



MAKING

WAVES

2025-2026 Initiative

THE WATER'S EDGE CHURCH

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LETTER FROM CRAIG

I remember our first small group in the fall of 2005. Sixteen of us gathered in a house just south of 173rd and Harrison. Waves were made that night. Lifetime friendships were formed. We all grew closer to Jesus.

In September 2006, WE launched our first worship service at Russell Middle School and, a year later, moved to Millard West High School, our home for over a decade. WE purchased 23 acres of land on Harrison Street in 2012, moved into our building in 2018, and expanded our facilities in 2023. Those were all wave-making moves.

The dates, places, and structures are a small part of our story. The Water's Edge is a family. A church that makes waves. A church where countless people have found a place to belong. A church where people are meeting a God who forgives and accepts them. A church where people give and serve. A church that is impacting our city and the world.

In these twenty years, WE have purchased land, done all the necessary things like utilities, grading, and parking, built our original building, and added an expansion. The costs of these projects have been roughly 12 million dollars. All this while experiencing significant growth as a church, partnering with multiple non-profits around Omaha, planting a church in Cuba, and doing extensive mission work worldwide. WE have made a lot of waves together.

Our remaining debt at the end of 2024 will be \$1,730,000. Most of this debt is from the unanticipated construction inflation experienced while building our expansion. The new building is a wave-maker. It's beyond a blessing to our church and community. It's only been open for 14 months, and WE couldn't function without it.

WE have a big, wave-making goal—to be debt-free on our 20th birthday in the fall of 2026. In doing this, WE will accomplish something few churches have been able to do: buy land, construct buildings, and be debt-free within two decades! Accomplishing this goal glorifies God and sets The Water's Edge up for success as a wave-making church for the next twenty years.

Becoming debt-free will allow us to save over \$400,000 per year on principal reduction and interest and invest those financial resources in ministry and missions. The neighborhoods around the church are growing rapidly. WE are the closest church geographically for all these new residents. WE have an amazing opportunity in the next twenty years to make waves like never before.

I encourage you to read the pages of this book. To read about the waves of our past and the wave-making vision for the future. To learn about this initiative to fund ministry and missions for the next two years and become debt-free by our 20th birthday. And I invite you to pray about your financial participation and go where your best prayers lead you.



Our History

2005

Our first House Church was started in a basement just south of 173rd & Harrison

2007

Because of crowding, WE moved to Millard West High School

2006

Worship was launched at Russell Middle School

2012

Our WE Imagine campaign raised \$1.25 million to pay for our Harrison Street property

2015

Our From The Ground Up campaign raised \$2.4 million so that WE could move forward in constructing our building

2018

WE opened our building at 19600 Harrison Street

2017

WE began livestreaming our worship experiences

2023

Our expansion opened to provide more room for Sunday hospitality and to serve our students and community

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." They have participated in buying land in 2012, funding our first building in 2015, paying down our debt in 2018, and expanding our facilities in 2021. They are excited about financially participating in this initiative to become debt-free in the next two years.



“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.”

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. The Smiths funded our playground, which hundreds of kids and families use every year. Heidi and her children find great value in serving—they have participated in the Nicaragua mission trip and serve locally.

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 less than 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.”



“ I see an amazing impact. What was only a dream less than ten years ago is now happening and so much more. And, I see our church dreaming even bigger dreams for the future. ”

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSONS

David and Jessica Farr

We support The Water's Edge because it's more than just a church to us; it's a home, where all are welcome, and where we know we can invite anyone, regardless of their story or beliefs, and know they will be warmly greeted and welcomed. It is truly a church for everybody.

The Water's Edge has enriched our lives and made us better in so many ways. The Water's Edge has improved our lives by providing countless opportunities for us to serve like Jesus and show up in the community. We get to show our daughter how to be the hands and feet of Jesus by bringing beds to children, connecting with families and kids at Miller Park and through building relationships with people who may not look like us or have the privileges that we have. These are experiences that money cannot buy, and where we witness the Holy Spirit at work in our hearts.

We would encourage the congregation to join us in the journey of prayer, faith and generosity. We are so grateful for all the ways The Water's Edge has shown up in the local community as well as around the world, all possible because of the generosity of this congregation.



“ It's more than just a church to us; it's a home, where all are welcome, and where we know we can invite anyone, regardless of their story or beliefs. ”

Rusty and Jen McKune

We support The Water's Edge Church because we believe in our mission and vision for serving our community and each other. We have experienced the church's love and support poured out to our family during good times and also the darkest moment of our lives.

The church is our home, and our church friends are our extended family. We have raised our family and watched our boys come to know and love Jesus. They have participated in youth groups and served on mission trips. As a couple, we have grown in our own faith journey as we have been part of a house church and connected with people who have become our closest friends.

Giving is belonging—not only to a congregation striving to be followers of Jesus but also to our surrounding communities and to people all over the world. Giving is committing to one another and to growing God's Kingdom.

As we've prayed about our gift to the church, we know that while we may only play a small part, the church cannot fulfill its mission without us and without all of us participating. Everything the church has become results from us acting like Jesus: giving, serving, and loving. We hope that as WE embark on this initiative, you will prayerfully consider how your contribution is essential to making waves at The Water's Edge Church and serving God's Kingdom.



“ We have experienced the church's love and support poured out to our family during good times and also the darkest moment of our lives. ”

Jeff and Bev Kahler

Our explanation for our support of The Water's Edge isn't easy or simple. It began within a few weeks of the church's founding. For several weeks, we would attend WE and then go back to our old church. Following a service, we asked ourselves: Where did we get the most value for our hearts, minds, and souls? The answer was clear: The Water's Edge.

Then, something happened to eliminate any remaining concerns: a brief chat with our original worship leader, AJ Sandoval. After a worship service, I told him I played bass guitar in rock and roll bands

since the 1960s. Within a few days, I found myself at his house for my "audition." We were supposed to play for an hour. Three hours later, song after song, we were still playing. He then asked me when I would be able to start playing with the band. Since I had recently retired, I told him I could play anytime he needed me. Except for a few weeks when we traveled, I played the bass virtually every Sunday morning for well over a decade.

