



THREE MYTHS...THREE FACTS ABOUT GROWING CHURCHES

Jesus said, "I will build my church..."

Did you know God wants churches to grow? Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!" There are so many wonderful things that happen when a church grows and more people are being reached with the Gospel! Let's look at 3

MYTH 1:

IT'S COMMON FOR GROWING CHURCHES TO BE IMPERSONAL & UNFRIENDLY.

As churches grow sometimes people think they become impersonal. We believe that LWM is a church that is "large enough to serve you, and small enough to know you!" Of course, in order for that to happen, it means that the church staff, Elders, as well as the congregation must remain friendly, outgoing and loving. Churches are made up of people...and as long as the people remain "personal and friendly," the church, no matter how large, will not become impersonal and unfriendly.

MYTH 2:

IT'S EASY FOR PEOPLE TO GET LOST IN THE CROWD OF A GROWING CHURCH.

It's true - it is possible to get lost in the crowd of a growing church, but if a person will take a little initiative and plug into any number of programs the church offers it won't take long to begin connecting with small groups of people in the large church! At LWM, we offer a variety of programs, classes and ministries - all of various sizes - for you to participate in. In addition, we have found that people "connect" in a large church when they begin volunteering in an area, and we have many areas for you to get involved - whether your interest is cooking, computers and "tech" stuff, meeting and greeting people, caring for people, ministering salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, worship, or taking care of kids - we have a place for you where you will meet and serve other great people in our church!

MYTH 3:

IT'S HARD TO GET TO THE KNOW THE LEADERSHIP OF A GROWING CHURCH.

As the church grows, the responsibilities, oversight and time-demands of the Senior Pastor increase as well. That's why God has surrounded Pastor Ken with a fantastic, Spirit-filled staff and group of Elders and lay-leaders! The Pastoral Staff and Elders at LWM are equipped and ready to minister to you with the same heart that Pastor Ken has for the congregation! With this team in place, you will feel connected to your Pastor and the leadership of LWM.

FACT 1:

CHURCHES ARE GROWING FOR GOOD REASONS!

If a church is growing there is probably a good reason! It's a sign that the church is alive! People are being fed! People are having their needs met! Anything that is alive ought to be growing. A sure sign of a dead organization is a decline in attendance. When was the last time you recommended a friend to patronize a restaurant that did not feed you, whose customer service was unfriendly, and who treated you like a number? Secular organizations that provide superior service grow because of word of mouth advertising - how much more does the church that provides excellence in ministry benefit and grow because of the word of mouth testimony of those who attend! Although church growth has its challenges and critics...growth is an indication of a healthy church that is meeting people where they live!

FACT 2:

GROWING CHURCHES HAVE INCREASED INFLUENCE!

When a church is small, while it may meet the needs of its members, it may be completely overlooked by the community-at-large. The influence of a small church is small. As the church grows, so do its human resources, financial resources, ministries and programs - and its influence grows as well. A growing church is able to provide quality children's ministry, youth ministry, singles ministry, marriage ministry, Bible training, and benevolence to a greater degree than a small church. As LWM grows, we are able to offer citywide programs, outreach events, and provide the large number of human resources necessary to influence our community with the Gospel!

FACT 3:

GROWING CHURCHES AREN'T COMPETING WITH, BUT BENEFITING THE OTHER CHURCHES IN THE COMMUNITY!

Churches are not in competition with one another - they are working together for the same cause, to bring people to Christ! When one church in the area is growing, it helps to raise the "spiritual water level" of the city and this benefits all of the gospel-preaching churches. The momentum a growing church has can help cause an entire community to become more aware of God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, and church in general. When this happens, people begin looking for, or returning to, churches throughout the community. People begin looking for God! Generally, when this happens people begin visiting churches and bringing their kids and teenagers back to church as well. The growing church has become a spiritual catalyst, which benefits the entire church community.