



SPRING LAKE CHURCH BELIEFS

The Bible is our final authority, rather than any church tradition or denomination. God's Word is the foundation for our beliefs and doctrine. We believe that the Bible is inspired by God and therefore the authority for knowing the truth that is important for salvation and for all of life. The Scriptures are the foundation for our faith – the truth that guides our growth, and the source of strength that empowers us to mature in Christ. We seek to be innovative and flexible in our methods, while remaining true to the Bible's teachings. We enjoy growing deeper in our understanding of God's Word while emphasizing the basics of the Christian faith and its practical application to our daily lives. This helps new believers establish their roots and helps mature believers strengthen their roots.

The statements below are a high-level summary of some of our core beliefs. For our full statement of faith, see the link at the end of this document.

We believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God and our final authority.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

We believe in one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

We believe all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3:22-24 (NIV)



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We believe salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

Our Affiliation

Spring Lake Church is a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America denomination (EFCA, or Ev. Free, for short), which is an association of around 1,500 autonomous and interdependent churches. We are united by a common doctrine and mutual commitment to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God. We are interdependent with other EFCA churches in ministry and fellowship, as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission which Christ has entrusted to His Church. The growing ministry of the EFCA currently extends to around 65 countries throughout the world. For more details, visit the [EFCA website](#). What is our doctrine?

We adhere to the same doctrine as the EFCA which is summed up by this quote: "In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, charity. In all things, Jesus Christ." As a church, we differentiate between biblical core convictions, biblical persuasions and biblical personal opinions. In matters regarding our own biblical persuasions and opinions, we model charity and respect for those who differ. We consider these to be secondary issues peripheral to our core biblical convictions and therefore are not to become divisive or controversial.

We are not sacramental and practice only two ordinances: communion and believer's baptism. Communion is open to all Christ-followers, as we remember his death and resurrection by eating the bread and drinking from the cup.

To see our Statement of Faith, visit the [EFCA website](#).