

WE ARE

REAL PEOPLE,  
LIVING RELEVANT  
LIVES, RELENTLESS  
IN OUR PURSUIT OF  
NEW LIFE

Vision  
2026



**OUR CODE:**

**GRACE IS A GUARANTEE**

**GOD'S NOT DONE**

**WHATEVER IT TAKES**

**DON'T DO LIFE ALONE**


**DRIVEN BY NEW LIFE**

**INVITE & INVEST**

# Vision 2026

Living Water is a church of real people, living relevant lives, in a relentless pursuit of new life in Jesus Christ. We are a multi-site church with campuses in Massillon, Orrville, and Dalton, committed to advancing Kingdom priorities. Jesus' priorities are our priorities, and His call is clear: to be and make disciples.

In 2026, our vision is to become a church filled with disciples of Jesus Christ. To pursue that vision, it takes three simple but powerful commitments:



# 1.

## Be with Jesus

Jesus' original invitation—"Follow me"—was first an invitation to be with Him before doing anything for Him. A crucial step in discipleship is intentionally creating space in our lives to respond to Jesus' invitation. This starts with reading Scripture with a desire to understand, taking time to pray, sitting in quiet, and learning to listen.

Often, when we feel distant from the Lord, it is not because He is absent, but because we have not made time to connect with Him. While many helpful resources exist, true transformation comes as the Spirit of God speaks to us through Scripture and prayer.

# 2.

## Become like Jesus

Being with Jesus leads to inner transformation. Discipleship confronts the forces that shape us—consumerism, individualism, hurry, control, and self-centered ambition—and invites us into a new way of living. Becoming like Jesus is not learning more information, but desiring the formation of our souls.

As our character is shaped to reflect Christ, our values, priorities, and actions begin to change. This is the work of spiritual formation—becoming people who increasingly look and live like Jesus.

# 3.

## Do what Jesus did

Becoming like Jesus naturally leads to action. From the life and teachings of Jesus, we have identified key milestones that help paint a clear picture of what it looks like to live as He lived. As we pursue these milestones together in community, we are building a healthy church that helps people find healing, hope, and purpose.

Ultimately, following Jesus is a process of building His Church. We are disciples making disciples, groups starting new groups, and a church planting churches.

**On the following pages, you'll find a celebration of what God has already done, along with a vision for the milestones that will guide Living Water as we step into all that God has called us to be.**

2025

# Baptism

**66 people baptized**

Placing your faith in Christ and surrendering your life to Him marks the beginning of a new life shaped by Jesus. This defining step is meant to be seen and celebrated, not kept private. Through baptism, we publicly declare our faith and obedience to Christ.

*I'm going to obey my Lord and Savior Jesus, so that those strongholds of ego and pride that have been holding me back from serving him can be torn down by him.*

- S. McKee, 5/4/2025





2025

# Worship

**1,041** Average  
Attendance

The church is more than a place; it is a community growing together. We are called to be more than attenders by engaging in a shared lifestyle of worship. When we gather, we are united by purpose and values. You matter here—when you are missing, the church feels it.

*The connection with others around me, hearing a whole room full of voices singing out and praising God together is powerful. The connection with Jesus while I praise His name never ceases to move me in profound ways. - E. King*

2025



# Groups

**695** people formed in  
community in 2025



You don't have to know everyone, but it matters that you are deeply known by a few. Groups create space for community where we discover who we are, who God is, and how to live on mission together.

Our Adult Ministry areas seek to enable both learning and discussion about the milestones and life transitions that are a part of adulthood. While our experiences and struggles differ greatly from one another, these areas of ministry provide various events and gatherings throughout the year that will support you to keep growing deeper in faith.



## Growth Groups

The dynamic of each growth group is unique and we want you to find or start one that works for your season of life. What you can find in all of them is care and accountability as you seek to move forward in faith with other people.



## Men's Ministry

Creating a space for men to connect and help one another navigate the intersection of faith and life.

## Women's Ministry

Offering Biblical support and friendship to encourage women as they walk with Jesus in their various roles.

## Couples Ministry

Strengthening the bond of intimacy with God and your spouse (or future spouse) to secure a lifelong marriage.

## Support Groups

There are some struggles in life that we just can't get over by ourselves. Come explore healing together through GriefShare and Pure Freedom.

