

LIFE & CULTURE

A LIFE-GIVING PUBLICATION

the
(1920)



LIFE & CULTURE

A LIFE - GIVING PUBLICATION



VOLUME NUMBER SIX

Founder & Culture Strategist
Sonny Hennessy

Editor in Chief
Megan Mahlik

Executive Director
KC Garania

Design Director
DJ Ford

Design Contributors
Megan Mahlik

Contributing Editors
Tresa Harry

Photography
Austin Felch
Taylor May Photography

Cover Design
Scott Schiller, Maps! By Scott

Writers & Content Contributors
Becky Alcantar
Dallas Cox
Scott Eastman
KC Garania
Abby Heinritz
Shawn Hennessy
Sonny Hennessy
Megan Mahlik

PARTNER WITH US

If you are interested in submitting content or would like to get involved, please email lifeculture@lifechurchgb.com

If you are interested in advertising in the next publication of Life & Culture, please email lifeculture@lifechurchgb.com

Ad sales benefit Life Church's mission to bring the life-giving message of Jesus to the (920) and beyond.

The information provided in this magazine is intended to bring joy and hope to those who read it. Articles in Life & Culture are copyrighted and must not be reprinted, duplicated or transmitted without the written permission of Life Giving Publishers. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2021 by Life Giving Publishers

GALATIANS 5:22-23

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE,
JOY, PEACE, FORBEARANCE,
KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS,
GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL.
AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO
LAW.



WHY CULTURE?

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR, MEGAN MAHLIK

People look to define things, establish meaning and give identity. The very purpose of this magazine has been to give shape to the culture of the (920), to gift our city with a paper reminder of how great it is, how many activities there are to do, and spread inspiration with well thought out articles. Each issue builds upon the foundation that the (920) is special— it's our dirt and we love sowing our time and energy into it because we believe in it.

If you're from the Midwest, you know that Green Bay feels like home in all the right ways. It's warm and welcoming and boasts itself as a Titledtown with small, urbanesque pockets around the city. There are cute restaurants, interesting people, boutique shopping and picture perfect views of a namesake bay. You're somewhere nearby Milwaukee and Chicago, but also Door County and the great Northwoods.

Investing into the (920) has been our mission because what's watered will grow. By devoting our time and effort into the culture of Green Bay, we know that God's purpose will exponentially flourish. So, that's how *Life & Culture Magazine* was born. It's just another way we knew we could impact our city's culture.

Here at Life Church, "culture" is more than a trendy topic. It's our lifestyle and an important foundation. We

believe that establishing and identifying what our culture looks like helps others understand who we are in Jesus.

Imagine you're taking a trip outside the US for the first time. The plane lands and from that moment forward you are a foreigner. Everything from the people to the food are strange, nothing seems to work how you expect and you probably feel a bit homesick. The adjustment period lasts for a while as you shake off your jetlag, and it's uncomfortable and sometimes awkward.

Becoming a Jesus person feels a lot like that. The plane lands and the seatbelt sign goes off when you say, "I want to follow Jesus," or you get baptized and say, "I'm all in." From there, you've got a whole new language to learn, a new set of guidelines to follow. Sadly, the world's values are not necessarily God's values, and adjusting to His culture means humbling yourself to His will as you learn what He has in store for you. Take heart— His rules are meant to bring you peace, joy, comfort, and strength, not rob you of it like the world so quickly can.

That's why we talk about "our culture" so much at Life Church. It's not necessarily ours, in that we own it, but we've taken how God says we should act and made it a part of our everyday life. We know that God calls us to be His people and when we live within His boundaries and listen for His purpose, we will be full of life.



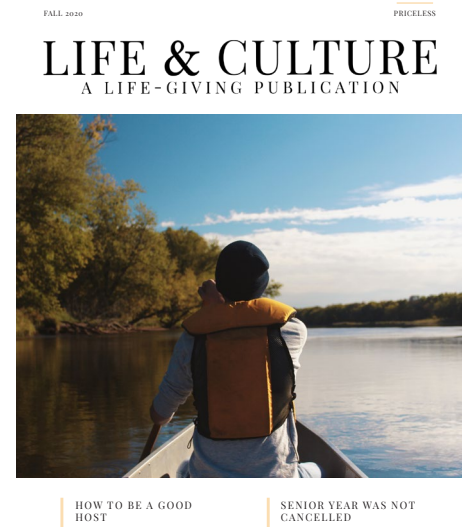
Our culture is just another way we strive to live our lives for Him. When we start paying attention to how we act and react, we will notice how God is working through us. Take the Exchange Coffee, Mercantile & Eatery for example. People have said countless times how the atmosphere *just feels different*. What they don't know is that they are experiencing the intentional effects of our culture!

That's what culture means to us. It's deeply rooted, long held and systemic. It's intrinsic to who we are, and who we want to be. It's relevant, important and needs to be exercised. Culture is our answer to "What Would Jesus Do?" It's the *why* behind our decisions and choices; Life Church exists to bring the life-giving message (and culture!) of Jesus to the (920) and beyond!

As you read through this magazine, consider what each of the words really means. Ask yourself, "Am I

inspired? Am I kind?" You'll realize you excel in some areas and probably fail in others. But hopefully you'll be encouraged, realizing that you haven't even nicked your full potential. That as you've sat on the sidelines, God's been preparing you for right now, this moment.

Maybe you don't know if you believe all that. You've wanted to feel at home here in the Midwest, here in Life Church, or here as a new Jesus person, but you just haven't quite connected all the dots. We don't have all the answers but we have some great places to start and as you learn about our culture, you'll really be learning about HIS culture, purpose, definition and meaning for your life— just come as you are!



WE ARE
LIFE-GIVING

/'līf-,gi-viŋ/

adjective

Definition: We are life-giving in all that we say and do. We are bright, we make eye contact, we speak life and stop ourselves and others from being life-taking (negative, rude, gossipy, sarcastic).



LETTER FROM THE CURATORS

- PASTOR SHAWN & SONNY -

Culture has become a buzzword, a popular topic for leaders and business owners. I wish I could say that our healthy culture at Life Church was pre-planned and strategic through specific words and phrases we hammered into our start-up team's head. Instead, our culture developed over the years through what we realized we didn't want to do.

1) We didn't want to pastor a church we wouldn't choose to attend. To say that positively, we wanted to pastor a church we would attend if we had the choice (as in, we weren't employed there). This desire comes from our extensive experience living in different cities and working on pastoral staffs.

Fresh out of Bible college we went into ministry and were employed by half a dozen churches for the next 15 years. We went from Memphis, TN to Tacoma, WA, crossing to Tampa, FL and then on to Houston, TX. We saw great pastors and ministries thriving and we also witnessed, and were a part of, churches on the decline in their declining community. Now, looking back, I wouldn't take back the experiences we had for the wisdom we received! When we landed in Green Bay, we knew exactly what kind of church we wanted to be, and who we didn't want to be for the people of the (920).

