

connect • grow • serve

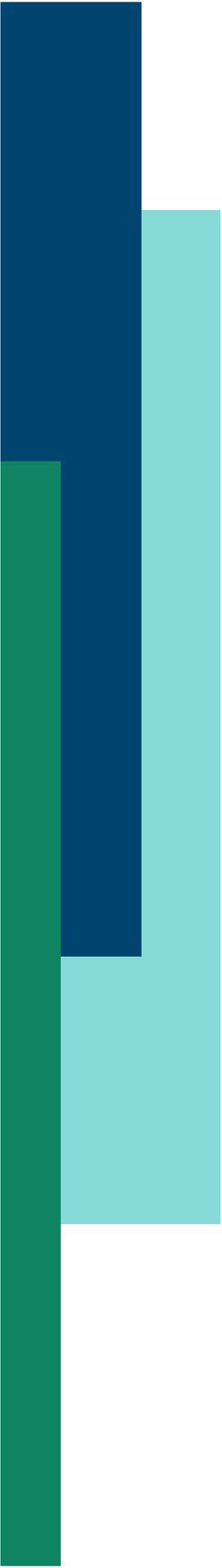
#life groups

***“I came that they may have
life, and have it abundantly.”***

—John 10:10



Word of Peace
Lutheran Church



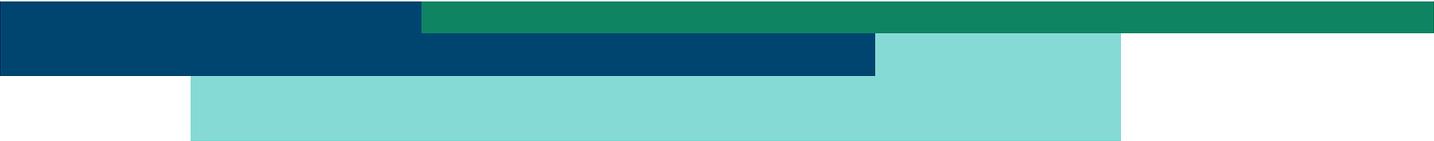
If you are reading this, you have the potential to be a terrific Life Group leader. You might be thinking, "Great, sign me up!" If that's the case, we thank you and ask that you contact us right away. Since Life Groups are new to Word of Peace, we understand if you're uncertain what it means to be a leader.

Life Groups are short-term small groups through which we can build authentic relationships, discover our spiritual gifts, and empower ourselves to serve our neighbors near and far. These groups may meet at Word of Peace, at local restaurants, in homes at coffee shops or wherever you want.

Remember that we don't ever want you to feel alone. We are here to address your concerns, offer advice, and provide resources. Our role is to help you be successful no matter what your leadership background is. You won't be alone on this journey. Please feel free to reach out to us!

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COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF LIFE GROUP LEADERS

Small group leadership is not one-size-fits-all. Everyone's faith journeys and personalities are different. Being a leader is not about conforming but representing your unique personality and faith journey. However, there are a few important characteristics that many leaders have in common.

Take a look at these descriptors. Do you see yourself?

Growing Faith

Strong leaders have a desire to continue growing their faith. These leaders understand that we encounter questions and challenges throughout our faith journeys.

Collaborative Planner

The best leaders act as guides for the group and they collaborate with their group members. Strong leaders are good advance planners, but it is never a "my way or the highway" situation in a thriving life group.

Invested In Relationships

You don't have to be the life of the party to be a great life group leader. You just have to be genuinely interested in developing and fostering relationships within your group.

Faithful Servant

The best leaders realize that Life Groups need to move forward and reach outward. Participants will grow in their relationships with God and with each other when pursuing study and service together.



START YOUR LIFE GROUP

***“For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.”***

Matthew 18:20

There is no one right way to form a group. You may want people in your group to be similar in age or life stage, or built around a common interest such as cooking, sports or parenting, or you might want to form relationships with people from different generations, backgrounds, or interests. Having a clear purpose as you assemble your group is the most important factor.

Word of Peace is available to help you clarify your purpose and put your group together. Beginning this fall, Life Groups will be offered at three different times throughout the year.

