



Discovering Church of the Lakes Membership Class

Address: 8844 Nineveh Road

Email: churchofthelakes@yahoo.com

Prayer Chain: rachellen2003@yahoo.com or text Rachele Minor 317-445-3179

Website: church-of-the-lakes.net

Facebook: Cotl Nineveh

- Facebook Group: “COTL Testimony” share your testimony with the church family
- Facebook Group: “COTL Storehouse” post items to give away or sell

Weekly Service and Worship Information

9:00am: Coffee fellowship in the Gathering Place

9:30am: Group prayer in the Sanctuary

10:00am: Worship & Announcements in the Sanctuary

10:20am: Youth and children are released to go downstairs for Sunday school.

10:20-10:30am: Weekly Communion

Youth & Children take part in Communion on the last Sunday of each month.

10:30-11:15am Weekly Sermon

Tithing & Giving Information

There are several ways to tithe and give to the church. If you have any questions, please contact our Ministry Assistant Amy Allen at churchofthelakes@yahoo.com or 317-946-8651.

- Place cash or check in a tithing envelope and drop it in the offering box located outside the Sanctuary.
- Online bill payment: Make your tithe an “online payment” with your bank
- Venmo App: Send your tithe to @COTL-Nineveh
- Send a check via the U.S. Mail

Church Office Hours (All hours are subject to change based on ministry needs.)

Pastor Jon Lucas: Monday-Thursday 9-5, and Sunday 7-12

Youth Director Melody Miller: Sunday 8-12

Children’s Minister Tracy Lucas: Tuesday All Day, and Sunday 8-12

Ministry Assistant Amy Allen: Thursday 8-5, Friday varies, and Sunday 9-12

A Brief Overview of how Church of the Lakes Began

October 29, 1968-Reverend Dan Kapornijai of Nineveh Christian Church, along with fifteen others, met after their worship service to discuss the possibility of forming a church in the Lakes community.

July 26, 1969-After several meetings and much prayer, a small group of twenty-seven people met at the Shelter House (what we know today as the Club House) to discuss moving forward with establishing an ecumenical church and naming it Church of the Lakes. At the same meeting Sweetwater Lakes, Inc. offered to donate a two-acre plot of land for the church to be built on.

August 11, 1969-Officers/Elders were elected.

August 31, 1969-The church constitution and bylaws were drafted.

September 7, 1969-September 27, 1969-The donated lot was surveyed and a sign with the church name was posted on the lot and a mini-display of what the church planned to build was created and presented at the Ox Roast to try and generate interest in the plans.

October 6, 1969-A chartering service was held to establish a congregation. There were twelve full-time members and seventeen associate members who approved the church constitution and bylaws at this time.

November 10, 1969-December 19, 1969-Reverend Kapornijai moved away from the area and retired Methodist Minister Dr. Thomas Stovall became the new part-time pastor of the church. During this time, there were talks to end the church charter due to lack of community interest, but Reverend Stovall convinced the members to delay their decision until Easter. (There were eighteen full-time members and twenty-eight associate members at this time.)

March 29, 1970- "The date set for closing the Charter on Membership and all who were present will never forget the spirit of this Easter Service. Following an inspiring service led by the pastor, the congregation joined in a Circle of Dedication around the entire room. It was the beginning of a new day of larger faith and vision for the Church of the Lakes."

Under Reverend Stovall's leadership, and with the prayers and dedication of the congregation, the original church structure was built and was dedicated on June 18, 1972. (Later additions were completed in 1976, 1983 and 2007.)

Membership grew exponentially in the years that followed.

August 15, 1975-There were 258 members reported.

May 16, 1976-There were 300 members reported and under Reverend Dick Crowley, who was the church's first full time pastor, the congregation grew to over 400 members and associate members!

State-wide Recognition

It was reported that while Reverend Crowley was leading Church of the Lakes that the church received state-wide recognition for “an ecumenical religion with more than fifteen different denominations comprising the membership.”