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE. JEREMIAH 29:11

2) We didn't want to be yet another church in a city with plenty of churches. We were aware that Green Bay was settled by missionaries, had monasteries and religious colleges, schools, and parishes in every neighborhood. We knew that to move in and say, "We are here to save this city," and not have a specific mission and target audience in mind, would only lead to church transplant growth, which never lasts for long. People who quickly and easily leave one church will often leave the next church, and the next. We knew we wanted to reach the people in the (920) who hadn't tried church before or who had (good chance they had been to a Catholic school/mass or a Lutheran service) but had not committed their life to Jesus.

So, we started with our mission: we exist to bring the life-giving message of Jesus to the people of the (920) and beyond.

The "beyond" was optional to us at first because we realized we had our hands full just trying to reach the people in our city. Even the (920) area code was a lofty goal considering it spans much further than that hidden, rural road our church building was on in the town of Lawrence.

We also knew that using the name Jesus versus God was important, as Green Bay for the most part acknowledges a God, and all churches would of course talk about Him. But the only way to eternal life and heaven is through Jesus—not through praying to mother Mary, not through praying to a saint who speaks on our behalf. It's through the name and personhood of Jesus. We knew this was imperative, and so we called ourselves "Jesus people" rather than Christians so we could place the weight of His name in our mouths and hopefully have it spill over into our actions. We also felt it important to differentiate ourselves from the stereotypical Christian. The ones that walk around protesting Planned Parenthood, or those walking up and down streets carrying a wooden cross stick followed by people holding signs saying, "Turn or burn."

In fact, one of the first series we did in our little building off Southbridge Road was called, "What Would Jesus Do?" Pastor Shawn found the original bracelets from the Wisconsin-based inventor and manufacturer and gave each of our 140 people in attendance a bracelet. Pastor finished the series by writing a book called, "What's Your

Story?" which shared the stories of five people from the (920) who couldn't tell their story without also talking about Jesus, then the last chapter told Jesus' story.

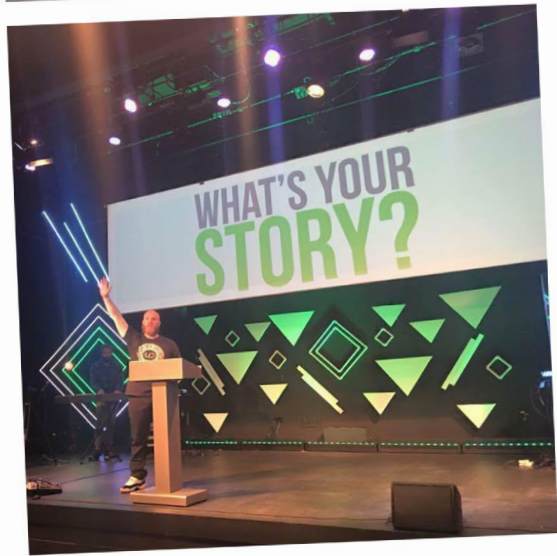
We stepped out in faith with the little money we had to rent billboards and the backs of buses to ask that question and lead people to the "What's Your Story?" website. All of this pointed to Jesus and how He can be the life-giving part of your story... if you let Him. People began to take notice, and our people began calling themselves Jesus people and inviting their friends to church and to their church-wide, "What's Your Story?" life groups in their homes. There was life being breathed into our city through Jesus' people.

Life-giving became our first, official culture word. This Culture Edition for our *Life & Culture* publication will share the details of each culture word that has been established over the last eight years. The words, phrases and concepts have all been developed as we determined what we wanted to be and how we wanted to deliver the life-giving message of Jesus to the people of the (920) and now beyond.

To us, the words aren't sacred and could be interchanged or expanded as time goes on but they do come from scripture and how Jesus, Paul, Peter and other apostles expressed how the church should operate. They called following Jesus, "The Way" and so our culture concepts are the way in which we point to Jesus, make things all about Jesus, and keep our focus on Jesus as we do church and now business at The Exchange Coffee, Mercantile & Eatery in De Pere.

Our culture became our bumpers for what we won't do, what we cannot adopt, and where we won't allow ourselves to drift. Our culture also became our filter for what we will add to the church calendar, who we will help in our city, and where we will spend our energy.

We love our city and pray that by continually infusing Jesus culture into it, we can all be more and more like Jesus everyday.



Pictures left: Ribbon cutting for the current building. Shawn preaching What's Your Story? WWJD bracelet. Pictures right: A marriage forum with Shawn and Sonny. An original (920) graphic. Pastor on stage in the 1st building on Southbridge.

WE ARE KIND

/'kɪnd/

adjective

Definition: We are kind in the obvious joy that overflows in how we act and react to others. We are welcoming and warm to everyone.





Photo by Austin Felch

BY KC GARANIA

Do you have a tribe, a circle, a small group of kind people who bring you life? If you don't have a group of kind people, do you have a couple of Jesus friends, neighbors or co-workers who are kind and uplifting to you?

At Life Church, we talk a lot about finding your Pocket of people, and not just any kind of people but those whose kindness comes from Jesus. What exactly are "pockets?" They are simply a group of people you do some aspect of life with. An easy example is family. Another example is co-workers. Many of us spend the majority of our waking hours with a group of people who don't live in our homes. We earn our living alongside them, we have lunch breaks and coffee breaks with them, we endure cut-backs and staff changes with them. They may be your pocket of people and hopefully they are kind to you and each other. If you struggle finding your place in your current pocket of people, we want to introduce you to others who are also looking to further their Jesus journey.

Why is a Jesus-focused pocket of people so important? Being part of a pocket and doing life alongside a group of people, reminds us that we are not alone in our triumphs and trials. Our pocket is where we get to exercise some basic fundamentals of life; taking care of one another, encouraging one another and being kind to one another. Kindness is welcoming people into your home, sharing a meal, finding out details of someone's life and caring enough to remember them. Kindness is inviting someone into your pocket so you can do life together.

Life Groups are our strategically planned pockets at Life Church. Being a part of a life group was one of the first things my family did when we started attending Life

Church. We didn't know one single person and we wanted to change that! So we took a step of faith and joined a group. Even though we weren't sure what to expect or who we would meet, we knew we wanted to start connecting with people. That first meet up with our Life Group was life changing! Little did we know we would meet our very best friends in that group. Friends that we now take vacations with, cry with when our kids are hurting, celebrate holidays and birthdays together, pray together, laugh together— we do life together.

We came to understand that meeting with people only on Sundays for a few short hours wasn't enough for us to build relationships. Life really happens Monday-Saturday, and Life Groups are how we meet people to go deeper in our Jesus Journey and grow life-long relationships.

Your Life Group can be the pocket of Jesus people you are already doing life with or you can expand or meet a new pocket of Jesus people by joining a Life Group. There are groups just for guys, just for ladies or couples, groups to help you on your parenting journey or to help build stronger marriages. We offer groups that dive deeper in the Bible or groups to show you how to get started reading your Bible. We even have groups that meet up just to have coffee, walk your dogs, play at a park or go out to eat. We have groups for everyone! You get to choose what pocket you want to join and we know you will automatically meet people with the same interest as you. You will love it and when you start to live life together, you'll never want to live it on your own again.



