

LIFE CHANGE LIFE GROWTH LIFE PURPOSE



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

THE VILLAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# MISSION: TO HELP PEOPLE EXPERIENCE LIFE CHANGE, LIFE GROWTH AND LIFE PURPOSE

The Lord HAS DONE THIS, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:23



The goal with this report is to share and celebrate all that GOD HAS DONE in 2023!

- Online Campus, The Village Live, reached an average of 534 people weekly! In addition, one of our social media reels from a Sunday message went viral with over 1,000,000 views and still counting.
- Seneca Campus celebrated their second birthday in February. In the fall, Seneca Pulse experienced amazing growth, reaching 45 students a week in grades 4 -8!
- Coal City Campus quickly grew in its first year, reaching an average of 178 people each week! The explosive growth may require adding a service or space in the future!
- Minooka Campus sent 70 people, adults and kids to launch the Coal City Campus in December 2022. Then God brought 150 new people to the Minooka Campus for continued growth in 2023!
- The Village had 79 baptisms! That's a new high, surpassing the previous record of 52 in 2022.
- We announced a potential Shorewood Campus launch for 2025! Stay tuned for details.

In this report, you will read many stories about lives changed by God! Please remember, these are all things GOD HAS DONE! Our goal in sharing and celebrating them is to give glory to God.

The Village is ONE church in multiple locations - Minooka, Online, Seneca, Coal City, and soon to be Shorewood. We can't wait to see how God will use each of us in all locations to carry out our mission - to help people experience Life Change, Life Growth, and Life Purpose.

Nate Ferguson, Lead Pastor  
The Village Christian Church





# CORE VALUES

*The Priorities To Drive The Mission Forward*

We are committed to serving God and carrying out the church's mission - to help people experience Life Change, Life Growth, and Life Purpose. Staying focused on our Core Values is key.

## THE BIBLE IS OUR GUIDE

We don't get caught up in rules & regulations, but allow scripture to lead the way.



## EVERYBODY GROWS

We equip our community with opportunities to build relationships with God & others.



## EVERYBODY SERVES

We provide serving opportunities so you can use the gifts that God uniquely gave to you.



## NO BORING HERE

We have fun learning about God, growing in our faith, and serving with people we love.



# SENECA CAMPUS

*Expanding Into More Communities For More Life Change, Life Growth, And Life Purpose*



## CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Provided stuffed animals with encouraging messages for kids in emergency situations.
- Easter egg hunt and cookie decorating with the Village of Seneca.
- Served walking tacos and hot cocoa for 500 people at Crotty Park Christmas tree lighting.
- Monthly kids outreach: water fun, bike ride, scavenger hunt, gingerbread houses and more!
- Financial assistance for gas, groceries, utilities, rent, counseling, and cleaning for the sick.
- Delivered 11 Thanksgiving + 16 Christmas turkeys.
- Distributed 40,000 lbs of food / 4 mobile food pantries.
- Angel Tree provided gifts for 10 kids with parents in prison.
- Partnered with new Helping Hands of Seneca creating a bridge between the church and community needs.



“

This is a place to bring your questions, doubts, guilt, and shame, because everyone is here to LOVE you and show you Jesus. This church showed me Jesus in the most authentic way. Jesus saved my soul. - Katelyn, Seneca Campus

106

AVERAGE # OF  
PEOPLE PER  
WEEK

## WHAT DID GOD DO?

17 Baptisms  
8 Lifegroups  
20 Rooted Graduates  
5 Discipleships



# COAL CITY CAMPUS

*Expanding Into More Communities For More Life Change, Life Growth, And Life Purpose*



## CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Inviting is strong and part of this campus culture. We saw a 4th generation invite - someone invited a couple who then invited their daughter who then invited her friend. And this is how we grow.
- Opened "The Commons", an area within the church space to connect and build community.
- Donated to the Pregnancy Resource Center: In addition to a donation by the church, one of our church family invested her "This Little Light Of Mine" \$100 to buy supplies for the center.
- Partnered with Help 4 Hope, a local nonprofit organization bringing hope to those in need. We worked together to hand out school supplies and Thanksgiving meals.
- Over 25 people joined volunteer teams - living out the core value that everybody serves!
- Connected with the community and played the 9 Square game at the Coal City Fall Fest.



