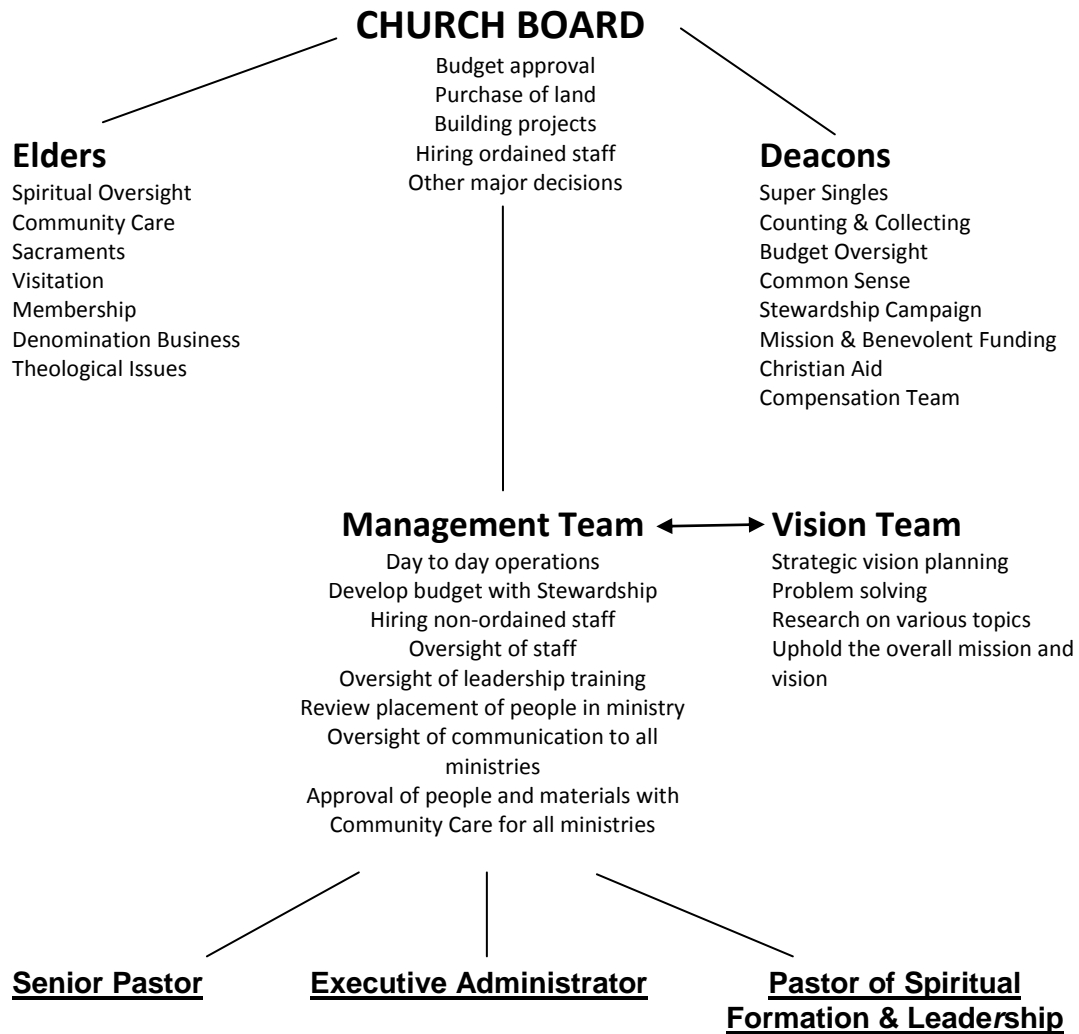


Frequently Asked Questions

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2. What is the authority structure of Faith Church?



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3. How does Faith Church guard the integrity of its finances?