SINCE GOD CHOSE YOU TO BE THE HOLY PEOPLE HE LOVES, YOU MUST CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH TENDERHEARTED MERCY, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, AND PATIENCE.

COLOSSIANS 3:12

TEAMS

BY KC GARANIA

We are a team, and the minute you walk through the doors, you are part of the team, too! You are part of a culture where kindness goes beyond a welcome sign or a quick, “hello.” You get to experience a culture where kindness means serving others. We believe in treating the janitor the same way we treat the CEO. Our kindness isn’t selective or limited. It’s all encompassing and accessible! Likewise, serving is how we go from a consumer of what’s happening in the church to a contributor for the church. When you join a team at Life Church, it’s always so much more than a date on your calendar or something to check off on your to-do list.

When we serve, we learn to follow the golden rule, “100% Kindness, 0% Drama.” It’s how we interact with each other in real-life, sometimes busy or tense situations. Teams are our way of putting our kindness into action, our chance to make a difference. Maybe you’re the person that a kid needs to be around this week, or maybe you are the guy to be in our master control room, making the videos, slides and screens work. Maybe you’re the girl to make coffee and lattes and be a friendly ear to a teammate as you prepare! Whatever you feel called to, you’ll have the opportunity to be in a life-giving space where we take the time to treat each other the way we want to be treated.

Here, you’ll be able to grow, connect and thrive on your

Jesus Journey. This is where you will meet people, Jesus people, who want to serve and soften their heart just like you. Why is that so important? Because we all need people in our life that fill us up and encourage us. Your team will become more than just the people you see on a Sunday. They will become your prayer partners, your seat savers, your coffee date and your cheerleaders in everyday life. You’ll feel excited when you wake up on Sunday mornings knowing that you are going to be with your friends!

When you are part of a team, you are part of the one mission we have as a church— pointing people to Jesus. We do that through every smile, high five and fist bump. We do that through each cup of coffee and latte that’s made. We do that through each baby that is rocked or each game that is played. We point to Jesus through each note that is sung or played, through each prayer request response, through each Life Group that is led. When you serve on a team, you get to be a part of other’s Jesus Journey while also growing on your own.

Not sure where you can serve? We can help you find your fit. Teams are where you can not only use a talent you already have, but you can learn new skills. We have so many opportunities for you to get involved with kind Jesus people, the kindest teams on earth.

WE ARE PEACEFUL

/'pēs-fəl/

adjective

Definition: We are peaceful in our interactions to leave people feeling better after being in our presence. We are the thermostats to lighten the mood in the room, bring calm and lift burdens. We are peacemakers who go directly to the person to make things right, right away.



Peacemakers who sow in peace



BY BECKY ALCANTAR

Peace is a priority for the Jesus person. 1 Peter 3:11 (AMP) defines it so well. It says, "Let him search for peace [with God, with self, with others] and seek it eagerly. [Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellow man, and with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]"

Pursuing peace implies action and intentionality, beginning within ourselves! If we are going to be peaceful people— both a peacekeeper, one who maintains and restores peace, and a peacemaker, one who intentionally pursues peace through reconciliation and conflict resolution— that begins within our own hearts and minds. As Jesus followers, we intentionally make the choice to be the thermostat, not the thermometer of the room.

So how is it possible to go after that peace? We pursue and attain peace by:

1. Examining Ourselves

What has happened in your life that has caused you to act how you act, talk how you talk, be who you've been? How have these experiences, interactions, and observations established your personal standards, expectations and belief system?

Fully understanding why we see the world the way we do and whether our lens of perspective is being clouded by unmet expectations, broken hearts, traumas, losses or more, is the first step to pursuing peace within ourselves, and in our relationships.

What we know today, in the intersection of science and scripture that is uniquely available to us in modern times, is that God created us fearfully and wonderfully! And when we understand our unique design, then we can better navigate our own thoughts, emotions, behaviors, and actions toward growing to be more like Jesus.

The beauty of creation is this: our thoughts and emotions create a dance, a flow of information that is constructed into a representation of the world and establish how we function within it which is unique to each individual. It is the unconscious, subconscious and conscious folder by which we see and understand the world.

In Psalm 26:2, the psalmist prays to God: Examine me, O LORD, and try me; Test my heart and my mind. This exercise is essential to our becoming more and more like Him as we grow and walk with Him.

As we develop a better understanding of ourselves, and invite the Holy Spirit to be our guide, we are better able to identify and uproot any "arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 2 Corinthians 10:5 [AMP]

Which brings us to our second point:

2. Renewing our heart and mind

Once we have identified and rooted out the areas in us that have been wounded, weak, or faulty, confessing and repenting from any wrongdoing if applicable, and forgiving those who have done us wrong, we can begin the process of starting again!

Beginning each day praying Psalm 51:10: Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right and steadfast spirit within me, is a great start! Scripture tells us that God's mercies are new each morning— which is good news for us! It means that every next day, hour, minute, and second is a great time to start or restart.



reap a harvest of righteousness.

JAMES 3:18

Renewing our hearts and minds is a painstaking process—requiring us to not only replant new seeds in our lives, but also cultivate them consistently with new habits and practices— like prayer, reading scripture, setting boundaries, and seeking out life-giving relationships through life groups and serving on teams— in order to see new growth in our lives

With time and practice, we'll soon be able to identify the things that hinder our wholeness, embrace the things that encourage it and become well-equipped to handle each unique circumstance of our yesterdays, todays and tomorrows in our Jesus journeys.

Romans 12:2 exhorts us: Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

3. Measuring and speaking truth in love

As Jesus people we go to the Word of God, the Bible, as our standard and measure of truth. And then we, "Speak the truth in love" Eph 4:15 so that we can grow to be more like Christ.

Words are powerful! Proverbs 18:21 tells us that the power of life and death is on our tongues, and those who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it, and Proverbs 12:18 warns us to be careful what we say, because a careless talker destroys himself.

When speaking of, with, or about anyone or anything a person that pursues peace is careful not to use words in a way that does not bring life to a conversation or situation.

How do we do that? We are careful not to be reckless with our words, we avoid grumbling or complaining, exaggeration, gossip and the voice of contempt that bears accusation and condemnation. We don't withhold from speaking the truth, but when we do, we do so in love, with kindness, and filled with hope— in tone and intention. We make every effort to use words that are gracious, clear and

constructive. And above all, we are careful to demonstrate respect to one another and we guard the dignity of the person.

Words are like seeds planted in your heart. Believing, repeating and meditating on them allows them to grow and root in our heart, mind and spirit! A crop of negative words will nurture a destructive harvest which reproduces in those around you. But words that reflect God's word and heart, are life and health to the whole body. Proverbs 4:22

Peace doesn't mean that we won't have any conflicts or face obstacles and difficulties in our lives. John 16:33 tells us: In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering. But it also goes on to say: "but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world."