“

My relationship with God has been off and on for about 20 years. When the Coal City Campus opened, I knew I had my church home. I'm done running, I am back "home". Thank you for your unconditional love! - Kari, Coal City Campus

**180**  
AVERAGE # OF  
PEOPLE PER  
WEEK

## WHAT DID GOD DO?

6 Baptisms  
7 Lifegroups  
11 Rooted Graduates  
3 Discipleships

# THE VILLAGE LIVE - ONLINE CAMPUS

*Encountering Jesus And Experiencing Church Anywhere, Anytime*

**539**

AVERAGE #  
OF PEOPLE  
WATCHING  
PER WEEK

“

I've attended two services and really enjoyed the scripture. I look forward to attending more services, although my work schedule will keep me away from in person, but I'll attend online.

-Rigo, Online Campus

“

January 2024 is our second anniversary attending The Village online. What started as an online experiment to find our church home ended up becoming our only method of church when we relocated to Texas. We look forward to our Sunday mornings on the couch - listening, learning, and laughing. Although we are 1,000 miles away, we feel a deep connection to the Church. The Village Online is our church home and we couldn't be happier we found our place. - Craig & Dawn, Online Campus



**60**

# OF PEOPLE  
THAT TEXTED  
TO CONNECT



- 3,053 [live.thevillagechristianchurch.com](https://live.thevillagechristianchurch.com) views
- Highest viewed Sunday message on YouTube: At The Movies - Toy Story with 217 views. 182 (83.9%) were not YouTube channel subscribers. We are reaching people outside of our church family.

# DIGITAL MINISTRIES

*Stay Connected To Be Encouraged And Equipped*

**4,108**

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

**53,663**

FACEBOOK PAGE  
VISITS

**1,081**

YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS

**64,184**

YOUTUBE VIEWS

**2,230**

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

**72,200**

LIKES, COMMENTS  
& SHARES

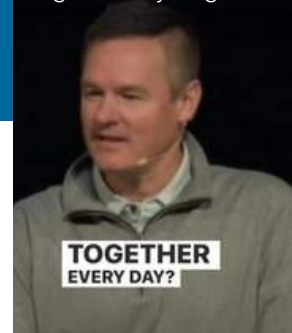
There's A Place For You At The Village Coal City  
was the #1 Youtube video with 18,825 views.

## TOP INSTAGRAM REEL

1,024,645 PLAYS \* 24,352 SHARES \* 6,386 SAVES

A 24/7 online approach increases opportunities for community and for someone to start a relationship with Jesus. Digital ministry takes advantage of the other 167 hours in the week beyond the 1-hour church service to share the good news of Jesus.

Pray with your person.  
🙏 A couple that prays  
together stays together



In March we announced that our church family could set The Village as their church on the YouVersion Bible app. This free resource gives users 24/7 access to the Bible on their digital device. Another opportunity for our church family to get into God's Word daily and stay connected during the week.



**ANOTHER  
GREAT  
STORY**  
WITH THE VILLAGE

**6,964**

PLAYS SINCE  
THE PODCAST  
LAUNCHED IN APRIL  
2022

**462**

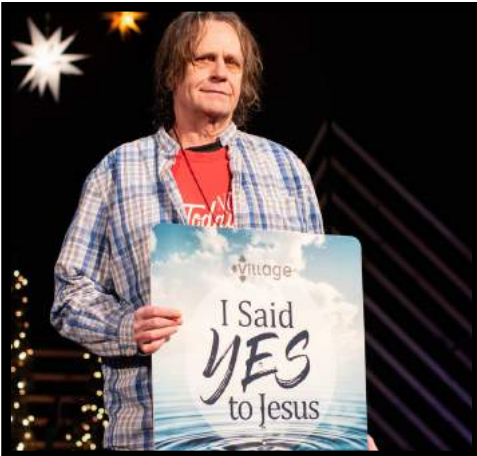
PEOPLE NOW SET  
THE VILLAGE AS  
THEIR CHURCH ON  
YOUVERSION



# DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

*Life Change, Through Baptism*

A Public Commitment To Say YES To Jesus. A Starting Point For Life Change!



“

I believe I have always known that there is a God but did not understand him and struggled to fully surrender to him. I lived my life in rebellion and made bad decisions resulting in drug overdoses and stints in jail. Then I met a man who helped me to come to Jesus. I began reading about Christ and attending Bible study. Now as a part of my lifelong relationship with Christ I would like to be baptized and wash away sin.

