



LIFE TRACK

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WELCOME TO LIFE TRACK

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Life Church! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have attendees from many different church backgrounds, this class was designed to clearly explain who we are and what we believe.

OUR STORY

BEGINNINGS

Life Church was planted in September of 2000. The first service was held in the Germantown High School auditorium with approximately 35 people in attendance. Those 35 people began to pray and reach their community for Christ. In November of 2002, one hundred people welcomed Pastor Aaron and Tammy Cole to become the Senior Pastors of Life Church. The church began to grow rapidly, and as a result, Life Church expanded its facilities, staff, ministries and services in a renovated leased space.

PRIME PROPERTY

In 2006, Life Church had an incredible opportunity to buy the property that was being leased for \$1.75 million, which was nearly \$2.5 million less than the appraised value. Within 2 years, Life Church had expanded its sanctuary to nearly double the size of the previous sanctuary, and opened a 5,000 square foot Student Center. In May 2013, Life Church expanded its current facilities at the Germantown Campus from 17,000 square feet to 42,000 square feet. This new space would give the ability to reach over 2,000 people on a weekend and see more experience life change in Jesus than ever before.

ONE CHURCH, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

In November of 2013, Life Church announced the launch of an Appleton campus, in early 2014 meeting inside the Marcus theater and was able to move into their current building in 2020. This was the first of a vision to open many campuses. In addition to Appleton, Life Church has a vision to have a campus in the 4 major counties in the greater Milwaukee area.

MILWAUKEE

In January 2018, Pastor Aaron presented a vision to launch efforts to serve the inner-city of Milwaukee and establish a beachhead for our outreach endeavors. Within a few weeks, that vision became a reality. In February 2018, we launched a campus in the heart of Milwaukee. This amazing new facility would serve not only as a building to hold church on the weekends, but also our outreach facility. On Easter of 2018, Robert Bell joined our staff as the Campus Pastor. Today that campus has grown to reach over 200 people on a weekend.

BROOKFIELD

In March 2019, Life Church was given an opportunity to move to the Brookfield area into a 50,000 square foot facility. This facility is equipped with a 400-seat auditorium, a full court gym, plenty of kids classrooms and several rooms for Life Groups and ministries.

OUR PURPOSE

At Life Church, we have this radical belief that life is simply better when we live it ON MISSION with Jesus Christ.

Everyone is welcome here, because everyone MATTERS to God.

OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST

Life Church exists to lead people to experience LIFE CHANGE in Jesus.

OUR VISION: WHAT WE'RE HERE TO ACCOMPLISH

Compelled by our mission our vision is to have greater influence & growth through MULTISITE, MISSIONS, MINISTRY LEADERSHIP, and MANAGING RESOURCES.

OUR VALUES: PROVIDING METHODS FOR OUR MISSION

- Relevant ENVIRONMENTS
- EXCELLENCE in Ministry
- Leadership DEVELOPMENT
- AUTHENTIC Community
- PURPOSE-Driven
- Innovative CREATIVITY
- BIBLICAL Authority
- Family FOCUSED

OUR STRUCTURE

Believers who invest their hearts, time, families and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders who conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives.

SENIOR PASTOR

- A. The **LEADER AND CEO** of Life Church.

Leads the Elder Board, staff, church, and congregation.

- B. Qualifications: Credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- C. Term: **INDEFINITE**, by election of membership and can be terminated by Elder Board and 2/3 vote of membership.

ELDER BOARD

- A. Consists of no less than **4 MEMBERS**.
- B. Role: To **SERVE**, **PROTECT** and **SUPPORT** the Senior Pastor.
- C. Qualifications: Is a member and **LEADER**.

According to 1 Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:2-3

- D. Term: Appointed for a **TWO-YEAR** term and can be reappointed two additional two-year terms.
- E. The Elder Board is **APPOINTED** by the Senior Pastor and the current Elder Board.

STAFF

- A. Life Church is a "**STAFF-LED**" church.
- B. The staff works as an **EXTENSION** of the Senior Pastor and are responsible to the Senior Pastor.

FINANCES

- A. Life Church is supported through TITHE and OFFERING.
- B. Greater – goes to fund missions, outreach, & expansion projects.

AFFILIATION

- A. Life Church is affiliated with the Assemblies of God (www.ag.org)

MEMBERSHIP

A. STANDARDS

1. Christ Follower.
2. Live a Christian lifestyle.
3. Agree with the Life Church doctrine.
4. Be water baptized by immersion.
5. Regularly contribute to the support of the Church with tithes and offerings.
6. Diligence in attending regularly scheduled services and meetings.
7. Actively involved in a Life Group.
8. Serve in a ministry.
9. Complete Life Track.
10. Be at least 18 years of age.