Fall | September 30 - November 10

Sign up begins September 9

Winter | February 3 - March 16

Sign up begins January 9

Spring | April 7 - May 18

Sign up begins March 17

Remember, we are available to assist with planning, coordinating, and inviting people to be a part of your group.



TAP INTO AVAILABLE RESOURCES

***“Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still;
teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.”***

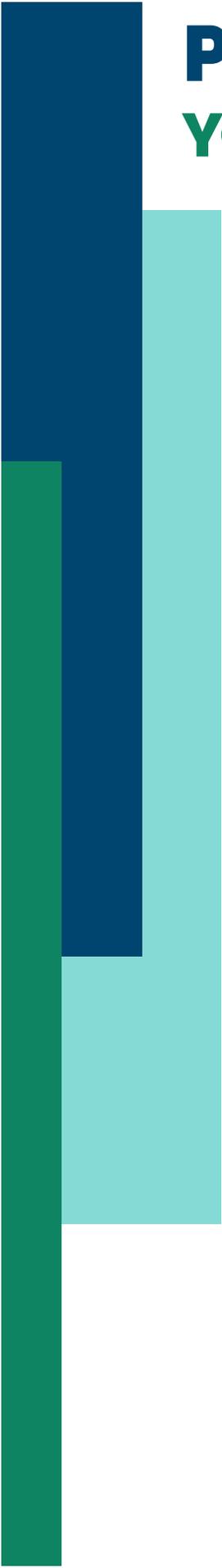
Proverbs 9:9

Help is available!

- Topical leadership skills workshops
Offered in July 2018 and January 2019
- Curriculum reviews and recommendations
- One-on-one meetings with Pastor Tyler or Lydia Svendsen *(available at your request)*

Please reach out to Pastor Tyler or Lydia Svendsen if you have questions or concerns about the process.





PLAN YOUR STUDIES

***“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.”***

Psalm 119:105

We will offer you different curriculum options that are designed to provide a balance between relationship-building and Bible and/or book study. We offer an in-person workshop on how to choose curriculum intentionally and how to use the tools available to you.

Studies should reflect your group's development goals. Too often, groups select studies hurriedly, or because there is a lot of “buzz” around them. Instead, think about the following questions:

- Which spiritual and relational aspects do you want to explore further?
- Which studies will lead further down the path towards connection, growing, and serving?

Choosing a curriculum intentionally, with a plan, will greatly benefit your group.



LEAD MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS

***“For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour
what you ought to say.”***

Luke 12:12

***“After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the
teachers, listening and asking them questions.”***

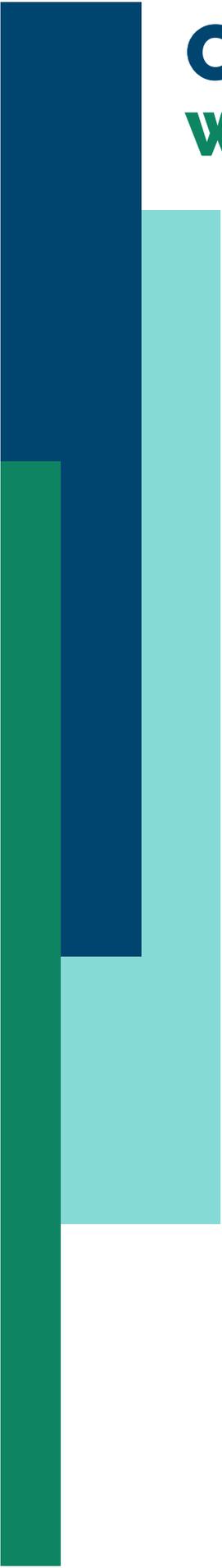
Luke 2:46

Good discussions offer opportunities for transformation. Your role as a leader is to guide your group towards growth and life change—not to dispense knowledge and opinions. Meaningful discussions will challenge everyone in the group to stretch their minds and hearts.

