

# OUR PURPOSE

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We have a clear purpose to be carried out through our church corporately and in our individual lives. The purpose at Northlake Church comes under what we might call an overarching purpose. Jesus stated two important purposes that we believe bring glory to God. First is the great command:

"And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'" Matthew 22:37-40

## **Jesus also left us with the Great Commission**

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

We believe that our purpose as a church builds off these two passages.

**"Northlake Church loves Jesus and brings gospel hope to every man, woman, and child on the North Shore."**

This means that we focus on the Great Commandments and the Great Commission; we focus on love: Loving God, Loving each other, and Loving the world around us. This is our calling and mission; this is why we exist. We often refer to our purpose as Love Jesus, Bring Hope.



# VISION MISSION

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## LOVE JESUS.

There is an enormous passion for Jesus at Northlake. Loving Jesus is the main thing. We aim to love Jesus as he has never been loved before. We feel so overwhelmingly loved by God that we want to love him back and pursue him with everything we've got. We challenge each of us to meet with God daily in unhurried, uninterrupted prayer and Bible reading. Our monthly prayer gathering is a time to seek the presence of God with other lovers of Jesus. We desire to worship God wholeheartedly. We gladly obey him. We generously give back to him with our time, talent, and treasures. We strive to live in the unfettered freedom of a love relationship with Jesus.

## BRING HOPE.

Northlake exists not only for those inside the church but also for those outside the church. We know that Jesus cares about lost and hurting people, and we care about them, too. We do everything we can to bring the love and grace of Jesus to people - people across the street, in the community, on the North Shore, and around the world. We desire to be vitally engaged in our community and other places around the world where God may call us. We reach out to every man, woman, and child with the hope of the gospel with the message of Jesus and good deeds, justice, and compassion. We prioritize the Great Commission of Jesus by making disciples who make disciples, leading people to Christ, and helping them take their next step in Christ.

## OUR VISION HERE AT NORTHLAKE CHURCH IS TO SEE OUR CITY BECOME A CITY OF GOD

By 2030, Lago Vista is moving toward becoming "A City of God" with 16% of Lago Vista being discipled and mobilized through multiple church expressions, ensuring everyone knows someone whose life is being changed by Jesus.

# OUR VALUES

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AUTHENTICITY

GENEROSITY

KINGDOM

PRAYER

DISCIPLE -  
MAKING

## **Authenticity:**

Authenticity is a great way to live freely and openly. It's infectious, and we don't have time to be fake. We strive to be genuine and true to ourselves. At Northlake, we recognize that no one has it all together, and we don't pretend to be perfect. We accept each other despite our flaws. We believe the best way to live authentically is to be part of a community group. We can be vulnerable and grow in Christ through relationships with others. Life is better when we journey together, serving and being served, loving and being loved, knowing and being known. Our goal is to create a community full of love and acceptance.

## **Prayer:**

At Northlake, we consider prayer as our greatest privilege. When we pray, we grow our love for Christ and learn to abide in Him. Prayer opens up God's resources here on earth. Charles Spurgeon once wrote, "Whenever God determines to do a great work, he first sets his people to pray." We are asking God to bring renewal to our community. We desire to see lives, churches, and communities transformed as God pours out His Spirit on us. Prayer is our lifeline. We will never progress in grace if we forsake prayer. As prayer goes, so goes the spiritual vibrancy of the church. Hence, we always put prayer as a foundation in our times of worship and community groups. We believe prayer can never be in excess.

## **Generosity:**

God commands us to be generous and give, and He has shown us how to do it. Everything we have is given to us by God, and Jesus gave Himself up as a sacrifice for us. We believe that God is extremely generous and calls us to be generous as individuals and as a church. Refusing to be generous is a lack of faith in God's promise that all that we have is from Him. We believe that we can never out-give God, and we encourage everyone at Northlake to grow in generosity. Tithing regularly is a step towards living generously. As a church, we demonstrate generosity by funding ministry partnerships, community initiatives, and ministries outside our walls. We aim to direct 30% of our budget to funding ministries outside our walls.

## **Disciple-Making:**

The Great Commission, given by Jesus, is very clear: "Go and make disciples." Our purpose is to build, grow, and multiply disciples. We are disciples ourselves who are committed to helping others take their next step with Jesus and to do the same for someone else. Jesus's last words are very important, as he authorized his followers to make disciples, not just the clergy but all believers. At Northlake, we have a disciple-making engine that includes one-on-one relationships, Community Groups, Next Step Classes, large group seasonal bible studies, and even leadership development groups. Our aim is to show our obedience in making disciples, as this demonstrates our love for Jesus.

## **Kingdom:**

There is only one church in the world and one church on the North Shore, which is the Church of Jesus Christ. Northlake is one community of God's people on the North Shore, but we are not the only one. Our aim is to advance the kingdom of God! We believe that it takes every follower of Christ, every church, and every ministry to see our community become known as a city on a hill, a light in the darkness. As kingdom people, we work together towards advancing the kingdom, bringing God's will to earth as it is in Heaven. At Northlake, we value kingdom partnerships, and we live out this value by supporting such partnerships with our time, talents, and treasures.

