

# **WELCOME TO MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

## **DISCOVERING LIFESPING CHURCH**

We're glad you have chosen to find out more about LifeSpring Church! This class provides the basic introduction to our church family. The session is designed to clearly explain who we are and why we exist as a church.

### **THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS**

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..." Ephesians 2:19 ESV

### **KEY TRUTHS**

1. The church is a family. (Galatians 6:10)
2. God expects you to be a member of a church family. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
3. A Christian without a church family is an orphan.

### **THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS**

I will commit myself to Christ and, if God leads, to LifeSpring Church.

## **CLASS OUTLINE**

### **UNIT ONE: Our Salvation**

- What it Means to be a Christian
- The Symbols of Salvation: Baptism & the Lord's Supper

### **UNIT TWO: Our Visions & Values**

- Our Purpose and Vision Statements
- Our Faith Statement

### **UNIT THREE: The LifeSpring Strategy & Function**

- Circles of Commitment
- How LifeSpring Functions
- Our Beginning and Affiliation
- What it Means to be a Member: Our Covenant



## UNIT ONE

### OUR SALVATION

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV

#### What does it mean to be a Christian?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing *why*. They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or what God's purpose is for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, "What is the meaning of my life?"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ...Some look for happiness by acquiring POSSESSIONS
- ...Some look for happiness by experiencing PLEASURE.
- ...Some look for happiness by gaining prestige and POWER.

But real happiness comes from understanding my PURPOSE

#### I. Why Am I Here?

1. God made me to LOVE me!

God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love!" Jeremiah 31:3

"For he chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves."  
Ephesians 1:4-6

2. We were created to ENJOY a personal relationship with God and to MANAGE all of the rest of God's creation! This makes us special!

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:27-28

"Command 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." 1 Timothy 6:17

[Jesus said,] "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
John 10:10

3. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives it produces tremendous **BENEFITS** in our life.

|                                      |                                 |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Clear Conscience<br>Romans 8:1       | Life & Peace<br>Romans 8:6      | Help with Weakness<br>Romans 8:26 |
| Purpose<br>Romans 8:28               | Confidence<br>Romans 8:31       | Security<br>Romans 8:39           |
| Power & Strength<br>Philippians 4:13 | Fulfillment<br>Philippians 4:19 | Freedom<br>John 8:32, 36          |

**This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live.**

**Why then aren't most people really happy?**

## **II. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?**

1. Man has a natural desire to **BE BOSS** and to ignore God's principles for living.

"Look out for #1. Do your own thing."

"If it feels good, do it—regardless of what God says about it."

"It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

The Bible calls this attitude **SIN**.

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way."  
Isaiah 53:6

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."  
1 John 1:8

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:2

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23

When our relationship with God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives – marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

## **WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.**

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."  
Proverbs 16:25

Even when we know that our deepest need is God we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him: "My mother was a Christian so..."

"It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere."

"I'll give up all my bad habits."

"I'll work hard and earn it."

"I'll be religious and go to church."

### III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Jesus Christ said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a [PERSON](#)!

#### JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM!

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

God did this for us because ***He loves us and wants us to know Him.***

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men..." 1 Tim. 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

### IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. [ADMIT](#) that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. [BELIEVE](#) that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on Easter, and is alive today.

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'" Acts 16:31

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

3. [ACCEPT](#) God's free gift of salvation. ***Don't try to earn it.***

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

"he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his

mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,” Titus 3:5-6

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus *already did for us!*

4. [INVITE](#) Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (Lord) of your life.

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” John 1:12-13

YOU CAN AFFIRM THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:

*“Dear God, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I have ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life, and I need the forgiveness and salvation that only can come because Christ died on the cross as a perfect sacrifice for me. I now repent of my sins and trust in Christ alone for eternal life. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I will follow you all the days of my life.”*

**“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

### I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by [JESUS](#).

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ [COMMANDS](#) it.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a [BELIEVER](#).

“...many of the [people] who heard Him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8

“We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands.” 1 John 2:3

## II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ's [BURIAL](#) and resurrection.

"...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"...having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead." Colossians 2:12



2. It illustrates my [NEW LIFE](#) as a Christian.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9.

## III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because [JESUS](#) was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

2. Every baptism in the [BIBLE](#) was by immersion.

"...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39

3. The word "baptize" means "to [DIP UNDER](#) water."  
The Greek word *baptizo* means, "to immerse or dip under water."

4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

The founders of denominations agree:

*"I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."* " Martin Luther

*"The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."* John Calvin

*"Buried with Him alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."* John Wesley

#### IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has [BELIEVED](#) in Christ.

"Those who accepted His message were baptized..." Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized." Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your *personal* commitment to Christ.