B. PROCESS

1. Complete Life Track.
2. Serve in a ministry for at least 90 days.
3. Fill out a member application and submit for approval.
4. Attend the New Member Banquet

OUR BELIEFS

DOCTRINAL FRAMEWORK

1. In essential beliefs, we have UNITY.

"There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..."

Ephesians 4:4-6

2. In non-essential beliefs, we have LIBERTY.

"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

3. In all our beliefs, we show CHARITY.

"...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains - but have no love, I amount to nothing at all."

1 Corinthians 13:2 (Ph)

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

1. God's WORD

A. The Bible is Inspired – *We believe the scriptures are inspired by God and declare His design and plan for mankind.*

(2 Timothy 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21)

2. God's PERSON

A. One True God – *We believe there is only one true God—revealed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Commonly known as the Trinity).*

(Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10, Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:22)

B. Jesus Christ is Fully God – *We believe In the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. As God's son, Jesus was both human and divine. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God.*

(Matthew 1:23, Hebrews 7:26, Acts 2:22, 1 Corinthians 15:3, Matthew 28:6, Acts 1:9)

3. God's Plan for MAN

- A. The Fall of Man – *We believe though originally good, man willingly fell to sin—ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world.*
(Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12-19)
- B. The Salvation of Man – *We believe every person can have restored fellowship with God through salvation. Salvation is simply accepting Christ's offer of forgiveness for sin.*
(Luke 24:47, John 3:3, Romans 10:13-15, Ephesians 2:8, Titus 2:11-12, Ephesians 4:24)
- C. Sanctification – *We believe that Christ Followers should separate themselves from evil and identify with things that are pure through a process called sanctification.*
(Romans 12:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 13:12, Hebrews 12:14)
- D. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit – *We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a special experience following salvation that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times.*
(Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, Acts 8:12-17, John 7:37-39, Mark 16:20)
- E. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – *We believe that the baptism of Christians in the Holy Spirit is **accompanied by the initial physical sign of speaking in other tongues** (unlearned languages) as the Spirit of God gives them audible expression.*
(Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:4-10)
- F. Divine Healing – *We believe divine healing of the sick is a privilege for Christians today and is provided for in Christ's atonement. His atonement is His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins.* (Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:16-17, James 5:14-16)

4. God's Plan for the CHURCH

- A. The Ordinances of the Church – *We believe Water Baptism by immersion **after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation**, and Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation.*
(Baptism – Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47-48, Romans 6:4)
(Holy Communion – 2 Peter 1:4, 1 Corinthians 11:26)
- B. The Church and Its Mission – *We believe the Church has a mission to seek and save all who are lost in sin. We believe 'the Church' is the body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son, Jesus Christ.*
(Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, Ephesians 1:22-23, Hebrews 12:23)

- C. The Ministry – *We believe a divinely called and scripturally ordained leadership ministry serves the Church. The Bible teaches that each of us under leadership must commit ourselves to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers, and to build up or edify the body of believers—the Church.*

(Mark 16:15-20, John 4:23-24, Ephesians 4:11, 16)

5. God's Plan for ETERNITY

- A. The Blessed Hope – *We believe all Christ Followers who have died will one day rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air. Christ Followers who have not yet died will be raptured or caught up with them, to be with the Lord.*

(Romans 8:23, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Titus 2:13)

- B. The Millennial Reign of Christ – *We believe that the second coming of Christ includes the rapture of all Christ Followers, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for 1000 years.*

(Zechariah 14:5, Matthew 24:27, Revelation 1:7, Ezekiel 37:21-22, Romans 11:26-27, Micah 4:3-4)

- C. The Final Judgment – *We believe there will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead (those who have died without accepting Christ's salvation) will be raised and judged according to the way they lived.*

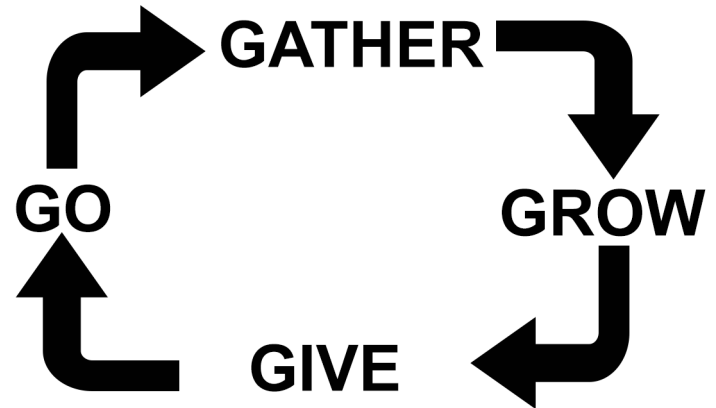
(Matthew 25:46, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 19:20, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:8)

- D. The New Heavens and the New Earth – *We believe that “according to God's promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell and reign forever.”*

(2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21-22)

OUR STRATEGY

The diagram to the right is a simple diagram of our strategy for how we “do church.” We believe the way we will fulfill the great commission according to Matthew 28:19 is to intentionally lead people through this strategy. Below this strategy is explained in depth.



