



immeasurably
more

funding ministry
and making disciples in 2024

 **the water's edge**
C H U R C H



Letter from Craig

Paul is in jail. He is writing a letter to the church he planted in Ephesus a few years earlier. In the middle of the letter, Paul begins praying for them. One of the things Paul prays is: *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.* -Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

Paul has experienced *immeasurably more*. The forgiveness of sins. Deep community with other believers. The birth of dozens of churches. People being healed right in front of him. Times he experienced healing. Moments he felt so close to God. Purpose and passion for life. Paul experienced *immeasurably more*, and he wanted this for the Ephesians.

Paul was the right person, in the right place, at the right time. His entire ministry was and continues to be *immeasurably more*. He walked and sailed thousands of miles to serve people who needed Jesus. The world still needs Jesus. The Water's Edge is the right church, in the right place, at the right time for many people in the western parts of Omaha and beyond. I believe our congregation's response in 2024 will be like Paul's response throughout his ministry: one of commitment and obedience.

I remember walking the church's property with Benjamin late one night in the summer of 2011. Twelve years later, I look back and am grateful for so much *immeasurably more*. I don't even know where to begin. From adopting and serving the Miller Park neighborhood in North Omaha to providing water to countless people in Nicaragua. From all the friendships that have been created to the relationships that have been healed. From the children and students who have been mentored and loved to the new people who have been welcomed and are now family. It's all *immeasurably more* than I could have ever asked or imagined.

The Water's Edge is a hopeful place, and I'm a hopeful person. I believe so many more *immeasurably more* moments will happen in 2024, and I believe our best *immeasurably more* moments are still in front of us.

I'm grateful for your generosity that has made *immeasurably more* happen and allows The Water's Edge to remain in a robust financial position, setting us up for much more *immeasurably more* in the future. Our giving to ministry and missions is up 14.2% over last year, and our mission giving is up an astounding 26.9% over last year. Immeasurably more, for sure.

The Water's Edge is known citywide as a generous church. The blessing is twofold. Hope and help for the recipients and fulfillment and joy for the giver. Generosity frees us from the chains of materialism and consumerism, restores us to God's image, and allows us to partner with God and others in serving and loving the world.

I encourage you to read this brochure's pages and celebrate The Water's Edge's impact on the lives of so many. Also, take a look at the financial information and the giving challenge. And, join me in praying about deepening our financial commitment to The Water's Edge and God's Kingdom in 2024 so that WE and others can experience *immeasurably more*.

You will receive a 2024 Estimate of Giving Card in the mail the week of November 13th. WE will turn in our cards together in worship on Sunday, November 19th.

In Christ,

Craig

thank you



Amazing things happen when the people of God are present, love is demonstrated, hope is inspired, and faith is expressed. The presence of Water's Edge Church has done just that in our Miller Park neighborhood. The intentional life and love you've brought to the community has impacted more people than you will ever know. Your faith, hope, and love has been expressed through meeting practical needs, neighborhood beautification, prayer, lots of candy, and ultimately the ongoing support of Lighthouse leaders who shine God's light in the neighborhood. Jesus said, "What you've done to the least of these, you've done to me." Thank you for serving the under-served in our city. On behalf of Miller Park, North Omaha, and **Abide**, thank you! We truly are Better Together!

*Josh Dotzler,
CEO Abide*



The **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**

Omaha chapter thanks you for generously supporting our mission to ensure that "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town." The Water's Edge monetary donations & volunteer hours resulted in over 400 bedless kids in the Omaha metro who now have a bed of their own to sleep in.

Our SHP chapter has a saying that it takes a village of individuals willing to give of their time, talents, and financial resources to build and deliver beds to kids in need. The Water's Edge family is a huge part of our SHP village! The countless volunteer hours and generous financial support have made a huge impact and is greatly appreciated by so many!

Sincerely,
Roger and Jenni Riffel
SHP Omaha Co-Presidents



Amigos for Christ

When I think about generosity and the WE community I think of this prayer I love.
Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, to toil and not seek for rest, to labor and not to seek reward, except that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

It has been incredibly humbling to be on the receiving end of generosity from WE, generosity that gives—and doesn't count the cost. Giving that exceeds any and all expectations over and over again so that God could do immeasurably more than I and WE could ever ask or imagine. Generosity that deeply cares to serve those who need it most, giving the gift of clean, running water and modern bathrooms so that families can live more abundant, blessed, and healthy lives.