At LifeSpring, it is a **membership requirement** that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many formerly were christened or baptized as infants. We wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before they are baptized. If you have been baptized as a believer by immersion in a Bible-teaching church, you do not have to be re-baptized to join LSC.

We do offer an opportunity for parents to dedicate themselves and their babies to the Lord in a special *Parent-Baby Dedication* ceremony offered twice a year in the fall and spring. This dedication is an opportunity for parents who are members of LSC to commit themselves to nurture their child in the faith. This is available for children under the age of two by registering with our Children's Ministry department.

#### V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE [BELIEVED](#)!

“Those who accepted his message were baptized...*that day*.” Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

*There is no reason to delay.* As soon as you have decided to receive Christ in your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you’ll never feel good enough! LSC usually baptizes monthly. It also conducts a large outdoor baptismal service at a nearby lake each summer.

#### **VI. CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?**

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Elementary-aged children are required to attend a four-week “I’m a Christian Now Class” prior to their baptism.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting for other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays *your* obedience.

#### **VII. WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?**

You may wear a dark t-shirt and shorts.

#### **VIII. WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?**

Prior to your being baptized, a pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will be introduced and given an opportunity to verbalize your confession. Most people simply respond, “Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord.” As an alternative, the person baptizing may ask you to respond with a “Yes” or “I do” to some brief statements of faith.

The person baptizing will briefly lower you just under the water. After you are baptized, you may exit, dry off, and watch the others. We encourage you to invite all of your family and friends to attend your baptism. You will receive a certificate of baptism to commemorate this special event.

Special needs? Set up an appointment to talk with a pastor about any special needs you might have regarding baptism.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Adults and teens should read over our baptismal brochure online (under “Next Step”) This brochure explains the process for scheduling your baptism and includes the requirements: 1) completing the online “Superform” which includes a brief personal testimony and 2) completing the “Beginning Steps” booklet.

## THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth, but He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

### I. WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER?

1. It is a SIMPLE ACT.

“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread...” 1 Corinthians 11:23

2. It is a REMINDER.

“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’” 1 Corinthians 11:24

3. It is a SYMBOL.

“In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’” 1 Corinthians 11:25

4. It is a STATEMENT OF FAITH.

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” 1 Corinthians 11:26

### II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER?

Only those who are already BAPTIZED BELIEVERS. (Mark 14:22-26)

“For anyone who eats and drinks *without recognizing the body of the Lord* eats and drinks judgment on himself.” 1 Corinthians 11:29



### III. HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD’S SUPPER

“Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an *unworthy manner* will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to *examine himself* before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.”

1 Corinthians 11:27-28

By...

Self-examination  
1 Corinthians 11:27

Confession  
1 John 1:9

Recommitment  
Romans 12:1

Reconciliation  
Matthew 5:23-24

### IV. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD’S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord’s Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night. LSC normally observes it on the second Sunday of each month.

## UNIT TWO

### Vision & Values

**We have a big vision:** “To reach our neighbors and the nations of the world with the good news of Jesus Christ.” This vision shapes all that we do:

- We are a church of **LIFE GROUPS**: Both students and adults meet in small groups for fellowship, Bible study, outreach, and ministry. Most meet in homes in neighborhoods all over the metropolitan area.
- We are a **MULTI-SITE** church: LSC has several campuses that have the feel of individual congregations but are all part of one church with one set of pastors, one budget, and one Board.
- We are a **REPRODUCING** church: one that starts new churches locally and globally. LSC has helped planted churches in the Omaha area and in Africa.
- We are a **MISSIONAL** church: one that raises up missionaries, sends individuals on short term mission projects, and supports 10,000+ missionaries through the Cooperative Program.

**We have a compelling mission:** “To lead individuals to become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.” We do this through worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. (We worship; we connect; we grow; we serve, and we invite.)

**We have guiding core values:**

**Growth** – We expect our church to grow through evangelism (producing *more* believers) and discipleship (producing *mature* believers). We value people both *declaring* their faith and *deepening* their faith.

**Ministry to Children** – Ministry to children and teens is a top priority for budget, space, and programming. Why? These are the age groups most likely, statistically, to become followers of Christ—and yet they are the least reached. In addition, God has planted us in an area dominated by families with children.

**Relevance** – We will be progressive, practical, and relevant in all we do. We will not fear culture but seek to redeem it. Teaching and preaching will focus on application for daily life and will lead people to be “doers of the word, not merely hearers.”

**Biblical Authority** – We value the Bible as the inspired and ultimate source of authority for doctrine, teaching, and the Christian life.

**Loving Acceptance** – We desire to be a grace-giving, affirming, and loving church--giving people time to mature into Christlikeness.

**Pioneering Spirit** – We are not afraid to try something new. We value attempting great things for God, even if it requires flexibility, change, and sacrifice.