GATHER

We believe that our weekend services are the front door of our church. This is the greatest opportunity for us to build the believer and serve the seeker.

Every weekend, we believe there are three types of people at a weekend service:

A. The MATURE Christ Follower

These people are mature in their faith and spiritually feed themselves. They make up roughly one third of a healthy church. They are the type of people that understand the overall vision and direction of Life Church, and are willing to do whatever it takes to help accomplish that vision.

“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

Hebrews 5:13-14

B. The NEW Christ Follower

These people are either new in their faith or new to Life Church, and make up another third of the church. If they’re new in their faith, they are going to make mistakes along the way. If they’re new to Life Church, they’re still trying to get plugged in and connected so they can sit in the chair of the Mature Christ Follower.

“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.”

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

C. The **"SINNER"**

These people are spiritually lost, and make up the last third of the church. They have not yet made a commitment to follow Christ. Most weekends are geared heavily towards this person.

When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:16-17

GROW

God desires to have a GROWING relationship with us. At Life Church, we are committed to providing opportunities for you to grow in your faith. We accomplish this through Life Groups, S.O.A.P., baptism, and Life Leadership College.

1. LIFE GROUPS

A. The **PURPOSE** of Life Groups

1. A place to **CONNECT**.

"...yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him."

1 Corinthians 9:22 LB

2. A place to **GROW**.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Proverbs 27:17

3. A place to **SERVE**.

"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:43-45

B. The **STRUCTURE** of Life Groups.

1. Free Market Groups

Our groups are as varied as we are; group leaders use their gifts and passions to create a group that allows others to join with them in serving God. Whatever the age, interest, or location, there is a group that is just right for you.

2. Three Trimesters

New groups start and stop three times a year—spring, summer and fall trimesters. No groups meet in January, May, and September, as these are all used as sign up months. Each trimester lasts 3 months (Feb-April, June-Aug, Oct-Dec).

3. Becoming a Leader

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. The first step in becoming a Life Group leader is to complete Life Track. Unlike other ministry opportunities at Life Church, we ask all Life Group leaders to be a church member and/or follow membership standards and be referred by a campus pastor or current life group leader.

2. S.O.A.P.

At Life Church, our desire is that every believer would not just attend church, but also hear from God daily through His Word! As we read the Bible, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing daily devotions re-patterns the way we think, transforms the spirit of our mind, and helps us become more like Jesus! SOAP journaling is a simple and excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to you. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time when you want to reflect on and review some of the 'gems' that you have received. SOAP is an acronym for **Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer**.

Download the current SOAP guide and instructions at lifechurchwi.com/soap.

3. BAPTISM

We believe every Christ Follower should be baptized by immersion after becoming a Christ Follower. We provide baptism opportunities all throughout the year, so simply sign up when the opportunity presents itself. We believe this is a crucial step in the discipleship process (becoming more like Jesus).

4. LIFE LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

In 2012, Life Church launched a 4-year bachelor's degree program called Life Leadership College. Students can attend for less than half the cost of a Bible College, but graduate with the same degree. This ministry training school meets at the Brookfield Campus, and is designed to prepare students to fulfill their calling into full-time ministry.

In addition to this, we offer Adult Education classes throughout the year. If you are interested in growing in your Biblical knowledge (for college credit or via audit), sign up for Adult Education today. You can visit thelc.org for more information.

GIVE

1. Serve on a **LIFE TEAM**.

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can touch the lives of others. We believe that your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill that purpose.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.”

Acts 20:24

“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)...All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

A. How to join the Life Team.

1. Application

Complete and submit the Life Team application (available online). Find a list of all serving opportunities in the appendix of this packet.

2. One-on-One

Schedule a meeting with a ministry team leader to share your ideas and complete your training.

3. Training

Attend an orientation or training session in the ministry area of your choice to learn more about how to be involved.

2. Give FINANCIALLY.

A. The Tithe

The tithe is the first 10% of everything a Christ Follower earns, and should be brought to the storehouse, which is the local church. This is the bare minimum that a Christ Follower should give of their treasure.

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

Malachi 3:8-10

“Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn’t leave the more important things undone either.”