I think about my 22-year old self, because of the generosity of WE, I was able to move to Nicaragua to become a missionary with Amigos for Christ for what I thought would be a 2-year experience. Here I am 5 1/2 years later, married to the love of my life, Renato, and together we have the joy of dedicating our life's work to serving so that Christ is made more visible.

In the last several years, it has been a great honor to see how the WE community has loved and shown up for families living in rural Nicaragua. To date, the WE community has directly impacted 200+ families - over 1,000 people - with the life-transforming gift of water and sanitation. I am grateful and inspired to be a part of such a generous and faithful community. The love you share plants seeds in Nicaragua that will bear fruit and shine light for generations to come.

Juntos,
Morgan Coil de Torrez



AMIGOS
for CHRIST →

impact stories



Ola Otto

Ola hit rock bottom with the loss of her husband, Roger, in April 2021 during the midst of the pandemic. Ola and her daughter, Kim, collected Ola's possessions and moved her back to Omaha so they could be near each other. Ola began searching for a church. Kim mentioned The Water's Edge

after attending a memorial service here for a friend. The first online service Ola attended was in May 2022, the Sunday after our long-time worship leader, AJ Sandoval, passed away. Pastor Craig shared a passionate and personal message on grief and pain—exactly what Ola needed as she continued working through the grief associated with Roger's loss.

In October, feeling a call to dig deeper, Ola reached out to Pastor Leandra after hearing about WE University and Disciple Bible Study. During her grief and the challenges of the pandemic, Ola stepped out in faith and signed up! Ola fondly recalls meeting and connecting with “authentic people” who accepted her with open arms, love, and grace. Everyone welcomed her and made her feel like she was at home. Over the next 12 weeks, Ola described challenging but rewarding assignments, rich conversations, and a new focus in her faith journey. As that course ended, Ola signed up for the New Testament course and started attending in person.

Ola is extremely thankful that she was asked to serve at The Water's Edge. She quickly connected with Pastor Jason and began volunteering with WE Kids. Next, she jumped in with both feet - helping host our Sunday services online. Most recently, Ola joined the team that teaches Disciple Bible Study. She is grateful for The Water's Edge and how the church is helping her heal and grow. In a little over a year, her faith, confidence, and hope have grown immeasurably more than she imagined in those dark times.



Jason Curry

Thank you so much for your commitment and investment to creating a safe space for students to experience the Gospel with trusting adults in our community and through the WE congregation. The Water's Edge partnership has been an incredible blessing to hundreds of students and families. I was able to help serve and "chaperone" at a recent "5th Quarter" on a Friday evening that you hosted with 200 middle school kids! It is such a blessing to see the collaboration, partnership, and unity that we all have to help youth know and experience Jesus!

WE value partnerships

I'm so grateful for you stepping into these unique ministry opportunities with kids:

- Hosting our weekly Beadle Middle School club
- Hosting our weekly Elkhorn South High School club
- Partnering for summer camp and ski trips
- 5th Quarter
- Gretna and Millard West summer evenings at the volleyball courts



Thank you so much,
Jason Currie
Executive Director
Greater Omaha Youth For Christ

making a difference

WE Kids

- **120+ volunteers** pouring faith into our kids monthly
- Averaging **116 kids** birth to fifth grade each Sunday
- **375 VBS participants** with **196 volunteers** (*largest yet!*)
- **84 kids** joined *Hooked for Life* fishing and faith ministry

WE Youth

- **Over 30** adults invest in WE Youth weekly
- An average of **100 students** regularly attend each week
- **28 students** celebrated their confirmation of faith
- **89 students** and leaders participated in summer mission trips to Michigan and Wisconsin
- **200 middle school students** attended our first fall *5th Quarter* event in partnership with Journey Church and Gretna Campus Life (Youth for Christ)

Adults

- WE have welcomed **131 new members** so far this year
- Over **360 people** are in **28 house churches**—connecting with each other and growing in their relationship with Jesus
- **25 women** gather for *Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)* to live motherhood life together

Missions

- WE sent a total of **35 missionaries** to *Belize, Nicaragua, and Uganda* this year
- **Investing \$30,000** and 8 WE Serve days with *Abide Omaha* in the *Miller Park* neighborhood
- Your **\$34,000** in donations provided food and Christmas presents for families in partnership with *Project Wee Care*
- WE partnered with *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* donating **\$62,000** to purchase 248 beds for kids who don't have one
- WE gave **\$120,000** to *Amigos for Christ* which provided running water for **75 families**

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do

**immeasurably
more**

than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

-Ephesians 3:14-21



giving challenge

extravagant
giver

giving beyond
the tithe

tithing
giver

giving a tithe

growing
giver

increased percent
of income

intentional
giver

give a planned
percent of income

exploring
giver

give a specific amount

The Water's Edge exists to help people grow in their relationships with God and each other. The best way to experience immeasurably more in these relationships is to do what Jesus did: pray, serve, be present, forgive, and give.