**Authenticity** – We value pastors and people who are transparent and authentic.

**Service** – We expect all members to serve. We value lay ministry and believe that every member should have a job for God. We also value “new blood” and encourage new members to serve immediately and become leaders. We desire to be known as a church that reaches out to our community by meeting their spiritual and physical needs.

**Excellence** – We will not attempt to do all things, but what we do, we will do with excellence for the glory of God.

## OUR PRIORITIES

**Community** – Participating in small groups for fellowship, friendships, support, Bible study, and service.

**Celebration** – Gathering weekly to worship God with his people.

**Contribution** – Contributing time, talents, and income to further the mission and ministries of the church.

The Great Commandment: “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

The Great Commission: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20

- To “Love God with all your heart” is to
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is
- To “Go...and make disciples” is
- To “Baptize...” is to incorporate into
- To “Teach them...all things” is

**WORSHIP.**  
**MINISTRY.**  
**EVANGELISM.**  
**FELLOWSHIP.**  
**DISCIPLESHIP.**



## I. WE EXIST TO EXALT GOD: WORSHIP

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” Matthew 4:10

“...the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24

There are many expressions of worship; it is more than simply singing.

### Expressions of Worship

Singing (Ephesians 5:19)

Commitment (Romans 12:1-2)

Praying (Psalm 95:6)

Hearing the Word (John 17:17)

Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

Baptism (Romans 6:3-4)

Meditating (Habakkuk 2:20)

The Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

## II. WE EXIST TO SHARE THE GOSPEL: EVANGELISM

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...” Ephesians 3:10

“...for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Romans 10:13-14

## WHY WE MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

### 1. Because [GOD LOVES PEOPLE](#).

“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

2 Corinthians 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matthew 9:12-13

### 2. Because [GOD COMMANDS US TO](#).

“...Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.” Luke 14:23

“...you will be my witnesses...” Acts 1:8

3. Because [IT'S GOD'S WILL.](#)

"...the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow." Colossians 2:19

"...I will build My church..." Matthew 16:18

Unbiblical excuses for not growing

- "God isn't interested in numbers."
- "Our church wants quality not quantity."
- "Large churches are impersonal."

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

### III. WE EXIST TO BUILDUP BELIEVERS: DISCIPLESHIP

The heartbeat of LifeSpring Church is our [SMALL GROUPS](#), called [LIFEGROUPS](#).

- ***Every member needs to be a part of one.***

"Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity..." Hebrews 6:1

"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"It was He who gave...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13

- ***Every member is a disciple.***
- ***Every member is a disciple-maker.***
- ***Every member has a job for [God](#). We desire a 0% "unemployment rate".***

### IV. WE EXIST TO SERVE LIKE JESUS: MINISTRY

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35

1 John 3:16-17; Matthew 25:34-40; Hebrews 13:16; Romans 12:13

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27



## **V. WE EXIST TO “DO” LIFE TOGETHER: FELLOWSHIP**

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

## **OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

In essential beliefs: WE HAVE [UNITY](#).

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs: WE HAVE [FREEDOM](#).

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

In all our beliefs: WE SHOW [LOVE](#).

“...If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2

# **THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE**

## **1. ABOUT GOD**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

## **2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus was virgin born, lived a sinless human life, and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

## **3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His daily control.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18.

## **4. ABOUT THE BIBLE**

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 12:6, 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5

## **5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS**

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

## **6. ABOUT SALVATION**

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his/her life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 1:12, 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1.

## **7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY**

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the efforts of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5.