But our commitment to the church would have been much shallower had it not been for Pastor Craig. He doesn't preach or pontificate; he talks to us. He explains things clearly and with a wonderful sense of humor, usually making himself the butt



“ *With our small group, our serving of it. Kids Ministry, Project Wee Miller Park, Hooked for Life, and*

of the jokes. Self-deprecation goes a long way to building trust and rapport. And now, with Leandra carrying some of the load and speaking the same type of biblical wisdom and guidance, there is no possible other church for us.

Then, we started volunteering. One project here and there. With our small group, our serving frequency continued to grow. The more we did, the more we got out of it. Kids Ministry, Project Wee Care, Together Omaha, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the Diaper Bank, Miller Park, Hooked for Life, and others. The more we do, the more we get out of it. It is that simple.

We are retirees, basically living on a fixed income. But we will do what we have done in the past: adjust something here, drop something there, forego remodels to the house, and find a way to give as much as possible. The Water's Edge has touched so many lives and hearts, and we have no doubt it can and will continue to do so for generations to come.

We initially came for the sermon, then added the music, and then, through our small group (house church), we grew in our faith and friendships. If we can accomplish the goal of debt retirement, we can only imagine how much more good and how much more Gospel we can bring to Omaha and the world.

frequency continued to grow. The more we did, the more we got out of it. It is that simple. ”

OUR OPPORTUNITY

The Water's Edge is located off Harrison Street between 195th and 198th Streets on 23 acres of land. In 2012, the small congregation made a bold, visionary move to purchase this land. The land was a field that produced corn and beans that fed people for generations. In 2018, our first building was constructed, and the soil became sacred. WE began making waves by offering a new type of food—spiritual and relational nutrition.

Today, the area around the church is expanding rapidly. The four corners of 204th and Harrison Street are all being developed. Hundreds of houses have been built to the west and south of our property, and thousands more are planned. The Water's Edge is the closest church to all these new residents.

WE have an opportunity in the next decade to make waves by inviting and welcoming new residents, providing people with a place to belong and grow closer to Jesus. This opportunity to make waves will only happen once, and the time is now.

Instead of gradually paying off our debt over the next five years, WE are setting a wave-making goal of being debt-free by the end of 2026—our 20th anniversary as a church. This will allow us to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars annually over the next decade so WE don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make waves by inviting, welcoming, and embracing our new neighbors.

Waves are not created by accident or in isolation but intentionally and in community. Pray about your participation in this wave-making initiative and joining others in this unique opportunity.

HE WENT BACK TO TEACHING BY THE SEA. A CROWD BUILT UP TO SUCH A GREAT SIZE THAT HE HAD TO GET INTO AN OFFSHORE BOAT, USING THE BOAT AS A PULPIT AS THE PEOPLE PUSHED TO THE WATER'S EDGE. HE TAUGHT BY USING STORIES, MANY STORIES.

-Mark 4:1-2 (The Message)

FOR OUR KIDS

Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me.

-LUKE 9:48

TODAY

- ✓ Third-grade students who gather every other Wednesday to dig into their new Bibles: **24**
- ✓ Fourth and Fifth-grade students meet every other Wednesday night to experience God: **33**
- ✓ **Big Events:** the Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, and Trunk or Treat attract over 2,000 kids and their families
- ✓ Over **60** volunteers and leaders serve weekly—either behind the scenes or leading in a classroom

VISION FOR 2025-26

- ✓ Expand Wednesday night ministry to 2nd-grade students in the fall of 2025 and Kindergarten and 1st-grade students in the fall of 2026.
- ✓ Launch Vacation Bible School in Miller Park in the summer of 2025. Our goal is to reach 100 students!
- ✓ Hire an associate children's minister to focus on promotion, volunteer recruiting/support, and curriculum development.
- ✓ Recruit, develop, and support 16 leaders to lead Sunday morning WE Kid's classes and Wednesday night ministry. These leaders will help volunteers be successful in their ministry with children.
- ✓ Partner with parents to help kids grow in their relationship with God by providing classes and resources.

SEAN & GRACE CARMODY

Grew up at The Water's Edge

Watch the full story here



When our families started going to the Water's Edge, we were 13 years old, but we didn't know each other at the time. We each joined a young adult group and started teaching the Middle School Youth together, and we became friends from there.

It was so special to have a full-circle moment, from when we first met to our wedding at The Water's Edge, surrounded by friends and family.

The people here are phenomenal. They care. Everyone has been so open and welcoming, so we try to do the same. They want to know about you and how you're doing. It's just been a true blessing to us – especially with our kids.

“Early on, we became youth leaders and cared for the Middle School Youth. Now, those young people are taking care of our kids. It's come full circle—everyone is taking care of each other.”



FOR OUR STUDENTS

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

-1 TIMOTHY 4:12

TODAY

- ✓ Students engaged weekly on Wednesday nights: **117**
- ✓ High School students and leaders on the summer mission trip: **64**
- ✓ Students Confirmed in 2024: **35**
- ✓ Number of volunteers on Wednesdays: **30** LIFEgroup Leaders | **4** Sound & Media

VISION FOR 2025-26

- ✓ Add 2 youth classes or LIFEgroups in 2025 and 2026 at a time other than Wednesday evening to reach more students.
- ✓ Organize annual weekend retreats for both Middle and High School students designed to deepen their relationship with Jesus and grow their friendships.
- ✓ Host quarterly youth events to attract new students and promote opportunities to connect at The Water's Edge.
- ✓ With the new staff, significantly increase engagement of students and their families outside of Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

JACQUELYN COLLETTE

High School Sophomore

Watch the full story here



Creating meaningful relationships has always been important to me. Going to Youth Group for the first time, I was super nervous because there were all these people I didn't know. Over the years, those people have become some of my best friends. If we would've met at school or another place we probably wouldn't have been friends. We all come from different backgrounds, but on Wednesday nights we're all the sophomore girls. They have become some of the closest relationships I have.

