



THANKSGIVING CHURCH

Thanksgiving Church is looking for staff who can bring who they are...their gifts, passions, dreams, and abilities to the team and help grow the church in the heart of worship.

ABOUT

“We are a messy church family that loves Jesus”, says Lead Pastor David Witkop. We are not limited by our past, but we are rooted in our Lutheran heritage which is understood well here in Nebraska. We also have a passion to take new ground by reaching our community which is reflected in our evangelical heart. Stirred by our passion to reach “One More,” Thanksgiving recently embarked on a plan to upgrade their facility to better reflect the love for the community. “We want to be the kind of church that will help everyone, and we mean everyone, to reach their God-Given potential. “We believe that begins with us bringing a positive impact to the community” says Executive Pastor Billy Czaplá.

Thanksgiving Church is marked by both modern contemporary and dynamic liturgical worship styles, strong ministry to students, and a thriving children’s ministry. The doors are open wide to its community so that all can experience the love and hope of Jesus.

OMAHA

Omaha is located in what is commonly known as a ‘fly-over state,’ but if you haven’t been to here, you don’t know what you’re missing.

This metro area of nearly one million people is home to Warren Buffet, four Fortune 500 corporations, top-flight universities and medical centers, and a thriving urban core. This leads to unparalleled partners who want to invest in our neighborhoods and city. The best zoo in America and the NCAA Baseball World Series are just two highlights embraced by locals. In a word, Omaha is *surprising*. Read more about Omaha at the website www.wedontcoast.com.

Thanksgiving Church is located in Sarpy County, the fastest growing county in the area and is home to Offutt Air Force Base as well as the U.S. Strategic Command. There are many active and retired military personnel in Bellevue that call Thanksgiving Church home.

Yet for all the pleasantries and what is typically termed “Nebraska Nice,” this city is about 80% unchurched. It is hard to imagine in a place like Nebraska that there are some 600,000 people who are somewhere other than within earshot of the gospel on a typical Sunday. This is one of the reasons why Thanksgiving is a part of the city-wide church network, Within Reach (www.within-reach.net).

“The Within Reach movement is a cross-denominational movement of Kingdom-first types of churches who’ve partnered together to saturate Omaha with the Gospel,” says Pastor David.

Thanksgiving is an intergenerational church serving all ages. The mission of the church is to reach out and gather people into the Family of God, equipping them to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our community, nation, and world. You can read more about their **beliefs HERE**.

THE STAFF

“Staff do not have to be ‘Lutheran’,” says Pastor David, “but it will be key to understand Lutheran convictions.” Thanksgiving is committed to a high view of scripture, the historical creeds, and a doctrine rooted in being saved by grace through faith, for a life of good works.

This unique culture of Thanksgiving Church is reflected most weekends. There is a liturgical early service in the chapel where one may see a pastor wearing a robe reflecting the Lutheran roots. Down the hall in the worship center the modern service may have the pastor in jeans and a hoodie reflecting their “come as you are” welcoming spirit.

MORE Q & A WITH EXECUTIVE PASTOR BILLY

Please give ONE word descriptions of what it’s like to work at your organization?

“Mission” “Fun” “Family” “Whateverittakes” “Kingdom” “Smallthings” “Support” “Flexibility” “Humility” “Preparation” “Excellence” “Outreach” “Hustle” “LifeChange” “Team” “Identity”

In six months, after you’ve hired this person, what do you hope will have changed because of their involvement?

We really are looking for that team player who wants to build on a great foundation of those who have worked before them. We want staff that can build a culture of anticipation in all that they do. We hope they will feel comfortable enough after six months to bring innovation, team cohesion, and discipleship to the teams they are called to join and or lead.

Please describe the current staff structure and who will this candidate report to?

We have an elected council that oversees our Lead Pastor. Our Lead Pastor works in collaboration with our Director of Operations and Executive Pastor as a leadership team to bring clarity and direction to our staff and volunteers. You would report directly to the Executive Pastor for all ministry needs, guidance and expectations which will look differently for everyone that is a part of the team.

Are you affiliated with a particular denomination or tribes/association of churches? If so, what websites could one investigate to gain further understanding?

Yes, we are a part of the LCMC Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. We are not part of a denomination, but we are part of a movement of almost 1000 churches around the world. You can find them here at: LCMC.net

What is your church known for in the community?

We are one of those churches that has a great relationship in the community because of our relationships with the City of Bellevue, The Lighthouse, Bellevue Public Schools, Offutt Air Force base, the local Police departments, along with great partnerships with many non-profits (Christian and non-Christian) as well as many local churches throughout the community. We

do not take this helpful reputation lightly, truly doing our best to serve our community or help those directly that are making an impact reflecting the heart of Jeremiah 29:7 “When our city prospers we all prosper.”

What does a work week look like for this role? Is there a day off through the week?

This truly depends on the individual and the ministries they lead. We are open to both full and part-time options so the best word to describe your calendar here will be “Flexibility.” Obviously, there are some meetings that we will expect you to lead or participate in early in the week, but how you use your time and accomplish the mission here is up to you. We will guide you and give some boundaries, however we want to empower you to lead at your best. We are looking for someone that operates well in a culture of trust that goes both ways. We encourage each other to “Believe in the Best” of each other as we work together to move Thanksgiving forward as a church family living out the great commission.

What are your greatest hopes and dreams for the next couple of years for your church?

We are passionate about helping every person discover their God given potential and purpose. This mindset motivates all who are a part of the Thanksgiving family to live intentionally building relationships with those that don’t know Jesus personally. We want to bring an authentic hope and an understanding that we are all in this thing called life, together. Thanksgiving has worked hard to earn trust in this community so that we can make a difference in our neighbors lives through generosity, partnership, and sharing the love of Jesus.