Pastoral Leadership through the years

1968-1969: Reverend Dan Kapornijai
1969-1977: Reverend Thomas Stovall, M.D.
1977-1979: Reverend Everett Hayes
1979-1979: Reverend Carl Hatfield (Interim)
1979-1999: Reverend Richard “Dick” Crowley
1999-2001: Reverend Jim Land
2001-2011: Pastor Bruce Bendinger
2011-2014: Interim pastors served
2014-Current: Pastor Jon Lucas

We are so grateful to God for this church, He planted the seeds of possibility, a new church in the Lakes community, in hearts and minds of just a handful of people, so many years ago and He grew it into what we are today.

We also want to take a moment to recognize those brothers and sisters in Christ who came before us. Not only did they possess the courage and dedication to carry out the plan that God had lay before them, but through faith and prayer they formed a congregation of Christ followers who helped form the community that we live in and enjoy to this day.

To those of you who might be new to the Lakes community, we welcome you and invite you to *‘Join us on the Journey,’* which is following Christ, our Lord and Savior to wherever He leads!

Church Structure

Church of the Lakes originally started out as an interdenominational church, which is a church that incorporates the traditions and practices from multiple Christian denominations and works alongside other denominations as well. Since then, we have become a non-denominational church, which means we are independent and have no affiliation to a larger denominational hierarchy, we can make our own decisions on doctrine and are self-governed. With that said, we welcome all believers and seekers, regardless of their denominational background or affiliation.

With regards to structure, we have patterned ourselves after the New Testament Church as it is described in **Acts 2:42-47**, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who 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.”

Five Church Pillars

After examining what we read in **Acts 2:42-47**, we learned that the New Testament Church was devoted to five key things: worship, study, prayer, fellowship and sharing; therefore, we model our church ministries based on these pillars.

Worship-We worship to give God the glory to which He is entitled.

Psalm 95:1-7

- Sermons-The weekly sermons are meant to be uplifting and instructional, convicting, and inspiring. We want to promote spiritual growth and to help deepen one's relationship with God.
- Music-Our weekly worship is meant to glorify God and express our gratitude and love to Him through worship, adoration, and reverence for what He has done and for who He is. We use hymns, contemporary Christian music, scripture readings, and prayer to facilitate the atmosphere and awe of our Savior.
- Communion-We celebrate weekly communion to remember and reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us through His death on the cross.

Study-We learn to obey those things which God has given us as instructions.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- We maintain that every believer needs to have a strong foundation on Biblical Truth, which is why we offer study opportunities for the adults, teens, and children at our church. Group study fosters growth and maturity, community, accountability, and unity and ultimately that individual will become a more committed Christian.

Prayer-We put ourselves in the position of having God minister to and through us.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philipians 4:6-7

- Collective prayer in a church setting fosters a sense of unity and support among believers. We believe that there is power in prayer and that deepens our faith in God as we align our hearts to His.

Fellowship-We grow in our love and commitment to one another as fellow believers.

1 John 1:5-7

- We believe that a body of believers will become a "church family" by practicing the act of fellowship often. This may include sharing meals, caring for one another's needs, or giving one's resources to another. Fellowship encourages and fosters the feeling of belonging within the entire church.

Sharing-We become the hands and feet of Jesus through missions & evangelism.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

- As we become disciples of Jesus ourselves, we will begin to live out His teachings by how we think, what we say and what we do. The ultimate goal is to share the story of Jesus Christ with others (evangelism) with the hope that they will become a believer, but it is also about supporting and nurturing new converts as they navigate their way through the church and teaching them how to live out the gospel in their lives (missions).

Church Leadership

Church of the Lakes is a “congregation lead church” which means the congregation nominates its members into leadership positions often called Elders and Deacons. We call our leadership team a Shepherding Team because they oversee/guide the business of the church and they protect and care for the flock/congregation. These lay leaders, if elected, will hold their position for a period of four years. In addition to overseeing the church business matters, each member of the team is also responsible for overseeing one (or more) of our five church pillars.

Deacons are the ministers of the church; they assist the Shepherding Team and pastor with any practical or spiritual needs that the church or congregation might have. Duties could include serving communion, greeting visitors on Sunday morning, driving someone to an appointment, or delivering a meal.

Finally, It is our desire to get to know you better, so we highly encourage you to reach out to Pastor Jon or one of our Shepherding Team members at your convenience, so that we discuss (or discover) your spiritual gifts in order to get you connected to a serving pillar within the church.

