



**GAINING
GROUND**

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Matthew 6:21

A LETTER

FROM DREW KARSCHNER

Northridge Church has a rich history of reaching people in our communities with the good news of the Gospel. For over 130 years God has blessed and worked through the people of Northridge, resulting in hundreds of lives being changed for eternity. As you think back on your time here, you can probably identify a few of your personal “defining moments” and recognize how God has used Northridge to positively and permanently impact your life. We are entering a season at Northridge that we are calling Gaining Ground. Gaining Ground is another opportunity to experience a defining moment in the life of our church and in your own life. It’s about joining God in His mission of making more and better disciples. The gospel compels us to many things, and one of those things is radical generosity. Just as Christ poured out His life for us on the cross with radical generosity, we are to pour out our lives as an offering to Him, and for the sake of others. We believe Gaining Ground can serve as one of the greatest spiritual experiences of our lives as, together, we choose courage over comfort to bring the gospel deeper into our communities.

As you consider how God is asking you to personally participate in Gaining Ground, we hope the following pages and tools will help guide you toward a decision that truly becomes another one of those defining moments for you in your spiritual journey.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing at Northridge, and I pray you will join me and my family as we take the next steps toward Gaining Ground.

For More & Better,



LOOKING BACK

Since its beginning in 1889 our church’s desire has been to create increasingly devoted followers of Jesus, asking God to make more and better disciples through this local church. We look back at the past 130 years of our church’s rich history and humbly respond:

“The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.” - Psalm 126:3

Today, Northridge has grown from a single gathering in a 60-seat building to over 2400 people meeting weekly across four separate locations around our city. Each week God continues to send more people through our doors and each week better disciples are made as people take next steps in their faith.

Below is a glimpse into how God has multiplied our gifts as we have responded to the growth He provided in just the last 20 years:

2000		2009	2010	2012	2014	2017	2020
Northridge averaged 250 weekly attendees	weekly attendance grew by 173%		expanded Irondequoit Campus by 17,242 sq. ft.	launched Greece Campus & added 164 new parking spots at the Irondequoit Campus	launched Webster Campus	launched Henrietta Campus	transition our Webster Campus from portable to permanent & launch our next portable campus

LOOKING AHEAD

Gaining Ground is a generosity initiative that will focus on raising funds to expand Northridge's physical space, taking our Webster campus from portable to permanent.

We are not asking you to give money to a building, rather we are inviting you to invest in the mission of making more and better followers of Jesus on the east side of our city. Not only is our portable location in Webster a temporary lease agreement with no guarantee for long-term use, but a permanent facility will enable us to reach more people. Studies show that new facilities often reach 50-100% more people in the first couple of years after construction. We saw this happen after the new construction at our Irondequoit Campus in 2010; it grew by 66% over the next two years. Growth at the Webster Campus will position it to birth new campuses, just like we've seen happen through the Irondequoit Campus in the past.

Barna Research Group surveys show that 755,000 people in our area do not identify as being followers of Jesus Christ. Reaching these 755,000 people is our challenge. God is asking us to extend an invitation to our friends and neighbors to make room for them. Let's make seats available for others to hear about the love of Christ. God has been generous with us in every area of our lives and we want to extend that blessing for the benefit of others and for the sake of the gospel. We talk a lot around here about "going Beyond", and your generosity over the next 24 months will stretch your faith, perhaps beyond what you've experienced before.

UPCOMING GAINING GROUND EVENTS

March 24: Launch Sunday

March 24: Night of Worship / 4:30pm & 6:30pm

March 25: Daily Prayer & Scripture Texts Begin

March 31 & April 7: Vision Sundays

April 7: Rally @ 780 Salt Road / 5:00pm

April 14: Commitment Sunday

BEGIN PRAYING NOW

- that we will be united as a church in heart and vision (1 Cor 1:10)
- for wisdom, humility, and discernment for church leaders as they work with local contractors and town officials, and as they lead our church through this exciting season (Ps 127:1)
- that we would passionately desire to give our best to the Lord (2 Sam 24:24)
- for God to give you wisdom and faith as you personally seek what part He'd have you play in Gaining Ground (Matt 6:19-21)
- for open doors for the gospel message as a result of this expansion (Col 4:3)

MAKE TIME TO PRAY

In light of the 755,000 people in our area who are not yet Christ Followers, what if we all set an alarm on our phone to go off each day at 7:55 to prompt us to pray for Gaining Ground and those who don't know Jesus?