Practicing generosity isn't primarily a financial practice—it's a spiritual discipline. God is generous, and giving restores us to God's image. Money and materialism are two of God's significant rivals in today's world. Practicing generosity is a statement of faith saying WE trust in the Creator, not creation.

WE are a generous church. I'm beyond grateful because it allows us to do things most churches can only dream of doing. As a pastor, more importantly, I see people growing closer to Christ because of generosity. I remember Anne Frank's quote, "No one has ever become poor by giving." But people are blessed by giving.

-Craig

pray

Thank God for all the abundance in your life. Recognize that your offerings express your desire to grow in your faith and your investment in God's work.

prepare

Look at the giving path, the giving distribution chart, and the percentage giving chart. Continue praying about taking a step or two forward in your giving in 2024.

percent

Challenge yourself to increase your yearly giving percentage until you practice tithing or beyond.

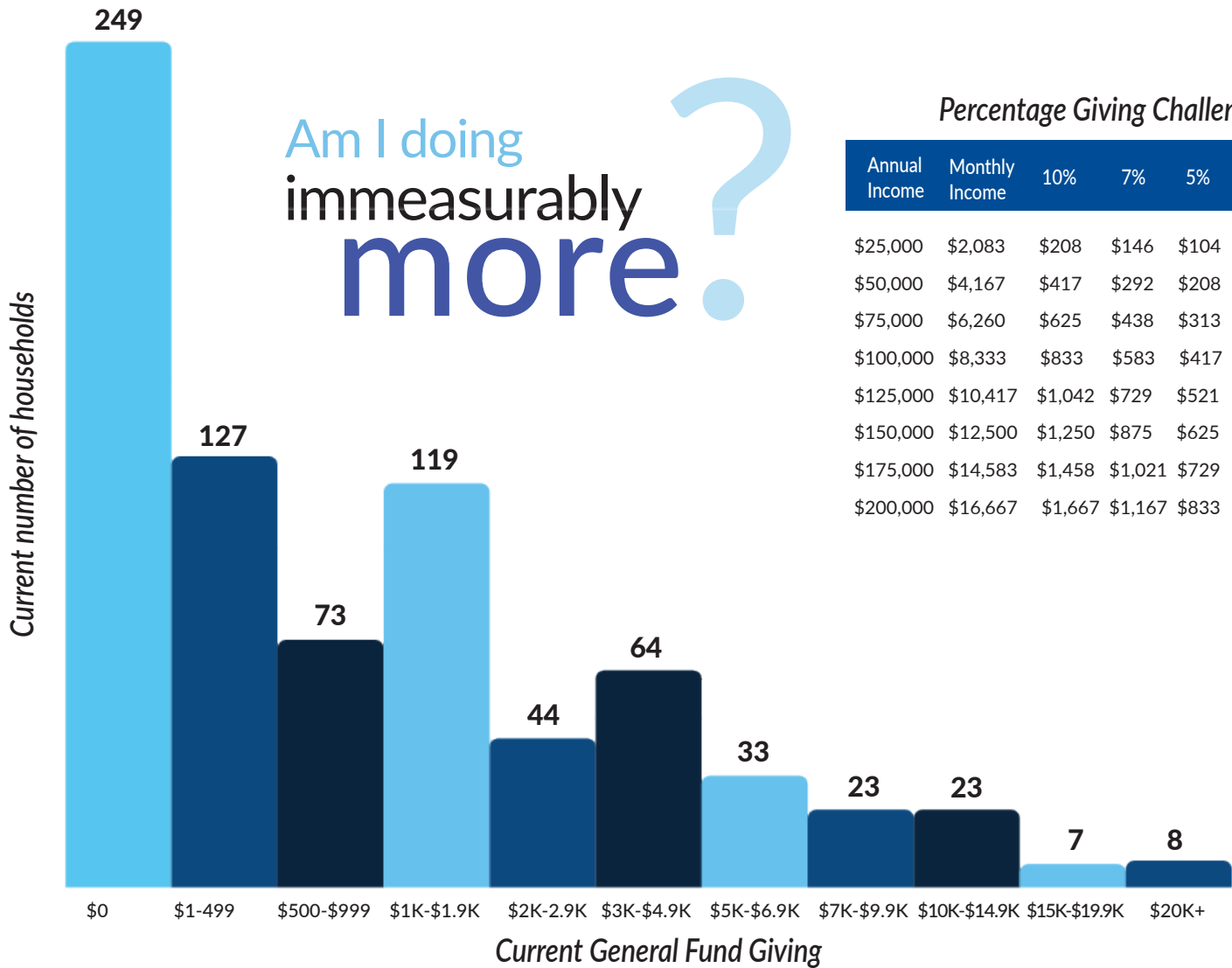
pledge

WE will turn in our 2024 Estimate of Giving Cards on Sunday, November 19. The card is a statement of faith and intention, not a legal contract. It can be changed at any time, up or down.

ponder

As 2024 unfolds, reflect on your generosity. How is it blessing others? What is God teaching you? How is God blessing you?

Am I doing
immeasurably
more?



Percentage Giving Challenge

Annual Income	Monthly Income	10%	7%	5%	3%	2%
\$25,000	\$2,083	\$208	\$146	\$104	\$63	\$42
\$50,000	\$4,167	\$417	\$292	\$208	\$125	\$83
\$75,000	\$6,260	\$625	\$438	\$313	\$188	\$125
\$100,000	\$8,333	\$833	\$583	\$417	\$250	\$167
\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,042	\$729	\$521	\$313	\$208
\$150,000	\$12,500	\$1,250	\$875	\$625	\$375	\$250
\$175,000	\$14,583	\$1,458	\$1,021	\$729	\$438	\$292
\$200,000	\$16,667	\$1,667	\$1,167	\$833	\$500	\$333

A large, abstract blue splatter graphic on the left side of the page, with various shades of blue and white, creating a textured, watercolor-like effect. The words "recurring giving" are written in white, bold, sans-serif font over the center of this graphic.

recurring giving

Electronic Funds Transfer

To establish an electronic funds transfer, complete the Estimate of Giving Card authorizing the EFT and attach a voided check for the account you will use. You can choose to have the withdrawal once or twice a month. EFT giving is simple and convenient. To change the amount on your current EFT, indicate the change on your Estimate of Giving Card. Or you can contact jennie@weomaha.com. She is happy to serve you.