All finances of Faith church are overseen by the Stewardship Team made up of Deacons elected by the congregation. The Stewardship Team reviews the detailed financial activity of the Church on a monthly basis and participates at various levels in ministries such as Administration, Christian Aid, Missions, etc. to assure that the resources of the Church are used in God-honoring activities. The team also prepares the annual budget with input from the ministry leaders and final approval by the Church leadership. We aim to be forthcoming with the financial activity of the Church without compromising the confidentiality of the members of the Church.

Yearly, an outside accountant reviews the financial statements and related processes to assure the proper chain of command is being followed and all expenses are accounted for.

As well as these, Faith Church also has an integrity policy in place for the weekly offering counters. All individuals counting money must sign this document agreeing that no one is to count money alone and the offering must be counted and checked by someone else.

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4. What activities/services are available for my kids?

- **Treasureland** – birth through 5th grade; meets during the week-end worship services

Treasureland is the weekend teaching and worship ministry for children at Faith Church that takes place during the worship services. This is a place where children, birth through fifth grade, can experience the love of God and connect to Jesus Christ in age appropriate teachings.

- **Nursery** – birth to 36 months located upstairs where the Treasureland Nursery team of volunteers gives a first impression of our Heavenly Father by loving and providing special care for each child entrusted to them. Nursery is divided into approximate age groups to better serve the children's needs and is open 15 minutes prior to each service.
- **Pre Kindergarten (3 to 5 year olds) through 5th graders** – downstairs for worship time, followed by large group lesson and ending in small group time. All lessons are based on the Bible as children learn the basics of making Jesus their forever friend. Come early (15 minutes before the service) to participate in games and activities before starting).

- **TRL** – middle school 6th-8th graders; meets Monday nights 6-8pm with the Garage/Juice Bar 5:30-8:15pm

The vision of TRL (Total Redeeming Love) is to reach the disconnected and grow the connected. We use three primary tools to achieve this purpose: the Block Party, the Garage and the Work Bench.

- **Block Party:** The goal of the block party is to create environments where middle school students can invite and influence their friends. These are evangelistic events such as Inflatable Night, Winter Retreats, Lock-In, etc. These party atmosphere (block party) events take place several times a year.
- **Garage:** The goal of the garage night is to create an environment where middle school students can prioritize their relationships with God and others. These are "typical" nights at TRL that take place coincidentally in the garage area. The night generally includes hang out time, games, a time of worship, teaching, and then the students break up into mini-churches (small groups).
- **Work Bench:** The goal of the work bench is to create an environment where middle school students can serve. We will have service opportunities throughout the year such as Ding Dong Ditch, Service Days and Mission Trips. Students are also encouraged to serve regularly in

Treasureland, the AV team, the Juice Bar, the Nursery, etc. Our vision is to reach the disconnected through Block Parties and Garage, and to grow the connected through Garage and Work Bench. An email is sent out each week to the students and parents detailing the upcoming events and outlining the highlights of the teaching for the week. Please call the office to be added to the weekly email list if you are not currently receiving the information.

- **Crossroads** – High School Students Ministry; meets Sunday nights 6-8pm
Imagine stepping into a large room, music is jamming, pool tables are bustling, basketball games are going on, maybe some bean bags and the Wii is playing. There is a juice bar serving snacks, cold beverages and smoothies. Throughout the room are fellow high school students, mingling and discussing who's there, who's late, who's new. Welcome to Crossroads at *the Garage*, the place to be on Sunday nights if you're in high school.
Why do we do this? Because, we want to show you that church is a place that cares about you and your needs.
So what else do we offer besides a cool place to hang out with friends? Here's a quick look:
 - Leaders who talk with you, not at you – or worse, down to you – about hard issues you face every day
 - A safe place to ask questions, get answers and find truth
 - Gripping discussions that make sense of the Bible often using videos and dramas
 - Great music – live and loud
 - Exciting outings and retreats
 - A chance to help others – with opportunities around the corner, across the country and around the world
 - People you can relate to – they've got the same problems, same parental unit hassles, same fashion sense
- **Kid's Hope** – Bibich Elementary Students; Meets one-on-one during the school day one hour a week