WEBSTER CAMPUS PLANS



NORTH ENTRANCE



LOBBY



EAST ENTRANCE



AUDITORIUM



INFORMATION CENTER



NEXT



CAFE



HALLWAY TO KIDS MINISTRY

GIVING STEPS

The Giving Steps are a tool designed to help each of us examine the attitudes of our hearts. Each step represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice. These are not steps to get closer to God, but it is a simple tool for evaluating personal growth in generosity. The Bible encourages us to grow in every aspect of our spiritual lives, including in the grace of giving.

SURRENDERED GIVER: 2 Corinthians 8:7

Surrendered Givers recognize Christ's sacrifice for us and are surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources. As a result, their giving governs their budget and they seek to honor God with all He's given them. They make short-term decisions based on long-term generosity goals and capacity.

INTENTIONAL GIVER: 2 Corinthians 9:9-15

Intentional Givers begin to think about their giving in relation to other things on which they spend money. Giving becomes a purposeful choice that reflects how they prioritize their spending.

CONSISTENT GIVER: Luke 21:1-4

Consistent Givers decide to give something and give it consistently to exercise the privilege and discipline of regular giving.

OCCASIONAL GIVER: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Occasional Givers decide to give on a non-regular basis, whether it's as they are compelled by God's teaching about giving, a moment of thanksgiving, or spontaneous generosity.

FIRST-TIME GIVER: Matthew 6:25-26

Initial Givers decide to give for the first time out of response to God's teaching about giving. They decide to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." - 2 Corinthians 9:6

PERSONAL GIVING SCENARIOS

The names and numbers below are hypothetical, but the situations may be similar to the one you find yourself in right now. Each scenario illustrates how an individual or family might take the next step up the Giving Steps, and shows how their Gaining Ground generosity worksheet would be completed.

MY TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND
Use this worksheet to calculate your commitment to Gaining Ground.

\$	STARTING GIFT
\$ 3,500	INCREMENTAL GIFTS
\$	FUTURE ONE-TIME GIFTS
\$	SECURITIES

MY TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND

\$ 3,500

FIRST-TIME GIVER:

Sam is a new believer. His Community Group Leader is encouraging him in several areas of growing in his relationship with God - including trusting God to begin giving. It's a huge step of faith, but Samuel plans on committing 5% of his \$35,000 income (\$1,750) for a total 2-year commitment of \$3,500 toward Gaining Ground.

OCCASIONAL GIVER:

Maria has been giving to the church for a while, just not very consistently. She believes in the mission of the church and isn't opposed to giving, she just struggles to give consistently and hasn't made it a priority. Looking over her recent spending and receipts, she has found several places she can cut back and be intentional about giving consistently. Aside from committing to give a percentage of her income as a regular, scheduled discipline, she plans to make a 2-year giving commitment of 3% of her \$50,000 income. She also has identified her tax return as a way she can give \$2,000 as a one-time gift. She plans to give \$5,000 to Gaining Ground.

MY TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND
Use this worksheet to calculate your commitment to Gaining Ground.

\$	STARTING GIFT
\$ 3,000	INCREMENTAL GIFTS
\$ 2,000	FUTURE ONE-TIME GIFTS
\$	SECURITIES

MY TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND

\$ 5,000

CONSISTENT GIVER:

William and Tanya have been faithful in their giving to the church at a steady 5%. From their household income, they contribute \$6,000 a year to the regular ministry of the church. Gaining Ground has challenged them to consider moving up to a full tithing amount of 10% - continuing their regular 5% to the general fund and an additional 5% toward the giving initiative. It will require a bit of adjustment in their lifestyle to give \$12,000 for these two years, but they feel strongly that God is calling them to it. Also, they've been saving for a big trip, but have decided to give the \$2,000 in that account instead. William & Tanya are now planning to give \$14,000 to Gaining Ground over the next two years.

