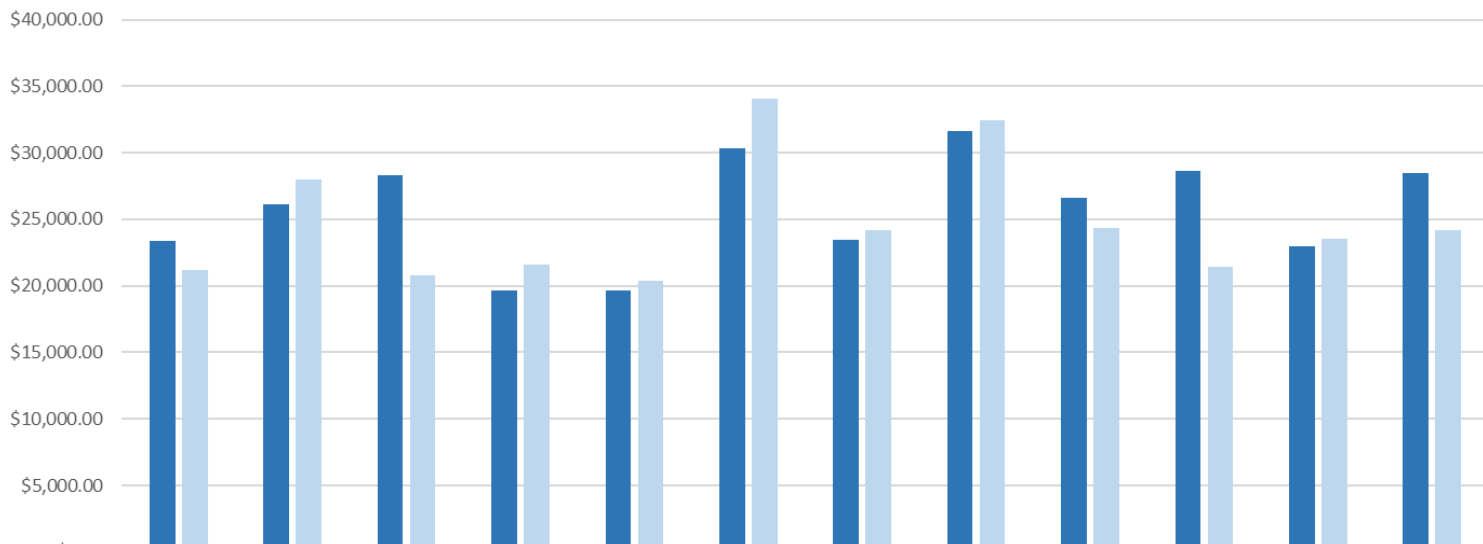


This includes in person and YouTube

**March 2021- December 2021: Average number of YouTube views



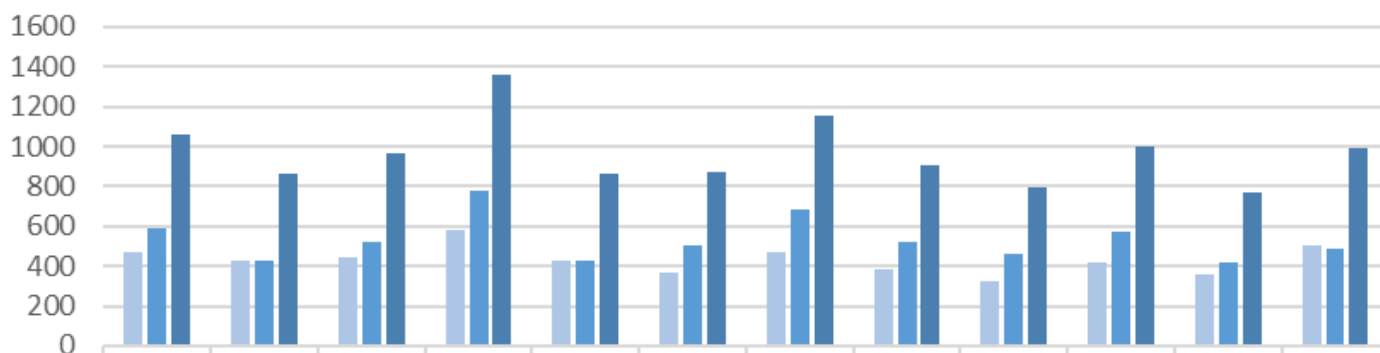
2023 BUDGET SUMMARY



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Revenue	\$23,356.00	\$26,097.63	\$28,343.51	\$19,652.50	\$19,615.64	\$30,305.26	\$23,423.99	\$31,621.65	\$26,570.10	\$28,652.82	\$22,943.65	\$28,442.00
Expenses	\$21,153.17	\$28,017.49	\$20,768.23	\$21,572.61	\$20,356.53	\$34,032.24	\$24,197.95	\$32,415.49	\$24,316.31	\$21,410.40	\$23,524.29	\$24,186.03

■ Revenue ■ Expenses

AVERAGE MONTHLY ATTENDANCE



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
In Person	471	428	440	582	431	368	471	387	328	422	355	503
Youtube	587	431	524	777	430	507	682	523	465	575	416	489
Total	1058	859	964	1359	861	875	1153	910	793	997	771	992

■ In Person ■ Youtube ■ Total



REVENUE

\$384,026.45

*including savings and transfers

EXPENSES

\$295,950.74

Top 5 Spending Categories

1

Occupancy

Included here: Lease payments and utilities

2

Payroll & Insurance

Included here: Payroll, taxes, worker's compensation, and insurance

3

Love Offerings

Included here: Offering gifts made to band, worship team, hospitality, media, guest speakers and other gifts provided to those who extended their gift to LVC

4

Pastoral Support

Included here: Speaking engagements, fellowship opportunities, travel expenses, etc.

5

InReach

Included here: Benevolence requests and supplies for ministries within the church such as MVP, REAL Beauty, and Victory Kids.



Wondering how you can get involved at LVC? Join us in one of the following ways:

GIVE

By giving of your tithes and offerings, you are helping to advance the Kingdom and support the ministry of LVC with your financial contribution. All of your contributions are tax deductible and can be given online or during service. “...But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving...” 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

SERVE

Find a ministry where you can get involved and be a blessing to others by serving. A commitment to serve faithfully in a ministry will not only bless you and our LVC family members, but it also helps fulfill the Great Commission. “...Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age...” Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

PRAY

At LVC, we believe in the power of prayer! Please pray for the LVC church family and the community we serve. “...Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus...” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

