

Grace Wells

SOC147: Our America

Dr. Perez

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Church Interview: Lincroft Bible Church

What did you learn about this church? This church located in Monmouth County NJ is a Christian based church. They are a part of the EFCA which is the evangelical free church of America. They have plenty of ministries available such as a large childrens ministry wing as well as ministries for women and men as well. There is a youth group as well as a college aged group that meets weekly as well. I also saw in their bulletin that there is a group that meets with the older adults at the church named connect55. This week they did communion with the church, they said to only participate if you had asked Jesus to be your Savior. We all waited and took part in communion together as the body of Christ. They encourage many of those to attend to take part in mission trips. They encourage the body to participate in ways whether that be mission trips or just being engaged in the community to share the Gospel, because sharing the Gospel isn't just by sharing it is also through your actions. They have many events going on, they're going to have an Easter Egg hunt in a few weeks as an opportunity to share with the younger generation and their families as well. They've been collecting donations for both easter eggs and candy to give out to the children. They also have another meeting time at 9am before service to spend time praying and preparing for the upcoming time. The service itself started at 10am and lasted till about 11:15. They started in song, had a break for announcements and had another two songs after. They read the passage before the sermon and after the sermon there was a time of

communion, the offering, they ended in one more song, and lastly there was a benediction given out.

What did you learn about the role of religion in people's lives? Jesus is the core of these people's lives and it's evident in their actions and how welcoming they are. As soon as I walked in the door I was welcomed and people asked me how I was doing. A big part of their ministry is making sure the community is equipped with the message of the Gospel and knows how to live it out in their lives and the people that they interact with. They believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that God spoke through people to write it. They believe in the Trinity and that God sent His only son to earth so that He would die for our sins. That we could never save ourselves and we needed Jesus to connect us to God the Father and give us unending forgiveness. They believe that God was fully God and fully human at the same time and that He was able to die for our sins because He lived a full sinless life. He now sits in Heaven at the right hand of God. The way that many people talked to me was a prime example of how much they valued Jesus. Showing how much you love Jesus I believe is evident in your love for others around you no matter how much you know them. We should be continuously trying to love and care for everyone no matter if we've met them 10 years ago or 2 minutes earlier.

In what ways were you challenged or surprised? I was challenged about the way the sermon was based but I really enjoyed it. Growing up a lot of the sermons I heard were strict and based on very specific viewpoints. This church bases their viewpoint on how we as Christians can change to let our lives be based more on God and His love for us. There was nothing said about politics which I believe shouldn't be in a church setting. I think it should be taught what the Bible says about certain topics and the people are to make their own decisions about the information they've been given. The sermon was about the 10 commandments and it ended with

a challenge for the people listening. Throughout the sermon as well there were questions asked about how we could live our lives out from these truths. I think that's very important to do as well so that people know how to live out the sermon, they don't just leave you with the information to figure out what you want to do with it.

Overall I really enjoyed my visit to this church. Everyone was very welcoming, I learned a lot from the message, and learned about all their ministries that they offer. I was grateful to spend my Sunday morning here at this church. I enjoyed hearing their viewpoint on the Bible, especially on the 10 commandments that morning.