MY TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND
Use this worksheet to calculate your commitment to Gaining Ground.

\$ 2,000	STARTING GIFT
\$ 12,000	INCREMENTAL GIFTS
\$	FUTURE ONE-TIME GIFTS
\$	SECURITIES

MY TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND

\$ 14,000

INTENTIONAL GIVER:

John has been tithing 10% of his \$75,000 income faithfully for many years and sees God continually provide for his needs. He loves his church and its passion for missions and reaching the community. John is committing an additional 4% of his annual income toward the Gaining Ground initiative, as well as some stock he has seen grow over the past couple years in order to give a one-time gift of \$30,000. Over two years, he looks forward to being able to commit \$36,000.

MY TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND
Use this worksheet to calculate your commitment to Gaining Ground.

\$	STARTING GIFT
\$ 6,000	INCREMENTAL GIFTS
\$	FUTURE ONE-TIME GIFTS
\$ 30,000	SECURITIES

MY TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND

\$ 36,000

SURRENDERED GIVER:

Eden is active in the life of her church and sacrificially gives her time, talents, and resources. She has given 15% of her \$90,000 income to the church in recent years, but after examining her finances and praying about her legacy she is challenged to contribute significantly to Gaining Ground and add an additional 3% for the campaign. She typically receives a \$3,000 bonus each year end, and feels prompted to contribute that additional income for the next two years. She has some investments that have accumulated in the past several years that she has decided God wants her to add to her gift. Eden is excited to give \$49,400 to Gaining Ground.

MY TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND
Use this worksheet to calculate your commitment to Gaining Ground.

\$	STARTING GIFT
\$ 5,400	INCREMENTAL GIFTS
\$ 6,000	FUTURE ONE-TIME GIFTS
\$ 38,000	SECURITIES

MY TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND

\$ 49,400

PERSONAL GIVING WORKSHEET

Prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you give. Please use the worksheet above and chart below as guides. Each gift is an act of obedience, faith, and trust. Remember, it is not about equal giving but equal sacrifice.

GIVING PERIOD
4/14/2019 - 4/15/2021

MY TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND

Use this worksheet to calculate your commitment to Gaining Ground.

STARTING GIFT

INCREMENTAL GIFTS

FUTURE ONE-TIME GIFTS

SECURITIES

MY TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT TO GAINING GROUND

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

GIFTS NEEDED	2 YEAR COMMITMENT	ANNUAL GIFT OF	MONTHLY COMMITMENT	WEEKLY COMMITMENT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$12,500	\$2,885	\$300,000
1	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,442	\$150,000
2	\$72,000	\$36,000	\$3,000	\$692	\$144,000
4	\$48,000	\$24,000	\$2,000	\$462	\$192,000
10	\$36,000	\$18,000	\$1,500	\$346	\$360,000
20	\$24,000	\$12,000	\$1,000	\$231	\$480,000
30	\$18,000	\$9,000	\$750	\$173	\$540,000
50	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$500	\$115	\$600,000
60	\$8,400	\$4,200	\$350	\$81	\$504,000
70	\$6,000	\$3,000	\$250	\$58	\$420,000
100	\$4,800	\$2,400	\$200	\$46	\$480,000
200	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$150	\$35	\$720,000
MANY	\$1,800 or less	\$900	\$75	\$17	\$110,000
GAINING GROUND TOTAL:					\$5,000,000

GAINING GROUND 2 YEAR COMMITMENT CARDS

These cards will be prayerfully brought forward at a celebration service on Sunday, April 14th.

GAINING GROUND

NORTHRIDGE CHURCH

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, THIS GIVING CHART HAS BEEN INCLUDED TO ESTIMATE YOUR TOTAL GIFT:

2-YEAR	1-YEAR	MONTHLY	WEEKLY
\$300,000	\$150,000	\$12,500	\$2,885
\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,442
\$72,000	\$36,000	\$3,000	\$692
\$48,000	\$24,000	\$2,000	\$462
\$36,000	\$18,000	\$1,500	\$346
\$24,000	\$12,000	\$1,000	\$231
\$18,000	\$9,000	\$750	\$173
\$12,000	\$6,000	\$500	\$115
\$8,400	\$4,200	\$350	\$81
\$6,000	\$3,000	\$250	\$58
\$4,800	\$2,400	\$200	\$46
\$3,600	\$1,800	\$150	\$35
\$1,800	\$900	\$75	\$17

THIS STATEMENT MAY BE REVISED OR CANCELLED AT ANY TIME SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATE.