creative ways to give

Recurring giving is an automated plan for regular giving each month. Recurring giving allows you to give your tithes and offerings to God first. It also provides the church with a predictable income stream.

Recurring Online Giving

Online Giving is a convenient, secure online system that makes giving easy! Setting up Online Giving is a quick, one-time process. You will be asked to link a credit or debit card to your account. You get to determine how often and when you give. Visit weomaha.com/give to set up recurring online giving.

Recurring Bill Pay

Bill Pay is another way to plan to schedule your giving. All major banks offer this service. You tell them when and how much to send, and they mail us a check.

For those aged 70 ½ and older, making tax-favorable charitable gifts from IRA accounts is possible. This is known as a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**. A total of up to \$100,000 per year can be transferred directly from IRAs to a qualified charity, such as our church, free from federal income tax. There may also be state income tax savings.

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are the minimum amounts you must withdraw from your retirement accounts each year. You generally must start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and retirement plan accounts when you reach age 72.

A QCD can help meet your RMD requirement. By giving all or part of your RMD, you can practice generosity and benefit from substantial tax savings. Many of our donors in this age group are giving from their RMD.

To donate from an IRA, it is important to donate directly from the IRA to the church. Contact your tax professional or financial planner if you have questions.



QCD

Qualified Charitable Distributions

Appreciated Stock

WE accept stocks and other securities. Like the RMDs noted above, many have found tax savings through this giving option—contact jennie@weomha.com for information on transferring stock to the church.

Checks

Checks can be placed in the offering boxes before or after worship on Sundays or during regular business hours. Checks can also be mailed to:

*The Water's Edge Church
19600 Harrison Street
Gretna, NE 68028*

generosity stories



Michael & Trisha Hall

Michael and Trisha Hall have been participating in the life of The Water's Edge since 2006. They have served on mission trips, led teams, consistently been part of a house church, and raised two girls at the church.