## **8. ABOUT ETERNITY**

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

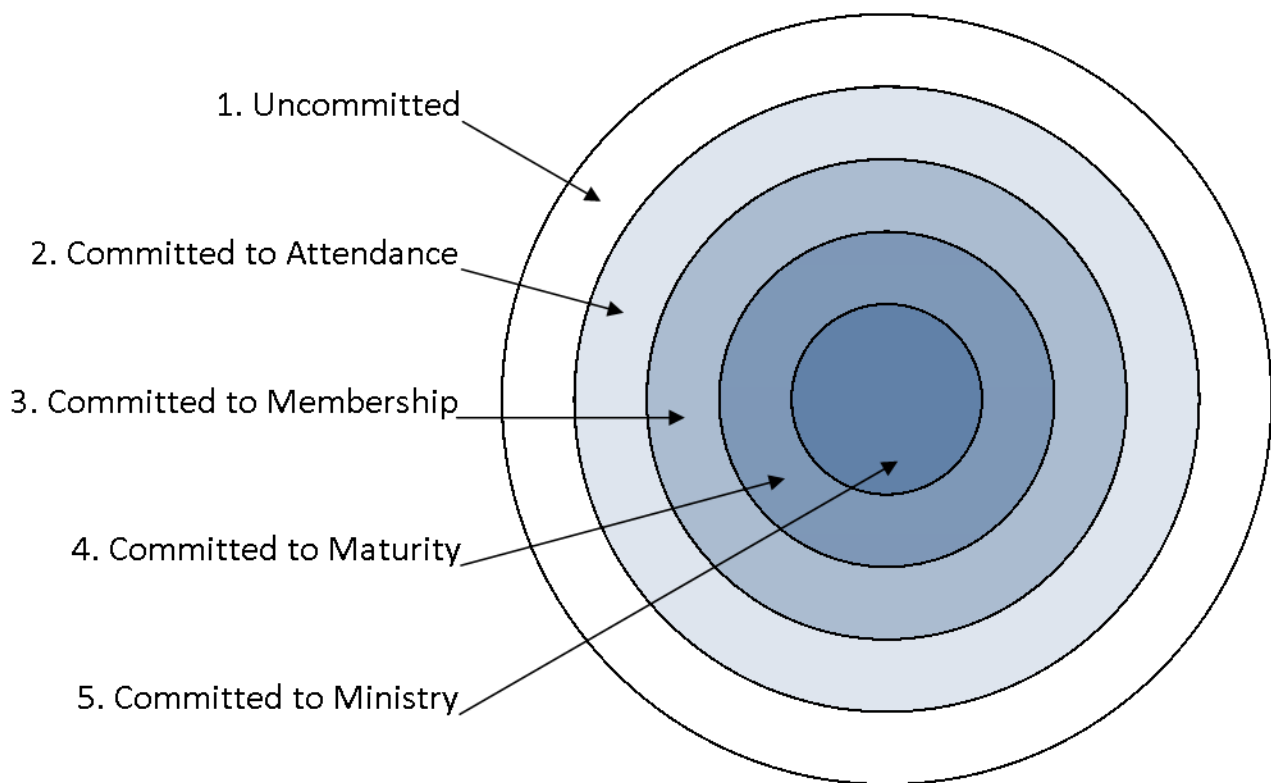


## UNIT THREE

### THE LIFSPRING STRATEGY & STRUCTURE

(Paul) "...I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel..." 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

#### FIVE CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



LifeSpring's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging spiritual growth through relationships: **gathering** for worship, **growing** together in LifeGroups, and **going** to serve and share.

#### WHAT WE EXPECT MEMBERS TO DO FOR ASSIMILATION AND TRANSFORMATION:

**Gather** for Worship

**Grow** Together in LifeGroups

**Go** to Serve and Share

## FUNCTION

### How our church functions

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

### THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE

#### I. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship...” Acts 2:42

A top priority in fellowship is HARMONY and UNITY.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”  
Ephesians 4:3

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” Romans 14:19

ANY attitude that causes DISUNITY is sin.

Colossians 2:2, 3:13-15; 1 Corinthians 1:10, 14:33; 2 Timothy 2:14, 2:23; Psalm 17:14, 133:1; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3, 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:16-18, 15:5-6

IMPLICATION: A GOOD STRUCTURE PROMOTES UNITY AND DOWNPLAYS DIFFERENCES.

“...for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...”  
1 Corinthians 11:17-18

“Voting” tends to CREATE DIVISION.

At LifeSpring Church, we only vote on major things like:

- Annual budget & legal issues
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Calling pastoral staff members
- Changes in the church constitution
- Deacon election
- Board members



At LifeSpring Church, we do not vote on:

- Activities and programs
- Beginning new ministries, groups or worship services
- Changes in organization
- Meeting times or room assignments.

**Does this structure mean that the pastors, board, or leaders “run the show”?**

No. Input from the congregation is sought for every major proposed change.

However, at LifeSpring Church, leaders are encouraged to *lead*—both under the oversight of the pastors and in communication with the leadership team.

## II. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY.

“Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.” 1 Peter 3:8

Galatians 6:10, Hebrews 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters...” 1 Timothy 5:1-2

“[A pastor] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)” 1 Timothy 3:4-5

## III. THE CHURCH IS A BODY.

1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23, Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a body - not a business!

We are an organism—not an organization!

THEREFORE, WE FUNCTION ON THE BASIS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS, not ELECTED OFFICE.

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” Romans 12:4-6

In an organization maintenance becomes the focus; however in an organism, ministry is the focus. At LifeSpring Church we have a simple structure so we can maximize ministry AND minimize maintenance.

“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13

- The pastors are the EQUIPPING LEADERS.

The people are the MINISTERS.

Currently there are dozens of different ministries in our church. Each is led and conducted by members.

This structure has several implications for the body:

- Pastoral care: Pastoral care is primarily conducted through our LifeGroups. Group members pray for each other, help each other, visit each other in the hospital, provide meals when there is a need, and carry out ministry projects to the community together.
- Outreach: The members of our church are the primary outreach agents. Because of our size and schedule demands, the pastors see only a small portion of those who visit us. That means that we rely on our **members** for the vast majority of our outreach efforts.