Matthew 23:23

B. Greater

An offering is anything above and beyond the tithe and is encompassed in one simple strategy of generosity called Greater. At Life Church the Greater objective is revealed in three main ways; Greater Mission, Greater Generation, and Greater Expansion.

a) Greater Mission

Whether it is around the corner or around the world, the Greater Mission aids missionaries, churches, and other organizations and projects that all proclaim the gospel of Jesus and ultimately lead to life change.

b) Greater Generation

Life Church leads and empowers a greater generation through ministry training via various schools, campus ministries, camp scholarships and Life Leadership College.

c) Greater Expansion

Whether securing a new campus facility or accelerating the payoff of a current facility through strategic expansion and debt freedom we want to be positioned to make a greater impact within our community.

C. WAYS TO GIVE AT LIFE CHURCH

Good: Give during one of our weekend services by using the envelope located at your seat or text message any amount to 84321.

Better: Give online by going to www.lifechurchwi.com. Here you can select your campus and the amount you'd like to give. You can also view an up-to-date record of your giving, whether it was giving online or during a weekend service.

Best: Set up automated giving by going to www.lifechurchwi.com. You can have a payment recur as frequently as you would like.

3. Go on a **MISSIONS TRIP**.

All throughout the year, we will offer missions trips all around the world. We want every person in our church to go on a missions trip every 3 or 4 years. Teams can cost as little as \$500 and as much as \$3500 per person. You can see an up to date listing of all our trips on our website.

GO

A. Life Church Evangelism **STRATEGY**.

1. **INVEST**

Personally invest relationally in those around you, whether it's a neighbor, relative, co-worker, or friend.

2. **INVITE**

While every service is designed with the first time guest in mind, several prime opportunities will be given throughout the year to invite those you've invested in to Life Church. On those prime weekends, a clear gospel message will be preached with a salvation invitation.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

Now that you know a little more about Life Church, we invite you to take your next step with us. You can find additional links and forms at lifechurchwi.com/lifetrack.

Here are some of the possible next steps (you may choose to take multiple steps at the same time):

- **Join a Life Group**
 - Go to lifechurchwi.com/lifegroups

- **Join the Life Team (volunteer)**
 - Submit the Life Team Application (Form found at lifechurchwi.com/lifetrack)
 - A serving leader will then follow up with you to get you plugged into serving.
 - If you would like to serve in the Next Generation ministries with minors you will be asked to complete a background check as well as confidentiality and child abuse prevention training and forms.

- **Become a member of Life Church**
 - Serve consistently on the Life Team for a minimum of 90 days
 - Submit the Life Church Membership Application (Form found at lifechurchwi.com/lifetrack)

- **Go on a missions trip**
 - Find more information at lifechurchwi.com/missions

- **Get baptized**
 - Find more information at lifechurchwi.com/baptism

- **Set up online giving**
 - Select the GIVE tab at lifechurchwi.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The remainder of this packet has some additional materials that we have compiled to be a help to you. While time did not allow us to cover all of this material in our Life Track session, we feel that this is important information for all those committed to Life Church to know.

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LIFE CHURCH MISSIONS STRATEGY

Reaching people around the corner and around the world.

A. Where do we go?

"You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

1. Jerusalem – My City.

"Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight..."

James 1:27 Message

2. Judea and Samaria – My Nation.

"Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him."

1 Corinthians 9:22 LB

3. The Ends of the Earth – My World.

Jesus said to His followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone."

Mark 16:15 NCV

B. What is my Role in World Life?

1. Pray

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Matthew 9:37-38

2. Go

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' He said, 'Go, and tell this people...'"

Isaiah 6:8-9

3. Give

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

Matthew 6:19-21

GROWING AS A CHRIST FOLLOWER

1. HOW TO GET MORE FROM MY BIBLE

A. I must accept its authority.

Your attitude toward the Bible makes a huge difference.

"We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe."

1 Thessalonians 2:13

We believe in the closed canon of scripture:

A. There are not, nor will there ever be, any other books, verses or ideas added to the Bible or placed beside it as equal in authority or revelation.

B. All preaching, teaching, prophesying or any other communication being declared in the name of the Lord is to be subject to measurement by the content of the Word of God.

B. I must assimilate its truths.

1. **Hearing** God's Word

"Faith comes from hearing the Word of God."

Romans 10:17

2. **Reading** God's Word

"Happy is the one who reads this book ... and obeys what is written in it!"

Revelation 1:3 GN

How often should I read God's Word? DAILY.

"(The Scriptures) shall be his constant companion. He must read from it every day of his life so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of his commands."

Deuteronomy 17:19 LB

3. **Studying** God's Word

"...they accepted the message eagerly and studied the Scriptures everyday ..."

Acts 17:11 Ph

4. **Memorizing** God's Word

"Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart."

