

# **GOD GROWS**

The Stepnowski Family on mission  
in Lansing with Jesus

Sent through MCMD





# Mission

To help others know Jesus, follow him in every area of their lives, and make disciples of Jesus who make more disciples.



# Strategy

Cultivating intentional relationships with our neighbors and others in the city of Lansing, seeking to meet their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, and creating environments for authentic community.

Helping people get rooted in God's Word and a lifestyle of prayer and worship through Bible studies, conversations, and life together.

Challenging and equipping people to be sowers of the gospel (disciplemakers), that they would live out Jesus's truth and invite others to do the same.

Connecting neighbors to each other so that none of these processes are done independently.



# Values

This is not an exhaustive list, but these are our core values, out of which all our actions and decisions flow.

- Being Real (Authentic, honest, and vulnerable)
- Being a Safe Haven (Creating safe places for those around us)
- Being Equippers (Making disciples who make disciples)
- Being Generous (With time and money)
- Being Good Stewards of God's Creation (Through environmentally sustainable practices)
- Being Welcoming (No matter age, gender, sex, ethnicity, beliefs, etc.)
- Being Connected (Leveraging resources in the city to better our community)



Starting with our Churchill Downs neighborhood and extending out to other areas of Lansing where God leads, we want to see people transformed by the love of Jesus and living an abundant life in community with those around them. God is the one who grows us to be more like Him, and as He does that, the people of Lansing will look out for each other's needs, lift up the marginalized, and continue making disciples for Jesus throughout Lansing, Michigan, and the world.

Jesus demonstrated a discipling lifestyle where he spent time with people, invited them to help minister to others, used everyday moments to teach and help people understand the Father, and then told his disciples to go and do what He did with others. We are doing the same with the flock God has given us here in our neighborhood. This can look like Bible studies, worship nights, and meeting together to talk about our faith, but it can also look like helping one another with yard work, going to the grocery store together, and just joining in on the activities of each other's lives.

There is value in doing this individually, but there is much more growth and transformation when we pull people side by side to journey together. Our goal is to create a group of believers in this neighborhood that models a culture of authenticity, a passionate pursuit of Jesus, and a lifestyle of inviting others into deeper relationship with Jesus. This will essentially be a church, even though it wouldn't necessarily replace people's Sunday morning congregations. As we get to walk with these believers through what it means to love and obey Jesus in every area of our lives, we will be on mission together to minister to the people in our neighborhood and keep making disciples who make disciples.

While our schedules vary day to day and week to week, here are some consistent places and ways we spend our time and energy:

### **Men's/women's ministry**

Phil is involved in a global discipleship network called Network 20 International, which focuses on discipling men in their 20's. He meets with young men whom he encounters throughout Lansing, makes sure they feel known and listened to, and challenges them to live as fully engaged disciples of Jesus. At the same time, Elizabeth is building similar relationships with women throughout Lansing, inviting them into deeper communion with God.

### **Community Development**

We are both involved in our Churchill Downs Community Association where we get to help organize and lead our neighborhood to grow in community and demonstrate Kingdom values. This has been a great way to meet neighbors and invite them to deepen their relationships with each other through things like community lunches in our front yard, game nights, and working on projects together.

## Youth

We are regularly involved in the lives of middle and high schoolers at Trinity Church through our positions as volunteer small group leaders, as well as with the kids in our corner of Lansing. We have been able to let many of these kids in our neighborhood know that we are there for them and on their side by coaching their soccer team, playing basketball with them, fixing their bikes, and just being present with them. Kids always benefit from stable, loving adults in their lives, whether the kids are in struggling families or great ones. Several kids in our neighborhood know that our house is safe and open to them, and we will continue to engage others, coach them in their interactions with each other, and invite them to know Jesus more.