#### IV. THE CHURCH IS A FLOCK.

(Jesus' favorite description of the Church)

Matthew 25:33, 26:31, John 10:1-30

THEREFORE IT IS CARED FOR AND LED BY SHEPHERDS.

"Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love Me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love You. Jesus said, "Take care of My sheep." John 21:16

Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

*poimen*: pastor/shepherd

*presbuteros*: elder

*episcopos*: overseer/bishop

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers..."

1 Peter 5:1-2

"Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: '...Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.'"

Acts 20:17-18, 28



At LifeSpring Church, the pastors serve as the elders of the church. The Lead Pastor casts the vision and provides direction for the other pastors. Together they lead and equip the body.

LSC operates as a “pastor-led” church. However, the pastors willingly seek accountability and governance from the Board and the Finance Team.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

**The Board:** Lay members who provide governance for our buildings, property, insurance, banking, and personnel. They are the legal officers of the church.

**Finance Team:** Lay members who serve as a monthly audit committee to review the budget, monthly financial reports, spending requests, and bank balances. Preparing the annual budget, they report to the Board.

**Deacons:** Mature men who have been tested and set apart to serve the congregation in times of need. The pastors can count on the support and counsel of the deacons for spiritual accountability.

**Constitution and Bylaws:** Legal documents necessary for incorporation and proper operation of the church. These are available on the website, as well as the names and contact information of our Board and Finance Team.

### **REGARDING CHILDREN, TEENS, AND TEACHING**

1. Parents of preschoolers are required to volunteer one session per month in the Heavenly Harbor: one parent, one hour per month on Sunday Morning. If we do not have the help of parents, we cannot keep classrooms open.
2. Children must be supervised at all times when in the building. When parents are at meetings, etc., children must be with their parents or in an approved childcare session.
3. Preschoolers, children, and teens must attend their age-appropriate classes. It creates many problems when children or teens are allowed to attend an older class or join their parents in an adult group. Teens 14 and above may serve as workers in a Children’s Sunday School Class. Teens 18 and above may serve as workers in preschool classes. However, all teens must fill out a form, be approved, and be trained to work in children’s and preschool classrooms. In addition, they must attend worship weekly and be involved in a LifeGroup. (In other words, they can’t volunteer to serve in Sunday School in order to avoid being in a LifeGroup of their own. We think that it is crucial for teens to be in a small group where they can make friends, receive biblical teaching, and participate in ministry projects.)
4. Wednesday evening children’s workers must be high school age or older.
5. All teachers (Sunday School, Adult and Student LifeGroups, Life Classes, etc.) must be members of LSC. This is important for safeguarding doctrine and unity, as well as for legal reasons.

## **OUR BEGINNING AND AFFILIATION**

LifeSpring Church, first called “West Bellevue Baptist Church,” began in November, 1986 as a mission of First Baptist Church of Bellevue. The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention provided financial support to help us get started. After many struggles, the church constituted in March, 1993 with a charter membership of 92 people. LifeSpring built its first building in 1997 with the help of hundreds of volunteers from several states. It completed its second phase in 2004. Two other phases are part of the campus master plan.

LifeSpring moved to the model of multiple sites and services early in its history. Beginning in 1996, members met on Sundays in three rented facilities simultaneously and had other ministries in homes. Currently, as it was when the church had no building of its own, LifeSpring members still meet in homes and venues off-campus. We simply can never build enough buildings to house every LifeGroup on campus. We, instead, prioritize keeping children and teens on campus and ask adults to be flexible by doing LifeGroup study in homes. We don’t see this as an inconvenience, but an opportunity to infiltrate the community with small groups and worship venues—just like the early church.

### **What is the Southern Baptist Convention?**

- It is the largest association of Christian churches in America.

One out of every ten churches in America is affiliated with the SBC. The convention is made up of 15 million members in about 50,000 SBC churches.

- It is the most diverse of denominations.

SBC churches include every race, nationality, and ethnic group. Each Sunday services are held in over 80 languages in the United States. One out of every three blacks in the United States is a Southern Baptist. The Eastern Nebraska Baptist Association includes more than 40 churches. The Kansas Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists consists of about 400 cooperating churches.

- It is one of the fastest growing groups. On average, SBC churches baptize one new believer every 45 seconds and begin four new churches each day!

### **Why not just be an independent church?**

We *are* like an independent church! Every SBC church is completely autonomous. There is no denominational control or hierarchy as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example,

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor.
- Every SBC church owns its own building and assets.
- Every SBC church determines its own programs.