# Epic Students

Our Student Ministry is founded upon creating learning experiences and opportunities to share how our lives are impacted by God through the work of Jesus Christ. Not only is this a goal for the students, but also our leaders and mentors are challenged to pursue this purpose in everything they do with and for the teens.



## Epic Jr. High

Epic Jr. High strives to celebrate the excitement and energy of students in middle school. Our main goal is to launch students into high school as passionate disciples discovering their identity.



## Epic Sr. High

Epic Sr. High strives to guide students on their journey of discovering both who they are and what they have to offer. Our main goal is to launch students into adulthood as confident servants pursuing their calling.





# LW Kids

At LW Kids, we're all about awakening the wonder of God's Word while helping kids discover who God created them to be. Our Sunday morning environments are designed especially for your kids—safe, fun, and full of opportunities to grow and experience God's love.



## NURSERY

Loving, qualified volunteers who care for your child in a safe and welcoming environment.



## PRESCHOOL

Learning that God made them, loves them, and wants to be their friend through Bible stories, music, games, and small groups.



## ELEMENTARY

Engaging Bible teaching, joyful worship, caring leaders, and interactive small groups—every week.

# Share Your Story

What God has done in you, He can do in others. Each of us carries a story of His ongoing work, and sharing it is a powerful way to offer hope and freedom. God never wastes a hurt—your story has the potential to set something new in motion for those who hear it.

I grew up in a very religious family. Our parents homeschooled us and we were pretty legalistic. We were only allowed to watch Christian or educational television, and we only listened to Christian, classical, or oldies music. I thought sin was something you received consequences for, not something that separates you from God.

When I was young, we moved from Wooster to the Dalton/Kidron area and found a place that felt like home here at Living Water. My dad joined the worship team shortly after. When I was 12, my dad handed me an amp and a bass guitar and told me I had better learn to play because the worship team needed a bassist. I quickly learned to love being on the team and being involved in youth.

When I turned 19, I moved to Tampa. As a 19-year-old with a huge sense of independence and adventure, I was more interested in exploring all life had to offer rather than attending church,



spending time with God, or studying scripture. After a few years, I married my ex-wife. A combination of my lax efforts and other things I haven't yet identified eventually turned my faith into disbelief.

In 2017, we moved to Nashville. In May of 2019, I found out we were getting divorced. I was attached, and I took it hard. That's where the drinking came in. I made new friends quickly, including the owners and head bartender of a local brewery within walking distance of where I lived.

I met and fell in love with my wife, Kara, at that brewery. Fast forward a few years—we're married, have a beautiful, smart, healthy daughter, and moved back to Ohio to raise her near family. Life felt right.

In July of this year, on a family vacation in the Gatlinburg area, I underestimated Old Smoky Mountain moonshine. I blacked out and passed out long enough to miss the next day's family outing. A month later, I drank too much and blacked out. I woke up the following day not knowing why I was in jail. It wasn't until about 11am that I learned the alcohol had turned me into the antithesis of my most

deeply held values. I drank too much, started an incoherent argument with my wife, slapped her twice, and broke furniture. I hated myself.

In jail, I realized how important family is and that I had to stop feeding that dog. My dad took me to AA, and then to Living Water. After church, I prayed the most earnest, sincere prayer I've ever prayed. The desire for alcohol has been gone ever since.

On October 5th, I was baptized and I am putting my life fully in God's hands. My life was hollow before I invited God back into it. Now I want to get as far away from hollow as I can.

## ERIC DOERFLER



### Watch the Full Story

Scan the QR code to watch Eric's full story.



### Share Your Story!

Visit [lwchurch.com/shareyourstory](http://lwchurch.com/shareyourstory)

2025



# Serving

## 481 Ministry Volunteers

*Saying "yes" to serving has been great because it has given me an opportunity to meet new people, build some new relationships, and see the church from a whole new perspective.*

- B. Hutson

Every Sunday and every event offers an opportunity to use your time and talents in meaningful ways. Serving allows you to help shape God's kingdom through the life of the church. While our callings may differ, we share the same commitment to strengthen and build up the body.



# Beyond Our Walls

The hope of the Gospel is too valuable to stay inside a building. While the church gathers in the sanctuary, our mission lives beyond it. God invites us to bring His love into our workplaces, neighborhoods, and world, meeting brokenness wherever we are willing to go.

