

The background of the cover is a dynamic, abstract graphic consisting of numerous overlapping, curved lines in shades of yellow, green, and blue, creating a sense of movement and energy.

2024
Annual
Report




Living WATERS
| church |





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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Past Endurance: As we finished our study in 2 Timothy, we give thanks for a year of “*fighting the good fight of faith*” that Paul completed and that he encouraged Timothy (and us) to continue. Paul taught in 2 Timothy 2:9-10 that, “*God’s word is not chained.*” Therefore, we endure. The gospel of grace is worthy of the fight and being guarded; we endure as “*soldiers*” of Christ:

“Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”

“Remembering Jesus Christ raised from the dead”

We endure hardship by abiding in Christ and remembering the life, death, resurrection & teachings of Jesus our Lord & Savior! Our **Open Arms** initiative, moving to a two-service format and outreach to our community is an initiative of endurance, not a “quick fix” to make us more comfortable in our worship space.

Present Excitement: Our **Obstacles Removed** campaign is going well. As we continue our Christ-centered mission of “*loving God, love others & growing disciples by bringing the refreshing message of Jesus to all people*” we can serve others, “*guarding the good deposit that was entrusted to us—guarding it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us...continuing in what we have learned and have become convinced.*” (2 Timothy). God has truly blessed and entrusted us with much to faithfully steward as His servants and for His glory.

Future Exploration: Our **Opportunities Pursued** strategy is next on the radar. As we get closer to our debt reduction goals, we need to be prepared for the next season of ministry prospects for LivingWaters church. In 2025, I will be initiating several **assessments for advancing** the gospel. In Acts 2 we find five devotions of the Church: my five “e” words for our engagement.

- 1) Teaching – How are we doing with our goals for **equipping**?
- 2) Fellowship – How are we **enduring** & encouraging the body?
- 3) Worship – How are our ministries **exalting** the name of Jesus?
- 4) Prayer – How are we seeking God with “**ears** to hear” Him?
- 5) Outreach – What goals do we have to increase **evangelism**?

My verse for 2025 is **Isaiah 43:19**

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”

May God use LivingWaters to make a way to refresh dry places,
Pastor Scott

MISSION

The mission of LivingWaters Church is to love God, love others, and grow disciples by bringing the refreshing message of Jesus Christ to all people.

PURPOSE

The purpose of LivingWaters Church is to glorify God through living a life worthy of the calling we have received in Christ Jesus.

VALUES

Worshipping
Accepting
Teaching
Equipping
Reconciling
Serving



*Jesus answered,
“Everyone who drinks this
water will be thirsty again,
but whoever drinks
the water I give them will
never thirst.
Indeed, the water
I give them will become
in them a spring of
water welling up to
eternal life.”*

John 4:13

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Children's

Children's Ministries wants to praise the Lord for 2024, a year that was filled with wonderful children and fantastic servants in Sunday School, Children's Church, Wednesday evenings programs, and unique events like EGGstravaganza, Vacation Bible School, Bible Sunday, Fall Festival, Operation Christmas Child, and the Children's Christmas Program.

The Lord helped us host and nurture nearly 50 children in our classes each week and double that figure for our unique events like EGGstravaganza, & VBS. One of the blessings of our classes and events is the great team of diligent servants (26 Adults and 22 Youth Helpers) that invest in the young lives and growing hearts of our LivingWaters kids.

Praise highlights from 2024: The Children's incredible attitude and actions during the Christmas Program learning a new nugget of truth about Jesus coming to be Emanuel – God with us. Another Praise involves the magnificent team of diligent, dedicated teachers that prepare with a desire to impact kid's lives each week.

Prayer requests for 2025: Holy Spirit guidance in the preparation of the teachers and helpers as they reveal the truth of God's Word, and Holy Spirit inspiration in the lives of the girls and boys as they grow in their knowledge of Jesus and His love for them.



Missions

In 2024, LivingWater's Cross Cultural Ministry had an amazing year of outreach and support, with several short-term mission trips. Teams traveled to places like Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Tanzania, and Alaska, sharing God's love and connecting with local communities.

We were also excited to partner with Spoken Worldwide, investing \$5,000 to support a Scripture translation project for the Biafada people in Guinea-Bissau. The goal is to have it completed in 2029. Our work with the First Peoples Initiative continued to grow, with gifts totaling nearly \$10,000 for ministry in Alaska, including support for Tanalian Bible Camp (pictured below).

Throughout the year, we had the privilege of hosting several missionaries, including Nate and Bethany Johnson (Austria), Roman and Emily Citac (Moldova), and Heidi (Turkey), who shared their hearts and work with us. We also continued our regular support of 12 mission partners locally and globally, investing around \$65,000 in ministries like the Children's Shelter of Cebu, City Vision, Metro Women's Center, Young Life, and local Campus Faith Clubs.