Proverbs 7:2-3 LB

5. **Meditating** on God's Word

"(Those) who are always meditating on His Laws ... are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit ... they never wither and whatever they do prospers."

Psalms 1:2-3 LB

Meditation is **Focused Thinking** about a Bible verse in order to discover how to apply its truth to life.

6. **Receiving** God's Word with an open Heart

"Those on the rock are the ones who receive the Word with joy when they hear it, but they have no roots... Therefore consider carefully how you listen."

Luke 8:13-18

The word "receive" is *dechomai* in Greek. It literally means "to welcome"

C. I must apply its principles.

"Once you know these things you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13:17

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 1:22

1. Claim His promises

Battles – 1 John 4:4, Luke 10:19, Rom. 8:37

Money – Philippians 4:19, Psalm 1:1-3

Fear – Psalm 27:1

Sickness – Psalm 103:3

Confidence – 2 Corinthians 3:6

Safety – Psalm 121:8

2. Share it with others

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 10:14

3. How to Apply Scripture:

1st ask: What did it mean to the original hearers?

2nd ask: What is the underlying timeless principle?

3rd ask: How could I practice that principle?

2. TALKING WITH GOD

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17(NLT)

In the beginning we were created to have fellowship with God but because of Adam's fall Jesus sacrificed Himself to make a relationship with God possible.

Jesus exemplified a personal relationship with God through prayer, that gave Him great strength.

Every person who has ever been effective in service for God has developed this habit. The only way to be a healthy Christian is to commune with God daily through prayer!

A. The purpose of daily prayer time.

1. To **Give** devotion to God.

"(Hezekiah) was successful, because everything he did ... he did in a spirit of complete devotion to his God."

2 Chronicles 31:21 GN

2. To **Get** direction from God.

"Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me ..."

Psalms 25:4 LB

3. To **Gain** delight in God.

"Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Psalms 37:4 KJV

4. To **Grow** more like God.

“Jesus has the power of God, by which he has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things because we know him.... With these gifts you can share in being like God” 2 Peter 1:4 NCV

B. How to begin a daily prayer time

1. Select a specific **Time** and **Place**.

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

Mark 1:35

2. Follow a simple **Plan**.

How to Spend Fifteen Minutes with God:

1. Read a verse. (4 Minutes)
2. Reflect on the verse. (4 Minutes)
3. Record what God desires of you. (3 Min.)
4. Request from God. (4 Minutes)

“Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.”

Galatians 6:9 LB

3. Use the model Jesus gave us.

“This, then, is HOW you should pray ...”

Matthew 6:9-15

A. Praise: I begin by expressing **Love** to God.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...” (vs. 9)

B. Purpose: I commit myself to doing God’s **Will**.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...” (vs. 10)

C. Provision: I ask God to **Provide** my daily needs.

“Give us today our daily bread...” (vs. 11)

D. Pardon: I ask God to **Forgive** my sins.

"Forgive us our debts..." (vs. 12)

E. People: I pray for **Other** people.

"...as we have also forgive our debtors." (vs. 12)

F. Protection: I ask for **Spiritual** protection.

"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." (vs. 13)

3. WORSHIPPING GOD

At Life Church, we incorporate worship (through music) into every weekend gathering. Worship has many forms, descriptions, and purposes, but here are 3 reasons why we do it:

A. Celebrate

¹Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. ²Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100:1-5

B. Refresh

But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

Psalm 59:16

C. Prepare

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

*"Give thanks to the LORD,
for his love endures forever."*

2 Chronicles 20:21

PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS?

"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

Life Groups provide opportunities for:

A. Bible Study .

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..."

B. Fellowship .

"...and to the fellowship ... they ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."

C. Communion .

"...and to the breaking of bread ..."

D. Prayer .

"...and to prayer..."

E. Support .

"...they gave to anyone as he had need ..."

F. Praise .

"...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

G. Outreach .

"And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

2. LIFE GROUP GROUND RULES

To those in my Group, I commit to...

- A. Make our group a priority (Frequency)
- B. Share my true feelings (Authenticity)
- C. Encourage our spiritual growth (Mutuality)
- D. Respect our differences (Courtesy)
- E. Support you in times of need (Sympathy)
- F. Accept your weaknesses (Humility)
- G. Speak the truth in love (Honesty)
- H. Forgive when I am hurt (Mercy)
- I. Keep your confidences (Confidentiality)
- J. Support our purposes (Unity)

"May the Lord make your love to grow and overflow to each other... so that you may stand before him guiltless on that day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns with all those who belong to him."