The best discussions begin with good preparation. The person leading the conversations (it doesn't always have to be the group leader) should review the material carefully before the group meets, prioritizing questions and anticipating potential pitfalls. They should be willing to reveal information about themselves so that others in the group will share as well. Discussion leaders ought to employ active listening, and learn to get comfortable with a pause.

We offer an in-person workshop that will help build discussion leadership skills.





CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ and individually we are members one of another.”

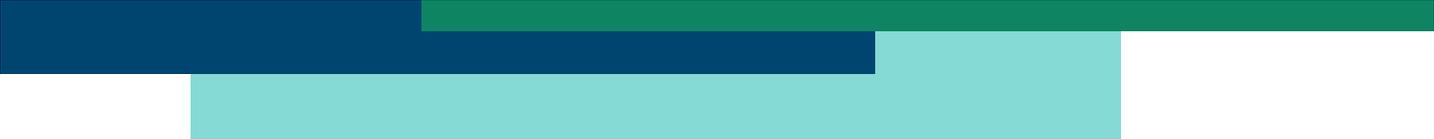
Romans 12:4-5

Life Groups help people connect through authentic relationships with one another. By building up one another, we build up the body of Christ. When we connect with others, genuine relationships are formed. Through these relationships we can continue to grow and serve together.

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

Part of connecting with others means caring for each other. Members of your Life Group will share both joyful and sorrowful experiences. Babies will be born and marriages will be celebrated. Loved ones will undergo illnesses and jobs may be lost. In Christian community, we are called to love and care for each other, and we can live that out in many ways: we can bring meals and mow lawns; we can fervently pray; we can offer a shoulder to cry on and a hand to hold.



GROW WITH GOD

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us.”

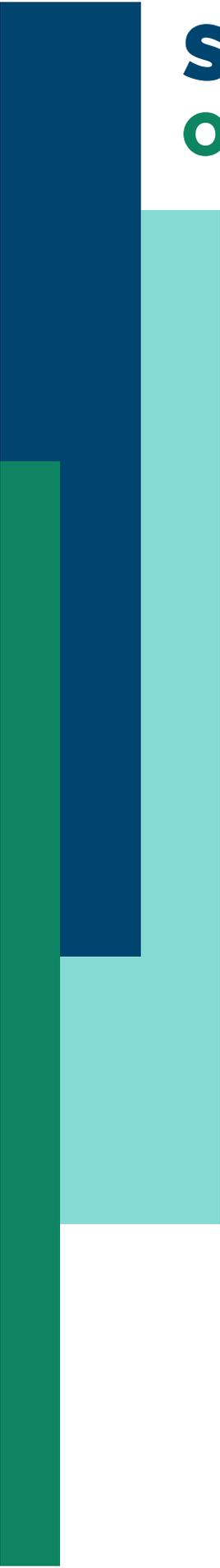
John 1:1, 6

Life Groups help people grow in faith. People may find themselves in different stages of their own spiritual journey, and Life Groups help people navigate the road. We are not solitary beings, and growing together on this journey enables us to develop stronger connections and relationships while engaging with and serving in this world.

“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

1 Corinthians 3:7





SERVE OTHERS

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4:10

“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”

1 John 3:18

Life Groups help people discover their spiritual gifts which, in turn, empower their serving. Life Groups find ways to serve their church, community, and world by putting their faith in action.

Serving together as a group benefits both those who serve and those who receive. When your group works together, outside of a classroom or someone's living room, you will learn more about each other and about your larger community. Your shared experiences will strengthen your group's bond and will add new insights into your studies and discussions. Demonstrating Christ's love to those in need will stretch your group toward spiritual growth.



So, are you willing to believe in yourself and your abilities and trust that wisdom of the Holy Spirit has tapped you on the shoulder for leadership?

If the answer is yes (or even maybe!), we can't wait to help you get started.

Contact Us

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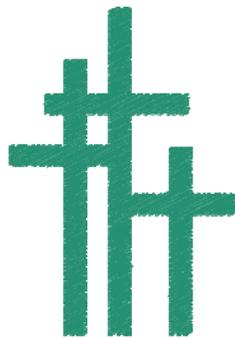
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