My favorite memories at The Water's Edge are VBS and going on mission trips. It's cool to get to help people in the community and get to know people from The Water's Edge better. It's showed me how blessed I am.

My hope for The Water's Edge is that people continue to invest in the younger generations. I know the people who have donated and served throughout my life. As more kids go through the ministry, I hope they feel supported and feel loved, just like I have been.



“*When my friends ask, I'm always proud to tell people I go to The Water's Edge.*”

FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (AND THEIR FAMILIES)

*You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

-PSALM 139:13-14

TODAY

- ✓ **All children** are encouraged to participate in WE Kids, and our staff and volunteer leaders do their best to accommodate children with special needs.
- ✓ The Water's Edge is a **safe and welcoming faith community** for people with special needs and their families.

VISION FOR 2025-26

- ✓ Recruit, train, deploy, and support a team of 15 volunteers and provide necessary resources so children with neurodivergent and special needs can fully participate in all Kids Ministry programs.
- ✓ Provide classes, support, and resources for children with neurodivergence and special needs so they and their families can find support with each other and grow in their relationship with God.

JASON KENNEDY

Kids Pastor

“ It’s a wave in which every kid, no matter the challenges they’re facing, can’t wait to get to church to learn about Jesus. ”

When dreaming of our future “fun, different, and for everybody” kids ministry, it is cherishing all children no matter what’s going on at school, home, or life. We now have words like “neurodivergent” to describe kids who may be uniquely wired. Though their behaviors are different from their peers, they are not just choosing to be “bad.”

Families with children who have neurodivergences, like ADHD and mild forms of autism, and other special needs, both physical and cognitive, also have the lowest church involvement in the U.S. Just getting there is exhausting, they don’t feel welcome, and volunteers aren’t equipped—leading to poor, even painful experiences.

Our dream is to develop welcoming environments, equip loving volunteers, and design thoughtful lessons to engage every child. It’s a ministry where many of the typical obstacles are minimized, unique personalities are understood and celebrated, and “problem kids” become prophetic kids. By this, all children and their parents will know WE love them and WE are present for them. It’s a wave in which every kid, no matter the challenges they’re facing, can’t wait to get to church to learn about Jesus and the God who loves them just the way He made them!



FOR OUR FUTURE

Without good direction, people lose their way; the more wise counsel you follow, the better your chances. -PROVERBS 11:14

TODAY

- ✓ A House Church for **20-somethings** launched this fall.
- ✓ Started a Sunday morning group, **Newly and Nearly Parents**.
- ✓ **12 new house church leaders** were trained and are now leading groups.
- ✓ Over **100 people** have completed WE Lead.

VISION FOR 2025-26

- ✓ Launch a Young Adult ministry in 2025 with various opportunities for people under 30 in different life stages.
 - ~Recruit, train, deploy, and support 5 new leaders under age 30
 - ~Establish two new affinity groups with 20 participants
 - ~Create two new house churches for young adults
- ✓ Create and launch a leadership development program to equip 40 new leaders to serve inside and outside of The Water's Edge over the next two years.

KYLE LORIMER

Looking to the future

Watch the full story here



Growing up in The Water's Edge was basically like having another family. Every single Sunday, people would show they supported me, whether it was the highs or the lows. People always asked me about my week. I've experienced God through my church.

The church has helped me with lots of meaningful relationships. Most stemming from youth group. I still stay in touch with all my youth group buddies and leaders. I'm looking to build that relationship that I had with my leaders into the 7th-grade boys that I lead now. I want to make sure they have meaningful relationships in the church, just like I did.

My vision for the church is to be a community for more people. I want to see more people experience the sense of community and belonging that I feel here.

Kyle grew up in the church. As a young adult, he now leads in the youth ministry, a House Church, and the WE Cornhole League.



FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." -MATTHEW 9:37-38

TODAY

- ✓ Launched a Cornhole league with **12** teams
- ✓ Launched the Alpha course: **34** participants
- ✓ Launched the Reach One More evangelism course: **18** participants

VISION FOR 2025-26

- ✓ Expand our cornhole league to multiple nights a week in 2025.
- ✓ Start a sand volleyball league in 2025.
- ✓ Establish an inviting culture by leading 50 participants through the Reach One More program.
- ✓ Introduce people to Jesus and the Gospel by leading 60 participants through the Alpha course.

JESSICA & CHARLOTTE PAUL *Completed Alpha class*

Watch the full story here



Jessica: Alpha was something that was unexpected for me. We actually just started coming to The Water's Edge in January as part of a New Year's resolution, more my daughter, Charlotte's, than mine. Right away, the Alpha class was something that was offered, and she likes to dive right in.

Charlotte: It was good to meet new people and have a community to talk to about everything. I learned a lot. Since I'm starting out, I didn't know much. I loved hearing people's stories and how they got to where they are in their faith. It helped me realize that I did want to keep going to church and I had people to talk to about anything.

Jessica: This really spurred a lot of conversation about religion in our household as a whole. We're all in different spots. It brought a conversation back into our house that we hadn't had in a really long time.



“Hearing about where everyone else is at in their own faith journey made me realize I'm not alone with where I am.”

-Jessica Paul

FOR OUR DISCIPLESHIP

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

TODAY

- ✓ **3 Men's groups** with **55** active participants
- ✓ **3 Women's groups** with **80** active participants
- ✓ **32 House Churches** with over **320** active participants
- ✓ WE University offered **11 classes** with **155** participants in 2024

VISION FOR 2025-26

- ✓ Have a Men's group every day of the week by adding two groups in 2025 and two groups in 2026.
- ✓ Have a Women's group every day of the week by adding two groups in 2025 and two groups in 2026.
- ✓ Grow our House Church ministry with a goal of adding 15 new House Churches over two years with 120 new, regularly attending participants.