1 Th. 3:12-13 LB

"I am giving a new commandment to you now – love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

John 13: 34-35 LB

LIVING A SPIRIT-LED LIFE

"Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 1:4-8

1. HOW WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT FIRST REVEALED?

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

"Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?

Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!'

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

"Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Acts 2:1-17

2. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. The Holy Spirit is a Person.

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever..."

John 14:16

B. The Third Person in the Trinity.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

John 14:26

3. WHAT DOES SPIRIT-LED LIVING PRODUCE IN OUR LIVES?

A. Comfort.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever..."

John 14:16 KJV

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase."

Acts 9:31

B. Conviction.

"But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ' Where are You going?' "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go , I will send Him to you. "And He, when He comes , will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..."

John 16:5-8

C. Guidance.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

John 16:13

D. Power.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

E. Character.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Galatians 5:22-23

F. Spiritual Gifts.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4. LIVING A SUPERNATURAL LIFE

One of the main purposes of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to connect us to the heavenly realms.

"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 2:6-7

"However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God."

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Acts 2:17-21

God desires to give us:

A. Dreams .

A dream is a picture you have in your mind of a desired future; that which gets inside of you and is beyond reason and is bigger than you on your own.

B. Visions .

A vision is that which is seen, an awake dream; you see something already done; you see something in "How-to Steps".

C. Prophecy .

To prophesy is to speak forth biblical truth in the mind and counsel of God that cannot be known through natural means.

5. HOW DO I RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?*

A. Remove all barriers.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38

B. Request the Holy Spirit.

"Now suppose one of your fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Luke 11:11-13

C. Release the gifts.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

6. INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE*

When a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Bible tells us that they will begin to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). This is the physical evidence that someone has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This initial physical evidence of the Holy Spirit is the same as the gift of tongues, but different in purpose and use.

1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28

BENEFITS OF GIVING

A. Giving makes me become like God.

"God so loved the world that He gave his only Son..."

John 3:16

B. Giving draws me Closer to God.

"Where your treasure is, there your heart is also."

Matthew 6:21

C. Giving is the antidote to Materialism.

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!"

1Timothy 6:17-19

D. Giving strengthens my Faith.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing."

Prov. 3:5, 9

"Give and it will be given to you ... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38

E. Giving is an investment in Eternity.

"...Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity."

1Timothy 6:18-19 LB

F. Giving Blesses me in return.

"A generous man himself will be blessed."

Proverbs 22:9

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Proverbs 11:25

G. Giving makes me Happy.

(Jesus) "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."

Acts 20:35 LB

ATTITUDES OF GIVING

A. Give Willingly .

"For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have."

2 Corinthians 9:12

"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure ..." 1 Corinthians 9:7a

B. Give Cheerfully.

"...for God loves a cheerful giver!"

2 Corinthians 9:7b

C. Give Sacrificially.

"They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service ..."

2 Corinthians 8:3-4

D. Give Expectantly.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously."

2 Corinthians 9:6

"...THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD ... "

2 Corinthians 8:5

LIFE CHURCH SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

NEXT GENERATION

LifeKids Early Childhood

>> Description: Life Kids Early Childhood is a ministry for children ages birth-4K, which is centered on creatively and effectively communicating God's word to children. We want them to experience a relationship with God that is fun and exciting, to know that they are accepted and loved, and to ensure families that we will care for their children. We need volunteers for everything from teaching the classes to checking in the children.

>> Roles: Newborn through 4K classroom teachers, Early Childhood Check-In.

>> Time commitment: Once or twice a month, and as needed.

LifeKids Elementary

>> Description: Life Kids Elementary is a ministry for children grades Kindergarten – 5th grade, which is centered on creatively and effectively communicating God's word to children. Life Kids exists to reveal the wonder of who Jesus is, to ignite a child's imagination to know Him more and desire a life of discovery to share Him with others. We want to show children that they are accepted and loved while entrusting families that we will care for their children. Leaders are needed in all areas. If you love kids, we have a spot for you!

>> Roles: Service Leader/MC, Small Group Leader, Worship-Action Team, Production Team, Gaming/Connect Area Leaders, and Check-In Leaders.

>> Time commitment: Once or twice a month, and as needed.

Life Church Youth

>> Description: Life Church Youth is a ministry for those in middle school through high school. It meets every Wednesday night. We provide a space where students can draw close to God through worship, games, and teaching of the Word. Life Church Youth is also intentional on focusing on building healthy relationships, raising up leaders, and having fun. It's a place where students can BELONG before the BELIEVE.

>> Roles: Junior High Leader, Senior High Leader, A/V, worship team, set-up/tear down, media (videos, website, graphics, etc.), administration, small groups, security, and café.