Church Shepherding Team Contacts

Chairman: Rick Wirey (317-506-0449/rwirey1964@comcast.net)

Vice Chairman: Andrew Beller (812-374-2415/abeller@outlook.com)

Secretary: Marjorie Johnson (317-439-0476/margiejohnson416@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Denise Caudill (317-508-5751/denise.caudill@rocketmail.com)

Kevin Pharr (317-995-1658/ckpharr@gmail.com)

Trent Frazier (317-650-3109/trentfrazier234@yahoo.com)

Pastor Jon Lucas (317-933-2595/jonlucas.cotl@gmail.com)

Church Ministry Contacts

Worship Pillar: Pastor Jon Lucas (317-933-2595/jonlucas.cotl@gmail.com)

Study Pillar:

- Men’s Ministry: Pastor Jon Lucas (317-933-2595/jonlucas.cotl@gmail.com)
- Women’s Ministry: Tracy Lucas (317-402-7481/tracylucas.cotl@gmail.com)
- Thrive Youth Ministry: Melody Miller (317-319-5595/gsdnut@yahoo.com)
- Harvestland Children’s Ministry: Tracy Lucas (317-402-7481/tracy.cotl@gmail.com)

Prayer Pillar: Marjorie “Margie” Johnson (317-439-0476, margiejohnson416@gmail.com)

Fellowship Pillar: Kathy Fairchild (812-350-1935, kathyfairchild.cotl@gmail.com)

Sharing Pillar: Andrew Beller (812-374-2415/abeller@outlook.com)

Other Ministry Contacts

Finance: Amy Allen (317-933-2595, 317-946-8651/churchofthelakes@yahoo.com)

Buildings & Grounds: Mel Fairchild (812-929-3135/mfairchild3535@gmail.com)

Guardian Angels: Kathy Fairchild (812-350-1935, kathyfairchild.cotl@gmail.com)

Church Mission Statement

To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, to grow in their faith, to discover their purpose and to make a difference in the world.

Church Vision Statement

We strive to help those who don't know Christ to know Him, and to help those who know Christ to live like Him.

Our Statement of Faith

The doctrinal position of Church of the Lakes is summarized in our twelve-article Statement of Faith.

1. We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man and the Divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.
4. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, during this age, to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, and indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is, therefore, lost and it is only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit that salvation and spiritual life be obtained.

6. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God.
7. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.
8. We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head.
9. We believe that only those who are, thus, members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church and that every local church has the right, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.
11. We believe that in the personal pre-millennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that the "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of every believer.
12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy of the Lord; of the unbeliever to judgement and everlasting consciousness and punishment.

Grace Progression Chart: Surprising Grace, Splash-Off Grace, Saving Grace, Amazing Grace
(See next page)

Why Membership Matters

1. Joining a church solidifies your commitment to Christ and His people.
2. Joining a church keeps you accountable to Christ and to others.
3. Joining a church gives you a sense of belonging to something greater than yourself.
4. Joining a church gives you greater opportunities to serve in the community.
5. Joining a church means that you will be cared for and supported by other believers.
6. Joining a church allows you to be disciplined through structured Bible study.
7. Joining a church means that you are committing to serve, pray and give to the church to move its mission and vision forward.

Membership Covenant

What is expected of me as a member of Church of the Lakes?

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, having been baptized, and agreeing with the church's Statement of Faith, mission, vision, and structure, I feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with this church family. In making this commitment, I pledge to do the following four things:

1. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward all other members by refusing to gossip and by following the leadership that God has placed in this church.

John 17:20-23

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one, as we are one—²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

Ephesians 4:29

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷ Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

1 Peter 1:22

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.^[a]

2. I will share the responsibility for my church's health and well-being by praying for its growth, by inviting the unchurched to attend and by warmly welcoming those who visit.

1 Thessalonians 1:2

² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.

Luke 14:23

²³ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.

Romans 15:7

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

3. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, by becoming equipped to serve in the church and by developing a servant’s heart.

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Philippians 2:3-4,7

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature^[a] of a servant, being made in human likeness.

4. I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, by living a life pleasing to God and by giving regularly to the church.