DAN & BECKI BAKER

Weekly class attendees

We have worshipped at The Water's Edge for the last five years. We always get a lot out of the worship services, but we wanted to dig deeper into faith and community. We registered for the Alpha class. We are grateful we took this step of faith. We learned so much and made new friends who were also seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus. Alpha provided a space where we felt comfortable asking questions about faith. Alpha taught us how to pray. Our prayer lives were energized by hearing others pray. By the end of the class, we prayed aloud in front of others. Alpha was an amazing experience for us.

Dan's experience in Alpha led him to study the New Testament in the Disciple Bible Study. Daily readings helped him experience it in a fresh, new way. The weekly classes help everyone wrestle with spiritual and scriptural questions and apply the Bible's teachings to our lives.



“ We wanted to dig deeper into faith & community. ”

FOR EACH OTHER

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

-GALATIANS 6:2

TODAY

- ✓ Doug Olson joined our staff as Pastor of Caring Ministries so that WE can invest more time and energy into developing leaders who will care for people.
- ✓ Leaders trained so far: **15**
- ✓ Participants who have completed GriefShare or Surviving the Holidays: **129**
- ✓ Participants who have completed NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness): **26**
- ✓ WE started a caring card ministry that sends notes to comfort people and celebrate blessings.

VISION FOR 2025-26

- ✓ Launch the Caring Ministry Team to offer one-on-one care to hurting people in our church and community.
- ✓ Offer support groups for those struggling with addiction, grief, mental health, and divorce.

DOUG OLSON

Caring + Generosity Pastor

I joined the staff in June 2024 with the primary role of creating a new Care Ministry Team with trained volunteer care ministers. Care ministry is the heart of the church. Jesus reached out to help people with all sorts of ailments with compassion, dignity, and empathy. I am excited to see how this ministry will extend a culture of care throughout the church and into the community.

The Water's Edge strives to do ministry with excellence. One way we provide excellent ministry is in the partnership between WE Care Ministers and our pastors. With a congregation of our size, we will benefit from trained WE Care Ministers serving those in need and extending the reach of our pastors – as they make hospital visits, follow up on prayer requests, provide one-on-one support for those going through a difficult issue, and much more.



“ I am excited to see how this ministry will extend a culture of care throughout the church and into the community. ”

FOR OUR CITY

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself". -GALATIANS 5:14.

Goal: Help our people look like Jesus by serving and giving to our neighbors. WE will invest \$150,000 (not including Project Wee Care or the Christmas Eve offering) and send out 1,000 volunteers to love and serve Omaha in both 2025 and 2026.

MILLER PARK

Transforming a neighborhood through kindness and relationship building. In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:

- ✓ Have **10 volunteers** serving regularly at Miller Park Elementary.
- ✓ Host **two major events** at Miller Park Elementary during the school year for over 250 students.
- ✓ Fund one **Bridges out of Poverty class** (12 students) at Miller Park Elementary.
- ✓ Have **50 volunteers** serve during four neighborhood beautification projects (two at the school and two in the community).
- ✓ Host a **Vacation Bible School at Miller Park** that will include 100 students.
- ✓ Begin the work of **planting a church** in the Miller Park neighborhood.

INVESTMENT
\$30,000
per year in 2025 and 2026

“The Water’s Edge has made a transformative impact on our community by enhancing the school environment through donated supplies, beautification efforts, and providing beds for students. Their recognition of teachers fosters retention and appreciation, while generous funding for adult education programs empowers families to thrive and cultivates a vibrant, connected community through engaging events. -Daniel Kirchhevel, Principal”

RELEASE MINISTRY

Helping kids, students, and their families be safe, together, healthy, and free. In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:

- ✓ Host the **fall gratitude event** in our park and community room
- ✓ Host respite care **events for foster parents** two times per year
- ✓ Provide **5 mentors** for students
- ✓ Provide **5 volunteer** chaplains

INVESTMENT
\$15,000
per year in 2025 and 2026

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Reaching young people everywhere. In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:

- ✓ **Host the clubs** from Beadle Middle School and Elkhorn South High School
- ✓ **Partner with YFC** on Friday night gatherings and weekend retreats
- ✓ **Provide volunteers** for after-school clubs

INVESTMENT
\$15,000

per year in 2025 and 2026
emphasis on Gretna,
Elkhorn, and Millard Schools

“
Thank you so much for your financial commitment and your hospitality. You are funding critical ministry and creating a space for students to experience the Gospel. The Water's Edge partnership has incredibly blessed hundreds of students and their families.

- Jason Currie, Executive Director, Greater Omaha Youth for Christ ”

TOGETHER OMAHA

*Providing food for hungry people in Omaha.
In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:*

- Continue to be Together's **largest religious financial donor**
- Have **50 volunteers** serve hungry and unhoused people through Together

“

We at Together continue to be amazed and humbled by your generosity and support to ensure our neighbors in need have food on the table and a place to call home. You are a beacon of hope for so many. Thank you for shining bright in our community. ”

-Mike Hornacek

INVESTMENT
\$30,000

per year in 2025 and 2026

This includes an anticipated \$25,000 Thanksgiving offering and \$5,000 from our yearly budget.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Ensuring no children sleep on the floor. In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:

- Provide **100 beds** with bedding to children in our community
- Have **100 volunteers** build and deliver beds

INVESTMENT
\$25,000
per year in 2025 and 2026

“

Sleep in Heavenly Peace knows it takes a village of people giving 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! We are grateful for your countless volunteer hours and generous financial support.

-Roger and Jenni Riffel, SHP Omaha Co-Presidents ”

NEBRASKA DIAPER BANK

*Purchasing diapers for babies.
In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:*

- ✓ Provide **one truck load of diapers**
- ✓ Have **50 volunteers** package diapers

INVESTMENT **\$8,000** per year in 2025 and 2026

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Helping people escape poverty. In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:

- ✓ Provide one class for **12 people** at Miller Park Elementary.

INVESTMENT **\$12,000** per year in 2025 and 2026

“
Thank you Water’s Edge Church so much for your generous support of our work at Miller Park Elementary. Your gift will help parents in the community overcome barriers and create lasting change in their lives, lifting them out of poverty and empowering future generations.

