

**MAKING
KNOWN
THE BEAUTY
OF JESUS**

2016 Annual Report



LIVING WATER CHURCH

DEAR LIVING WATER CHURCH,

Greetings to you in the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now that 2016 has come to a close, I am celebrating nearly 17 years as your Lead Teaching and Preaching Pastor at Living Water Church. Wow! A recent poll from Lifeway Research suggested the average pastor's tenure in a local church is 3.6 years. That simply means God's grace has been at work here in ways that defy statistics. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to be part of what He is doing in and through this church. Without question, every church is a unique work of the Holy Spirit, but I am deeply grateful to be part of this one. The Lord has been faithful to me... and faithful to us as a church. And He has been faithful in spite of an unusually tough year.

Yes, we have celebrated often, witnessed baptisms, increased our membership, launched more community groups than ever before and reveled in the super abounding

generosity of faithful, sacrificial givers as well as in numerous over-the-top special financial gifts that have all together been a huge blessing to everyone at Living Water and cause for great celebration.

But we have also lamented and mourned together this year as well. Whether it was gathering to pray for our nation during troubling times, or coming alongside those who lost loved ones and/or battled sickness and health problems, or patiently bearing with sin and temptation, or praying for one another as we "groan inwardly... waiting eagerly for adoption as sons..." (Rom 8:23), the Lord has stretched us and grown us in ways no one could have foreseen.

And yet, through it all, God, in His abounding grace and mercy, has continued to invite us into His greater story of redemption for sinners like you and I. It's messy work... but it's good work, and it shows off the beauty of Jesus and His Gospel. He has shown off his

great grace time and time again right before our eyes and we have seen it at work in ways that we could have never imagined.

Ultimately, by God's grace, the fruits of our prayers and our labors—seen and unseen, known and unknown — come from the desire to make our mission a reality: Making known the beauty of Jesus in all of life. We have had many opportunities this past year to make that mission a reality... and I'm praying for many more opportunities in the new year to make it a reality as well.

We love Him because He first loved us! May we remain passionate for His supremacy in all things in 2017. Let's lean on who God is and all that He is for us, in Christ and His precious Gospel. His promises are true and they cannot fail. He alone is worthy of our days, dollars and devotion. Together, as always, let's ask Him to do what only He can. And as we look back at 2016 and ahead to 2017, may we be faithful to the role God has given us in His story by

making known the beauty of Jesus in all of life for all of Vancouver.

In His Great Grace,

Pastor Jeff



**IN ALL
OF LIFE**



EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE | 2016 BY NUMBERS

6 ↔ people baptized
25 ↔ new members
8 ↔ children dedicated
75 ↔ joined a community group
455 ↔ largest Sunday (Easter)
\$797,137 ↔ dollars given

2017 CHURCH BUDGET

facilities ↔ **\$198,639 (35%)**
staffing ↔ **\$265,039 (46%)**
ministries ↔ **\$58,322 (10%)**
global missions ↔ **\$50,400 (9%)**
total budget ↔ **\$572,400**
weekly giving needed ↔ **\$10,800**

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