Hebrews 10:25

²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Philippians 1:27

²⁷Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit,^[a] striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 16:2

²On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Membership Status

(See Article II: Church Bylaws)

People seeking membership in Church of the Lakes must:

1. Be a minimum of 12 years old. Children of adult members do not automatically become members of the church. Children do not become members automatically by reaching a certain age. Each young person should have a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This relationship cannot be inherited by virtue of a parent's profession and commitment.
2. Give clear testimony to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Accept Church of the Lakes Statement of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws
4. Complete a membership class, complete required paperwork, and attend New Member Sunday.
5. Have been or will be baptized, in accordance with our church ordinance.
6. Agree to submit to the instruction and governance of the church and promote unity, purity, peace, and welfare by all means.
7. Seek to "live in the Spirit and not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (Galatians 5:16-26)
8. Abide by the fundamental principles of the Church, which are based on the Word of God. Therefore, every member of the congregation is expected to live according to its teachings and avoid and refrain from that which is destructive to the Christian life and dishonoring to God. Every member is earnestly admonished to:
 - a. Pray for the church's leadership, ministries, pastors, staff, and fellow members.
 - b. Materially support the church according to one's ability and necessity.
 - c. Attend worship services and congregational meetings regularly.
 - d. Be supportive of all church ministries.
 - e. Prayerfully consider how spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit could be used to minister to others and used for service in the church.
 - f. Refrain from gossip, slander or speaking evil against a fellow member.
 - g. Seek to live a holy and godly life in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

Member Voting Privileges

1. Active members in good standing may vote during congregation meetings on matters related to church business/governance. If unable to attend a meeting, members may obtain an absentee ballot two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting.
2. Members must be 18 years of age to vote.

Member Disciplinary Action

Discipline of a church member shall be the responsibility of the Shepherding Team and shall be in accordance with Matthew 18 and other Scripture. Any member proven to be leading a life dishonoring to Christ and/or His Church and not evidencing real repentance after being admonished by the Elders, may be dismissed from the church and/or its ministries. Written notice of such action may be given to the church body following the dismissal, at the discretion of the Shepherding Team.

Membership Termination

Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

1. By a member's death

2. By transfer-Any member in good standing who wishes to affiliate with another Christian church will be granted a Letter of Transfer upon request. The letter will be issued from the pastor upon approval of the Shepherding Team.
3. By request-Any member who requests termination of membership for whatever reason will be granted that request. If there are unresolved problems between the member who is requesting the transfer and the church, the Shepherding Team will make efforts to resolve any points at issue prior to granting the request.
4. By disciplinary action.
5. By inactivity-If a member has not actively participated in church worship services for a prolonged period of time, if efforts to engage that member are unsuccessful, and if it therefore becomes apparent that the member no longer wishes to associate with the congregation, their membership may be terminated, unless the inactivity is due to health or other reasons acceptable to the Shepherding Team.

Member Surrender of Privileges

Any member who has been terminated for any reason thereby loses any and all membership privileges including but not limited to the right to vote at congregation meetings, and all rights to any interest in the real estate or personal property of Church of the Lakes.



Church of the Lakes

Membership Agreement

I confess today that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, and I rely completely on His gift of salvation for right standing with God and eternal life.

I believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God, and I declare my intention to keep God's commandments.

I believe in one holy universal Church under the rulership of Jesus Christ, and I currently believe Church of the Lakes is the place where God wants me to participate in the life of His church.

I agree with and support the church's Statement of Faith, Constitution, and Bylaws.

I therefore commit myself to participate actively in the fellowship of this church family, and to support it with my gifts, talents, and resources.

Member's signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Documentation Received

____ This Membership Agreement

____ Written Testimony

____ Family Information Page

FAMILY INFORMATION

PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH US SO THAT WE MAY INCLUDE YOU IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

BIRTHDAY: _____

SPOUSE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

BIRTHDAY: _____

ANNIVERSARY: _____

PERMANTENT ADDRESS: _____

LAKE ADDRESS: _____

CHILDRENS NAMES WITH AGES

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PLEASE LET US KNOW THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IF ANY OF YOUR INFORMATION CHANGES