- Ray / Minooka Campus

541

BAPTISMS SINCE  
THE VILLAGE  
OPENED  
IN 2004

79

BAPTISMS  
IN 2023



“

I've always loved church, but now it means so much more to me. I had no idea the power that God holds. I had reached a turning point in my life where suddenly nothing made sense, and although I didn't call out to Him, He heard me anyway. God knew I needed Him and there was no other explanation. He gave me strength when I had none, and because of this I trust in Him and fully commit myself to Him.

- Lynda / Seneca Campus



“

My journey has not always been righteous. I struggle with anger, anxiety, and self-control. I know the devil is real and tries to steal away our trust from God, providing easy-way outs, thus isolating us farther from His goodness. The great news I've come to realize is the power of God's grace, mercy, and never-ending love. I know that God has a plan for my life and with Him all things are possible. Today is the day I say thank you God and accept your Son Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

- Justin / Coal City Campus



# DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

*Life Change, Through Baptism*

A Public Commitment To Say YES To Jesus. A Starting Point For Life Change!



REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED,  
EVERY ONE OF YOU, IN THE  
NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR  
THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR  
SINS. AND YOU WILL RECEIVE  
THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.  
- ACTS 2:38



“

Jesus has reshaped me, gave me identity and love I never thought I'd truly have. He has mended my soul, sat with me when I felt broken and worthless, where I wished I didn't have to wake up again. God did what I thought was impossible, He filled me up and made me whole. Now, I know that He will never be limited by circumstances. He will always be there to protect and guide me. This is just the start to eternity with Him and I couldn't be happier that it's Jesus I get to spend it with my Savior and best friend.

- Kayla / Minooka Campus



It was a beautiful weekend to celebrate 2 baptisms! We are so excited for father and son to make the decision to get baptized and live for Jesus! We can't wait to see the amazing things He will do in their lives!

- The Brewick's / Coal City Campus

“

I've been baptized before, as a baby and when I attended another church. I didn't know what a relationship with God was when I was a baby, and I'm not sure if I had a full grasp of it some 20 years ago. I have struggled, at times, thinking, Am I a good enough Christian? Am I a hypocrite? Does God love me despite my sin? The fact of the matter is; Jesus died on the cross and paid the penalty of sin for all who believe in him. He died for my sin. I fully accept our Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior.

- Monica / Seneca Campus



On October 8 we were wrapping up the teaching series, I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me, with a message about baptism. These two men, Larry and Shane, made the decision in the moment to take the next step of baptism! We are praising God for these life-changing decisions!



# LIFEGROUPS

*Life Growth, Through Community*

Love Jesus, Each Other, And Help Others Find And Follow Jesus.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP STARTED IN JUNE.



**395**

PEOPLE  
CONNECTED  
IN 41 GROUPS

JOYFUL MAPPERS GROUP STARTED IN JULY.



## LIFE GROWTH THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

One-on-one weekly meetings for a year to explore spiritual gifts and purpose in God equipping us to disciple others.



“

Jon and I finished our discipleship journey! It has been an incredible year and I saw God grow this young man in awesome ways. God has big plans for his future! He is fearless in sharing Jesus with others and had an incredible heart to serve the Lord. - Sarah

**18**

PEOPLE  
WORKING  
THROUGH  
DISCIPLESHIP



## EVERYBODY GROWS

Loving Jesus  
Relationships  
Friends  
Serving  
Supporting  
Encouraging  
Hanging Out





# ROOTED EXPERIENCE

*Connect With God, The Church, And Your Purpose*



**49**  
PEOPLE  
EXPERIENCED  
ROOTED

## LIFE GROWTH HAPPENS HERE

Rooted: A 10-week experience to learn and practice 7 rhythms essential to a healthy relationship with Jesus and build strong roots in the truth of God's Word, the Bible.



# RE/ENGAGE

*Getting Equipped To Build A Healthy Marriage*

**31**  
COUPLES  
WORKED  
THROUGH  
RE/ENGAGE

“Before Re/Engage our marriage was a 2, and we were feeling pretty hopeless. After Re/Engage we've bumped that rating up to an 8. We now have tools and knowledge that are helping us rock this marriage thing. Our connection with Christ has deepened, and we've got this awesome group of other believers cheering us on. Feeling hopeful again!



## LIFE GROWTH HAPPENS HERE

Re/Engage: A 15-week experience for couples to learn about God's design for marriage and get equipped to build a healthy marriage.