>> Time commitment: Wednesday nights and/or Sunday nights

PRAYER MINISTRY:

Prayer Card Team

>> Description: Join our prayer card warriors! Each week we send prayer requests received during the weekend services out to our prayer card team. Each team member prays over and writes encouraging notes for approximately five prayer requests.

>> Time commitment: Twenty or so minutes, once per week

Prayer Partners

>> Description: Are you and your spouse prayer warriors? After every service, prayer partner couples get an opportunity to pray with willing people in the congregation. You can make a difference in someone's life!

>> Time commitment: 15 or so minutes after one service once or twice per month.

ADMINISTRATION:

Church Receptionist (Germantown Campus)

>> Description: Are you friendly and have availability during the workday Monday-Thursday, this job could be for you. Be the person to facilitate phone calls, check for mail and other receptionist duties.

>> Time commitment: Availability between Monday-Thursday from 9 AM-4 PM.

Cleaning (campus specific)

>> Description: If you enjoy working behind the scenes, join us as we prepare the Germantown Campus for weekend services.

>> Time commitment: Thursday evenings when available

Food Ministry

>> Description: Cook, bake, or buy yummy treats for volunteers who are taking time out to serve on the weekend.

>> Time commitment: One Sunday per month.

IT Team

>> Description: As the church grows so does the technology. We need help maintaining the verity of equipment Life Church has. This equipment includes video equipment, printers, phones, servers, PCs and Macs, and a host of other equipment. We also need web developers to keep our website current and up to date.

>> Time commitment: As needed.

Maintenance

>> Description: Life Church is continually growing and we need your help maintaining our church! This could include anything from a large addition to a small plumbing leak. Expertise in plumbing, electrical, and construction are a plus but are not required. If you like working with your hands this is for you!

>> Time commitment: As needed or on a regular basis.

CREATIVE/WORSHIP ARTS

Lighting

>> Description: The worship services at Life Church are also very visual and immersive. Be a part of this team that helps draw people into worship through creative lighting design

>>Time commitment: Once a month for all services

Live Audio

>> Description: Be a part of the team that makes things sound good. We have some great audio consoles ready to be delved into. We only use digital consoles, so some experience in digital audio is preferred; but of course our audio leadership team would be more than happy to provide training!

>> Time commitment: Once a month for all services

Live Video/Cameras (campus specific)

>> Description: Every service at Life Church is broadcasted to hundreds of people every weekend. If you are skilled with cameras, directing or broadcast, we can find a place for you to plug in!

>>Time commitment: Once a month for all services

ProPresenter (slideshow software)

>> Description: The church has come a long way from simply using overhead projectors or PowerPoint presentations. But the need for people with this skillset is still around. Be a part of the team that runs the lyrics, sermon slides and timers in every service. Experience with computers is preferred.

>>Time commitment: Once a month for all services

Stage Design (campus specific)

>> Description: Creating, building and/or implementing the stage set designs.

>> Time commitment: As needed.

Worship

>> Description: Worship is a big part of every Life Church service. In this team, you will have the opportunity to help draw people closer to God through music and creative expression. Musicians should be skilled in their instrument and be able to play with a metronome; and singers should have an understanding of their voice and be able to harmonize.

>> Role: Musicians and singers

>> Time commitment: At least once per month for all services and rehearsals.

CONNECTIONS:

Life Group Leader

>> Description: Life Group Leaders are an extension of pastoral care at Life Church. They facilitate informal one to two hour gatherings creating support, growth, fellowship, and community within the church body and beyond. (Must follow member standards and be approved by campus pastor)

>> Time commitment: Set by Life Group Leader but can be one meeting weekly, biweekly, or monthly.

Life Track Facilitator

>> Description: Assist the Life Track Leader with signing people in, taking photos, and helping set up for Life Track classes.

>> Time commitment: Once or twice per month for approximately 60-90 minutes. Time varies by campus.

EVENTS:

Event Photography

>> Description: Life Church hosts many events each year such as baby dedications, water baptisms, and other church-wide happenings. Many of those events require photography skills. If you love taking photos, consider helping us out on the Event Photography team!

>> Time commitment: As needed per event.

Set Up/Tear Down

>> Description: Life Church has several events & meetings throughout the year. Many require setting up chairs, tables, props, etc. If you're more of a "behind-the-scenes" person, this is a great ministry for you!

>> Time commitment: As needed per event.

HOST TEAM (FIRST IMPRESSIONS):

Greeter/Guest Services

>> Description: Do you love to smile? Greeters/Guest Services are arguably the most important volunteer here at Life Church. They help make newcomers feel welcome, expected, and comfortable here. Greeters are responsible for welcoming people as they enter the building/auditorium. Guest Services does all that as well as helping new guests find where they need to go (Life Kids, main auditorium, restrooms, etc.). Great people skills and a smile are a must!

