

WHY CHURCH 2-1-2026

February 1, 2026



WHY CHURCH?

Matthew 28:16-19

Acts 2:42-47

8.2 BILLION

1. 8.2 Billion People on Planet Earth
2. Nearly 5,000 within a mile of Lakeside
3. Almost 50,000 within the 73026 Zip code
4. Nearly 100,000 within a Five Mile Radius of LFC
5. All ages, races, income levels, education levels
6. Many churches find themselves in a difficult position as they age
 - a. Often times the demographics around an aging church change in a negative way
 - b. Church buildings often decline in value as a church ages due to the changing demographics
 - c. Cities and Communities are constantly changing - ex. Porter Street vs. 36th Ave NW, shopping Center on West side of town vs 24th Ave NW Shopping District
7. Lakeside, however, is in a growing, thriving area of town
 - a. God certainly knew what He was doing when He led the

congregation of the Classen Street Church of God to the East Side of Norman 36 years ago!

- b. New Construction, New Sub-Division and Upgraded roads and streets. New Businesses/Amenities are coming to the East Side of Norman.
- c. The Harvest is literally coming to the back door of LFC!
- d. The Greatest days for Lakeside lie ahead!
- e. Just like the founding fathers of our Nation could never have imagined the growth and prosperity of America, The Founding Men and Women of Lakeside could never have imagined what God has in Store!

WHY CHURCH? - Why are people leaving (or worse yet, never engaging) with Today's Church?

- 1. Indifference: Many are not necessarily anti-church, they are simply indifferent or lack passion for the Church's mission
- 2. Alternative Practices: A growing number of Christians prefer to practice their faith in other ways - outside of traditional church services
- 3. Life Changes: New job, New family addition, Recent move... all lead to just "getting out of the practice" of going to church which leads to permanent disengagement
- 4. Lack of Fit/Community: Many do not attend because they haven't found a church they like or don't feel welcome. They just don't seem to fit in
- 5. Overbearing: The opposite of above. Many want to just come in and Worship and get to know the Church organically, but are "attacked" when they arrive, asked probing and prodding questions, find their information has been passed along without their knowledge, etc and will never be back
- 6. Negative Experiences / Negative Publicity: Hypocrisy, judgmental attitudes, negative publicity, personal conflict all lead to people leaving the church
- 7. Theological Concerns: Doubts about God, disagreement in doctrine or finding sermons irrelevant all lead to disengagement with the church
- 8. Convenience: Rise of online services have made it convenient for many to just stay home and "attend church" online

9. Time: Sports, Family events, Community involvement - Lack of Time is a major contributor to those leaving Church

WHY CHURCH? - Who started the Church?

1. Matthew 16:18 NKJV, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build MY CHURCH..."
2. Acts 2:42-47
 - a. The Disciples and the New Followers of Jesus "continued daily in the Temple, and with breaking bread from house to house"
 - b. They met at the Temple to Study, Worship and spend time with God
 - c. They went from house to house breaking bread and fellowshipping together
 - d. They (THE CHURCH) formed the first Church
 - e. Most often they would use the Temples to Worship. Later banned by the Jews, they began to meet in homes until they could build their own "House of Worship"
3. God instituted the Church - Jesus declared He would build the Church
4. The Church is not a man-made "Jesus Club" for those who have nothing to do on Sunday mornings
5. Jesus instituted the Church and He works in and through the Church
 - a. Seven Letters - Seven Churches
 - b. Revelation 2 and 3 Jesus addressed the "Angel" of Seven Churches located in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) seven times - seven different churches. He spoke to and worked through the leadership of the Seven Churches
 - c. Jesus works in and through the Church today
 - d. Yes, you can worship God at home or watch the service online, but there is something about Believers coming together in one place and in one accord (ex. Acts 2)
 - e. The Church is the Body of Christ - He is the head Ephesians 1:23
 - f. We are instructed not to forsake the assembly (coming together as a church body) Hebrews 10:25

WHY CHURCH? - Is it worth all the Work?

1. Church is hard It costs time, money, blood sweat and tears
2. Why all the fuss? Is it worth the time, effort and money?
3. Here at Lakeside, we are on the verge of moving forward in a “Reset” that will take Time, Money, Effort. It’s going to stretch some to the point of breaking - A Spiritual Bootcamp
 - a. Not all will like it
 - b. It’s going to cost us
 - c. It’s going to challenge us
 - d. It’s going to hurt
- E. Some won’t make it - Abraham’s servants took Abraham and Isaac to the mountain, but couldn’t go up. God has those that help His Visionary Vessels get to the mountain, but they can’t/won’t go up. It was at the mountain, however, that the Destiny of Israel was advanced!
4. But LFC will emerge STRONGER, HEALTHIER AND PREPARED FOR THE HARVEST!
5. Matthew 28:16-19 Great Commission

WHY CHURCH? - What is the Purpose of the Church today?

1. House of Prayer
2. House of Worship
3. Evangelistic Tool
4. Place of Encouragement
5. Place to Engage with God
6. Place to Engage with other Believers
7. Place of Conviction
8. Place of Fellowship with a COMMUNITY of Believers
9. Place of Safety
10. Place of Accountability
11. God’s institution, with His Presence and His Blessing
12. Upon the rock I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH and the gates of Hell shall not prevail...