# MISSIONS

*Life Purpose, Through Service*

Reclaim3d, Our 501C3, Exists To Reclaim Bad Circumstances Into Something Beautiful Locally, Regionally, And Globally

**1549** PEOPLE SERVED  
OUTSIDE OF OUR  
CHURCH WALLS

**\$606,131**  
GIVEN TO MISSIONS  
IN 2023

**\$2,437,627**  
GIVEN TO MISSIONS SINCE  
THE VILLAGE OPENED IN 2004

## LOCAL

- 11 mobile food pantries (5 in Minooka, 4 in Seneca, 2 in Braidwood) provided 110,000 lbs. of food.  
131 mobile food pantries have provided 1,310,000 lbs. of free food to our communities since 2005.
- Volunteers packed 3,950 food bags for the Channahon-Minooka Rotary Club Backpack Program.  
The food is discreetly placed in the backpacks of 150 kids from low income families.
- 155 guests attended the Dance The Night Away prom on May 5 for the special needs community.
- The Reclaimed golf outing and banquet was a success on June 26. The goal was to raise \$30,000 to put back in to the communities we serve. The result was \$39,500 raised.
- 439 kids came for new shoes and socks, laundry detergent, school supplies and clothes at the Big Give event on August 11 and 12.
- 70 turkey dinners were delivered to single moms and struggling families at Thanksgiving in the communities of Coal City, Seneca, and Minooka.
- \$17,000 was distributed in envelopes to equip our church family to be generous and make a difference in our world. This Little Light Of Mine (\$100) and One At A Time (\$20 - \$50) envelopes were handed out to our church family to go out and make a difference in their communities.





# MISSIONS

*Life Purpose, Through Service*

Reclaim3d, Our 501C3, Exists To Reclaim Bad Circumstances Into Something Beautiful Locally, Regionally, And Globally

## REGIONAL & GLOBAL

- Our church family donated \$17,154 to Ms. Pearl's Christmas Store for the Good News Community Coffee House, a beacon of hope and connection point for the community of Roseland on the south side of Chicago.
- 289 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were filled and sent along with the good news about Jesus to children in countries around the world that have never heard about Him.
- The goal was to pack 100,000 meals for Haiti at the November 4 Lifeline Christian Mission Meal Pack. 450 volunteers packed 104,544 meals!



EVERYBODY  
SERVES

“

What an amazing  
experience bringing all  
of the campuses  
together to serve and  
pack meals for the  
hungry!  
And it was fun!

NO BORING  
HERE



# ATTENDANCE

*Every Number Has A Name. Every Name Has A Story. Every Story Matters To Our God.*

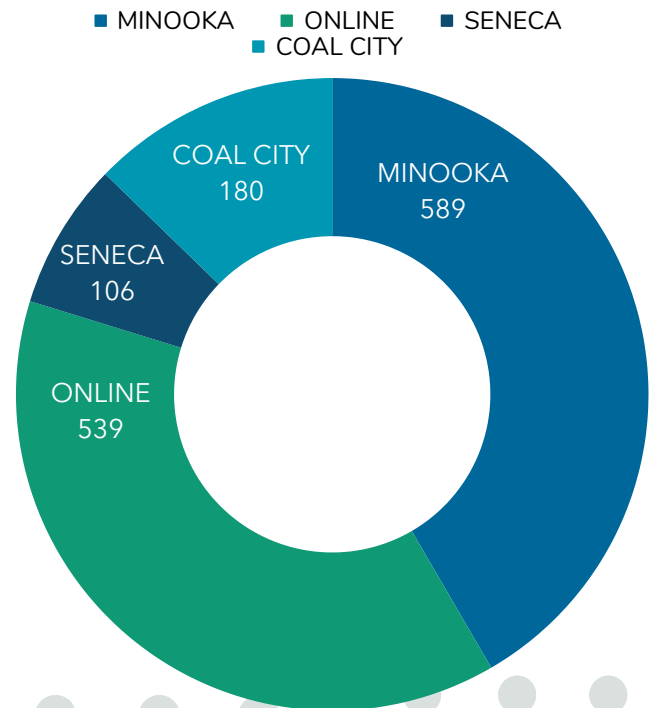
**1,414**  
AVERAGE  
ATTENDANCE  
ACROSS ALL  
CAMPUSES