A mentoring program for Bibich Elementary students building a one-to-one relationship for one hour a week at the school building during the school day to improve upon their needs to succeed in life. The hour is filled with tutoring, games, relationship building and lots of laughter. We are hoping to grow in the Cedar Lake area with the Cedar Lake campus of Faith Church. Our hope for the children of that community is that we might be able to bring the same quality of mentoring that has brought synergy and a sense of community to Bibich Elementary School.
- **Mops/Mopetts** – birth thru pre-school; 9-11:30am, with your choice of Thursdays or Fridays
MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) is an outreach program for mom to enjoy a safe environment to form real relationships, receive unconditional acceptance, and encouragement by experiencing the love of Jesus Christ. While mom is socializing, doing a craft, part of a small group time, or listening to a phenomenal speaker, the child/children are having fun in their Mopetts program. Mopetts enjoy stories, songs, crafts and playtime. There is a cost for this program.
- **Life Hurts God Heals** – high school students; meets Tuesday nights 7-9pm in 13-week intervals

A place of rescue, restoration, safety and renewal for those seeking God's healing of life's hurts, hang-ups and habits such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, substance abuse, eating disorders, anger, depression.

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5. What does it mean when we say we are Calvinists?

John Calvin was a theologian during the Reformation Movement in the 1500's and his teachings are stated in his *Institutes of Christian Religion*. To say we are "Calvinists" simply means we agree to the main points Calvin taught. Faith church emphasizes the importance of the Word of God as the final authority, not a specific teaching by a specific fallible person. However, we also believe it is important for leaders to understand there are different interpretations of the Word of God and it is beneficial to have a label so that leaders are in agreement as to the interpretation that the church holds.

Faith church agrees with Calvinism in that we were born into sin. We were chosen by God out of unconditional grace not by works. We believe that we have atonement for our sins through Jesus Christ alone and therefore, in order to have atonement for your sins, you need to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. We believe that God's grace is given to whom He chooses to give it. It is labeled irresistible because we cannot resist when God decides to draw one unto Him. We believe that once we have accepted Jesus as the Lord of our life that grace will persevere or persist until we die. A believer may chose to live in disobedience to God's will but the believer does not fall out of God's grace and lose salvation if that believer was born again.

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6. What gentle defense would you give to prove the Trinity?

The Doctrine of the Trinity teaches that within the unity of the one Godhead there are three separate persons who are coequal in power, nature, and eternity. Scripture clearly teaches this. We can summarize this by referring to a few scriptures:

- There is one God. He is single and unique. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not 3 separate Gods. *"The Lord our God, the Lord is one" Deut. 6:4*
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all divine and all distinct persons of the one God. All 3 persons have always existed.
"there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live;" 1 Cor. 8:6
"I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!" John 8:58
"At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" Matthew 3:16-17
- Although the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons, they are one.
"I and the Father are one." John 10:30

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7. What is our view on Baptism?

Baptism is one of two sacraments, meaning “something sacred”, commanded by Jesus Christ and practiced at Faith church, the other sacrament being the Lord’s Supper. Baptism does not guarantee salvation. It is God’s sign to us of the guaranteed gift of salvation God offers us. We are guaranteed of salvation when we receive that gift and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of our life.

Infant and Adult Baptism

Faith church encourages **infant** baptism for several reasons. Baptism is God’s covenant sign to us; not our sign to God. Our sign is the confession of faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Scripture does not teach that baptism is an outward sign of an inward change.



Gracious Openness

Faith church believes in the sacrament of baptism. The method or age of individual requested does not deter us from the command to baptize. We respect personal viewpoints.

Therefore, baptism is a rite that does not need to be performed *after* salvation.

