



Membership Class

LTCF Mission: Making Disciples!

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
– *Matthew 28:18-20*

*What is a disciple? A **disciple** is a **learner** and **follower**;* and making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ is the great honor and privilege of the church.

AGENDA

- INTRODUCTIONS/FELLOWSHIP
- WHY GO TO CHURCH?
- WHY JOIN A CHURCH?
- LIVING TRUTH DISTINCTIVES/BELIEFS/PRACTICES
 - A. Membership decision is a shared decision
 - B. Leadership structure (Elder governance)
 - C. Statement of Purpose
 - D. Doctrinal Statement
 - E. Baptism (sign ups)

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES WITHIN THE CHURCH

- Donald S. Whitney

Why Go to Church?

1. Going to church is a biblical commandment for all Christians

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching". (Hebrews 10:24-25)

2. Going to church helps prevent backsliding and apostasy

If you can miss church and not “miss” church, then something is absent from your heart and faith.

3. Going to church brings spiritual fellowship and encouragement

"Let us not give up meeting together but let us encourage one another". (Hebrews 10:25)

4. Going to church expresses obedience to the greatest commandment

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength". (Mark 12:28-30)

5. Going to church follows Jesus' example

"And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day". (Luke 4:16)

6. Going to church is a testimony of support for God's work in the world

"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad". (Matthew 12:30)

7. Going to church enables you to hear in person the preaching of God's word

8. Going to church enables you to experience special blessings from God

"Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.... For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged". (I Corinthians 14:26,31)

10. Going to church helps prevent an unbalanced Christian life

Not going to church is one indication of not being in God's family

Other considerations regarding church attendance..

Going to church does not make you a Christian

Not going to church is willful disobedience to the authority of God

No church will be perfect or free from offensive things

Why join a church?

1. You prove that you're not ashamed to identify with Christ or His people.

“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels”.

(Mark 8:38)

2. You place yourself in the vulnerable and humble position of accountability in your walk of faith.

3. You participate in a stronger, more unified effort of God's people.

4. You have a greater opportunity to use your spiritual gift.

5. You openly demonstrate the reality of the body of Christ.

6. You become a part of a more balanced ministry.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ut speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love”.

(Ephesians 4:11-16)

7. You encourage new believers to commitment to the local body of Christ.

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching".

(Hebrews 10:24-25)

8. You encourage a ministry when you consider it faithful and join it.

Staff and Leaders

PASTORAL STAFF

Senior Pastor:	Michael Lantz
Assistant Pastor:	Mel Campbell
Youth Pastor:	Brian Richards

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

College-Young Adults:	Mike Osadchuck
Children's Ministry:	Trish Campbell
Ministry Coordinator: (Special Events/Outreach)	Cindy Ricke, April Bowen

MINISTRY LEADERS

Men:	John Ferguson
Women:	Linn Pronio
Worship:	Kris Vanhook (Wednesdays)
Children (Assistant):	April Bowen
Evangelism:	Denise Pinckney
Missions:	Dan Varney
Prayer Chain:	Lisa Labine

ADMINISTRATION

Office Manager:	Cindy Ricke
Office Support:	Alyce Jackson
Graphics/Bulletin:	Brenda Lantz
Sound Technician:	Josiah Wiswell
CD Ministry Support:	Rebeca Santa Cruz
Radio Ministry Support:	Oscar Santa Cruz
Web-site:	Don Martin
Facilities & Grounds:	Don Ricke, Dan Varney, Byron Prewett

ELDERS:

Mike Rizzi	(Chairman, Youth, Small Groups)
Scott Arnold	(Treasurer, Men's ministry, Prayer)
Sam Arrietta	(Worship, building/building projects)
Sam Cayton	(Children's ministry, Missions, Outreach)
Kris Vanhook	(Counseling, Deacons, Event/Activity scheduling)
Mel Campbell	(Secretary, College/Young Adult ministry, Website)
Michael Lantz	(Women's ministry, Radio ministry, Evangelism)

*There are many other wonderful, devoted leaders at Living Truth not listed here

Living Truth Christian Fellowship
Statement of Purpose

I. Know God intimately

- A. Teaching the truth about God, man and the Bible with clarity, in order that the saint of God would be equipped and disciplined towards full maturity in the faith.

- verse by verse
- chapter by chapter
- book by book

} ...the whole council of God

Matt 28:18-20; Eph 4:11-16; John 8:31-32; Acts 20:27; Heb 13:20-21;
Phil 3:12-14

- B. Glorifying Him with a thankful heart (praise-filled worship!)