## **What are the advantages of affiliating with the SBC?**

1. It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made “creed.” The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC Cooperative Program we help support over 10,000 missionaries in more than 100 countries around the world. Part of each weekend offering is designated for the Cooperative Program. This money is sent to the Kansas/Nebraska Convention to support state missionaries. From there, the rest of the funds are forwarded to the SBC for North American and International missions, as well as the six SBC seminaries.

## **THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP**

The difference between “attendees” and “members” can be summed up in one word: commitment. At LifeSpring Church, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

- A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

“...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...” Ephesians 5:25

- A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers.” Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

- A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every branch of the military has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

- A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christian to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.



## **What is expected of me as a member?**

At LifeSpring Church we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant.

## THE LIFESPRING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, having been baptized, and being in agreement with LifeSpring Church's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the LSC church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to strive to do the following:

### 1. I will protect the unity of my church by...

- acting in love toward other members.
- refusing to gossip.
- upholding the elected and/or appointed leaders.
- Praying for each other faithfully.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." Hebrews 13:17

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

### 2. I will share the responsibility of my church by...

- praying for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
- inviting the unchurched to attend.
- readily receiving those who visit.
- seeking ways to share my faith.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

“Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.”  
Matthew 22:9

“He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me.” Matthew 10:40

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15

### **3. I will serve in ministry as led by God by...**

- discovering my spiritual gifts.
- developing my gifts through training.
- using my gifts in a ministry.
- serving those whom God places in my daily path.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:4

“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God...” 2 Timothy 1:6

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”  
2 Corinthians 9:12

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning...” Luke 12:35

### **4. I will uphold the integrity of my church by...**

- attending faithfully.
- living a godly life.
- giving regularly.
- honoring God in my home, family, and marriage.

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...” Hebrews 10:25

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27

“...—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

“...But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15

## **I Am a Church Member**

### **I am a church member.**

I will seek to be a source of unity in the church. I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church members. But neither am I. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God's power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel.

### **I am a church member.**

I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that are just not my preference or style.

### **I am a church member.**

I will pray for my pastor every day. His work is never-ending. His days are filled with constant demands for his time; with the need to prepare sermons; with those who are rejoicing in births; with those who are traveling through the valley of the shadow of death; with critics; with the hurts and hopes of others; and with the need to be a husband and a father. My pastor cannot serve our church in his own power. I will pray for God's strength for him and his family every day.

### **I am a church member.**

I like the metaphor of membership. It's not membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It's the kind of membership given to us in 1 Corinthians 12: "Now you are the body of Christ and individual members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an "eye," an "ear," or a "hand." As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that "*if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it*" (1 Corinthians 12:26).

### **I am a church member.**

I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church, because He gave His life for her.

### **I am a church member.**

This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ. I soon thereafter identified with a local body and was baptized. And now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others, and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member.

### **I am a church member.**

### **And I thank God that I am.**

*By Dr. Thom Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources*

## Meet Our Lead Pastor Steve Holdaway

### Background and Family

Steve was born in Wichita, Kansas and grew up primarily in the Midwest.

Steve married Susan in May 1981 after the two met at Baylor University. Steve and Susan have four children: Matthew, Emily, Micah, and Elise.

### Education

Doctor of Ministry, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Master of Divinity, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Bachelor of Arts, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

### Current Ministry

Lead Pastor, LifeSpring Church, since 1993  
Trustee, North American Mission Board  
Steve has a passion to lead LifeSpring Church to be biblical, balanced, and missional. His vision is to equip people to reach their neighbors and the nations for Christ.

### Former Ministry

Church Planter Strategist, St. Louis, MO  
Pastor, St. Louis, MO  
Assoc. Pastor, First Baptist Church, DeQueen, AR  
Former President, Kansas/Nebraska Convention

### Favorite Books

The Sacred Romance, by John Eldredge  
The Call, by Os Guinness  
Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, by Jim Cymbala  
Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ, by John Piper

### Favorite Movies

The Bourne Trilogy  
Slumdog Millionaire  
Lincoln

### Favorite TV Shows

National Geographic Channel  
Seinfeld reruns

### Favorite Musicians

Phillips, Craig, and Dean  
James Taylor  
Casting Crowns  
Switchfoot

### Hobbies

Outdoor sports: bow hunting, fishing, biking, hiking  
Working out  
Mission projects in Africa

Email Pastor Steve at [sholdaway@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:sholdaway@lifespringchurch.com)



## Meet Our Discipleship and Administration Pastor Steve Hicks

### Background and Family

Steve was born and grew up in Omaha and graduated from Omaha South High. Steve married Paula in May, 1977 after the two met at Faith Baptist Bible College. Steve and Paula have two children; Andrea and Josh, and son-in-law, Bryan. Olivia is their beautiful granddaughter.