Looking at scripture as a whole, both the Old Testament and the New Testament, a household blessing is a common theme. It was a good thing to be a part of this Old Testament covenant. It was gracious of God to include the household. There is no evidence that God removed that gracious blessing in the New Testament. In Acts 2:38-39 it states: “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the

forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Adult Baptism is welcomed

Any individual is welcome to be baptized at Faith church, regardless of their age, if they have not been previously baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Other Baptism Questions

- **Corporate Baptisms:** Private baptisms are not practiced at Faith church unless a specific case has been approved because we are a body.
- **Method of baptism:** sprinkled, poured or immersed. The amount of water used does not validate the sacrament any more or less.
- **Infant Dedications:** Because Faith church encourages infant baptism, we do not have infant dedications during the services.
- **Rebaptism:** Faith church does not rebaptize those who have already had a valid baptism. Whether or not we took God’s covenant sign seriously doesn’t change that God *did* take it seriously if they were baptized with water in the name of our triune God.

Baptism Process

The process for infant baptism is that at least one of the parents requesting baptism for their infant must be a member of Faith Church. The parent(s) must attend the infant baptism class prior to the baptism. The process for adult baptism is that the adult requesting baptism must attend an adult baptism class or Discovery Class prior to the baptism.

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8. What is our view on Creation?

Creation is the belief that the world and all that is in it was created at some point in time. We believe in creation and believe that God, the creator, created the world and human beings for a specific purpose. Evolution, on the other hand, is the theory that the world randomly evolved out of cells and therefore, there is no purpose or meaning to why we exist. The theory of evolution is contradictory to scripture. Faith church believes scripture is the infallible word of God, that God is the creator of all things, and that God has specific purpose and plan behind all that He creates.

How do we interpret the Creation story in Genesis?

There are different ways to interpret the creation story:

- Literal interpretation: God created the world in 7 24-hour days.
- Figurative interpretation: Using scripture references that “one day is like a thousand years to the Lord” (Psalm 90:4; I Pet.3:8), each day is a representation of indefinite periods because God is a God not bound by time.
- Educational myth: We do **not** believe that the creation story was a myth that teaches about God.

The creation story did happen. Whether you take the creation story literally or figuratively, the main point is the many things can be learned from the creation story. We know that God is the creator of all things. At the time of Moses, there were polytheistic religions where separate gods created separate parts of creation. God was telling Moses that all of creation, everything, was created by Him, alone and He is the only God. We know we are made in God’s image. We also know that God doesn’t just create; He sits back and enjoys His creation. Because the genealogy of Adam and Eve’s descendents is stated elsewhere in scripture, we know that Adam and Eve were real people and the creation story was not a myth.

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9. What about angels and demons?

Angels are spiritual beings created by God for God's purposes. Like humans, angels were created with free wills. Demons are fallen angels.

Angels are stereotypically portrayed as having wings, carrying a harp and singing in heaven. Although this may have some truth to it because scripture tells us angels sing praises to God and the cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant had wings, angels are so much more. Scripture tells us that angels are extremely powerful warriors and can wipe out an entire army of humans. They can shut the mouths of lions, withstand fire, break through iron chains, guard the tree of life with sword of fire. Hebrews 1:14 states that angels are "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation." They are here to serve and help Christians. They give guidance, comfort, and encouragement and enlighten people about the future. They are invisible and visible. They are spiritual beings with personalities but can take on a physical form in an instance at God's command.

Scripture specifically tells us that they are not to be worshiped. John tells us in Revelations that the angel told him not to worship him because "I am a fellow servant with you...Worship God!" There is no mention in scripture of praying to angels or praying *for* angels to help you. God could do everything Himself but chooses to use angels as well as humans in His plans. We can pray for protection but whether or not the protection is in the form of angels is God's decision.