-Marcus Bell, CEO

”

YOUTH FRONTIERS

*Inspiring character and community.
In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:*

- ✓ Host a **Parent Academy** for parents of students at Miller Park Elementary in 2025 and a **Kindness Retreat** for 4th and 5th grade students in 2026.
- ✓ **Provide office space** and meeting rooms for local staff, as needed.

INVESTMENT
\$5,000

per year in 2025 and 2026

WE SERVE JULY & AUGUST

*Loving our community into a relationship with
Jesus Christ and helping our people look like Jesus
In both 2025 and 2026, WE will:*

- ✓ Have **500 people** per year serve
- ✓ **Serve 25 locations** including schools, nursing homes, mission partners, and non-profits

“ *WE look most like Jesus
when we serve.*
-Craig Finnestad, Senior Pastor ”

WE SERVE SATURDAY

- ✓ Have **250 people** per year serve
- ✓ **Serve Miller Park** and 6 other mission partners/non-profits

INVESTMENT
\$10,000

per year in 2025 and 2026

HE SAID TO THEM, “GO INTO ALL THE
WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL
TO ALL CREATION.”

-Mark 16:15 (NIV)

FOR THE WORLD

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

-ACTS 1:8

VISION

Help our people look most like Jesus by serving and giving to love hurting people and spread the Gospel to the nations. WE will invest \$150,000 (including a projected \$65,000 special offering for Nicaragua in 2025 and 2026) and send 40 volunteers to love and serve Belize, Uganda, and Nicaragua in both 2025 and 2026.

It has been incredibly humbling to be on the receiving end of generosity from The Water's Edge, 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 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. Feeding an entire school for a year so that the hundreds of students and staff receive regular nutrition.

It has been a great honor to see how the WE community has loved and shown up for families living in rural Nicaragua in the last several years. 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 future generations.

-Morgan Coil de Torrez, Nicaragua

Goal #1: Partnering with at least one missionary on every continent

✓ **North America:** Morgan Coil – Amigos for Christ, Nicaragua
\$30,000 per year in 2025 and 2026 (75% of her need – we are her largest supporter)

✓ **Africa:** Caren Abraham – Dentist, Kenya
\$12,000 per year in 2025 and 2026 (20% of her need – we are her largest supporter)

Bob and Barb Van Wyk – Children’s Ministry, Botswana
\$5,000 per year in 2025 and 2026

✓ **Europe:** Derrick and Mikaela Shipley – Evangelists, Norway
\$15,000 per year in 2025 and 2026 (20% of their need – we are their largest supporter)

✓ **South America:** Brent and Sara Kelderman, Educators, Trinidad and Tabago
\$12,000 per year in 2025 and 2026

✓ **Asia:** Missionaries to be determined
Support to be determined

✓ **Oceania:** Missionaries to be determined
Support to be determined

Goal #2: Send 40 International mission participants in 2025 and 2026*

✓ **Belize** Supplies and medicine per year in 2025 and 2026: \$5,500

✓ **Uganda** Supplies and medicine per year in 2025 and 2026: \$5,500

✓ **Nicaragua** \$0 per year in 2025 and 2026 (funded through a special offering)

**Participants pay their own way. Scholarships are available for those who need financial assistance.*

We are so grateful and blessed by our partnership with The Water's Edge. Your generosity and support are critical to what God is doing here in Norway! You all are truly special to us in ways you will never know. When we first visited Omaha in February 2024, we were deeply moved by how quickly you embraced us as part of your family.

You have touched our hearts deeply. We seek strong relationships with church partners in pursuing God's calling here in Norway and beyond! In one Sunday, you became our biggest church financial partner. The Water's Edge is a church so intentional and committed to seeing the Kingdom culture lived out here on earth. What a rich blessing to serve together in spiritual communion with you! Tusen takk fra Norge!

- Derrick & Mikaela Stavanger, Norway



I have deep gratitude for The Water's Edge. I came as a stranger in 2022, and not only did you embrace me, you blessed me with the largest financial gift I have ever received from a church. You are making it possible for me to serve as a dentist and share the Gospel in Kenya. For that, I am thankful.

-Caren Abraham, Kenya

CHRIS SEIM

Organizes Uganda trips

Watch the full story here



It has always amazed me to see how the people here want to give of themselves and provide aid, especially when you notice the amount of need in some parts of the world. The ability to serve those needs has always been fantastic.

Some of my favorite memories at The Water's Edge involve service opportunities. I used to go on the Belize mission trip when Rick Schmid led it. When Rick left, I stepped in to lead the trip so the mission could continue.

Although that was fruitful, I wanted to find another need and serve in a different way. I began talking with some medical professionals, learned about the needs in Africa, and wanted to see if there was a way we could help there as well. That led us to a mission opportunity in Uganda.



“ I love the way that The Water's Edge brings an example of God's kingdom through community. ”

FAQs

Is The Water's Edge healthy financially?

Very. WE have experienced at least a 10% growth in our giving every year over the last decade and have run surpluses each of those years. The congregation's generosity and wise stewardship have allowed us to pay off our debt aggressively and make significant investments in missions. WE always have three months of expenses on hand, and usually more. Making Waves is an initiative that will put an exclamation mark at the end of our first twenty years: WE will have bought land, developed our property, built two buildings, planted a church in Cuba, funded missions all over the world, and done amazing work in the Omaha area—and WE won't owe the bank any money. That is a financially healthy church!

Is any outdoor expansion included in Making Waves?

Our outdoor spaces are a blessing to our church and the surrounding area. But, no, outdoor expansion is not included in Making Waves. The park area—the playground, shelter, corn hole pit, and volleyball courts—has been privately funded. A special offering earlier this year funded the prayer path. Future projects will also be privately funded.

How is the Making Waves initiative different than previous annual and capital campaigns?