We celebrated the retirement of two beloved missionaries, Mark and Sue Anderson (20 years of service) and Jeff and Brooke Mooers (13 years of service). Their dedication and the impact they made are deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for their many years of faithful ministry.

As we look forward to 2025, we ask that you join us in praying for the Spoken Worldwide project serving the people in Guinea-Bissau. We also ask that you pray for direction for our ministry as we look to reach into new areas of eastern Europe. We are seeking to partner with a ministry or missionary serving this region - pray God leads us to His will in that endeavor. Finally, we are looking to increase the involvement of the LivingWaters' church body in short-term missions, in order to expose our people to mission work and continue to keep our vision focused outwardly to what God is doing in our world.



R.O.C.K.

2024 was a year of transition, we praise the steadfast leadership of Katy Graber and continue to see her lead within our ministry and give her space to rest. Our team celebrated a late second adoption within our community. At our November gathering. We had over 40 people present to launch a new season of ROCK Fellowship.

As we head into 2025 we are excited to grow with our current ministry and adapt to supporting adoption through life. Supporting adoption as a life line targets birth families, adoptees at all ages, and organizations supporting short and long term foster care, and being open to family support for birth mothers. Our team is focusing and praying to see how that vision unfolds. We are leaning in to Restoring and Reconciling Relationships.

Women's

The year 2024 has been a year of growth for the Women's Ministry Team. As the team itself grew, doubling in size, we have been able to take on greater challenges in planning and executing events at LivingWaters. From small get-togethers to larger community events, we have seen both the women of our church body as well as women in the community, blessed by God's abundance. Small gatherings like our monthly brunches and the occasional Fun and Fellowship nights, as well as the larger offerings such as the Fall Retreat and the Craft Fair are all desired to welcome and bless the ladies of LivingWaters.

The team has also grown in our love and appreciation for one another as we work together and find that we are able to trust one another. Sharing the workload, sharing ideas, praying with and for one another, we find encouragement and are blessed ourselves. God gets the praise for all of these things; without His inspiration and leading we could do nothing. Our prayer for 2025 is that God will continue to be the center our ministry, that He will continue to lead, and that in everything offered, women will feel included and loved.



Worship & Sound

In 2024, we praise God for a committed, gifted group of people who make up our worship and sound team. We also praise Him for special opportunities to gather and worship together outside of Sunday mornings and for the collective heart to see LivingWaters grow in worship.

As we look to 2025, we pray for God's direction on how to best inspire and lead the people of LivingWaters. We pray against discouragement as we lead in worship week after week. We also pray for the next generation to rise up and grow in worship.

On the technology side, our Volunteers make our sound, lighting, projection, and Livestream function 52 weeks each year. Three volunteers each week come early and stay late so the worship inside the room AND worldwide can be shared, be enjoyed, and be a blessing to many. Our prayers for these willing and faithful people are that they will continue to hone their skills, that our equipment will function smoothly, and that through this work, we will continue to bless others.

Youth

Praise and thanks are given to God for the consistent, committed and seasoned adult volunteers and the growing number of youth attending LivingWaters' programs. Attendance has reached levels not seen in years, and our students are growing spiritually and not just numerically. The 9 o'clock Bible study has seen consistent participation, with many students making decisions about baptism and bringing friends to learn about Jesus. Our prayer for 2025 is that it will be a year of continued growth, with a focus on expanding the ministry's reach beyond Wednesday nights and fostering a heart for evangelism. Join us in also praying for our youth leaders to find rest when they need it and encouragement to continue to invest in the lives of our youth, and for parents, to be equipped and supported in raising their children to love the Lord.



CONNECTIONS REFLECTION

Small Groups

Small Group Ministry at LivingWaters exists to build a church of authentic relationships for spiritual growth, care, and kingdom service.

Small groups are a powerful way to experience the community of the church. Jesus himself spent most of his time investing in a small group of 12 people! In a small group you can connect intimately with others, cultivate a deeper faith, and care for each other. It really is the best way to *“love one another”* (John 13:35-35)!

In 2024, we had 10 active small groups, including 6 new groups, and about 88 participants! Praise the Lord for this increased involvement and especially for those who responded to the Lord’s challenge to step into leadership.

My hope is that every attender of LivingWaters Church will get connected into a small group. I know schedules are full and it can be challenging to find time for another activity. I encourage you to make time for a small group – I promise it will be one the most transformative commitments you will ever make! We have groups that meet at many different times and places – and if you can’t find one that works for you, we can help you start one!

Contact me for details or questions about small groups,
Pastor Rob, Associate Pastor of Connections Ministry



“We were excited to belong to a small group in which we could grow in our walk with God and develop solid relationships with others. We were excited to see where God would lead us.