Being peaceful in the life of a Jesus person means that we have a peace that surpasses understanding! Despite whatever challenges do come — a peaceful person knows that God has given us the ability to understand ourselves and identify anything within us that may be inhibiting peace, as well as his Holy Spirit to help us to overcome those obstacles. Because of Jesus, we are able to keep peace and pursue peace in the face of anything that would press us to lose it or tempt us to give it up.

Maybe this doesn't sound like you. Maybe you're struggling with the past and its lingering traumatic effects on your life. Maybe peace sounds completely unattainable and foreign. Unfortunately, we all experience trauma at some point in our lives. But, through God's kindness, we are able to experience the joy of healing. Journey to Wholeness is a program designed just for that. Together we can unpack the past, so that we can make sense of our future. A future that God has deemed hopeful.

Whether you are looking for a group setting, one on one, online, or a quick but powerful intensive, we offer multiple ways for you to experience a journey to wholeness. Visit our website for more information on how you can get involved and start your pursuit of peace.

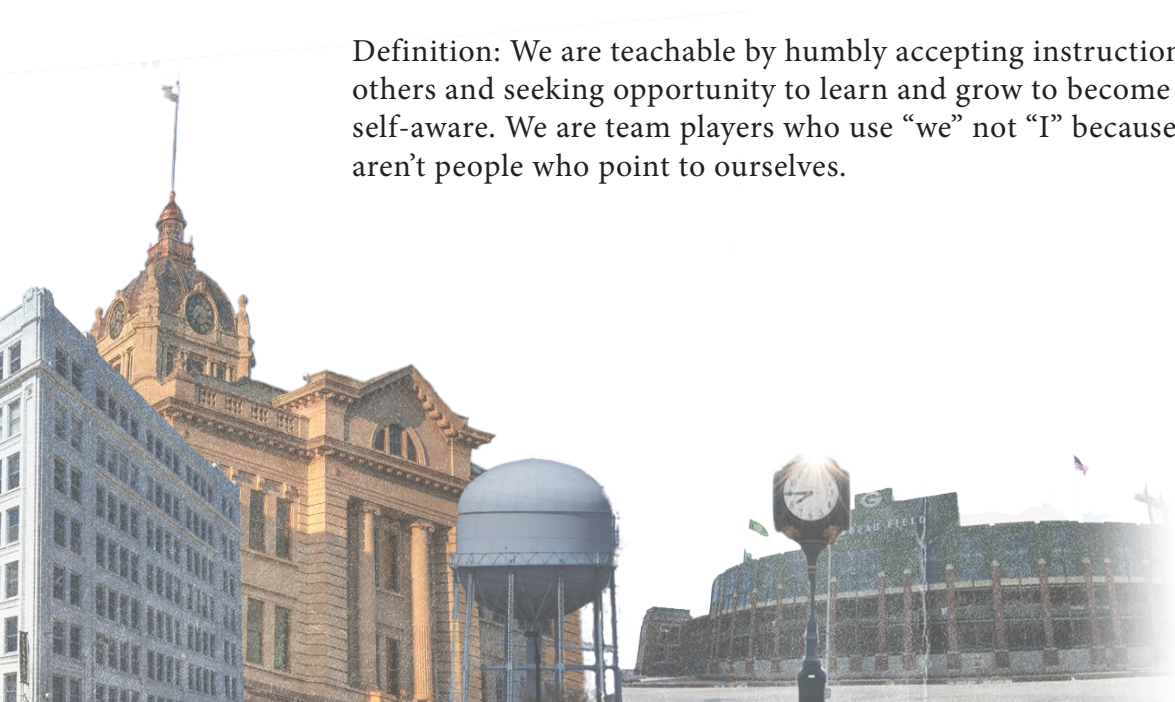
j2wholeness.org

WE ARE TEACHABLE

/ˈtē-çə-bəl/

adjective

Definition: We are teachable by humbly accepting instruction from others and seeking opportunity to learn and grow to become more self-aware. We are team players who use “we” not “I” because we aren’t people who point to ourselves.



INSTRUCT THE WISE AND THEY WILL BE WISER STILL;
TEACH THE RIGHTEOUS AND THEY WILL ADD TO THEIR LEARNING.

PROVERBS 9:9 NIV



Photo by Austin Felch

BY SCOTT EASTMAN

One of my favorite principles of the Life Church culture is the idea of being teachable. Technically, teachable means the ability to learn by being taught. But for me, it's about accepting the fact that I don't know everything about everything. Being teachable is an act of humility. Confessing that there's more I can know and learn about something – anything – is being teachable.

Like so many other parts of being a Jesus Person, being teachable (and humble) flies in the face of what the world tells us to do. Gain knowledge, leverage knowledge, effect knowledge for title and status is repeated to us. The world's way often seems like we should take what we know and make others feel smaller or less-than because of it. Like we are bigger, then, because of it.

But if we're chasing after a fuller, more-fulfilling, and more-purposeful life, one of the first things we have to admit is that we can be better. And to be better means there are things that we know and things that we do that

aren't complete. As humans, we hate to admit that though. In our flesh and in our pride, we hate admitting that we don't have a complete handle on everything. Somehow, we have been convinced that if we don't have complete knowledge and complete capacity, we are complete failures.

That's ridiculous.

Thinking you have utter and complete knowledge puts a cap on your capability. "I have what I have. I am what I am. I know what I know. And that's more than enough." Gosh! That's like buying a new car and only driving it as far as that first tank of gas will take you.

Learning is everything. Expanding your experiences is everything. Finding out things you never knew before is everything.

To be teachable means you are willing to listen, you're

willing to be corrected, and you're willing to ask for help. Being teachable means that even when you are the expert, you can be the student. Sometimes that means you're willing to be corrected by someone who may be younger or have a lower title than you. Sometimes that means that you're willing to be assisted by someone who has a different station in life. But then, there are other times that means you're willing to listen to your gut (or your own spirit filled by the Holy Spirit). That place where you are willing to honestly self-scout yourself and ask yourself difficult questions like, "What makes me react this way? What am I really upset about?" And sometimes it means that you're willing to confess, even in secret to God, Creator of the entire universe, that you can't go any further without Him.

I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that just about everything God has to say about you and to you in His word and through His Spirit is this one notion: There's so much more for you if you'll just set aside your pride and your ego and your obsessions—empty yourself completely—and let Me do the heavy lifting. Be humble enough to be teachable and you'll find you have an infinite capacity to be more.

The Bible, history and Christendom is chock-full of heroes who could only take themselves so far, but when they admitted shortcomings and committed to being teachable, God made mountains move through them.