*It comes down to 2 things for me — Love God and Love Others*

*God has called me to serve inside the church through Leadership team, Epic, and LW Kids and outside the church through OHuddle, Legacy Project, First Glance, and Samaritan's Purse.*

*My job is to obey.*

*- T. Brahler*

**If you are serving beyond our walls,  
we'd love to know!**



## LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

### CITY SERVE

[alcfohio.org/city-serve-project](http://alcfohio.org/city-serve-project)

### HOPE'S HOUSE

[linktr.ee/hopeshousefosterclinet](http://linktr.ee/hopeshousefosterclinet)

### LEGACY PROJECT

[lpstark.org](http://lpstark.org)

### LOVE, INC

[loveincwayne.org](http://loveincwayne.org)

### MCC CONNECTIONS

[mccconnections.org](http://mccconnections.org)

### OHUDDLE

[ohuddle.org](http://ohuddle.org)

### OPEN ARMS MINISTRY

[open-arms.us](http://open-arms.us)



2025

# Give \$344,276.53 to Outreach

God invites us to hold what we have with open hands, recognizing that everything belongs to Him. Regular giving does more than support ministry—it forms obedience, generosity, and trust. As we give, we invest in a kingdom currency that allows God’s love to reach more people.

In 2026, we will increase to 13% of our offering going to great works and missions around the world. The Christmas Give is above and beyond our normal giving. Your support makes it possible for the Gospel to spread even further.

## LOCAL/UNITED STATES

Legacy Project  
Light After Loss  
New Destiny  
OHuddle  
Open Arms  
Safe Harbor

## INTERNATIONAL

Aruna Project  
For Every Girl  
Mexico Church Plant Ministry  
Vietnamese Ministry  
Water for Good

**Grand Total: \$217,276.53**





## Christmas Give

Every Christmas, Living Water chooses to do less for ourselves and more for others by supporting a mission that brings the hope of Jesus to people locally and around the world. In 2025, we partnered with the Seed Company to bring God's Word to a people group in Southeast Asia.

**Grand Total: \$127,000**

## We can't out give God.

Jesus regularly used stories and examples involving money and wealth. He did this very intentionally because the way we use our money is a primary indicator of where we are in our spiritual journey. Honoring God through giving is far more important than funding a vision or ministry.

Giving at the tithe level is a major commitment that says you are acknowledging God as the source of all wealth and you trust Him for everything you need. It is an act of obedience that God will honor.



# Disciplemaker

Disciplemaking is simple: building relationships with Kingdom purpose.

Whether for a season or a lifetime, your faith grows as you help others grow in theirs. You don't have to have all the answers—just be intentional to share the light you already have.

There are resources available to help you along the way:

**Through the Word | [throughtheword.org](http://throughtheword.org)**  
Equip the world to read the Bible, understand it, apply it, and make it a habit.

**RightNow Media | [rightnowmedia.org](http://rightnowmedia.org)**  
Experience the world's largest customizable library of biblical video resources, designed to help every person grow in their discipleship journey.

**The Bible Project | [bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com)**  
Experience the Bible as a unified story that leads to Jesus through videos, guides, podcasts, and classes.

# Taking Ownership

At Living Water, we believe the church should be a movement that continues to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ here on earth. We are challenging everyone who calls this body of believers “their church” to take ownership at Living Water.

Ownership is a wholehearted commitment to the vision of Living Water we renew each year. Owners are people who say, “Yes, I will be someone who gives, serves, and leads the way in pointing people to Jesus Christ and shaping the church into everything He has called us to be.”

On Sunday mornings in February, you will have the opportunity to see what ownership entails and make the commitment. If you are not available to be at one of our services but still want to be an owner, sign up online at [lwchurch.com/ownership](http://lwchurch.com/ownership).

## I’m Committing to...



### Grow

- + Thrive spiritually by praying & studying the Bible
- + Invite people into my life & invest in their spiritual growth
- + Make church a top priority



### Serve

- + Join God in what He is doing by giving my time & talents
- + Share my faith with others & invite them to New Life in Christ



### Give

- + Trust God with my finances through tithing (10%)
- + Lead in generosity & look for greater ways to give

