THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ®

What We Believe

WITH REFERENCES TO THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

The points in the outline below are taken from our Articles of Faith
(Reference: "Faith and Doctrine," The Church of Jesus Christ with Headquarters at Monongahela, Pennsylvania)

Your Spiritual Home for a Faith-Centered Life

1 We believe in God: the Father, Jesus Christ-His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

These three are the great matchless power who created the universe and who rules all things.

God provides everything for this life and for eternal salvation. God is a personage of glory.
(Ex. 24:15-17; Eph. 1:17; I Nephi 1:8; Eth. 3:13-17)

The Son (Jesus Christ) is the image of the Father.

- Son was with the Father from the beginning.
- Son was born of a virgin named Mary who was conceived of the Holy Ghost.
- Jesus became man; established His church; suffered and died for the sins of all mankind.
- Jesus rose again after three days to an immortal body creating the mode whereby all will eventually resurrect. *(Also see Belief #8)*
- Jesus resides at the right hand of God.
- Jesus is the head of the body, His church.
- Jesus will return to earth in a second coming. *(Also see Belief #12) (Col. 1:15-19; Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:30-36)*

The Holy Spirit (also called the Holy Ghost) is the mind of the Father and of the Son, the unseen power and glory which emanates from God and can manifest in various forms and is the witness and gift of God.
(I Cor. 2:16, Matt. 3:16; I Nephi 11:11, I John 5:6; III Nephi 11:35-36, 19:13, 28:11; Acts 2:38; John 14:26; I Cor. 12:4-11)

Ref.: Articles 1 & 2, Faith and Doctrine

2 We believe the Church as established by Jesus Christ has ordained officers consistent with the scriptures, that believers possess the signs promised to them, and that this Church/ Kingdom will remain upon the earth until the end of time.

We believe that the New Testament scriptures contain a true and exact description of The Church of Jesus Christ in principle, doctrine, and practices. The ordinances and practices of the Church are:
(I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:13; Titus 1:5; III Nephi 27:1-11)

- Baptism by immersion *(Matt. 3:13-17; John 4:1-2; Acts 2:38; III Nephi 11:22-26)*
- Laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost *(Acts 2:38, 5:32, 8:13-17; Moroni 2:2)*
- Lord's Supper *(III Nephi 18:1-12)*
- Feet Washing *(John 13:4-17)*
- Anointing the sick with oil and praying for them *(James 5:14-15)*
- Ordaining all spiritual Church Officers *(Moroni 3)*
- Blessing of children *(Matt. 19:13-15)*

The church or kingdom must be molded after the pattern set by Christ and as set up – including apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers provided for the perfecting of the saints - is sufficient for life and salvation.
(I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:1, 13; Matt. 28: 18-20; Titus 1:5 III Nephi 27:1-11)

- Signs shall follow believers as promised by Christ *(Mark 16:15-18; I Cor. 12:1-12; Moroni 10:8-25)*
- Gentiles will eventually forfeit the fullness of the gospel through disobedience *(Also see Belief #11)*
- God will remember His promises to Israel and will restore Israel *(Also see Belief #11) (III Nephi 16:10-11; Ezek. 34:1-11; III Nephi 20; 21;14-21)*
- God will use His church to fulfill His plan. *(Jer. 31:10, 16:16; III Nephi 21, 22)*
- A degree of spiritual blindness afflicts Israel until God's plan unfolds and the fullness of the Gentiles is accomplished. *(Rom. 11:25-26)*
- Descendants of Israel – specifically of Ephriam and Manasseh, sons of Joseph – inherited the continents of the Americas and are now identified as the Native Americans. These continents have special status as God's choice land – covenanted with obligations of the occupants to serve God. This is the land referenced by Moses, by Ezekiel, and by Isaiah – the land of Joseph and of the restored Israel. *(Gen. 49:22-26; Deu. 33:13-17; Ezek. 37:25; Isa. 33:17-21; Dan. 2:34-35; Eth. 2:7-12)*
- God's kingdom will be fully established on earth while men are still in the flesh. This Peaceful Reign will precede Christ's second coming to wed His bride, the Church, at the First Resurrection.The First Resurrection marks the beginning of the 1000 years *(Millennium) which precedes the resurrection of all who remain.* *(Isa. 2:1-5; Isa. 35; Isa. 51:3; Isa. 55; Isa. 65:18-25; Hosea 2:18-19; Job 5:22-25; Ezek. 34: 25-26; I Nephi 22:4-28; III Nephi 20:22; III Nephi 21:23-29; Ether 13:4-12; Matt. 24:36-42; Luke 17: 23-27; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:17; Rev. 19:7-9; Acts 3:20-21; III Nephi 28:7-8)*

Ref.: Articles 3,4,5, 11,19,23, &24, Faith and Doctrine

3 We believe the Bible and the Book of Mormon to be Holy Scriptures telling of God's relationship with the human family. These two scriptures jointly convey God's dealings and plan for mankind.