KNOWING THAT GOD CAN DO MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE, IN FAITH I/WE INTEND TO GIVE TO THE NORTHRIDGE CHURCH GAINING GROUND INITIATIVE OVER AND ABOVE MY/OUR REGULAR OFFERINGS.

PLEASE INDICATE ON THE LINE BELOW WHAT YOU AND/OR YOUR FAMILY PLAN TO GIVE FOR YOUR GIFT.

TOTAL GAINING GROUND 2 YEAR GIFT: _____

GIVING TO GAIN

WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE WHEN IT SAYS THAT THOSE WHO SOW GENEROUSLY WILL REAP GENEROUSLY (2 CORINTHIANS 9:6). WE ARE ASKING FOR JOYFUL, SACRIFICIAL GIFTS, YET WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE REWARDS WILL BE GREATER THAN THE SACRIFICE. OUR GAINING GROUND INITIATIVE WILL ALLOW US TO WORK TOGETHER TO EXPAND OUR MISSION AND CREATE A STRONG LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE.

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____



HOW TO DECIDE HOW MUCH TO COMMIT:

The decision of “How much should I commit to the Gaining Ground giving initiative” is a personal one. No one can make that decision for you. As you approach the decision, we encourage you to:

- **REACH OUT TO GOD**
Prayerfully seek God’s guidance as you make your commitment decision.
- **EVALUATE YOUR RESOURCES**
Truly consider everything God has put under your stewardship.
- **NAIL DOWN THE SPECIFICS**
Determine specifically how your resources can be used to compile a generous contribution.
- **EDUCATE YOURSELF**
Consider “out of the box” ways you can increase your contribution.
- **WALK BY FAITH**
Determine your best commitment and trust God to help you successfully fulfill it.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

PRACTICE PRIORITY BUDGETING

Many families may choose to rearrange their financial priorities. By identifying “unnecessary or less important” expenses currently in the budget, the family may free up funds that can become part of their Gaining Ground commitment.

REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENSES

Some families have short-term expenses or loans that will soon be settled. Once these commitments are met, the funds, which are already a part of the budget, can be redirected to Gaining Ground.

INCREASE GIVING WITH INCREASED INCOME

Sometimes a family may be aware of an expected bonus or an upcoming increase in income. These families can choose to plan on including these increases in income in their total commitment.

DONATE ASSETS

Some families may have stocks, bonds, or other securities that have appreciated in value. These assets can be included in their commitment. There are potential tax advantages to this type of transaction, but there are also potential penalties. Therefore, before making a contribution of this type, we encourage you to consult your CPA, tax attorney, or financial advisor.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Making a contribution to a giving initiative is not primarily about giving money to a building. It is about taking an active part in the effort to bring about the mission God has given us. Northridge’s mission of making more and better disciples should lead us toward an offering that will be pleasing to Him. Before your final decision is made, evaluate the commitment you are planning by considering these questions:

- Does the amount I am giving require me to trust God?
- Does the amount I am giving represent a genuine sacrifice to God?
- Does the amount I am giving accurately express my level of thanks for the way Christ and His church have blessed my family?

GET CREATIVE

Some families may seek more creative ways of identifying funds to include in their commitment. For instance:

- Sell some collectibles that you’ve had for a while and donate what you receive for the items.
- Postpone a large family vacation or a remodeling project and contribute what you would have spent.
- Get a part-time job and contribute your income from that position.
- Turn a hobby into a sales venue and contribute the profits.
- Give up certain indulgences like a regular ‘coffee run’ or sweets and contribute the savings.
- Look for opportunities to earn extra money that can be included in your donation to the initiative.

WHY PRACTICE GENEROSITY?

1. God has been generous to us.

The Apostle Paul explained how we have been equipped for generosity:

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." - 2 Corinthians 9:11

We practice generosity because God has generously blessed us. Our generous giving is a response to God's outrageous goodness.