Practicing generosity has been part of their faith journey. They shared,

“Our giving is multiplied by the work at The Water's Edge and does far more than we could ever do on our own.”

They also note giving is not always easy. “We have been through times when money was tight. Somehow, there has always been enough. Having walked this path with God, giving to His work will always be a priority.”

They conclude, “Jesus practiced generosity and shared all He had, so when we do the same, we are more like Him.”

Heidi Smith

Heidi and her family have been with The Water's Edge for 15 years. Heidi has watched the church live into its vision of sacrificially serving families and investing in the next generation. She finds the church an incredible place to raise her children.

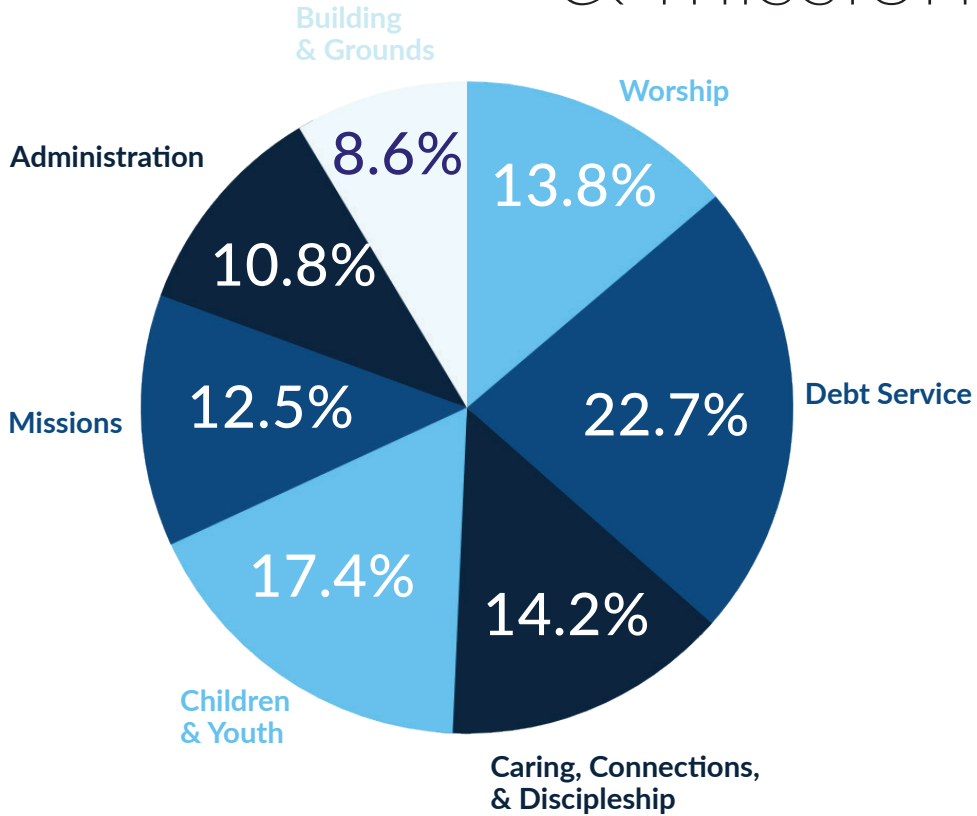


Heidi feels the church “is a good steward of the money I contribute.” Heidi shared about her giving being multiplied: “I see an amazing impact. What was only a dream ten years ago is now happening and so much more. And, I see our church dreaming even bigger dreams for the future.”

Heidi has experienced that giving has helped her grow closer to God. “Giving to our church makes amazing ministries and missions possible. Practicing generosity allows my children to see how giving is one way we can help people find God. Giving helps me and my kids grow in our faith.” Heidi concludes: “I feel blessed to play a small part in a big church that values not just our congregation but all the people in God's kingdom.”

2024 financial plan

for ministry & mission giving



November - December 2023 calendar

November 19

Commitment Sunday

Estimate of Giving Cards returned

November 22

Thanksgiving Eve Worship - 6:30 pm

November 26

“Why Christmas?” - Advent Series begins

December 21

Longest Night Service - 7 pm

December 22

Early Christmas Eve Service - 7 pm

December 24

Christmas Eve Services:

10:30 | 1:30 | 3:00 | 4:30 | 6:00 | 11:00

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