As time has gone by, we have been blessed by the warmth not only from this group but from the church as a whole. It is clear that this church focuses on developing leaders from within. Equipping them to go out and minister to others.”

John & Jan Loewen

Matthew Nerdahl



“My trip to Tanalian Bible Camp was one of the best experiences of my life and I am so blessed to have shown the children of Alaska how much God loves them. Some campers were shy and reserved when they first arrived, but it was amazing to see how quickly they opened up and became best friends with everyone at camp, myself included. TBC is a place where they can focus on having fun and making new friends rather than being consumed with the hardships they may have at home. Every day was packed full of fun activities, Bible stories, tasty meals, and goofy conversations. It was clear how great of an impact spending time at TBC and learning about God had on each camper’s life, even though we were only at camp for a little over a week. TBC is equipping these children with the knowledge of God for the hardships they will face in life, and I am so grateful to have played a small role in their mission to Alaska.”



Phil & Caroline Shold



“It has been a real blessing to my wife and me over the last few weeks to attend Gene Dahmes' class on "Systematic Theology, Christology, the Doctrine of Christ". Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity; who, in fact, is He, and what is his role throughout the Bible and in our Christian lives today. In addition to learning more about God in the Bible, we have had weekly fellowship with other Christian couples. This has helped us get to know other people at Living Waters and deepened our faith together. It has been both fun and spiritually enriching. We would strongly recommend Bible Study with our other members at church.”



Leadership Instruction for Equipping



In order to carry out our mission and live out our purpose, the *LIFE Initiative* plans to follow a strategic pathway that includes:

- **Enlisting** people for leadership development
- **Engaging** partnerships for ministry development
- **Equipping** leaders to send or serve

Mission

Submitting to the authority of Scripture, we equip people for Christ-centered ministries by developing ministry leaders to be sent and ministry partners to serve:

*“As the Father sent me,
so I am sending you.”
John 20:21*

Purpose

The *LIFE Initiative* exists to help people, **discover** their identity in Christ, **develop** their intention for ministry, & **deploy** impact in the community.

The *LIFE Initiative* is dedicated to the purpose of making disciples by equipping Christ followers to serve and be sent through three distinct paths of equipping:

WAY TRUTH LIFE

Relational Connections

Evangelism
Outreach
Reconciliation



Discipleship
Instruction
Mentorship

Christ-centered
Doctrines

Equip

verb [e • quip]

to provide a person or a place with the objects that are necessary for a particular purpose

*“Christ himself gave ... to equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up”
Ephesians 4:11-12*

Care Ministry
Life-Skills
Social Concerns

Compassion-based
Ministries

YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

In the past year we had more than 75 people participate in the Tuesday evening equipping classes and weekend training events.

Equipping course studies included:

- Knowing God Theology – The Doctrine of God taught by Gene Dahmes, elder
- Knowing God Christology – The Doctrine of Christ taught by Gene Dahmes, elder
- In-depth Bible Study in the Gospel of Matthew – Dr. John Mayer, City Vision
- Knowing Rediscovered (Identity Exchange) Series – Jamie & Donna Winship [Learning to hear God’s voice and discovering your true Christ identity]
- Four-chair discipleship & leadership seminar – Mark Gold, Global Link Partners

Equipping small groups included:

- Abortion recovery “SaveOne” support groups - Hem of His Garment ministries
- Life skills, outreach & service brainstorm meetings (at-risk children & teenagers; counseling partnerships; youth homelessness, isolation & suicide care; etc.)



YEAR IN PROSPECTIVE OBJECTIVES 2025 & BEYOND

YEAR IN PREVIEW 2025

We are moving forward to continuing equipping courses of study and in partnering with new ministries for leadership & life skills.

Adoption, Foster & Orphan Care Equipping - R.O.C.K.

- Relaunch the relational support of R.O.C.K. gatherings to focus on reclaiming, reconciling & restoring relationships within adoptive circles
- Reel Hope Resource Team
- Together for Good Respite Care
- Pure Religion Curriculum & Resources

Embrace Grace & Life Support Groups – Hem of His Garment Ministries

- Embrace Grace is a 12-week support group for women with unexpected pregnancies
- Embrace Life is a ministry for single parents that are currently parenting on their own in need of fellowship, resources & support

Knowing Rediscovered (Identity Exchange) Series

Financial Planning Courses and Resources

- Estate Planning seminar - Converge & Generations Legal Services
- Financial Peace University – 9-week course

- **Continue Bible study course offerings & life skill coaching opportunities**
- **Establish a plan for outreach programs, services and training events**
- **Form a Life Center Leadership Team for initiatives & strategic partnerships**