2. We give generously to bless others.

Paul modeled generosity: *"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus himself. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" - Acts 20:35*

We practice generosity in order to share the blessings of God.

3. We practice generosity as an expression of our dependence on God.

Jesus said: *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." - Matthew 6:25a, 33*

Our generosity demonstrates that our priority is God's Kingdom, trusting that He will meet all our needs.

4. We give generously to discover true and lasting joy. Paul shares this life-changing insight:

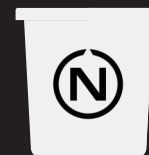
"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

When we learn the lessons of generosity and practice them in our lives, we discover new joy and cheerfulness.

LOOKING TO FULFILL YOUR COMMITMENT

FOUR WAYS TO GIVE

IN SERVICE



DROP IT IN THE OFFERING BUCKET DURING SERVICE

ONLINE



SCHEDULE YOUR GIVING AT NORTHRIDGEROCHESTER.COM/GIVE

TEXT



TEXT "GAINING GROUND" TO 77977 TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SET UP TEXT-TO-GIVE

ASSET



LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF GIVING APPRECIATED ASSETS. CONTACT JMAPES@NORTHRIDGEROCHESTER.COM

FAQ

Why Webster instead of Greece or Henrietta?

- We've been looking in all our campus areas for years, and God has opened doors to an amazing facility in Webster first.
- Webster is our fastest-growing location.
 - Launched in 2014 with 280 people
 - Currently seeing nearly 600 weekly attendees
- The Webster area is the fastest-growing area where we currently have a campus.
- Our Greece & Henrietta campuses have 1-year leases with Regal Theaters. Our Webster Campus has a week-to-week agreement with the school district which is far less certain and causes us to relocate 15%-20% of Sundays each year.

Why the \$5 million Gaining Ground Goal?

- Here's a breakdown on the 3 Levels of our Goal:
 - **Breaking Ground Goal: \$3 million**
Allows us to purchase 780 Salt Road (debt-free)
 - **Gaining Ground Goal: \$5 million**
Allows us to purchase the property and complete renovations leaving only a long-term mortgage of about \$2.5 million (the church has approved up to \$6 million)
 - **Ultimate Ground: \$7.5 million**
Allows us to purchase the property and complete renovations without a long-term mortgage

What if we don't meet our goals?

- Launching of future permanent facilities will be delayed as we await needed funding to support these campuses. Our goal is to be as effective as possible in reaching those who are far from God and we feel the pressure to reach as many people as possible. Time is short and each of us is on a journey toward eternity.

What if we raise more than the \$7.5 million?

- This will allow us to set aside funds to help purchase a permanent facility for the next portable campus that makes this transition.

Gaining Ground is the 4th giving initiative at Northridge over the past 10 years.

- Northridge has grown and continues to reach many people for Christ through the sacrificial generosity of many of you over the years. Our ability to see so many lives changed for eternity is directly tied to our continued commitment to put others first - setting aside personal preferences, comforts, and desires and deciding to give sacrificially to reach people far from God. Initiatives like Gaining Ground play an important role in helping us bring the gospel to more people in our communities. However, as regular giving (tithes & offerings) grows and we are able to leverage our existing systems, staff, and resources for new campus launches, we believe our reliance on giving initiatives will decline in the future.

Why do we feel it's wise for Northridge to borrow funds to help with campus expansion?

- We want to invest and leverage the resources God has provided to reach as many people as possible. We believe we are all racing towards eternity and there are people who need to know the incredible love of Christ and the salvation that is available through Him. A responsible use of borrowed funds allows us to launch permanent campuses more quickly. However, we also want to be prudent and be sure Northridge is financially strong. We are committed to ensuring our borrowing levels don't grow to excessive levels that would threaten the long-term financial viability of Northridge or would hinder us from adequately funding our ministry. When it comes to churches, anything less than two times our annual general fund budget is considered reasonable and conservative. Even if we were forced to borrow the full 6 million dollars our membership has approved for long-term debt for the 780 Salt Road property, we would still be within this conservative benchmark.

I already tithe to support Northridge Church. What am I being asked to do for Gaining Ground?