### Education

Doctor of Ministry, Leadership, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO  
Master of Divinity, Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, IN  
Bachelor of Arts, Faith Baptist Bible College, Ankeny, IA

### Current Ministry

Discipleship & Administration Pastor, LifeSpring Church, beginning in 2010.

Steve is passionate about helping people become whole-hearted followers of Jesus Christ. His vision is to implement a dynamic Christ-like discipleship strategy that equips and unleashes people at LifeSpring Church to help others become whole-hearted followers of Christ.

### Former Ministries and Career Positions

Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch  
Sales Manager and Agent, New York Life  
Lead Pastor, Berean Church, Broken Bow, NE  
Account Rep; Lincoln Office Equipment, Xerox Corp.  
Pastor, Berean Church, Marysville, KS

### Favorite Books

Real Life Discipleship, Jim Putman  
Following Christ, by Joseph Stowell  
The Mystery of God's Will, by Charles Swindoll  
Real Worship, WW Wiersbe

### Favorite Movie

The Lord of the Rings Series

### Favorite TV Show

Nebraska Cornhuskers Football Games

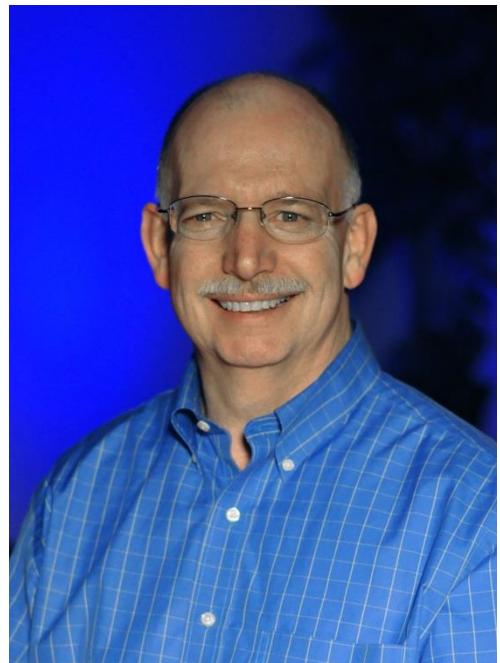
### Favorite Musicians

|                          |                   |                |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Philips, Craig, and Dean | Nicole C. Mullins | Casting Crowns |
| Chris Tomlin             | Martin Luther     |                |

### Hobbies

Outdoor sports: hunting, fishing  
Gardening, Woodworking

Email Pastor Steve at [shicks@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:shicks@lifespringchurch.com)



## Meet Our Worship Arts Pastor

### Jeff Brocaille

#### Background and Family

Jeff is a native of Missouri and has served in worship ministry since 1984. It is with great pleasure that I serve this metro community! LifeSpring Church added me to the team of pastors in June of 2014. Together with my wife, Tammy, four sons and one daughter, we count it an honor to serve the Lord. Jeff enjoys playing basketball and racquetball. He and his wife, Tammy, love the outdoors and are avid walkers.

#### Education

Jeff earned an Associate of Arts degree from Hannibal LaGrange College (1982), a Bachelor of Science in Church Music from William Jewell College (1984), and a Master of Divinity with Church Music Emphasis from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1990).

#### Favorite Books

Experiencing God Day by Day by Henry & Richard Blackaby  
Drawing Near by John MacArthur  
The Heart of the Artist by Rory Noland  
Hearing God by Dallas Willard  
Humility by Andrew Murray  
The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges

#### Favorite Movies

The Ultimate Gift  
First Knight  
Braveheart  
Gladiator  
The Shawshank Redemption  
Star Wars  
The Passion of the Christ

#### Favorite TV Shows

MASH  
The Cosby Show  
Law & Order  
Duck Dynasty

#### Favorite Music

Praise & Worship  
Blues  
Jazz



Email Pastor Jeff at [jbrocaille@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:jbrocaille@lifespringchurch.com)

## Meet Our Student Ministries Pastor

### Ryan Jantz

#### Background and Family

Ryan was born in April 1981 and grew up in Derby, Kansas. Ryan and his wife Ashley first met in their youth group and got married in 2004. They have five beautiful children, Aubrey, Caleb, Grace, Emma and Lilliana. Ryan created the website [www.breakfreeyouthministry.com](http://www.breakfreeyouthministry.com) as a resource for youth pastors and is passionate about seeing students become set free to be Christ followers. Ryan is a big Colorado Avalanche fan and enjoys playing guitar, media and web design, Frisbee golf, gobstoppers, Haruki Murakami novels, Dr. Pepper, and a nice green lawn.