>> Time commitment: Twice a month (30 minutes prior to service and into part of worship).

Parking

>> Description: Parking Team members are the first people guests will see when they come to Life Church, so a big smile and an ability to brave all types of weather are a must! As a parking team member you will be responsible for directing traffic, set-up/tear down of signage and parking barriers, and welcoming people each weekend.

>> Time commitment: Twice a month (30 minutes prior to service and into part of worship).

Usher

>> Description: Once a Guest has been greeted, someone must be there to guide them to their seats. This is where the usher comes in. They are responsible for making sure everyone gets a seat, both newcomers and regular attendees, alike. They also are responsible for keeping order, minimizing distractions, and helping to receive tithe and offerings during service. Must have good people skills.

>> Time commitment: Twice per month (30 minutes prior, during, and a few minutes after service).

Resource Center

>> Description: Before and after services there are always people with questions about Life Church. Resource Center volunteers are there to help answer any of these questions and to help facilitate purchase of Bibles, books, and other media. Whether it's helping people get information, sign up for events, or general directions, the Resource Center team members are always there to help. If you like helping people and are a little bit techy (we use iPads and the computer for sales, signups, and guest info) this job is for you!

>> Time commitment: Twice a month (30 minutes prior to service and 30 minutes after service).

Next Steps Area

>> Description: After services, the Next Steps team welcomes new guests by handing out gift cards, asking how they found Life Church and any answering questions they may have. They also are responsible for people sign up for various events.

>> Time commitment: Twice a month (15-20 minutes directly after service).

Coffee Team

>> Description: Before services, the coffee team fills the dispensers, stocks the coffee supplies at the coffee carts and makes more coffee if needed for the next service. After service, the team restocks once again, disposes of extra coffee and trash and cleans the coffee brewers.

>> Time commitment: Twice a month (30 minutes prior to service and 30 minutes after service).

OUTREACH

Serve Day Coordinator

>> Description: Life Church loves reaching out to the local community in very practical ways. Every couple of months, we will host a serve day, in which we do an outreach to our community. We need coordinators to help us plan these events.

>> Time commitment: Variable

SPIRITUAL GIFTS MATCH

Administration

The special ability that God gives to clearly understand the immediate and long range goals of a ministry and is able to devise, manage and execute plans to achieve goals and purposes for the church body.

Recommended Serving Opportunities: Church Receptionist, Life Track Facilitator, Resource Center, Cleaning, ProPresenter, Event Team, Serve Day Coordinator, Maintenance, Set up/tear down.

Apostleship

The special ability that God gives to assume and exercise divinely imparted authority in order to establish the foundational government of a sphere of ministry; an apostle hears from the Holy Spirit and set things in order accordingly for the church's health, growth, maturity and outreach. Is also able to work with other cultures.

Recommended Serving Opportunities: Prayer Partner, Life Kids, Life Church Youth, Life Group Leader.

Discernment

The special that God gives to know with assurance whether certain behaviors purported to be of God are in reality divine, human or evil. Able to see through chaos or confusion and determine problems and possible outcomes. Can correlate problems to violation of biblical truths.

Recommended Serving Opportunities: Greeters, Life Group Leaders, Prayer Partners.

Evangelism

The special ability that God gives to share the gospel with non-believers in such a way that they become followers of Christ and responsible members of the church.

Recommended Serving Opportunities: Life Kids, Life Church Youth, Life Group Leader, Prayer Partners, Worship, Greeters, Ushers, Parking Lot, Next Steps Team.

Exhortation

Sometimes called the gift of counseling- the special ability that God gives to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and counsel to other believers in such a way that they feel helped and are moving toward healing.

Recommended Serving Opportunities: Life Group Leader, Life Kids, Life Church Youth, Creative/Worship Arts, Ushers, Greeters, Next Steps Team, Prayer Partners.

Faith

The special ability to see with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for future of His work even when others see only obstacles.

Recommended Serving Opportunities: Life Group Leader, Prayer Partner, Creative/Worship Arts, Life Church Youth.

Giving

The special ability that God gives to contribute financially to the work of the Lord liberally and cheerfully, above and beyond the tithes and offerings expected to all believers.

Recommended Serving Opportunities: Life Group Leader

Knowledge

The special ability God gives to discover, accumulate, analyze and clarify information and ideas that are from the Holy Spirit that are pertinent to the growth and well-being of followers of Christ.

Recommended Serving Opportunities: Life Group Leader, Prayer Partners, Creative/Worship Arts, Life Church Youth.

Thank you for joining us for Life Track!

If you have any questions please email lifetrack@lifechurchwi.com or call the church office at 262-251-5050.