# 2026 Church Budget

**\$2,197,486**

*This is a unified budget for all Living Water campuses.*

**Church Staff: \$1,078,017**

*Salaries, Insurance, & Retirement*

**Facilities & Operations: \$332,765**

*Maintenance, Utilities, & I.T.*

**Outreach: \$252,167**

*Local, National, & International*

**Ministry Departments: \$219,281**

*All Age Level Ministries*

**Future Planning: \$243,256**

*Facility Savings, Campus Expansion, Church Planting Funds*

**Free Methodist Church: \$72,000**

*Denominational Support*

---

*We would be happy to provide you with detailed financial information including the 2025 expenses and the 2026 budget. Contact Mark Schilling at [mark.s@lwchurch.com](mailto:mark.s@lwchurch.com).*



**2025 Total General Offering:  
\$1,944,481**

**2025 Total Expenses  
\$ 1,946,219**

## **External Financial Review:**

Each year, The Living Water Leadership Team engages CapinCrouse, a professional accounting and consulting firm specializing in nonprofit organizations. Their task is to evaluate our church financial reporting and internal control policies and procedures. We do a church check-up with the organization each year.

# MEET OUR TEAM



## Mark Hirst

**Lead Pastor**

---

Mark Schilling,  
*Director of Operations*

Kelly Manley,  
*Operations Assistant*

Steve Miller,  
*Facility Manager*

Jen Doerfler,  
*Communications Director*

Katie Yoder,  
*Communications Assistant*



## Jason Boyer

**Dalton Campus Pastor**

---

Rick Laine,  
*Discipleship Pastor*

Isaiah Stepney,  
*Worship Arts*

Taylor Brown,  
*Student Ministry Pastor*

Cole Rice,  
*LW Kids Director*

Dan Hostetler,  
*Pastor*



## Trent Thompson

**Massillon Campus Pastor**

---

Bill Loomis,  
*Associate Campus Pastor*

Ben Eberly,  
*LW Kids Director*

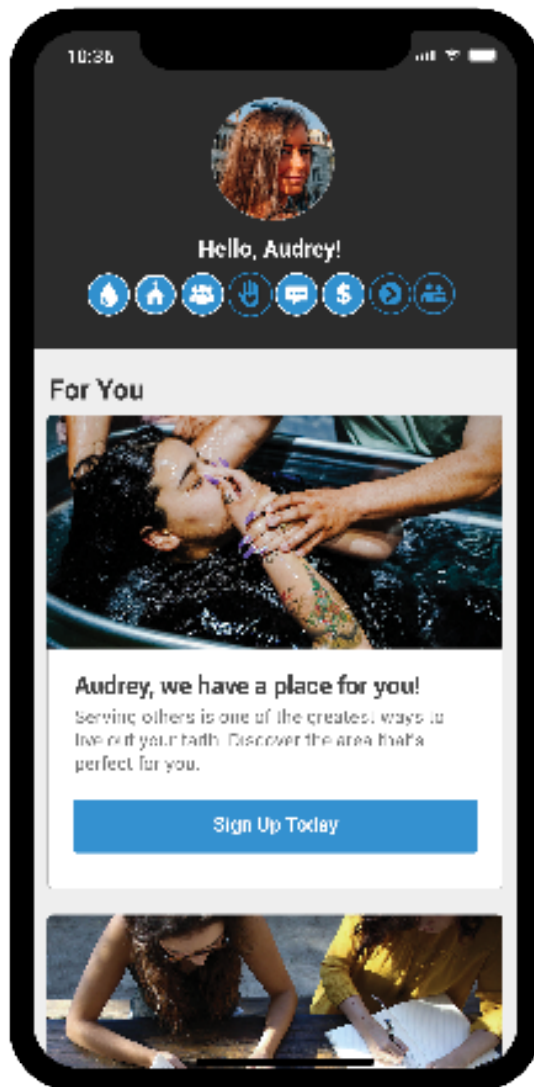
Derek Stewart,  
*Worship Arts*



## Nicolas Velasco

**Orrville Campus Pastor**  
**Agua Viva Iglesia**

**For Staff emails,  
visit [lwchurch.com/staff](http://lwchurch.com/staff)**



### DALTON CAMPUS

200 Kurzen Rd. N Dalton, Ohio 44618

### MASSILLON CAMPUS

1135 Lincoln way E. Massillon, Ohio 44646

### ORRVILLE CAMPUS (AGUA VIVA)

2061 Wadsworth Rd. Orrville, Ohio 44667

LWCHURCH.COM

AGUAVIVAORRVILLE.COM

**Download our  
mobile app today!**

Search: LW Church