Our four previous capital campaigns have been over and above annual giving to fund ministry and missions. Since 2012, WE have done four capital campaigns and an annual campaign every year. Annual campaigns fund things like Sunday worship, kids and youth ministries, utilities, adult discipleship, care for the property, staffing, and missions. Our four capital campaigns have all had a unique purpose:

- 2012** Purchasing the 23 acres on Harrison Street
- 2015** Providing a down payment on the original building
- 2018** Debt reduction from the original building
- 2021** Building expansion

Making Waves combines the annual operational needs and debt elimination into one initiative. This simplifies giving for donors.

Making Waves in an initiative that will put an exclamation mark at the end of our first twenty years.

Why is the Making Waves Initiative two years and not one year or three years?

Making Waves is a two-year vision for the church. Part of that vision is debt elimination to free up resources for future ministry and missions. Our leadership didn't think one year would be long enough to pay off our debt, and they felt a two-year vision made us more agile and able to react better to a changing world.

How much is the debt, and what is it from?

The projected debt at the end of 2024 is \$1,730,000. It is mainly from the construction inflation experienced in 2022 and 2023 when our expansion was built.

How does this change our giving to missions and special offerings?

Making Waves significantly increases our commitment to and investment in local and international missions. Over the years, WE have been taking fewer special offerings and adding more missions to our annual budget. This provides more consistent and predictable support for our mission partners and allows us to focus more on worship on Sunday mornings.

WE will continue to hold special offerings: most likely one in the spring, the Nicaragua offering in August, and Season of Giving (Thanksgiving, Project Wee Care, and the Christmas Eve offering). These offerings are an important part of our story, and our faithfulness with these offerings has been a blessing to many.

Can I designate where my giving goes?

Yes. Ideally, all gifts will be undesignated. But if God is leading you to give to something specific (like debt reduction or one of our mission partners), the church will ensure that happens.

What are the start and end dates for the Making Waves initiative?

The giving period runs from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026.

Can I give any time in 2025 and 2026?

Yes. WE anticipate most of our donors will give weekly or monthly. Some will give their entire gift up front. Others give quarterly or yearly. Do what works for you to achieve your giving goal.

For tax reasons, it would be beneficial for me to give at the end of 2024 or the beginning of 2027. Is that okay?

Yes.


Since WE are trying to eliminate our debt, would it make sense to give early so that the church pays less interest?

Yes. If you have the capacity to do this, your early financial participation will be a blessing to the church. WE anticipate some donors will give the debt reduction portion of their giving goal upfront and the portion to fund ministry and missions for 2025 and 2026 over a 24-month period.

Can I give electronically?

Yes. Many of our people already do. Electronic funds transfer is best for the church because it gives the church a steady, predictable income stream, and the church doesn't incur any expenses with EFT giving. It is also simple and convenient for the donor. Many give electronically because it allows them to give to God first and make a statement that God comes first in their lives.

You can sign up for electronic giving or change the amount of your EFT on your giving goal card or online at weomaha.com/give. If you have any questions, contact jennie@weomaha.com.



Electronic funds transfer is best for the church because it gives the church a steady, predictable income stream, and the church doesn't incur any expenses with EFT giving. It is also simple and convenient for the donor.

What happens if my capacity to give changes?

Making Waves encourages everyone to challenge themselves and set a giving goal to fund ministry in 2025 and 2026 and to pay off our remaining debt to free up financial resources for ministry in 2027 and beyond. As individuals and families, we will set our giving goal based on our current capacity, which can change during a two-year period. Things like a loss of a job or a promotion at work happen. So do changes in family, illnesses, and inheritances. Our experience shows that most people will fulfill their giving goal. Some won't be able to meet their goal for various reasons. And others will exceed their giving goal. Should your capacity to give change in the next two years, reevaluate your giving goal based on your new circumstances, follow God's leading, and adjust your giving goal up or down based on your new circumstances.

I am pretty new or haven't given before. Why should I consider giving?

Our goal is for as many people to participate in Making Waves as possible, not just to raise money but to move us closer to Jesus. God is generous. We are created in God's image, and practicing generosity restores us to God's image. Giving connects us to a greater Kingdom purpose. Giving is not primarily a financial act—it is an act of faith. It is a belief that God can do more with our gift than what we could ever ask or imagine when we practice generosity.

No gift is too small or too big as we work to bring God's Kingdom to the world.

Giving CHALLENGE

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



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

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 on the top right of this page. Continue praying about taking a step or two forward.

percent

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

pledge

WE will turn in our Giving Goal Card on Sunday, November 24. The card is a statement of faith and intention, not a legal contract.

ponder

Reflect on your generosity. How is it blessing others? What is God teaching you? How is God blessing you?