FINANCES

2024 Giving

<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>% Change</i>
\$587,392	\$628,444	-6.5

2024 Expenses

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Administration	\$348,035	\$353,646	-1.6%
Facilities	\$119,696	\$147,700	-19.0%
Missions	\$58,863	\$62,844	-6.3%
All Other Ministries	\$41,463	\$64,254	-35.5%
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	\$568,057	\$628,444	-9.6%

2025 Proposed Budget

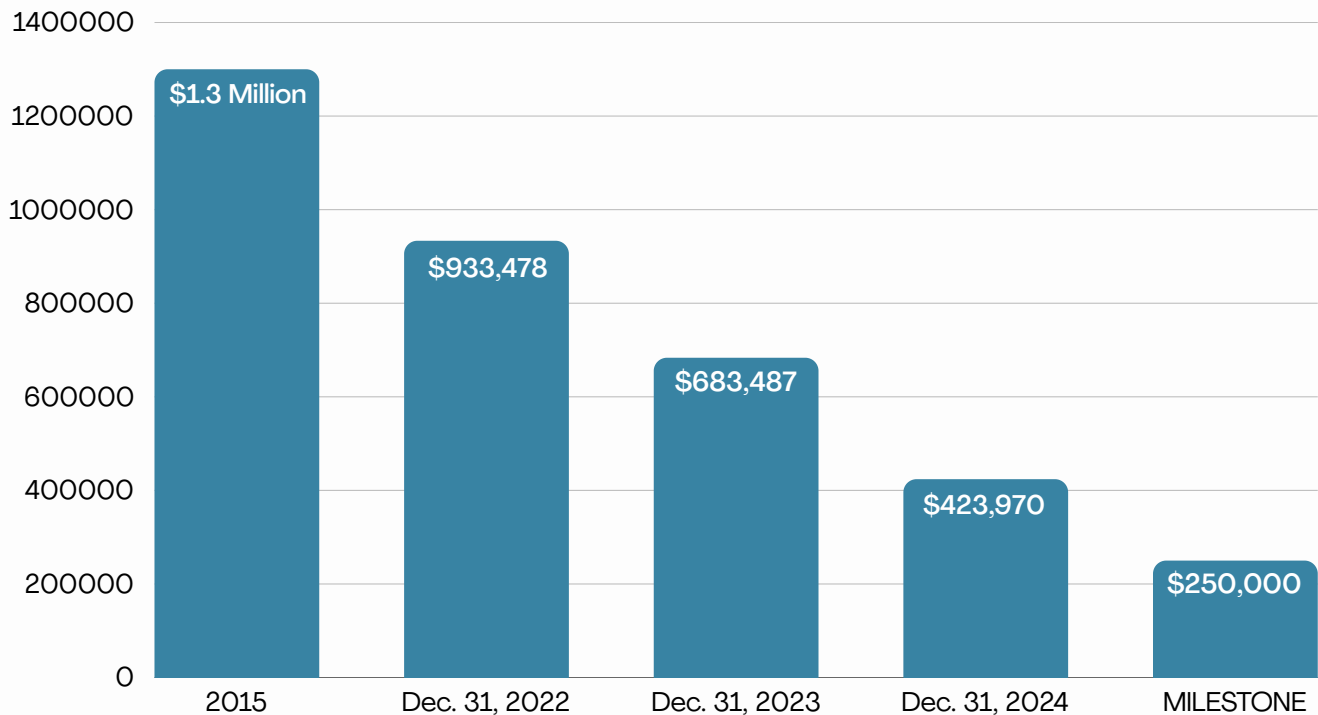
Administration	\$386,370	
Facilities	\$130,230	
Missions	\$62,300	
All Other Ministries	\$44,100	
	<hr/>	
	\$623,000	vs. 2024 Expenses 8.8%
		vs. 2024 Budget -0.9%

OBSTACLES REMOVED UPDATE

In 2024, we launched our mortgage reduction campaign, *One Church Moving Forward*. This campaign is a collective endeavor aimed at paying off the remaining balance on our church's mortgage. By coming together as one unified body, we began to tackle this financial burden head-on and pave the way for a stronger financial future for our church, allowing us to focus more resources on fulfilling our mission and serving our community.

We invited our body to join this crucial initiative and commit to praying for and giving to this cause as they felt led. On April 10th, we held a celebration event and unveiled that our body had committed to \$325,560 over the next two years.

God's people have been faithful and generous in our effort to reduce the outstanding loan on our property, and we are nearing a mortgage balance of \$390,101 (after December donations are paid in January).



For more information or to get involved visit
www.livingwatersmn.com

GET CONNECTED



Gathering on Sundays in person
at 9 am and 10:30 am
and online at 10:30 am

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