**2,143**

EASTER SERVICES  
ATTENDANCE

**2,610**

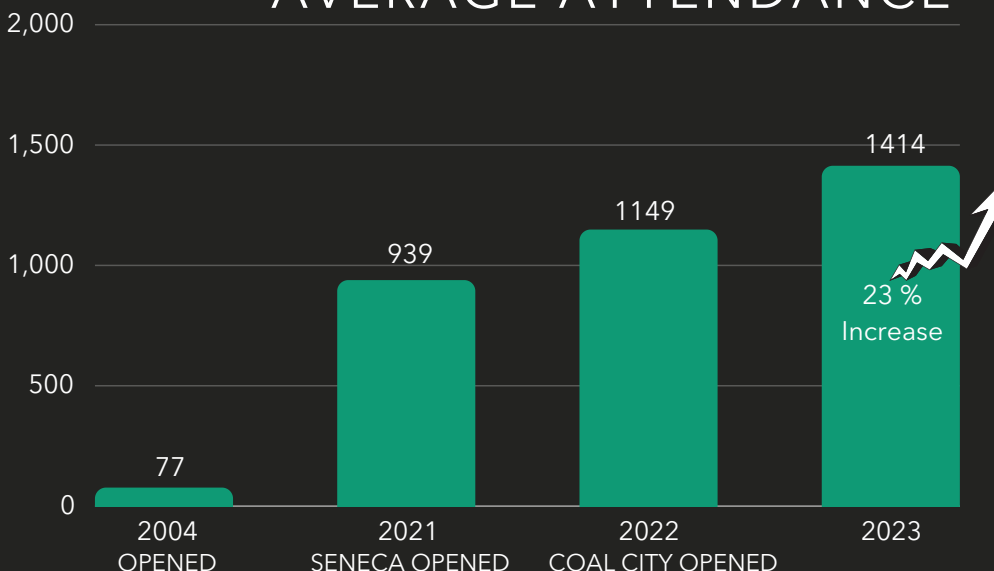
CHRISTMAS SERVICES  
ATTENDANCE



“

Since Covid I've struggled to reconnect with community. I'm so grateful God placed me exactly where He knew I needed to be, in a church that is filled with so many loving, kind, supportive people. - Samantha

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE



The numbers represent lives being changed by God. Every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God.