So, what's the path towards being more teachable? Famed American author, speaker, and pastor who has written many leadership books, John Calvin Maxwell, says this about teachability:

To know whether you are really open to new ideas and new ways of doing things, ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Am I open to other people's ideas?
- 2) Do I listen more than I talk?
- 3) Am I open to changing my opinion based on new information?
- 4) Do I readily admit when I am wrong?
- 5) Do I observe before acting on a situation?
- 6) Do I ask questions?
- 7) Am I willing to ask a question that will expose my ignorance?
- 8) Am I open to doing things in a way I haven't done before?
- 9) Am I willing to ask for directions?
- 10) Do I act defensive when criticized, or do I listen openly for truth?

Asking questions indicates our teachability. If we don't care enough to dig deeper, we shouldn't wonder why our faith and practice can feel empty and flat. There are many churches in the Christian faith who look down on or otherwise discourage questions. However, I'm convinced that God desires His children to want to know more, who want to look behind the curtains of modern religion and figure out how the whole thing works— and more importantly— what the whole thing means.

To help encourage YOU to be teachable, Life Church provides a number of attitudes and opportunities.

Ask anything. Don't be embarrassed or afraid to ask questions about faith, God, church, and the Bible that don't make sense to you. There's no hierarchy of Jesus Friends. Not here, anyway. We're ALL trying to figure it out. If you're in a new part of the beautiful Northwoods and you want to catch some fish, you ask someone where they're biting, what they're biting on and what time of day you'll have the best luck. That doesn't make you a poor fisherman, it makes you a teachable (and successful) one.

Alpha. Most of us grew up in church communities where formation and education were present but not always relevant. If you've found faith that you're building for yourself and not just a hand-me-down from your dad or mom, sign up for Alpha. It's a 10-week course that (surprise!) asks the questions we should've been asking the whole time. Questions like, "Why did Jesus have to die? Who's the Holy Spirit? How do I pray? How can I resist evil?" The Alpha Course is an absolute must for every Jesus Person.

Podcasts. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Life Church began pouring resources into developing podcast content to fill in some of the gaps created by not having church services in the building. Our podcasts are all created with guidance and conversations around getting a better understanding of the weekly messages (Chew on That!), who we are in our world and in ourselves (The Whole Podcast), how to be more satisfied and complete in our lives (Cheery Conversations) and many more.

To see all that are available, visit podcast.lifechurchgreenbay.com

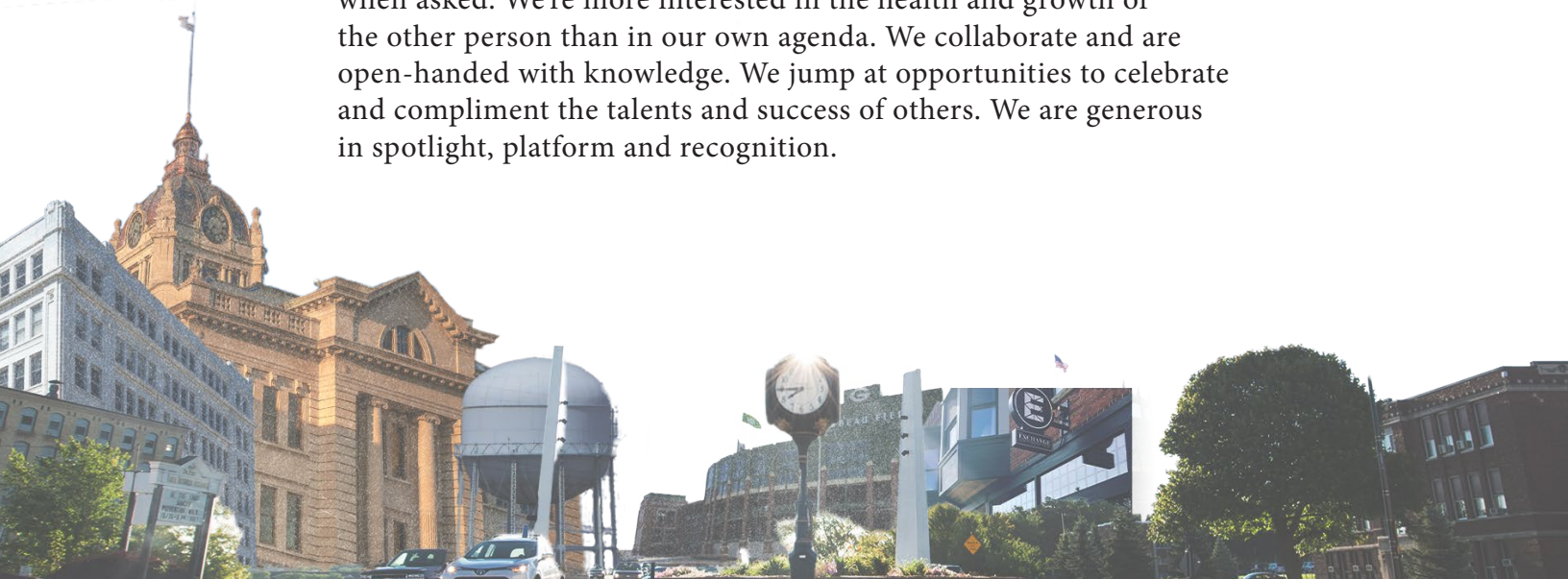


WE ARE GENEROUS

/'jen-rəs/

adjective

Definition: We are generous by listening first and talking second when asked. We're more interested in the health and growth of the other person than in our own agenda. We collaborate and are open-handed with knowledge. We jump at opportunities to celebrate and compliment the talents and success of others. We are generous in spotlight, platform and recognition.



BY ABBY HEINRITZ

The Exchange Coffee, Mercantile, & Eatery is a dream made possible by generosity, owned and operated through a spirit of generosity. When Shawn and Sonny Hennessy moved to Green Bay in 2012 to pastor Life Church Green Bay, Sonny's love for coffee inspired her to create and lead a coffee team to serve coffee on Sundays. Coffee is a connector; grabbing a coffee before and after service gives people an opportunity to pause, sip and connect with those around them. As Life Church Green Bay grew and relocated to larger buildings over the next couple of years, creating a space for coffee was always a priority.

Fast forward to early 2017: Shawn and Sonny were approached by a donor who wanted to make a large contribution to Life Church Green Bay, specifically with the purpose of giving back to the community. After Pastoring Life Church Green Bay for 5 years and with this generous gift in mind, Shawn and Sonny asked themselves and their team: "What do we want our city to look like in 5 years, 10 years and 20 years from now?"

Will our city be off the list or lower on the list of:
Drunkest city in America
Highest divorce rates in America
Highest Unemployment rates in America
Highest Domestic abuse rates in America



Generous people give to see the impossible become possible, and we knew that God had more in store for the people of the (920) than a lifestyle that led to being "winners" on these not-so-prestigious lists. People needed a life-giving presence in the community outside of a Sunday morning service, so when the opportunity arose to renovate a historic building in downtown De Pere, Sonny, Shawn, and the Life Church Green Bay staff took the leap and began renovations on the building. In April of 2018, The Exchange Coffee, Mercantile & Eatery opened to the public.

