



Discovering Lakewood

Updated: June 2022

WHAT IS EVANGELICAL?

1. SCRIPTURE ALONE:

2 Peter 1:20, 21- "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

2. CHRIST ALONE:

John 14:6- "Jesus answered: 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

3. GRACE ALONE:

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

4. FAITH ALONE:

Ephesians 2:8, 9- "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."

5. GOD'S GLORY ALONE:

Romans 12:1, 2- "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

EFCA Statement of Faith

<https://www.efca.org/sof>

Article 1. God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

Article 2. The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

Article 3. The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Article 4. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

Article 5. The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

Article 6. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

Article 7. The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Article 8. Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Article 9. Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Article 10. Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

2022 ELDER BOARD



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Chairman



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Mick Thielen



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The leadership of the church by the Elders includes devotion to prayer and to the ministry of God's Word (Acts 6:4), the shepherding of God's flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2), and the ministry of managing the church as one would manage his own household (1 Tim. 3:5).



Lakewood
CHURCH

6284 Fairview Road, Baxter MN 56425

FOR MORE INFORMATION: elders@lefcmail.com

LAKWOOD'S LEADERSHIP

This local church belongs to Jesus. He is the head of the Church.

"And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent." Colossians 1:18

The servant leadership of this church shall be vested in the elders of the church. All organizations formed within the church or church activities shall be approved by the elders.

The congregation at its annual, quarterly, and special congregational meetings is the legislative and governing body of this organization.

LAKWOOD'S MISSION

Reproducing Faithful Followers of Christ

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28: 18-20

Our Core Values

1) *Shaped by Biblical Living*

Our worship of God is seen in the lives we've been given. Whether we eat or drink we do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31). By God's grace we'll continue to be shaped as we go to the means of grace He's given us. We will pray, read the Word, sing, grow in grace, observe the ordinances of communion and baptism, and generously give to serve the Lord and others in our life.

2) *Committed to Relational Community*

We have not been saved to live a solo Christian life, there is no such thing! We have the joy of living in community and having all things in common (Acts 2:42-47). We follow the teachings of Jesus as we live out the one another commands of Scripture in covenant relationship to our Church family. Our relationships aren't manufactured but authentic in the gospel as we sacrificially serve and show hospitality toward one another and our community.

3) *Compelled to Intentional Outreach*

At Lakewood we don't just sit around, we are doers of the Word (James 1:22). We see our whole lives as a mission field as we follow the Great Commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 to make disciples and reproduce Faithful Followers of Christ. We proclaim the gospel in our speech and in our actions as we aim to make a global impact in the Brainerd Lakes area and to the ends of the Earth.

LAKESWOOD'S MEMBERSHIP

1. Public Identification

Though common in America, the idea of the “independent Christian” is totally alien to the New Testament. (1 Corinthians 12:20)

2. Ownership

Lakewood becomes “My” church. When you formally join any group or organization, the sense of belonging is significantly heightened. It is no longer “their church” but “our church.” You feel more comfortable and readily expect and claim the benefits of belonging. (John 17:23)

3. Dedication

If we are committed to Christ, we should be committed to a local church which He has established. There we find opportunities through our worship and service to express our loyalty to the Savior. We can practice the “one anothers” of the scriptures and struggle together through our differences into unity. (John 17:23)

4. Accountability

To enjoy the full benefits of the church, you must also accept the full responsibilities. You become a player instead of a spectator. A team member accepts responsibility for the wins and losses of the team whereas the spectator only observes. You give permission to others to say the hard things that you may need to hear. Likewise, you don't shy away from uncomfortable conflict that needs resolution. (Matthew 18:15-20)

5. Spiritual Protection

A healthy body of believers will ultimately be under Christ's authority. The leadership structure will be composed of men who understand their responsibilities to spiritually care for the “flock” as shepherds. Submitting to this humble and mature authority structure provides members with a certain spiritual protection. (1 Timothy 1:7; 1 Peter 5:5)

Members Commit to:

- Submitting to authority and discipline.
- Praying for the church.
- Supporting Lakewood financially as God directs.
- Following Christ faithfully.
- Regularly gathering for worship.
- Serving and loving the Church with their gifts.



Covenant with Christ and the Church

I acknowledge myself to be a sinner in the sight of God, in need of His forgiveness and cleansing. I place my faith and trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and in His sacrifice on my behalf as an atonement for my sins. I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, and depend upon Him alone for salvation according to the message of the Gospel. I dedicate my life to Christ, and proclaim him to be my Lord and Master. I resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to live my life according to the principles and instructions of God's Word, the Bible. I commit myself to following Christ and honoring God in my actions, thoughts, and relationships. I promise to honor Christ in His Church by faith-fully participating in worship with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I pledge to serve God by using my gifts and abilities to serve others in an ongoing ministry role. I promise to support the ministry of the Church through the cheerful and faithful giving of my tithes and offerings. Finally, I submit myself to the authority and discipline of the Church, and promise to further its purity and peace.

Printed name

Signature

Date

Administrative Use

Application Reviewed by Elders Date: _____

Applicant Interviewed by _____ Date: _____

Applicant Publicly Welcomed into Membership Date: _____
With Congregational Approval

BAPTISM

Baptism is an act of obedience by people who have trusted Christ and want to be publicly identified with Him.

We do not baptize infants and children until they've made a personal profession of faith in Christ.

Baptism is normally by immersion, unless extenuating circumstances require an alternative.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We affirm every believer has spiritual gifts, and men and women should use them and serve.

We do not practice sign gifts corporately.

MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY

God has created mankind male and female, and this is the biblical command for marriage

Any sexual deviation from Scripture is a result of the fall of humanity into a sinful condition that pervades every person and is transformed and forgiven in the Gospel of Christ.