#### Education

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry and Youth Ministry, Tabor College, 2003

#### Favorite Books

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers  
Desiring God by John Piper  
The Supremacy of Christ by Richard Ross  
The Prodigal God by Tim Keller  
The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett

#### Favorite Movies

The Passion of Joan of Arc  
Ordet  
Aguirre  
The Decalogue

#### Favorite TV Shows

Friday Night Lights  
Lost  
Seinfeld

#### Favorite Music

Desperation Band  
Hillsong United  
Anathallo  
David Crowder



Email Pastor Ryan at [rjantz@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:rjantz@lifespringchurch.com)

## Meet Our Student Ministries Pastor

### Eric Turner

#### Background and Family

Eric's life purpose is to use his creativity and enthusiasm to love and encourage all people, with hope that all may become believers who grow into disciples that live on mission for the Kingdom of God. He joined the LifeSpring staff in July of 2014 and serves as the Pastor to our high school and college students. Eric married his high school sweetheart that he met at church camp when they were freshmen in high school. They now have three amazing children. He enjoys playing with his kids, working with his hands, playing the guitar, grilling delicious meats and fantasy football. Eric is a huge fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and Wichita State Shockers.

#### Education

Bachelor degree in Christian Ministry from Tabor College-2007

#### Favorite Books

Dangerous Wonder by Mike Yaconelli  
The Pastor's Justification by Jared Wilson  
Three by Ted Dekker  
A Million Miles in a Thousand Years by Donald Miller  
The Explicit Gospel by Matt Chandler  
The Spirit of the Disciplines by Dallas Willard

#### Favorite Movies

Braveheart  
Memphis Belle  
Christmas Vacation  
Just Friends

#### Favorite TV Shows

The Office  
Duck Dynasty  
Band of Brothers  
Everybody Loves Raymond

#### Favorite Music

Relient K  
Jeremy Camp  
Capital Lights  
Run Kid Run



Email Pastor Eric at [eturner@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:eturner@lifespringchurch.com)

## Meet Our Midtown Campus Pastor

### Michael Lacobee

#### Background and Family

Michael was born and raised, and lived in Springfield, Missouri until July 1, 2013.  
Michael and Heather met at youth group in high school, and married in May 2004.  
Michael and Heather have three beautiful little girls: Adalay, Millie, and Nora.

#### Education

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, Luther Rice University, Atlanta, GA.

#### Current Ministry

Campus Pastor, Life Spring Church – Midtown.

Michael has a great passion and desire to make much of Jesus; leading the lost to Him and the found closer to Him.

#### Favorite Books

Power Through Prayer by *E.M. Bounds*  
They Smell Like Sheep by *Lynn Anderson*  
Real-Life Discipleship by *Jim Putman*  
Orphanology by *Tony Merida*

#### Favorite Movie

Any movie with his girls!

#### Favorite TV Show

Discovery Channel  
Everybody Loves Raymond  
King of Queens

#### Favorite Bands

The Rend Collective Experiment  
Needtobreathe  
The Classic Crime  
Anberlin  
Citizens

#### Hobbies

Hunting  
Music  
Almost anything once



Email Pastor Michael: [mlacobee@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:mlacobee@lifespringchurch.com)

## Meet Our Children's Minister

### Kelly Wallace

#### Background and Family

Kelly was born in San Antonio, TX and traveled to different destinations in the USA and Germany before coming to Bellevue in 1978. Other than two years of living in New Hampshire (1987-1989), Bellevue/Papillion has been her home. In June of 1987, she married Dave. They have four children: James, Matthew, Joel, and Hayley.

#### Education

Kelly attended Bellevue University/Peru State and her future plans include completing a degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education.

#### Experience and Vision for Ministry

Children's ministry at LifeSpring since 2000.  
Director of preschool ministry at another church in town.  
Current VBS consultant for the Kansas/Nebraska Convention. (Her 2008 Vacation Bible School event at LifeSpring was named one of the top 100 VBS programs among large churches in the country.)  
Serves on the Consulting and Children's Resource Team for the Kansas/Nebraska Convention.

Kelly's vision for LifeSpring's children's ministry is to come alongside families with infants through preteens as they nurture and encourage the spiritual development of their children. We do this by: Providing an environment in which our "little ones" build a foundation of faith by hearing about Jesus, God, Church, and Bible. It is our desire for them to feel trust, love, and security as they are cared for and taught.

#### Favorite Books

Captivating, by John and Stasi Eldredge,  
The Yada Yada Prayer Group Series, by Neta Jackson

#### Favorite Movies

Bourne Trilogy  
Catch Me If You Can  
It's a Wonderful Life

#### Favorite Music

Anything from "ABBA"  
Nicole C. Mullins

#### Hobbies

Drinking coffee  
Shopping  
Cross-stitching

#### Favorite TV Shows

Everybody Loves Raymond  
Sports Center  
The O'Reilly Factor

Email Kelly at [kwallace@lifespringchurch.com](mailto:kwallace@lifespringchurch.com)