FINANCIAL PLAN FOR MINISTRIES

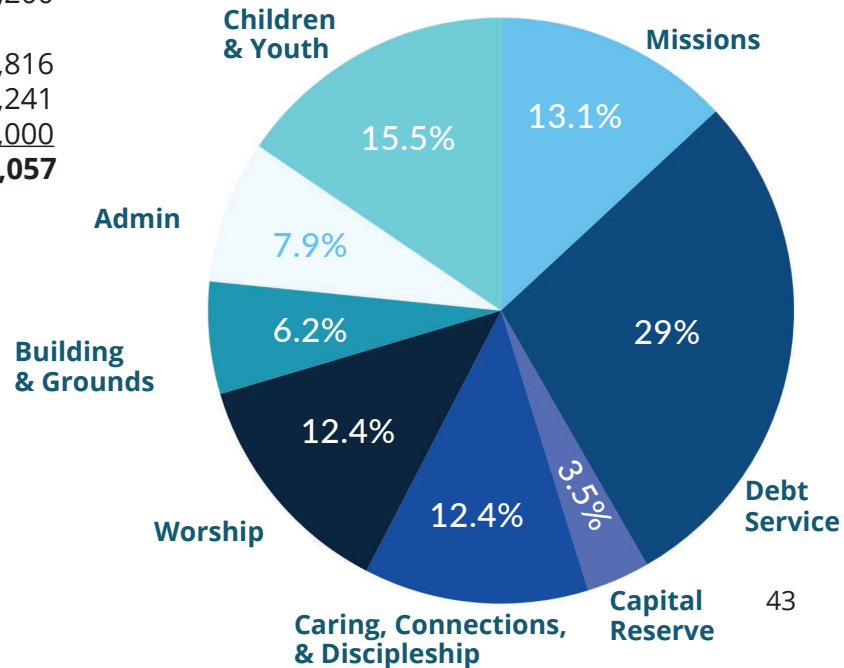
Generosity Review

Fall 2012	<i>WE Imagine</i>	\$1,232,142
Fall 2015	<i>From the Ground Up</i>	\$2,336,426
Fall 2018	<i>Create a Ripple</i>	\$2,015,896
Fall 2021	<i>Welcome Home</i>	\$2,829,525
2019 Annual Giving		\$1,079,594
2020 Annual Giving		\$1,175,161
2021 Annual Giving		\$1,324,115
2022 Annual Giving		\$1,509,469
2023 Annual Giving		\$1,662,841
2024 Annual Giving*		\$1,845,200
2025 Annual Giving**		\$1,992,816
2026 Annual Giving**		\$2,152,241
<u>Total to eliminate debt***</u>		<u>\$1,855,000</u>
Giving Goal for 2025 and 2026		\$6,000,057

*Based on the first nine months of 2024

**Projected increase of 8%

***\$1,730,000 principal + \$125,000 interest





through generosity

WE are asking each family to complete a Giving Goal Card and bring it to worship on Sunday, November 24th.

During our past capital campaigns, we have asked donors to continue their regular annual giving and make a separate commitment to the land and buildings. Our debt is now part of our annual budget. The ministry, missions, and debt elimination are all part of the same vision, so all giving will now go into a single fund.

WE are asking families to set a ***giving goal*** to fund ministry and missions in 2025 and 2026 and to eliminate our debt.

My Making Waves Giving Goal

2025 Annual Giving

+

2026 Annual Giving

+

Debt Elimination

=

Two-Year Giving Goal

two year GIFT CHART

As you pray how God is asking you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Let it be something that inspires and challenges you toward greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom.

# of Gifts Needed	Two Year Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Weekly Gift Total
1	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$12,500	\$2,884
2	\$225,000	\$112,500	\$9,375	\$2,163
3	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,442
4	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$961
5	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$721
6	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$2,500	\$576
7	\$48,000	\$24,000	\$2,000	\$461
11	\$36,000	\$18,000	\$1,500	\$346
15	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$577
19	\$24,000	\$12,000	\$1,000	\$288
22	\$18,000	\$9,000	\$750	\$173
25	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$144
27	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$500	\$115
29	\$9,600	\$4,800	\$400	\$92
34	\$7,200	\$3,600	\$300	\$69
39	\$4,800	\$2,400	\$200	\$46
51	\$2,400	\$1,200	\$100	\$23

Total Goal: \$6,000,000

Creative ways to

GIVE

recurring giving

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.

Electronic Funds Transfer

To establish an electronic funds transfer, complete the Giving Goal 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 Giving Goal Card. Or you can contact jennie@weomaha.com. She is happy to serve you.

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.

Qualified Charitable Distributions

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 \$105,000 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 73.

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.

Appreciated Stock

WE accept stocks and other securities. Like the RMDs noted on this page, many have found tax savings through this giving option—contact jennie@weomaha.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*

WEEK 1 - CATCH A WAVE

1. Waves are a powerful force. They move water and shape the land. What waves have shaped who you are today? Think of people and events. How did these waves affect you?
2. In what ways have you been a wave impacting people and the world around you? What skills, resources, and experiences do you have that could be used to create a positive impact?
3. Do you know what some of God's dreams for your life are? If so, share one of those dreams with the group.
4. God's dreams for our lives are discovered through prayer. What benefits have you experienced from prayer? How have you experienced prayer changing you personally?
5. We go where our best prayers lead us. What do you think about praying the prayer: "Lord, use me to create waves of grace." How do you think God might respond to this prayer?
6. Describe what you think your life will be like five years from now. How close is this to where you think God wants you to be five years from now? What would you need to do to get there?
7. Think about something you may be withholding from God. If you surrendered that something to God, what kind of waves could be created?
8. What fears might be holding you back from creating more waves?
9. We sometimes want God to prove Himself to us so that we can trust Him. However, God wants us to trust Him so that He can prove Himself. What is the difference between these two scenarios? What is your personal experience in this situation?
10. Part of God's dream is that you create waves so that others can benefit from the beauty and power you helped create. What is something God might be leading you to do? Think of things that keep popping up in your mind or in conversations with others. What is your next step in making this dream a reality?

Catch a Wave this Week

Pray this daily:

"Lord, use me to create waves of grace."

During your prayers and conversations with others, listen for an opportunity to do something new and different that fits your life dream. Set aside any fears that are holding you back and give it a try. Look for God's presence and encouragement before, during, and after. If you recognize an opportunity or dream God may be inviting you to act on, catch the wave!

Guided Prayer

Dear God,

Throughout time You have shown repeatedly that You have big dreams for people's lives. You have big dreams for each of us. Your dreams for my life are bigger and better than I could ever imagine myself, and I can't make it come true on my own. Please show me the dreams You have for me. Lord, what do You want to do through me?

My desire for comfort and security are high. I have duties and responsibilities. I am busy with many things. It's difficult for me to imagine what my life would be like if I started to make changes and take risks. Being different can be uncomfortable. Our society scorns failure. Please help me overcome my fears and reservations about pursuing Your dreams for me. Specifically, I need to work on my fears of...

Thank You for loving me enough to have a big dream for my life. Help me to open my heart and my mind to understand Your dreams for me. Please help me overcome my fears that are preventing me from pursuing these dreams. Keep moving me in the right direction...always towards You. And, Lord, thank You for continuing to be patient with me as I grow.

Amen.