- We are asking everyone to consider a commitment over and above your current giving for Gaining Ground. We believe that the best place for ongoing and intentional ministry should be our general fund, as this is where the vast majority of ministry takes place week after week. We humbly ask for your continued, significant participation.

FAQ

How do I determine what my gift should be?

- What you choose to contribute to Gaining Ground is a personal decision between you and God. We invite our church family to make equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. As you consider what this might look like for you, here are some practical suggestions to get started:
 - Pray asking God, “What part would you have me/us play?”
 - Recognize the eternal return on our investments as you examine your financial situation
 - Listen for God’s prompt & obey

Here are some guidelines that you might find helpful to determine your part. Consider these questions as you begin your own personal journey on this endeavor for the Great Commission.

- Have I asked God to direct my decision?
- Does this amount give an accurate reflection of who I am and what my resources are?
- Is this amount truly sacrificial?
- What will I sacrifice to give at this level?

What if we are just getting our family started? What if we have children in college? What if we are on a fixed income?

- The answer is always the same ... we are asking you to pray and go on a treasure hunt. As you ask God to lead you, be thinking “What can I do?” rather than “What can’t I do?”. Consider the following creative options:
 - Contributing tax refunds for two years
 - Delay a home improvement project
 - Cash in on stocks or part of your 401(k)
 - Make coffee at home rather than hitting the coffee shop
 - Pick up a part-time job
 - Limit spending on recreational activities (e.g. eating out, golf, movies, etc.)
 - Hold off purchasing a new car
 - Downsize a cell phone plan
 - Cancel a media subscription (cable, Netflix, etc.)
 - Stay local for a vacation
- Remember, it is not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice.

Why do we need to fill out a commitment card? Why can’t we just give? Why are names necessary on the cards?

- In order to balance faith and wisdom, we need to know what people are committing to this project. We don’t want to be unwise and build something that would be financially irresponsible, and at the same time we don’t want to scale back to find out we could have built more of what we needed. The commitment cards will give us an idea of what our building plans should look like. We will have to disregard cards that are submitted without a name, as we won’t know the seriousness of the commitment. Commitment cards can be given beginning on April 14th.

Is there anything I can give other than money?

- Yes, Jeff Mapes can be consulted to discuss unique asset donations (jmapes@northridgerochester.com).

When might the new Webster campus open?

- Our goal at this point would be sometime during the spring of 2020.

How many seats will the new Webster auditorium have?

- We are planning on the new auditorium seating 650 people.

What will happen to all the current portable gear used by our Webster campus?

- We would plan to use some at Webster & some at new portable sites.

Is a church as a non-profit allowed to collect rent from their building(s)?

- Yes, we can collect rent as a non-profit.

What if I have other questions?

- Feel free to contact Scott Bixby (Executive Pastor) or Jeff Mapes (Business Manager) with more questions. They can be reached at 585-338-7810 or via email at sbixby@northridgerochester.com or jmapes@northridgerochester.com. Also you can find more information at NorthridgeRochester.com/GainingGround.

FAQ

What happened to the extra money from #forROC which was earmarked for our next campus within the city limits?

- We still have these dollars set aside for our next portable campus.
- We have held them in escrow and plan to use them when we birth that next campus.

When are we thinking we might open our next campus within the city limits?

- We are planning on this taking place in 2020, although we don't yet have an exact timeframe. Please pray with us about staffing for this campus.

Is there a payment plan option for our Gaining Ground gifts?

- Yes, gifts can be given at any time between 4/14/2019 and 4/15/2021.

Why are we rolling out Gaining Ground at this time?

- God has opened doors with the property at 780 Salt Road which we feel led to walk through. We're trying to follow God's lead in this way.

How does Gaining Ground impact the church budget?

- We have a monthly amount built into our budget which helps cover the cost of new buildings. That said, our total annual budget is \$3.4 million, not nearly large enough to cover the total cost of 780 Salt Road or Gaining Ground.

What is the plan for the rental income which comes with the 780 Salt Road property?

- There are 2 businesses currently leasing two-thirds of the 780 Salt Road building. We'd like to use the \$273K annual income from these leases to help defray costs for use of our part of that building.