John 4:23-24; Col 3:17; I Cor 10:31; Mk 12:29-31; Rom 12:1-2

- C. Glorifying Him with a humble/submissive heart (willing obedience!)

John 14:7; John 14:17; 1 John 2:3-4; Philippians 3:1-11
John 4:23-24; Col 3:17; I Cor 10:31; Mk 12:29-31; Rom 12:1-2

II. Love God passionately

- A. To know God is to Love Him! See purpose I !

- B. Love God and one another in unity

John 17:20-23; Ps 133:1; Phil 2:1-8; Matt 22:36-40; John 13:34-35;
Col 3:12-17; Eph 4:1-6

III. Serve God selflessly

Knowing God intimately, and Loving God leads to serving God by...

- A. serving the body of Christ and the community at large

I Tim 5:3-8; James 1:22-27; Rom 12:1-2; John 13:4-17; Lk 10:30-37

- B. To seek to save the lost through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ
Lk 19:10; John 3:16; John 14:6; Acts 4:20; Acts 1:8; Rom 1:16,17;
Rom 10:13-15; I Cor. 1:23,24; I Cor. 9:16; I Pet 3:18

Living Truth Christian Fellowship
Statement of Doctrine

1. We believe that the Bible (Old and New Testament) is the inspired Word of God, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts, a complete and final revelation of God. (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:160; Hebrews 1:1-2, Proverbs 30:5**)
2. We believe that there is One Living and True God who is personal and knowable. He is sovereign, Creator of all things, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and perfect in all His attributes. Within the Nature of the One True God, there simultaneously exist three Eternal Persons, namely God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three Persons are Co-equal in all the attributes of the Divine Nature (**Isaiah 43:10-13, 44:24, 45:11-12; Psalm 139:1-10; Jeremiah 32:17, 27; Exodus 34:6;**
3. **Deut. 32:4; Psalm 90:2 John 6:27; 1 John 5:20; Acts 5:3-4; Luke 3:21-22).**
 - a. The Trinity - We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these three persons (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) are co-equal in every divine perfection; and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption (**Deuteronomy. 6:4, Isaiah 48:16-17, Matt 28:19, 2 Cor 13:14**).
 - b. God, the Father - We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and life. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully with the affairs of men; that He hears and answers our prayers; and that He saves from eternal damnation all men who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ (**John 4:24; 3:16-17**).
 - c. God, the Son, Jesus Christ - We believe in Jesus Christ, fully God, fully man, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary, atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and His personal and visible return (**Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14; 8:58; Acts 1:9-11; I Corinthians 15:3-6; II Corinthians 5:21; I John 1:7; I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Hebrews 7:25**).
 - d. God, the Holy Spirit - We believe in the Holy Spirit who was sent from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, and to generate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is their abiding helper, guide, teacher, seal, author and interpreter of the Word (**John 16:8-11; 16:13-15; John 15:26, Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14**).
4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh (fully man and fully God).
5. He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Creator of all things, virgin born, sinless, and the only Savior of mankind. (**John 1:1-3, 14; Hebrews 2:17-18; John 8:58, 10:30; 14:6,9; Colossians 1:15-19, 2:9; Luke 1:26-35; 2 Corinthians 5:21**).
6. We believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and paid the penalty for our sins with His blood. He was buried, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended to heaven. (**Romans 5:6-9; 1 Peter 3:18; Luke 24:36-43; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9-11**).
7. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells and seals every believer at the moment of salvation. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and that the Biblical gifts of the Spirit are available to believers today. We believe the Holy Spirit came to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all believers for witnessing and ministry. (**John**

14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:4-8; John 16:7-11; John 3:3-8; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 1:4-8)

8. We believe that sin is falling short of God's divine standard and that sin separates man from God. **(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)**
9. We believe that everyone is a sinner by nature, guilty before God, deserving of judgment, and in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. **(Romans 3:9-26; Romans 5:12-21; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Psalm 51:5)**
10. We believe that Hell is a place of eternal punishment for the unbeliever, and that Heaven is a place of eternal blessedness for the believer. **(Rev. 20:10-22:5; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10)**
11. We believe that salvation from sin is by God's grace through faith, is not earned or deserved, and is based upon the work of Jesus Christ alone. **(Ephesians 2:8-10; John 6:39; Eph. 1:13-14; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)**
12. We believe that saving faith requires repentance and will result in a pattern of good works in the believer's life. **(Acts 3:19, 17:30-31, 26:20; James 2:14-26; 1 John 2:3-6)**
13. We believe that Jesus Christ will visibly return to earth, in the same manner in which He ascended, to establish His millennial kingdom. **(Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 21-31; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6)**