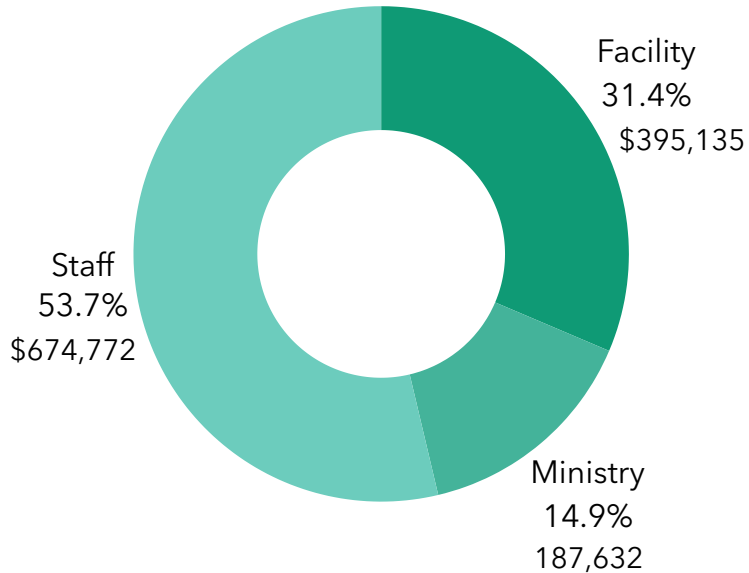
# LIFE-CHANGING GENEROSITY

*Your Generosity + God's Blessing = More People Coming To Know Jesus!*

## 2023 BUDGET

\$1,257,539

WEEKLY NEED: \$23,727



## 2023 ACTUAL

\$1,523,227

AVERAGE WEEKLY RECEIVED \$28,740

### HOW \$265,689 SURPLUS WAS INVESTED:

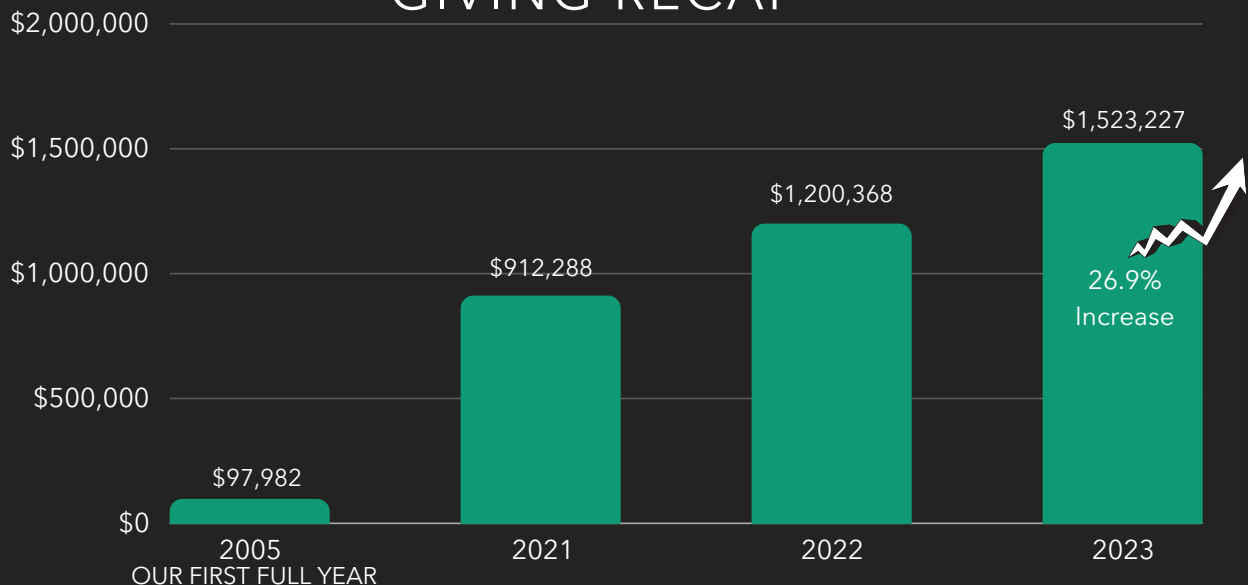
- \$26,689 Reclaim3d
- \$100,000 Shorewood Campus
- \$40,000 Staff Development
- \$40,000 Capital Expenses
- \$40,000 Future Coal City Build Out



We are grateful for God's abundant blessings received this year in generosity. The surplus provides more opportunities for us to reinvest in God's eternal kingdom, opening doors for more people to experience a transformative relationship with Jesus.

- Charlie Pierce, Executive Pastor

## GIVING RECAP



# PULSE STUDENT MINISTRIES

*A Place Where Students Meet Jesus, Know Jesus And Share Jesus!*



17 Pulse students took the next step of baptism!

150 students and Pulse families attended the summer pool party. Community happens here!



Over 150 kids attended winter retreat and summer camps at Little Galilee. Growing in their faith, making new friends, and getting to know Jesus!



Students joyfully served at Feed My Starving Children in April and The Village Meal Pack in November.



“A student came for the first time on pumpkin carving night. She came back the next week and shared that last week was the first time she ever prayed! Her parents do not attend church. She was invited by a friend and now comes every week. - Erica, Leader

STUDENT  
MINISTRY GREW  
80% IN 2023.

THANK YOU GOD!



“

Being a Pulse student is the biggest blessing in my life. Watching what the Lord does in my friends' lives and in my own is unreal. I'm so grateful. - Bennett





# KID VILLAGE MINISTRY

*A Safe, Fun-Filled Place Where Kids Can Come To Worship And Learn  
About Our Amazing God!*



“

My favorite thing is seeing the kids love and worship Jesus. It especially makes my heart so happy to hear them pray, trusting God with their concerns and praising Him for the blessings they have been given. The hugs, the joy, the kids who have decided to be baptized, worshiping and praying led by seven-year-olds!

- Carol and Nicole, Minooka



“

Kids are our most valuable assets. We appreciate the privilege we have to be teachers in Kid Village! It's so rewarding to see how quickly they learn.

- Lori and Ken, Seneca



“

Worship is always a highlight; our goal is to sing loud enough for the grownups to hear us!

- Eleanor, Coal City

## HIGHLIGHTS

- \$400 was raised at the Change Challenge by our Kid Villagers. This money went to Reclaim3d and was used to buy Christmas gifts for 10 kids. The kids had a blast throwing pies in the faces of their leaders.
- 21 of our Kid Villagers in grade 3-4 went to overnight camp to learn more about Jesus.





# EVENTS

*Community Matters And Connections Are Important.*



As a church, we are committed to providing opportunities for community, connections, and outreach. The Family Reunion Picnic, Chili Cook-offs, Fall Fest, and Winter Wonderland are just a few examples of where that happened. Winter Wonderland was a new event in 2023 targeted to the communities we serve so we could show them the love of Jesus. That event packed the house with an estimated 1200 people coming through the Minooka building, many who do not attend church at The Village.







# THANKING GOD FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE AT THE VILLAGE