Demons, on the other hand, are fallen angels. Satan's pride turned an angel into a devil. As stated earlier, angels are extremely powerful beings and Satan chose to use that power against God. As powerful as Satan is, he is not equal to God in power and authority. Demons are Satan's servants who were also once angels of God's who have rebelled and been assigned to hell with Satan. "God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell... to be held for judgment" (II Peter 2:4).

Demons are not omnipresent nor are they omniscient. However, as "the father of lies" and actively trying to entice people to fall, Satan and his demons do a whole lot of damage. If a single angel could wipe out 185,000 Assyrians (II Kings 19:35), a single fallen angel could do the same... *if* God allowed. We must be aware of Satan's tactics so that we can use the armor God has given us to fight. Demons can and will attack us but God has given us authority "to overcome all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19).

In summary we can say that there *is* a spiritual battle going on that we may not see. Angels and demons *are* real. With Jesus in our lives, we do not have to fear because we have the ultimate Lord of all, Jesus... "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (I John 4:4). This does not mean that we can be idle either. We can partake in fighting the battle by being aware of the tactics Satan tries to use and arm ourselves with a growing relationship with Jesus through his Word and prayer.

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10. How are we different from/similar to the Catholic Church?

Faith church is a Protestant church. There are more similarities than there are differences between the Catholic Church and the Protestant Churches. The foundation of both Churches is that both are Christian Churches. Both believe in and worship the Triune God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Both believe in a personal relationship with Jesus. We encourage daily bible reading as God's means of communication with us as do most Catholic churches today.

However, differences between the Protestant and Catholic Churches remain. Perhaps the biggest difference is the view on what determines salvation. Protestants believe that by faith alone in Jesus Christ, we are saved by grace alone. What we did, do or will do is not contingent on our entering the gates of heaven whether good deeds or bad because the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all our sin as we stand equally clean before the Lord. Catholics believe that we are saved by faith by the grace of God but they also believe that it is infused with works. Catholics believe grace and works determine our salvation. Protestants believe the good works are required of us as faithful followers of Christ and although good works do not get us into heaven, there will be a reward system once we're in heaven based on our works on earth.

An obvious other difference is the view of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Protestant church believes that Christ is the only mediator between God and man and was the only infallible person to exist. We believe Mary was given a special purpose on earth, which should be thought of in high regard; but she was not infallible. We pray directly to the Father because Jesus made it possible upon His death and resurrection for us to approach the throne of God directly. Catholicism teaches that Mary was holy and because she gave birth to the infallible son of God, she herself was infallible, even though she called Jesus her Savior acknowledging her need for a Savior. Catholics pray to Mary to intercede on our behalf whereas, Protestants pray to God directly.

Other differences are praying to Saints, Purgatory, Transubstantiation, the Pope, Confession, Penance or Indulgences. Many of the differences exist because the Catholic Church believes the Bible *as well* as the Roman Traditions are equally authoritative sources of God's infallible revelation to man. Their traditions, which is written in their catechism, explains their doctrines and don't have to be backed up in scripture since it is part of their sacred infallible Roman tradition. Protestants believe the Bible is the only source of God's infallible revelation to man where all teaching is derived from.

Non-theological differences are merely a style preference. A big style preference is the lack of imagery, crosses, statues, rosary beads in many of the Protestant Churches. Although symbolism can be used as a powerful tool, Faith Church chooses not display statues, imagery or many crosses because we do not want to confuse seekers with the wrong motive of idolatry. Bowing down to the cross of Jesus may be a respectful symbolic act of worship to one worshiper but may be camouflaging the importance of praying to a living God with praying *to* a statue, image or cross. Because our mission includes being a seeker-friendly church, we also purposely avoid traditional church-like decorations such as pews or a steeple so the seeker realizes it is more than stepping into a church but it is about stepping into a relationship with the living God. Although stain-glass, crosses, statues, paintings use all the senses to enhance a worship experience, Faith Church chooses to involve all the senses in other relevant ways such as videos, skits, decorations, music.

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