# OUR DISTINCTIONS



We are an Elder Lead Church

We believe that our church's governance and leadership structure must be based on what we see in scripture. We believe that Jesus is the head of Northlake Church, like the head of the rest of the body. We also believe that while there are many forms of church government, the elder-led model makes the most biblical and contextual sense for our congregation. We believe in the plurality of leadership, and elders help establish structural accountability while making informed, purpose-minded, and value-driven decisions as the elders shepherd the flock. Our elders are shepherd elders who give care and spiritual oversight to the church.

**“Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.” Acts 14:23**

**“Be shepherds of the flock under your care, serving as overseers ...” 1 Peter 5:2a**

We believe **1 Timothy 3:1-13** and **Titus 1:6-9** are instructive texts on what qualifies someone for eldership. We routinely come before the congregation and accept nominations for eldership.

**“Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable; one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” Titus 1:7-9**

## **PASTORS ARE THE EQUIPPERS, AND THE PEOPLE ARE THE MINISTERS.**

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ maybe built up.” Ephesians 4:11 – 12

## **CHURCH MEMBERS SUBMIT TO THE DIRECTION OF THE ELDERS UNLESS UNBIBLICAL.**

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17



# OUR ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

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## THE NATURE OF GOD

We believe in one God, creator and sustainer of the universe, who eternally exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we affirm His desire to be intimately involved in the lives of men and women.

[God as Creator](#): Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalms 33:6, Psalms 102:25; Jeremiah 10:12; Acts 17:24-25; Hebrews 11:3

[God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit](#): Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19-20; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14;

Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 1 Peter 1:2; Jude 20-21

[Man Created in God's Image for Fellowship with Him](#): Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:2; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 1:3

## THE SCRIPTURES

We believe Scripture to be the inspired Word of God, without any mixture of error in the original writings, and that they are the complete and final authority for the life and practice of all who follow Christ.

[Exodus 34:27-28](#); [2 Samuel 23:2](#); [Romans 15:4](#); [Hebrews 1:2](#); [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)

## THE NATURE OF HUMANITY

We believe all men and women to be created in the image of God for the purpose of fellowship with Him, and that we have all forfeited that fellowship because each of us, according to our nature and by acts of our wills, have rejected God.

[Man Created in God's Image for Fellowship with Him](#): Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:2; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 1:3

[The Result of Sin](#): Psalms 14:1-3; Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:12-14; Romans 7:5; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:19-21; Ephesians 2:1-5; Jeremiah 7:9

## THE NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, who in His nature is both fully human and fully divine, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

[Jesus' Human Nature](#): Luke 2:6-7; John 1:14; Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:52; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 4:2.

[Jesus' Divine Nature](#): John 1:1-4; 1 John 5:20; John 1:18; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:25; John 5:18; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5-6; Colossians 2:9-10; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Peter 1:1

## THE NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST'S DEATH

We believe that as an ultimate act of God's love Christ came to earth, lived a sinless life and accepted upon Himself the penalty for our sin through His death on the cross.

[Isaiah 53:5-6](#); [Matthew 20:28](#); [John 3:14-15](#); [Romans 5:6-8](#); [Galatians 3:15](#); [Colossians 2:13-15](#); [1 Peter 2:24](#); [1 Peter 3:18](#); [1 John 2:2](#)

## THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and accept it as an affirmation of His power over death and promise of eternal life for those who place their faith in Him.

[Romans 1:1-4](#); [Romans 4:25](#); [Romans 10:9-10](#); [1 Corinthians 15:20-22](#); [Ephesians 1:18-21](#); [1 Peter 1:3-4](#); [Matthew 16:21](#); [Matthew 28:1-11](#); [Luke 8:31-33](#); [Luke 24:45-47](#); [Luke 2:19-22](#); [Acts 2:24](#); [Acts 13:31](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-8](#)

## ETERNAL LIFE

We believe that God freely offers eternal life to anyone who would place his or her faith in Christ and that this comes as God's gift to us apart from our own merits or standards of righteousness. We believe that all true believers, once they have placed their faith in Christ, are kept secure in Him forever.

[Eternal Life](#): [Romans 6:23](#); [John 3:16](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [John 5:24](#); [John 11:25](#); [John 20:31](#); [Romans 8:38-39](#); [1 John 5:11-13](#); [Titus 3:5](#); [John 10:10](#)

[Eternal Security](#): [John 10:28-29](#); [John 4:13-14](#); [John 6:35, 37, 39](#); [Romans 11:29](#); [Romans 8:29-30](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, who indwells, directs, and enables those who are in Christ and endows the body of Christ with supernatural gifts for the accomplishment of His purpose and ministry.