WE ARE GENEROUS

Being generous is defined as "showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is strictly necessary or expected." Generosity is more than just giving material goods, though that is one way of being generous. Truly generous people are also generous in attitude and in action, giving things like their full attention and kind words to others without expectation of getting anything in return. As Jesus people, we should be known by our abundant generosity.

The Exchange is a ministry in the marketplace. We want to leave people feeling better than we found them. Plain and simple. Being part of the service industry, our entire purpose is to serve others. But at The Exchange, it's bigger and deeper than that. Our goal is to serve our teammates and guests like Jesus would. That takes it to a whole new level... no pressure, right?! Many guests and teammates know we are connected to Life Church Green Bay, but many do not. We believe, for that reason, it is up to us to point people to Jesus. Not in an overt and aggressive way, but through our generosity in providing more "than is strictly necessary or expected." When we are generous in action and attitude, we love on our teammates and our guests in such a way that they question, what is different about these people and this place, and why?

At The Exchange, being generous means going above and beyond, whether that means walking and talking with a smile, saying "Hi!" first to our guests, speaking life over our teammates, or taking time on a busy Friday to help an elderly couple navigate our menu. It means giving a percentage of all goods sold from The Mercantile to our non-profit partner, Eye Heart World, on their quest to combat local sex-trafficking. It means looking for a way to find a, "yes" to make a sticky situation right, right away. It means providing space for life groups, Alpha, Journey to Wholeness, and Pocket Church on Sunday's.





Our generosity is shown in donations and gifts to local individuals, organizations, and businesses. It is displayed by how we choose to speak about someone and how we handle situations with understanding. We have found that generosity rarely happens by chance. Instead, it is an intentional decision that we make and cultivate as a business.

At The Exchange, we talk a lot about how we talk, since guest interactions and maintaining a life-giving environment hinges on how we choose to act and react, which is not always easy. We can be curt or we can be kind. We can be helpful or we can ignore. We get to choose. One thing we've learned is that it's almost impossible to be genuinely generous if we are critical in our thoughts, since "... out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." Luke 6:45, ESV Learning how to be generous is an active process that requires conscious effort. It is not something that happens overnight, but by "taking every thought captive," as Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians. Being around generous people is contagious— we become who we surround ourselves with, so when you are surrounded by kind, life-giving, peaceful, teachable, inspired, and generous people, it will rub off on you. It goes without saying that we are by no means perfect, but as a community space, we are incredibly intentional about establishing a culture where kindness is king and relationships rule. Life is all about relationships, after all, and we can't point to Jesus without a relationship first.

LEAVING A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

Each day, we conclude our daily team video with our mission: "It's more than coffee, it's more than waffles, we are leading the way in changing the culture of the (920) and beyond!" Over the years, many of our teammates have commented, "It really is more than coffee and waffles!" We

always laugh at this but then we pause and reflect. Because it is. Our product is coffee and waffles, but Jesus is our purpose.

As a ministry in the marketplace, our goal is two-fold. First, we aim to maintain an atmosphere of quality, generosity, and peace that inspires others to emulate it and also bring more life-giving experiences to their community and beyond. Second, and most importantly, we want to bring the life-giving message of Jesus to the (920) and beyond. Many of our teammates and guests over the years have found themselves in a relationship with Jesus that, prior to The Exchange, did not exist. Now THAT is a win and cause for major celebration! The Exchange is our gift to the city; it is our Jesus culture in action; it is our trojan horse set out to treat people better as a business. Because of an act of generosity that went above and beyond, a series of events was set in motion leading to the existence of The Exchange, which has allowed us to reach our city above and beyond.

ABOUT THE EXCHANGE

The Exchange is open Tuesday through Saturday for breakfast, brunch, and lunch, closed evenings and Sundays for Alpha, Life Groups, Journey to Wholeness, and Pocket Church to be offered in a neutral, marketplace environment. The unique products and peaceful environment inspires through its simple elegance. Whether in need of an incredible cup of coffee, a bubble waffle, gourmet crepe or salad, a thoughtful gift, or a haircut from the parlor, the Exchange is for our city.

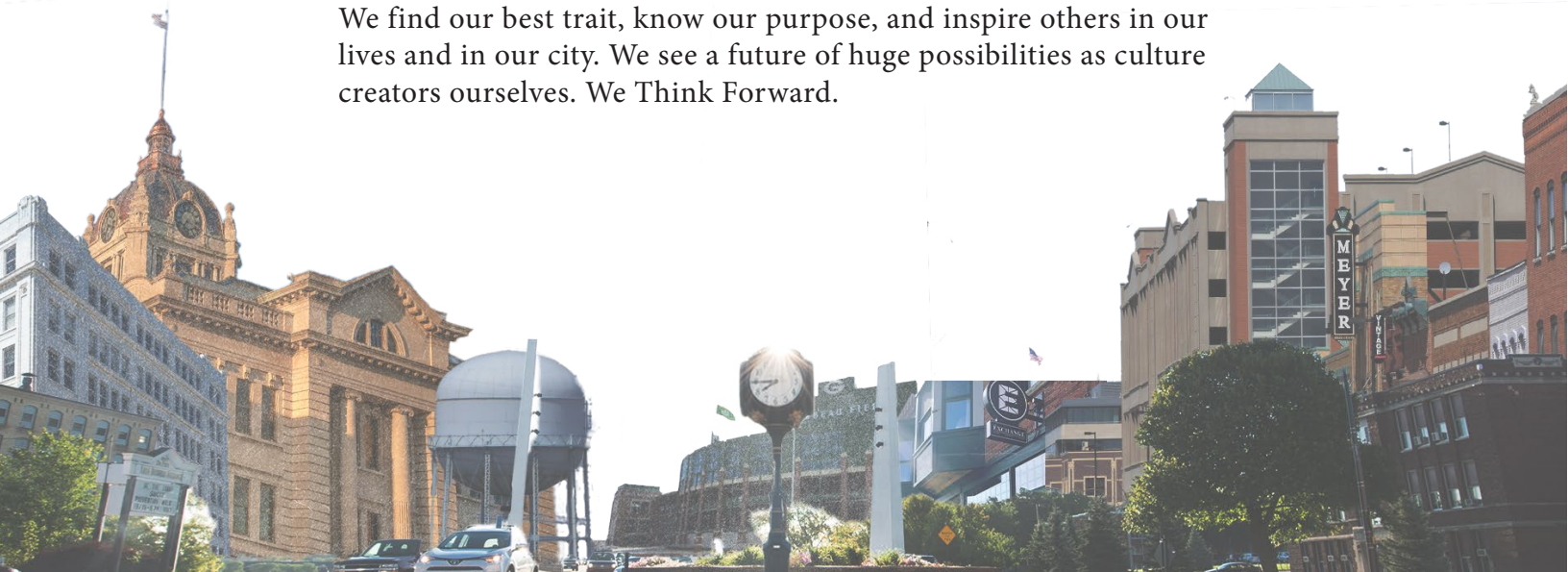
The Exchange Coffee, Mercantile and Eatery is a wholly owned and operated subsidiary of Life Church Green Bay, Inc. and all profits go toward its local and international ministries which bring the life-giving message of Jesus to the (920) and beyond.