KEY SCRIPTURES

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus tells his followers:

¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Paul reminds us exactly where our riches come from:

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

In Mark 12:43,44, Jesus introduces the principle of "equal sacrifice not equal gifts":

⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Paul reminds us of the sacrificial giving of Christians from the past:

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us."

In Luke 6:38, Jesus challenges us toward generosity:

³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."



WEEK 1

PHYSICAL GROUND

SERMON NOTES

Matthew 16:18

"I will build" is a statement of:

- _____
 - God is _____ on the move to _____ His mission.
- _____
 - God's _____ will not be _____.
- _____
 - Jesus invites us to _____ something _____ than us.
 - Building God's church is a _____ that requires _____.

Will you be a _____ of building his church?

God's _____ for Northridge are much bigger than a _____.

ACTION STEPS

_____ : If you have a question, please let us know.

_____ : God, what part would you have me play?

SERMON NOTES

[illegible]

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Share your name and answer the following question:
 - If you could travel anywhere with anyone, where would you go and with whom? (Whom would you bring other than your spouse or "significant other"?)
2. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word "church"?
3. How does thinking of the church as a building instead of people limit the effectiveness of the church?
4. Drew mentioned, "Everyone spends eternity somewhere."
 - How might our lives and our church look different if we understood the urgency of this reality?
5. What themes do you notice about God's love from the following verses?
 - Read John 3:16, 1 John 4:10, and Romans 5:8.
6. What might following Jesus' example of sacrificial love look like for us today?
7. Who is one person you are praying may come to know and follow Jesus? What can you do to help them take a step toward Jesus this week?



WEEK 2

MISSIONAL GROUND

SERMON NOTES

Matthew 16:18

"My church" = _____

God has an _____ love for _____.

God isn't concerned with _____
he's passionate about _____.

This project isn't about _____ it's about _____.

ACTION STEPS

_____ spends _____
somewhere.

_____ from God

- _____ Now, Experience _____

_____ for God

- _____ Loss, _____ Gain

SERMON NOTES

[illegible]

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Share your name and answer the following question:
 - What is something difficult, unusual, or a bit crazy that you have done??
2. What has your past church experience been like?
3. Share a time when you experienced God doing something really big – and you got to be a part of it.
4. Read Matthew 16:18.
 - How might knowing that God's movement can't be stopped change how we invest our lives in His mission?
5. Read Matthew 28:19-20.
 - God uses people to build His church. Who has God used in your life to build your faith?
 - What things keep you from investing in God's mission?
6. What is a part you can play in God's mission of building His church?



WEEK 3

SACRIFICIAL GROUND

SERMON NOTES

God provides _____ for us.

Two prompts:

1. God's _____

2. The 12 _____

God uses prompts to:

1. _____ His _____.

2. Remind us of His _____
through our _____.

3. _____ future steps of _____.

Lessons I've learned from God's prompts:

Prompt 1: God doesn't need what I _____, I
desperately need what _____ has.

Prompt 2: My _____ is not my _____.

Prompt 3: Sacrifice _____ my heart to
experience the _____
of God.

Prompt 4: My _____ will affect
_____ to come.

SERMON NOTES

The church thrives when we are _____ ,
not _____.

ACTION STEPS:

_____ God's _____ prompts.

_____ for the prompt.

Be _____ to it, even if it _____ you.

[illegible]

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Share your name and answer the following question:
 - What prompts do you use most often to give you reminders? (Examples: post-it notes, alarm clock, calendar, phone apps, signs)
2. What most challenged or inspired you from Sunday's message?
3. Read Joshua 4:1-7. God used stones as both a reminder of His faithfulness and to inspire future obedience.
 - What people, places, or events has God used to remind you of His faithfulness?
 - Who or what has God used to prompt you toward obedience?
4. What are some helpful reminders we can set up today to inspire future obedience in our life and future generations?
5. Drew shared in his message that "The church thrives when we are contributors, not consumers."
 - Where do you need to contribute to helping build the church?
6. Drew challenged us to "Be obedient, even if it scares you."
 - Where is God prompting you to obey that you are scared to follow?



Visit NorthridgeRochester.com/GainingGround for more information.