

2025 *stories of* impact



August
Night of Worship



More than 100 people
were baptized this year



Sunday CTR Kids
is growing

A Year of Lives Changed by Jesus

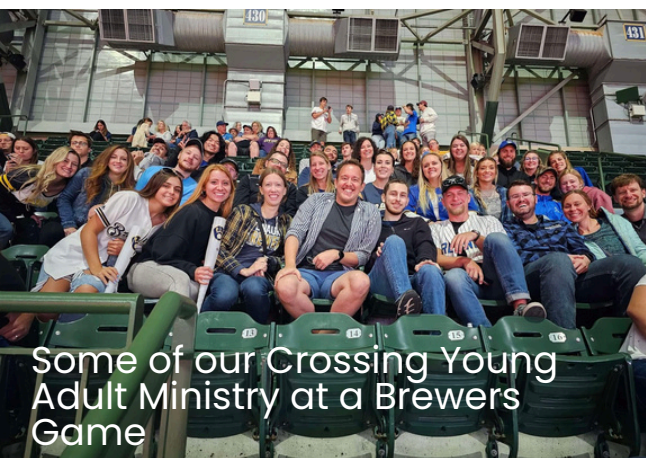
What an incredible year! We've seen God move in hearts close to home and on the other side of the world – and He has shown His faithfulness in ways we couldn't have imagined. From expanding ministry right here in the Fox Valley to bringing a new church to life in Colombia, this year held so much to be thankful for.

And so much of it relied on you saying "yes" to Him with your generosity and your time. **An incredible 844 volunteers have served so far in 2025.** You took care of our building on our volunteer maintenance team, read Bible stories to kids on Sunday morning, helped in the church office, answered phones at the reception desk, did home visits to the elderly and shut-ins, greeted people on Sunday mornings, prayed for people you may never meet until heaven, served in the Fireside Cafe, and more.

This newsletter is a snapshot of a year of ministry that you made possible because of your love for our Savior. Thank you for showing His heart to our church, our community, and the world.

From Joshua, CTR attendee:

Easter Sunday. First time stepping into church for at least a decade for my wife and me. We arrived just barely on time for the service. We were cut through by Joel's message, and the band singing "Made for More" just brought us to tears. [Now] my wife goes to Moms on Mission and volunteers with Breakout. I attend discipleship group, and am a 7th grade boys small group leader with student ministries. I want to grow that "open arm" love that Christ showed to all of us.



Some of our Crossing Young
Adult Ministry at a Brewers
Game



2025 Easter services

global mission trips

In 2025, 54 people served on six short-term mission trips with our partners:

- **Cambodia:** World Team Dorm Ministry
- **Alaska:** Construction trip to Tanalian Bible Camp
- **Peru:** Medical and Vacation Bible School trip with RiverWind
- **Alaska:** Elementary Camp trip to Tanalian Bible Camp
- **North Africa:** English School work and long-term staff support
- **Denver, CO:** CTR Students service trip with Youth Works and Christ in the City

Many of you donated toward these trips. Thank you for your generosity!



Alaska construction trip



Peru clinic



CTR team with students in Cambodia
Peru medical team with supplies (below)



From Kyle Henry, director of RiverWind in Peru: *The way CTR lives out the Intentional Life model allows Riverwind to offer critical resources to some of the most vulnerable in the Amazon River basin. It enables us to create sustainable, long-term impact through church planting, essential leadership development, robust pastoral training, and life-saving healthcare access in remote areas. Because of your mission-driven generosity, we're able to walk alongside these Peruvian communities, helping them find stability and life-changing transformation from right here in the Fox Valley.*

From Amber, a Cambodia team member:

This trip reminded me that His mission is alive in every nation, not just in our home church. I saw His love moving through people who have faced challenges far beyond anything I've known – yet their faith in the Lord was unshakeable. I don't see things the same way anymore. My prayers are bigger. My compassion runs deeper. I feel more called than ever to live with open hands and heart, ready to go, give and love wherever Jesus leads next.