WEEK 2 - MAKE MORE WAVES

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

1. Why would people rather be known as “generous” than “stingy”? What difference does it make?
2. Describe a time when you gave a gift to someone and in return you were also blessed. What was that like for you? What wave was created from the gift?
3. What are some of the best gifts God has given you? How have they created waves in your lives and the lives of others?
4. Jesus says: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.” If you reviewed your spending habits, what would they say about where your heart is?
5. How are you currently investing your time, money, and energy? What waves are being created from that investment? What are you receiving in return from that investment?
6. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rank how you feel when you give your financial resources? 1 = Reluctant – 10 = Cheerful. How can you move closer to cheerful?
7. Generosity is God’s gift to us. How do you feel about that phrase? How has generosity—either giving or receiving—been a blessing to you in the past?
8. God can do more with your 90% than you can do with your 100%. Do you believe this statement? How have you experienced this to be true?
9. If you aren’t tithing or practicing generosity, what is holding you back from moving forward in this area of life? What effect might tithing have on your life? What kind of waves do you think you would experience through greater generosity?
10. The three times we most look like God are when we serve, when we forgive, and when we give. What waves are created when we do these things? What is your next step in being restored in God’s image?

Make More Waves This Week

Generosity makes waves whose impact reaches farther than we know. Practice generosity sometime this week. Reflect on your experience. Write down how you felt while giving. Make a list of all the possible waves that could result from you giving this gift.

Guided Prayer

Dear God,

Money is a constant topic on my mind. I spend most of my days working to earn it while I'd rather be spending time with the people I love. Money seems to cause stress. I have to decide where and how to spend it. I let it define my success. I always desire more and am never content. There are so many issues that money brings into my life, but I specifically need help with...

I don't want money to control my life. I would much rather give control to You. I know that tithing is important. It supports the ministries of the church and helps spread the Kingdom of God. It also helps me to be wise with money and prevents me from worshipping it. Yet, it is still so hard to give sometimes. Help me trust You instead of my bank account. Help me remember that my money is a gift from You in the first place. Help me see how my giving is multiplied through the ministry of the church. I want to give cheerfully and abundantly. In order to become a more cheerful giver, help me experience...

Thank You for all the blessings that You have given me. I want to use them to bless others. Help weaken the power that money has over me. Comfort me when money causes stress on my family. I trust You with my finances. I choose to give cheerfully knowing that my gift will multiply. It is more rewarding to give than to receive.

Amen.

WEEK 3 - RIDE THE WAVE

1. How well do you do when it comes to sending thank-you notes? Are you the person who gets them out right away, weeks later, or maybe never? Why do you suppose this is?
2. How do you respond when you receive gratitude? Is it difficult for you to accept gratitude from others? Why or why not?
3. Expressing gratitude can bless the person expressing it and the person receiving it. Describe a time when you have felt blessed because you expressed gratitude toward someone else. How was that a wave for you?
4. What are some reasons people are not as grateful as they could be?
5. The Bible teaches us to give thanks even when our circumstances aren't ideal. How would this be helpful? How can we be grateful when things aren't going our way?
6. What are some of the biggest blessings in your life right now that you could thank God for? Is gratitude toward God something you practice regularly? What are some ways we can express gratitude toward Him?
7. Greed says if I have more, then I will be happy. Gratitude says I'm blessed and content with what I have. Do you struggle with greed? What negative impact does greed have on your life?
8. How does gratitude create positive waves?
9. Materialism says I am what I own. Generosity says I am who I help others become by gratefully creating waves from my abundance. What kind of waves does materialism create? What kind of waves does generosity create?
10. How does gratitude lead to generosity?

Ride the Wave this Week

This week try keeping a Gratitude Journal. Each day write down all of the things that you're thankful for. Include people, material blessings, events, and the little things. During your daily prayer time, thank God for everything on your list and ride the wave of gratitude.

Guided Prayer

I have so much to thank You for. You have given me every blessing in life and have even more in store for me in the future. Help me remember that every good thing is from You. Create a more grateful spirit within me. Forgive my ungratefulness. When I forget to give thanks, I become less content. I become less aware of how much You love me. Sometimes I still struggle to show You the gratitude You deserve because...

I want to give You gratitude for all that I have. When I'm grateful I experience more satisfaction, joy, and hope. I could never list all the things that You've given me and done for me. You are responsible for giving me every great person, opportunity, and moment in my life. Often I get so focused on what I don't have and on what's going wrong, that I don't even notice what I do have and what's going right. Today, I'm especially thankful for...

Thank You for all the blessings that you have given me. Help me become a more grateful person. Help me notice the little things. Help me to show gratitude to the people in my life. Replace dissatisfaction with contentment, stress with joy, complaining with appreciation. I give You gratitude.

Amen.

AND I HAVE BEEN A CONSTANT
EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU CAN HELP
THOSE IN NEED BY WORKING HARD.
YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THE WORDS
OF THE LORD JESUS: **‘IT IS MORE
BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.’**

-Acts 20:35 (NLT)

LEANDRA ESLER

Associate Pastor

I started as an intern at The Water's Edge in 2014. My first day on the job, I went to a stranger's house for a small group meeting. The leaders and students treated me like family. A couple generously allowed me to stay in their home. The church showed me what it looks like to love and serve like Jesus. As a college student, I was deeply impacted and shaped by the waves created at The Water's Edge.

The waves we've made in the first twenty years will grow bigger and stronger over the next twenty years. This book has shared a vision for making new waves and bigger waves in 2025-2026. We will expand our House Churches so more people can experience waves of meaningful community. Our kids and youth ministries will invite more children and students to feel the wave of God's love for them. A new caring ministry will create waves of hope and healing. Our waves of redemption will go throughout Omaha and the world as we invest more in missions. Many of us have experienced the effects of the waves of The Water's Edge washing over us.

More than anything, with this initiative, I pray we all become wavemakers and share with others what God shares with us.



“I pray we all become wavemakers and share with others what God shares with us.”

THE WATER'S EDGE CHURCH
19600 Harrison Street • Gretna, NE 68028
(402) 952-4473 • weomaha.com