WE ARE INSPIRED

/'in-'spī(-ə)rd/

adjective

Definition: We are inspired to dream big and go after MORE. We are entrepreneurs, innovators, visionaries, creators, dreamers and doers. We find our best trait, know our purpose, and inspire others in our lives and in our city. We see a future of huge possibilities as culture creators ourselves. We Think Forward.



MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL
JOY AND PEACE IN BELIVING, SO THAT BY THE
POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MAY ABOUND
IN HOPE.

Jeremiah 29:11

KIDS

BY
DALLAS COX

There are so many things I love about kids' ministry. I love the look on kids' faces when they come into our services on Sundays. I love the way they engage in the service and how many of them are prepared to give their lives to Jesus! I love how they are ready to ask questions in their connect group after the message. I love to see kids' faces when they realize that being in a kids' church can be really fun.

I love all these things so much, but the one thing I REALLY love is when kids bring back their kids Connect Card the following week. You might jump to the conclusion that I just want kids to do their homework, but it's so much more than that. The kids Connect Card is an opportunity to take Jesus right into their homes.

The Connect Card consists of a "big answer" — the answer to the big question, "So, what did you learn in church today?" We give kids an answer that can be used to start a conversation to unpack the answer even more. For example, we had a big answer that was, "God can do the impossible." By providing kids with a response, my hope is that families will want to ask, "How can God do the impossible?" because we want kids to inspire their parents by not just making statements like this, but believing in the impossible together!

A kids Connect Card also has an action step. This step takes what they learned and applies it to their life. If we talk about being kind, we'll challenge kids to list people they're going to be kind to.

The final thing that is on a kids Connect Card, is the memory verse. Memorizing Bible verses is a foundation of what we do. Why? Because the power of having God's word living in and through you is incredibly inspiring! Let me explain.

2 Timothy 3:16 says, "God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."

And Hebrews 4:12 says, "The Word of God is alive and active. It is sharper than any sword that has two edges. It cuts deep enough to separate soul from spirit. It can separate bones from joints. It judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart."

The Bible is composed of more than just words, each verse is living and breathing words that come from the Creator of the universe, God! So when we memorize verses, we are storing God's words into our hearts and applying them to our lives.

I want that for your kids! I want them to memorize verses so later they will remind themselves what God said when they are feeling hurt and pain. I want them to cling to what God says when they feel hopeless and they want to give up. I want them to use God's words to speak life over someone in prayer. I want them to be ready to bring God's words with them in any moment that comes their way. Maybe



they won't remember exactly where the Scripture comes from, if it's verse 2 or 3, but they will still have God's inspired, life-giving words living and breathing in them.

We want kids to know that church may start for them on Sunday but it stays with us all week and really, forever. I would love to someday hear a story of an adult who used a church story, a big answer, or a memory verse to inspire them in a business decision, in marriage advice or even in teaching their own kids what Jesus has to say.

I love a lot of things we do in Kids church, but I'm still blown away by how many hands I see go up when I ask if they want to start their Jesus journey. And the only thing that compares to them starting their Jesus journey, is when I see those kids Connect Cards come back. That's when I know God inspired an entire home that week. I believe God has planted seeds in the conversations that happened by asking what the Big Answer was.

I believe people will be more curious and inspired about God when they see their kids take what they have learned and put it into action. And I believe that when we position our kids to memorize Scripture, we are positioning them to be victorious over any situation because they will have God's Word within them to overcome anything.

A NEW EPISODE EVERY WEEK ON
KIDSONLINE.TV



LIFE CHURCH Exists to Bring the LIFE GIVING MESSAGE of JESUS to the People of the (920)



WHY STORIES ARE IMPORTANT

BY
MEGAN MAHLIK

This culture book has been filled with testimony that hopefully will cause you to pause and reflect. This is more than a magazine, or a culture guide, it's an explanation of who we are as Jesus people. Everyone carries the story of their life, and the story of how we became Jesus people should be no different. Just think, how many times a day do you tell a story? We tell stories constantly, from what happened at the grocery store 15 minutes ago to what changed our life 15 years ago.

All stories are important—they take our minds on a journey, connecting us in a shared experience, learning what the hero is learning, feeling their emotions and coming to understand their decisions. We are wired for stories; it's our human nature.

Jesus was an expert storyteller. Crafting parables and creating metaphors, He captivated the attention of His audiences and followers. Deftly, He helped people understand what He was trying to say by allowing their minds to follow along through His story, reteaching many things that they already knew but just didn't quite understand fully. Through His stories, Jesus could better communicate nuances that shape and shift our perspectives of a situation or a lesson. Take, for example, the prodigal son. If Jesus had simply said, "Love your family even if they fail," that would not have had the same effect as the deep richness that comes from understanding the layers of meaning in His parable.

That is why we believe stories should be a part of our culture. We believe that the retelling of an experience or life story can impact others, wherever they are at. Just imagine—without stories, there would be no Netflix! Stories give us something to hope for, look to, learn from, and ponder. When we hear stories about struggle, we learn how to get through it and become life-giving. When we hear stories about overcoming defeat, we learn how to be teachable. When we hear about facing evil, we learn how to stay kind. When we hear about surviving catastrophe, we learn how to become inspired. When we hear stories about those who are self-seeking, we learn how we can be generous with our time and attention.

Stories provide a framework and a pattern. They give us something to propel off of and implement. They show us where we are similar, how we are different and even how we can be better. Entire cultures are built upon stories and the stories we choose to tell will directly affect the next generation.

Maybe some of the stories in this culture book resonated with you. Maybe you'll re-tell that story to someone and they will be impacted by it. That's the beauty of stories. They are infinite, traveling as far as mouths will carry them, their message beaming strong and steady. That's why stories are important, because if you let them, stories can change your life, change your heart, and then, change someone else.

GET PLUGGED IN

Growth Track

Growth Track is for EVERYONE! It's your track of growth. The 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, we hold the one hour class for you to learn the simple steps in making your Jesus Journey personal, not ritualistic or religious. This is where you can also ask questions and hear how we do things at Life Church and the "why" behind everything. Classes are for both long time believers and new Jesus people. We all start with the same foundation; to get connected and involved!

Life Groups & Teams

We all connect with a "pocket of people" so that our church never feels too big. New Life Groups start each quarter of the year and there is something for everyone. Check out our online directory to sign up when groups are available. Join a team at any time! Teams are the best place to do life with other Jesus people. Find out what's available by coming to Growth Track on any Sunday or scanning the QR code.