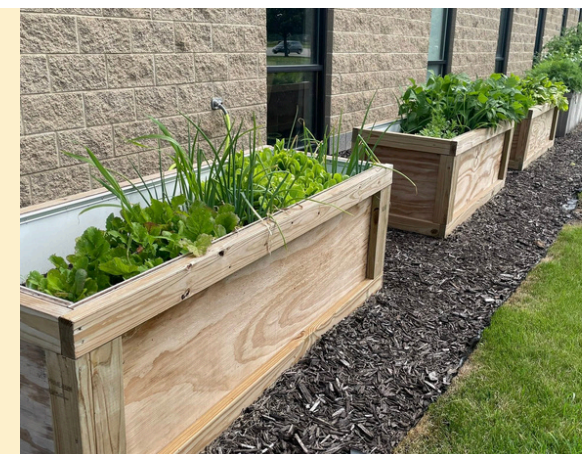
Some of our Food Pantry volunteers

loving the fox valley

Our Food Pantry has grown over the past year, and we are now serving an average of 55-70 families each week, with some weeks over 80 households in the autumn months.

New this year are raised bed gardens, cared for by volunteers. The "Grace Garden" will help make it possible to offer our clients fresh produce in an economically sustainable way!

You gave an incredible 200 turkeys and 50 hams during our donation drive! Thank you for living out Matthew 25:35, and making Thanksgiving and Christmas special for our Fox Valley neighbors who are facing hunger.



The new Grace Gardens

Exponential Conference



Above: Our discipleship lead team and some group leaders attended the Exponential Conference in Naperville, IL.

Below: It was a packed room in September as people were equipped in spiritual warfare by Peter Warren of YWAM.



making disciples locally

In the Fox Valley area, people are growing in CTR Discipleship Groups. **Just under 600 people are currently in groups, led by almost 100 volunteer leaders.** In addition to the community built, so much growth happens in group discussion and study. Groups are a crucial part of living the Intentional Life in Christ:



GOD

Time with God
daily



GATHER

Worship at church
weekly



GROUP

Grow in community
consistently



GO

Live on mission
continually

This year, 110 people grew each week in Celebrate Recovery and Freedom Fighters. Another 66 people were discipled in Journey Groups, Character Development, The Smart Stepfamily, Lay Counseling Class, Premarital Class, and Marriage Development. In November, 45 of our class leaders and Lay Counselors were equipped in a training with Christian counselor Adam Young.



making disciples in colombia

in Colombia through Compassion International. In March 2025, our church was invited to sponsor a church building in Tasajeras for \$115,000. But God had bigger plans, and you were listening! Our church gave an incredible \$257,995 – enough for additional needs like a Child Development Center and clean water facility. Meanwhile, God was also moving in Tasajeras, and people were coming to faith in Jesus Christ: 40 in January, 5 in March, 10 in April, and another 15 in July!

Then in the fall, we were invited to sponsor children in Tasajeras and the surrounding region through Compassion. Again you responded with His love, and sponsored 328 children! Thank you for blessing these precious children in His name.

In 2024 God began forging a connection between CTR and a small fishing village



Praying over the church site



The church building in progress

Tasajeras children's ministry



First night of Breakout this fall



family ministries

While numbers don't tell the whole story, all of our CTR Family Ministries are growing!

- More than 300 children are attending CTR Kids on Sundays.

- Almost 200 Breakout and Breakout Jr. kids are registered and attending, and CTR Students is at nearly the same number.
- High school attendance has nearly tripled in the last 2 years.

Kids and students are engaging in amazing conversations and discipleship each week – thank you to our amazing volunteers!



CTR families skating

An anonymous donor sponsored an ice skating night at the Plaza at Gateway Park in February. It was a great time of connection and was attended by a variety of families with kids from babies through teens – and some grandparents too! It was also a first introduction to CTR as some people brought friends. We are so thankful for the generosity of the anonymous person who made this evening possible!

students go!

Our CTR Students lived out the “Go” part of the Intentional Life in several ways. They were generous toward the Colombia church plant with a Penny War. In just three weeks this spring, they collected over \$700! It was wonderful to see their excitement about students and families in Colombia knowing Jesus and having a place to gather for worship.

We also sent a team of high school students to serve in Denver, Colorado this summer – see photos at right.



A team of CTR high school students went on a mission trip to Denver, Colorado. They painted homes and did yardwork for those in need, served in a nursing home, sorted donations at a nonprofit thrift store, and shared the Gospel while serving food to homeless people in downtown Denver.



Pastor Tom Potter



In February, we celebrated the ordination of Pastor Tom Potter. Tom started as the Children's Ministry Leader in 2016, began leading the middle school ministry in 2019, and became our Student Ministries and high school leader in 2022. We are grateful for his leadership and shepherd's heart.

Teaching Pastor Search Update: In the summer, Pastor Ben Korinek followed God's call to be the Lead Pastor at Pathways Church. With great anticipation, we are currently considering candidates to be our next Teaching Pastor. Please be in prayer for that process.