

# GOD'S DESIRE FOR HIS CHURCHES

Acts 2.42-47, Ephesians 4.11-16, Matthew 28.18-20 // February 18, 2024

## THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

There are two related but distinct ways we look at what a church is:

- The "Capital C" Church, which is universal and eternal
- And individual church"es" which are local and temporal

God's design for the *local* church is to gather His people regularly for day to day life in all of our varying gifts, so we can be built up, healed, equipped, and matured so that we can go out and spread the aroma of Christ and make disciples of all nations.

**We are SAVED by the Spirit into a family.  
EQUIPPED by the Spirit within a family.  
And SENT out in the Spirit to invite others into the family.**

Until that desired end and goal, we have the challenges of sin, failures, pride, pain, death, laziness, stubbornness, and a litany of other roadblocks.

Ephesians 6.12

## WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT

- The church is not perfect (neither morally nor in practical completion)

**Those who love their *dream* of a Christian community *more than* they love the Christian community itself become the destroyers of that community *even if* their intentions may be honest and earnest.**

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- The church is not "friends with benefits."

**When God begins a work,  
it usually looks like an undoing rather than a doing.**

-C.H. Spurgeon

- The church is not (supposed to be) a collection of individuals

## JESUS, OUR HUMBLE EXAMPLE

Ultimately, we look to Christ as our example on how we pursue relationships.

**We love each other when we are unhealthy...Because Jesus did.  
We love each other when we sin against each other...Because Jesus did.  
We love each other when others are hurting and needy...Because Jesus did.**

Philippians 2.1-11

## NOTES:

### This Week's Call to Worship Psalm:

Psalm 66.1-9

### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Hebrews 4.12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at [amber@lifemission.tv](mailto:amber@lifemission.tv)**

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at [tyler@lifemission.tv](mailto:tyler@lifemission.tv)**.

## Contact Us

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## CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart phone camera at the QR Code to access a virtual Connection Card

## MAILING ADDRESS:

Life Mission Church  
420 Twin Oaks Valley Rd., #908  
San Marcos, CA 92079

## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Open the evening reciting the **Memory Verse** together. Then open to the **Call to Worship Psalm** and have someone open the night by *praying* the Psalm.

Read **Acts 2.42-47** What stands out in these passages and from Sunday's sermon?

### Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

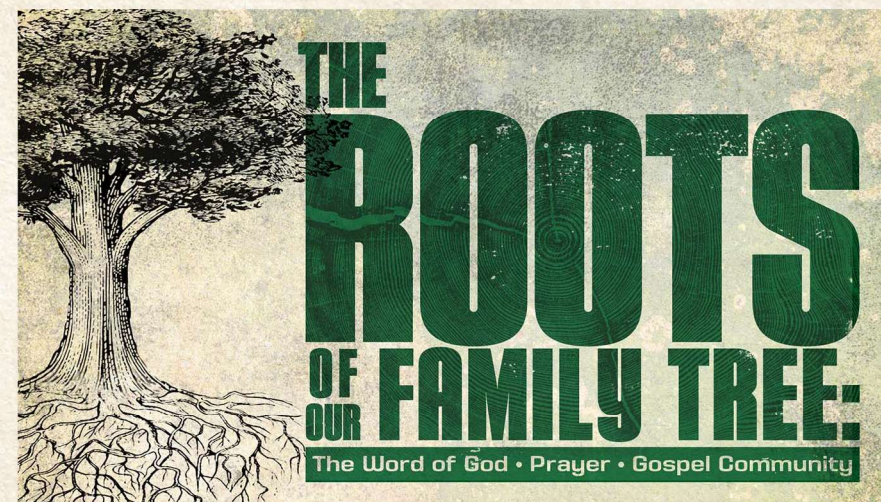
What great news it is that God not only saves us to be His kids, nor does He simply save us to be part of a *future* family, but that He saves us and calls us to be a part of *local* and *current* family for our own growth and care. In what ways has God used other people and your commitment to His design to help you grow, mature, and be equipped?

### Your Life Mission

We are saved to be equipped to be sent. But the equipping doesn't come with a graduation day before you are to be sent. You *are being equipped now*, but you have *already been sent* as well. And being sent is a way in which you are also concurrently being equipped! In what relationships do you want prayer for, that you would be able to be sent as "the aroma of Christ" and hope by God's grace that the family of God would grow by seeing them come to faith in Christ? **Close your group time with someone each taking one of four main elements of the Lord's Prayer and praying them for the group.**

## THE LORD'S P.R.A.Y.er MODEL

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself (Matthew 6.9, 10)**
  - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess (Matthew 6.12)**
  - Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision (Matthew 6.11-13)**
  - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving (Matthew 6.10)**
  - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



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## SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

## GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