Catalyst

Catalyst is our student ministry at LC for 6-12th grade. We are so passionate about teens we've dedicated half of our building to create the best possible environment. Between the arcade, basketball court, video games, pool tables, ping-pong, and air hockey and café, teens will be right at home every Wednesday during the school year! We want them to know that they belong here! Go to the Catalyst Instagram to get all the details and keep up with the events! @gbcatalyst

Journey to Wholeness

Journey to Wholeness is a healing and restoration program designed to help you overcome emotional and physiological symptoms of everyday stress, relationship challenges and trauma. The course provides tools and applications to help you get to the root of your beliefs, behavior patterns and emotions so that you can begin to reset and renew your mind in Christ, practically. There are several different formats offered, including: groups, online, one-on-one and intensives. To register, visit j2wholeness.org

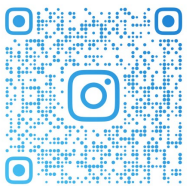
Alpha

Sometimes we question, we wonder, "What's going on?" Alpha is a safe place to look at these questions and allow us to see what a relationship with Jesus looks like. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of faith. Each session allows people to ask the big, small and tough questions they have been wanting to ask. Alpha is a 10 week in-person course with provided meals and round-table discussion.

KIDS

KIDS is our children's ministry for all kids 6 weeks old through 5th grade! Your kids will learn all about Jesus in an age-appropriate and FUN setting.

Special Needs: We are excited to meet your child! Pastor Dallas at dallas@lifechurchgb.com would love to plan how we can best assist you and create a plan that works for your child!



LIFECHURCHGREENBAY

Follow us on Instagram to know what's happening all the time!



USE CAMERA TO SCAN TO GET ALL LC INFO IN ONE PLACE

Ready to get involved? Scan the QR code and get going!



CORE BELIEFS & BEHAVIORS

PEOPLE ARE VALUABLE: How do you treat the janitor?

WHAT IT LOOKS & FEELS LIKE	WHAT IT IS NOT
Joyful, kind, warm, bright and loving.	Rude, calloused, sarcastic, opinionated, and political.
Welcoming and hospitable. We say, "Hi!" first.	Closed off, aloof, and distracted (or on their phone.)
Listens to a person's story first, talks second & when asked. Is more interested in the health & growth of the other person than in our own agenda.	Looks to further their own agenda, putting personal interests before the other person. People are the means to an end or "used."
Engaged with consistent eye contact. Acknowledges others in conversations and in meetings.	Dismissive and unengaged. Speaks over people's thoughts, comments, and ideas.
Not a "respector of persons." Acknowledges anyone who walks in the room and treats all equally.	Does not look up when certain people enter the room and only has time for "important people."
Asks about the other person first.	Talks about himself/herself first.
Replies back to texts and emails promptly.	Doesn't value people enough to respond to a text with even a simple, "ok" as an acknowledgment.
Says, "please" and "thank you."	Has the expectation that people are here to serve them.

WE POINT TO JESUS, NOT OURSELVES: Look at God!

WHAT IT LOOKS & FEELS LIKE	WHAT IT IS NOT
Teamwork: says "we."	Maverick: says "I."
Clearly communicates goals and asks for help along the way to the goal.	Uses ambiguity as a defense mechanism or points fingers when project fails.
Asks what "excellent" looks like in each situation. On a scale of 1-10, doesn't settle for anything less than an "8."	Gets by with what is "good enough." Settles for things that "check the box" off the list.
Takes initiative - sees a need and meets the need.	Waits for someone else to fix "it" or make a plan to fix an unmet need.
Works with a passion. Pays attention to detail and follows through all the way to the end. Has "Grit."	Loses interest and says, "good enough" or passes the buck to someone else when a task is not fun.
Collaborates. Is open-handed with knowledge by sharing what's learned and creates a stronger culture.	Withholds information and uses knowledge to maintain a position of power.
Jumps at opportunities to celebrate and compliment the talents and successes of others.	Quick to point out the shortcomings of others. Jealous of other's recognition.

100% KINDNESS, 0% DRAMA: Be the thermostat!

WHAT IT LOOKS & FEELS LIKE	WHAT IT IS NOT
Has fun and can be playful with people to lighten a mood, laugh, and enjoy life together.	Carries the cares of their day into the next conversation. Sets the room on edge.
We will be direct, sensitive, and honest. We will address incivility when it occurs. Brings peace to a room.	Has unclear or mediocre standards of behavior Doesn't care about the "temperature of the room."
Not getting defensive or offended when asked a question.	Feels every comment or question has something else behind it or an ulterior motive.
Shares the good first.	States the bad first.
Has no taste or tolerance for drama.	Has an appetite for gossiping & drama.
Goes directly to the person who has offended or upset us. Prays first and sets a time to meet.	Expects people to come to them to apologize and talks to others about the person (gossips).
Our CULTURE is to love people and say "no" by pointing people to a "yes."	Dismissive. Says, "no" without pointing people to an alternative idea or plan.

WE ARE TEACHABLE: When it's painful, it doesn't mean it's not helpful.

WHAT IT LOOKS & FEELS LIKE	WHAT IT IS NOT
Is ok with something being someone else's idea.	Feels the need to take credit for ideas/knowledge.
Humbly accepts information from others.	Says, "I know" or talks over people.
Operates from the belief that everyone has something of value to learn from and looks at each meeting or conversation as an opportunity to grow and be challenged.	Feels the need to posture self in a position of power and/or authority by stating what they know and what they have done/accomplished.
Is confident enough to present yourself as a student when in fact is an expert.	Speaks as though they are an expert at all times.
Generous in spotlight, platform, and recognition.	Wants the spotlight & credit.
Replaces self through delegation and mentoring.	Seeks power by dominating others.
Leaders who raise up leaders replace themselves-if you "empty your cup" and hire from within you reinforce culture.	Is afraid to share knowledge or bring up leaders.
Empowers others--plans for the future and growth.	Does not empower others and micromanages.

TRUTH IN LOVE: We do the most loving thing that the Bible allows.

WHAT IT LOOKS & FEELS LIKE	WHAT IT IS NOT
Leaders are held to a higher standard as to represent Jesus well both in ministry and at home- realizing I will carry my personal life to work with me.	Doesn't see the correlation between our representation of Jesus to how we live, act, and post online.
In only 3 years of ministry, Jesus constantly tweaked the commitment level of people. Committed to gradual shortening of personal "leash" through pressing into higher Biblical standards.	Rejects giving up old habits, hobbies, and relationships for the sake of higher Biblical standards. Finds refraining from activities/statements as infringing on their "rights."
Realizes that our biases don't change what is Truth Biblically.	Changes belief and reliance on Bible when "it becomes personal."
A continual desire to grow.	Prideful stubbornness.
Selects and grows team member by looking for chemistry. Personally engages in person's progress.	Writes a job description to keep team member "behaving" and corrects only through written notice or performance review.





THE EXCHANGE
COFFEE • MERCANTILE

SINCE 1890

A Magazine for the (920)

LIFE & CULTURE