[Ezekiel 36:27](#); [Romans 8:9, 11, 26](#); [1 Corinthians 3:16](#); [1 Corinthians 6:19](#); [2 Corinthians 1:21-22](#); [Ephesians 2:22](#); [1 Corinthians 12:2-11](#);

[John 14:16-18, 26](#); [John 16:7-8](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:13](#)

## THE BAPTISM AND FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment one places his or her faith in Christ and is the act through which a new believer is incorporated into the body of Christ. We believe that the fullness of the Holy Spirit occurs as a believer willingly turns from sin and yields to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in his or her life.

[The Baptism of the Holy Spirit](#): [Matthew 3:11](#); [Mark 1:8](#); [Luke 3:16](#); [John 1:33](#); [John 7:38-39](#); [1 Corinthians 12:13](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [Ephesians 4:3-6](#)

[The Fullness of the Spirit](#): [Romans 8:9](#); [Romans 8:13-15](#); [Galatians 5:16-17,25](#); [Galatians 6:7-8](#); [Colossians 3:15](#)

## THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church exists universally, is made up of all those who have come to faith in Christ and expresses itself in local congregations who have banded together to glorify Christ in their lives and ministry.

**Church as Body of Christ:** 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Acts 2:42-47

**Church Expressed in Local Bodies:** 2 Corinthians 8:23; Galatians 1:2; Acts 8:1; Acts 13:1; Acts 18:22; Acts 20:17; Romans 16:1-5

## THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus instituted the ordinances of baptism and Lord's Supper (Communion) to be observed by all believers until His return. We believe that baptism is not necessary for salvation but is a public testimony of the believer's personal relationship to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is therefore an essential act of Christian commitment.

**Baptism:** Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:37-41; Acts 8:12, 36-38; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 16:31-33; Acts 22:14-16; Mark 16:16

**Nature of Water Baptism:** 1 Peter 3:21-22; Acts 2:38; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16

**Lord's Supper:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 1 Corinthians 10:16; Luke 22:14-19; Acts 2:42

## HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe in a literal heaven and hell and that all men and women are eternal beings who either spend eternity in God's presence as a result of their faith in Jesus Christ or separated from God because of their rejection of Christ.

**Heaven:** Isaiah 66:1; John 14:2-3; Psalms 16:11; Psalms 23:6; Psalms 73:24-26; Matthew 6:20; Luke 23:43; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 21:23-27

**Hell:** Isaiah 66:24; Matthew 10:28; 25:46; Luke 16:23-26; Romans 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Mark 9:43

## RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

We live in anticipation of the Lord's promised and bodily return.

**Matthew 16:26-27; Matthew 24:30-31; Matthew 25:31-33; Luke 9:26; Luke 12:40; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**



# OUR NON - ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

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Instead of debating theological minutiae and denominational distinctions, we focus on a core set of beliefs (our essentials). We major in the majors, simple and uncluttered. Where there is more clarity in Scripture, we are more emphatic. When there is less clarity in Scripture, we are less emphatic. We have found that what unites is far more important than what divides us.

Heartfelt agreement with the essential beliefs is the expectation of every member and anyone who serves at Northlake Church. To keep these things central and protect unity, we agree to refrain from advocating or publicly practicing doctrines outside the essentials. We all submit to the guidance and authority of the elders in these matters. Our goal is to honor Jesus Christ with our diversity by agreeing to keep the essentials of the Christian faith central while allowing different convictions about what we classify as non-essentials. Note: Just because we call something non-essential does not mean it is not important; it means that we will not allow our difference of opinion to divide us. It means that the issue is open to ongoing discussion at appropriate times.

**In other words....**

**In essentials, we have unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)**

**In non-essentials, we have liberty (Romans 14:1,4,12,22)**

**In all our beliefs, we act with charity toward one another (I Corinthians 13)**

Notice how this all fits together. While never violating our uniqueness (our gifting, our beliefs in the non-essentials, our backgrounds), we move outward together, united in heart and soul. We will realize our unique potential as we fulfill our purpose in the context of our community. When we move outward together, fulfilling the Great Commission, God is most perfectly revealed in us (John 17:20-23).

From time to time, the elders will write practice or position statements, which are simply attempts to define “how” we conduct ourselves in light of Scripture. These are appropriate when members might differ significantly in their beliefs.



# POSITION STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE

In recent years, there has been a steady assault on the biblical definition of marriage. It is more important than ever to reiterate the wisdom and goodness of God's plan for marriage. Northlake believes the Bible clearly teaches that God, in His creation of Adam and Eve as husband and wife, designed marriage to be lifelong, covenantal, monogamous, and between male and female. This foundational relationship is intended to reflect God's design for companionship, mutual support, sexual intimacy, and the bearing and raising of children. It also serves as a picture of Christ's relationship with His Church.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." — Genesis 1:27

"Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." — Genesis 2:24

Jesus affirmed this design during His earthly ministry:

"Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." — Matthew 19:4–6