



Lake Effect Church

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## Covenant Membership: Statement of Faith

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### Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant. It is the final authority in determining how we live our lives.

[II Timothy 3:16](#); [II Peter 1:20-21](#); [Proverbs 30:5](#); [Romans 16:25-26](#)

### The Trinity

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal.

[I John 5:5-9](#); [Matthew 3:16-17](#); [Luke 1:35](#); [Hebrews 3:7-11](#)

### God the Father

God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, is the creator and sustainer of the Universe and all it contains. He created

the earth, sky, waters, land and every living thing that dwells here. He created all people, both male and female, in His image to have fellowship with Him, but we became alienated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, people are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through our own efforts. But God, the covenant-keeping Father, has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ.

[Genesis 1:1-25](#); [Genesis 1:26-31](#); [Genesis 3:1-7](#); [Romans 5:12-21](#); [Philippians 1:6](#)

### Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, shed His blood and died on the cross, thus atoning for the sins of all those who will receive Him and surrender to Him as Lord. He rose from the dead on the third day,

ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory.

[John 1:1,14](#), [I Timothy 3:16](#); [Isaiah 9:6](#); [Philippians 2:5-6](#); [I Timothy 2:5](#)

### **Virgin Birth**

Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb. He is the Son of God.

[Isaiah 7:14](#), [Matthew 1:18](#), [Matthew 1:25](#), [Luke 1:27-35](#)

### **Blood of Jesus**

The Blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse us of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death.

[1 John 1:7](#); [Revelation 1:5](#), [Revelation 5:9](#); [Colossians 1:20](#); [Romans 3:10-12](#), [23](#), [Romans 5:9](#); [John 1:29](#)

### **Lordship of Jesus**

Christians are people who have acknowledged the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way to be reconciled to God. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to Him, and continually surrender in all areas,

thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as their Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead. We believe all Christians should live for Christ and not for themselves. By obedience to the Word of God and daily yielding to the Spirit of God, every believer should mature and be conformed to the image of Christ.

[John 1:12](#); [John 14:23](#); [John 15:4](#); [Revelations 3:20](#)

### **Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit (described by Jesus as Our Helper) is the third person of the Trinity, equal with the Father and the Son of God. He lives in every believer from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth and guidance, and wisdom in every area of life. He desires to make us supernatural creatures, equipped to do the works of God on Earth. The Holy Spirit, working through humans, is the restraining force of evil on Earth.

[2 Corinthians 3:17](#), [John 16:7-13](#), [John 14:16-17](#), [Acts 1:8](#), [1 Corinthians 2:12](#), [1 Corinthians 3:16](#), [Ephesians 1:13](#), [Galatians 5:25](#), [Ephesians 5:18](#), [Romans 8:11](#)

## Repentance

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ.

[Acts 2:21, 3:19](#), [1 John 1:9](#)

## Sanctification

Sanctification is the ongoing process of obeying God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that a Christian can live a godly life.

[1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23](#); [2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18](#), [Romans 8:29, 12:1-2](#), [Hebrews 2:11](#)

## Baptism in the Holy Spirit

We believe that baptism in the Holy Spirit is a sign given at Pentecost and is still in operation today. It is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His Ascension, to empower the Church to preach the Gospel throughout the whole Earth.

[Joel 2:28-29](#); [Matthew 3:11](#); [Mark 16:17](#); [Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6](#)

## Spiritual Gifts

We believe God has given spiritual gifts to His body in order to equip us for His work on

Earth. The Holy Spirit is in the Earth to manifest these gifts in God's people, from generation to generation. Through a variety of spiritual gifts the Body of Christ is able to build and sanctify the Church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible's lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. We believe that all gifts listed in the Bible are still fully operational and vital for God's work on Earth. All believers possess one or more spiritual gifts and are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. Spiritual gifts must always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of biblical parameters.

[Hebrews 2:4](#); [Romans 1:11, 12 :4-8](#); [Ephesians 4:4,11-16](#); [1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40](#); [1 Peter 4:10](#)

## The Church

We believe that the Church is the Body of Christ, of which Jesus Christ is the head. The members of the Church are those who have trusted by faith the finished work of Christ. The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by loving Him and by making Him known to the lost world. Every person who is born of

the Spirit is an integral part of the Church as a member of the body of believers.

[Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22](#); [Hebrews 12:23](#); [John 17:11, 20-23](#)

## Two Sacraments

### ***Water Baptism:***

While on Earth, Jesus modeled water baptism in His own life. Before ascending into Heaven, He commanded His people to be baptized in water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We, therefore, believe that water baptism is a valid and necessary expression of faith, and should occur once an individual is fully able to understand what baptism means.

[Matthew 3:13-17](#); [Matthew 28:19](#); [Mark 16:16](#); [Acts 2:38](#); [Acts 8:12](#); [Acts 8:36-38](#); [Acts 10:47-48](#)

### ***The Lord's Supper:***

Also known as communion, it is a unique and holy time in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (representing the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross.

[Matthew 26:26-29](#); [1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25](#)

## Marriage:

We believe in the historically Christian view of marriage and sexual expression; namely, that marriage is a one-flesh covenant union between two sexually different persons (genetically male and female) from different families, and that all sexual relationships outside of marriage are sin.

[Matthew 19:4-5](#); [1 Corinthians 7:2-3](#), [Hebrews 13:4](#)

## God's Will for Provision

It is the Father's will for believers to become whole, healthy and successful in all areas of life. But because of the fall, many may not receive the full benefits of God's will while on Earth. That fact, though, should never prevent all believers from seeking the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to better serve others.

***Spiritual Provision:*** [John 3:3-11](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#); [Romans 10:9-10](#)

***Mental and Emotional Provision:*** [2 Timothy 1:7, 2:11](#); [Philippians 4:7-8](#); [Romans 12:2](#); [Isaiah 26:3](#)

***Physical Provision:*** [Isaiah 53:4-5](#); [Matthew 8:17](#); [1 Peter 2:24](#)

***Financial Provision:*** [Joshua 1:8](#); [Malachi 3:10-11](#); [Luke 6:38](#); [2 Corinthians 9:6-10](#); [Deuteronomy 8:18](#); [Deuteronomy 28:1-14](#); [Psalm 34:10, 84:11](#); [Philippians 4:19](#)

## Heaven and Hell Are Real

Human beings are created to exist forever. After physical death, the human spirit is sent to one of two places to live out their eternal existence:

**Heaven** is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of God's forgiveness and salvation, believers will enjoy eternal union with God in Heaven.

[Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34](#); [John 17:24](#); [2 Corinthians 5:1](#); [Hebrews 11:16](#); [1 Peter 1:4](#)

**Hell** was not originally created for human beings, but for Satan and his fallen angels. After humanity sinned and eternally separated themselves from God, hell became established as an eternal dwelling place for unbelievers. After living one life on earth, unbelievers will be judged by God, eternally separated from Him, and sent to hell where they will be forever tormented along with the devil and the fallen angels.

[Matthew 25:41](#); [Mark 9:43-48](#); [John 3:16](#); [Romans 6:23](#); [Hebrews 9:27](#); [1 John 2:25](#); [Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8](#)

## Jesus Will Return

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to Earth for the second time to establish His

Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures.

[Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64](#); [Acts 1:9-11](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:15-17](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:7-8](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:1-3](#); [Revelation 1:7](#)

## Created in God's Image

All humanity is created in the image of God and possesses intrinsic dignity and worth. God made humanity—male and female—in His own image ([Gen. 1:27-30](#)). Set apart as His image bearers, every human being is sacred. All men and all women, bearing the image of God, are meant to represent God in His creation for the purpose of bringing glory to God ([1 Cor. 10:31](#), [Isaiah 43:7](#)). God declares the created order to be very good, distinguishing men and women as His agents to care for, manage and govern over it. They enjoy equal access to God by faith in Christ Jesus and are both called to move beyond passive self-indulgence to significant private and public engagement in family, church and civic life.

[Genesis 9:6](#)

(In addition to this Statement of Faith, Lake Effect Church makes positional papers available on our website:

[LakeEffect.Church](http://LakeEffect.Church))