- The Book of Mormon is the book spoken of by the Prophet Isaiah, and also the book that Ezekiel refers to as the stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim – the Stick of Judah being the Bible. *(Isa. 29; Ezek. 37:16-19; II Nephi 27:6-22; II Nephi 29:6-8)*
- The scripture is referring to The Book of Mormon where it states, "I have written to him *(Ephraim) the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing."*
- The Book of Mormon contains a record of Jesus Christ visiting the tribe of Joseph in the Americas and teaches His gospel there after His resurrection. *(III Nephi11- 28)*
- They were those whom he spoke of as sheep who had to hear His voice. *(Hosea 8:12; John 10:16; III Nephi 15:16-24; III Nephi 16:1-3)*
- The Book of Mormon does not support polygamy in any form. *(Also see Belief #9)* *(Jacob 2:23-28; Mosiah11; Ether 10:5)*
- Many pure and precious tenets established by Christ were changed or lost during the early centuries of the Church. *(See also Belief #10) Take note of references to this apostasy.* *(Isa. 24:5-6; Acts 20:29-30; II Thes. 2; I Tim. 4; II Tim. 3 and 4; II Peter 2; IV Nephi 1:24-49)*
- The apostasy was not to be resolved by reformation but only by restoration. This is represented by the angel in Rev. 14:6-7, and John saw other related prophetic events. The coming forth of The Book of Mormon marked the initiation of the Restoration. Refer to the previous item #3 and its references to review the events that follow. *(Isa. 24:5-6; Acts 20:29-30; II Thes. 2; I Tim. 4; II Tim. 3 and 4; II Peter 2; IV Nephi 1:24-49; III Nephi 16:10-11; Ezek. 34:11-16; III Nephi 20; III Nephi 21:14-21; Gen. 49:22-26; Deu. 33:13-17; Ezek. 37:25; Isa. 33:17-21; Dan. 2:34-35)*

Ref.: Articles 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, & 22, Faith and Doctrine

4 We believe that divine inspiration is an indispensable qualification for the preaching of the Gospel.

The Holy Ghost is the essential source of inspiration and the power that ensures a message from God.
(Note: Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit refer to the same entity. Either term applies.) (II Tim. 3:16, 17)

The ministry is a calling – not a profession. We do not believe in a paid ministry.
(Matt. 10:8; Alma 1; Luke 10:21; Gal. 1:12; Eph. 3:3; I Cor. 2)

Ministerial training must be consistent with scripture and must not contradict the essential element of inspiration by the Holy Spirit.
(II Tim. 1:6-7; 2:1- 2)

Divine revelation continues in modern times consistent with examples in the scriptures. These are given in dreams, visions, signs, gifts, and His word to whomever He chooses.
(Also see Belief #7) (Joel 2:28; I Cor. 12:3-11; Alma 9:21; II Nephi 26:13, II Nephi 29; Moroni 10:8-24; Mormon 9:7-8)

Ref.: Articles 7 & 25, Faith and Doctrine

5 We believe that The Church of Jesus Christ is patterned exactly as is represented in the scriptures including the following ordinances and practices:

Baptism by immersion
(Matt. 3:13-17; John 4:1-2; Acts 2:38; III Nephi 11:22-26)

Laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost *(Acts 2:38, 5:32, 8:13-17; Moroni 2:2)*

Lord's Supper *(III Nephi 18:1-12)*

Feet Washing *(John 13:4-17)*

Anointing the sick with oil and praying over them *(James 5:14-15)*

Ordaining all spiritual Church Officers
(Moroni 3)

Blessing of children *(Matt. 19:13-15) (Also see Belief #2)*

The Lord's suffering and death is commemorated – usually on Sunday – with the Lord's Supper administered to members of the Church. The wine represents His blood and the bread represents His body.
(Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; I Cor. 1-:16-17; III Nephi 18:1-12; Moroni 4th and 5th chapters)

Ref.: Articles 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, & 14, Faith and Doctrine

6 We believe obedience to the Gospel is necessary to obtain salvation by taking the following actions:

Believe and have faith that Jesus Christ is the risen Savior of the world.

Repent of your sins with a desire to sin no more.

Be baptized by immersion in water for a remission of sins.

Receive the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands.

Live righteously, remain faithful, and endure to the end of your life.

- Men are not accountable for the sin of Adam which was atoned for by Christ. Men are to be punished for their own transgressions. Little children are represented as characteristic of heaven.
  (Mosiah 3:11; Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 2:14; I Peter 2:24; Isa. 53:5; Alma 40:21; Mormon 9:12-13)
- All must obey the gospel to be saved.
  (Mark 16:16; St. John 3:5; Acts 2:38; Acts 10; II Nephi 9:23-24)
- Obedience to the gospel demonstrated by Belief *(Faith), Repentance, Baptism (immersion), Righteous living, enduring to the end of life.*
  (Acts 2:38; Acts 19:2-7; Acts 8:17; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:21; Mosiah 18:8-17; III Nephi 18:36-38; Moroni 2; John 3:5; Rom. 6:3-13; Col. 2:12; III Nephi 11:23-27)
- The Church of Jesus Christ is patterned exactly as is represented in the scriptures. Its officers are ordained and serve for the "perfecting of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, bringing all to the unity of the faith unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."
  (Also see Belief #2) (I Cor. 12:28, Eph. 4:13, Titus 1:5; III Nephi 27:1-11)
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ, as recorded in the scriptures, was a victory over the power of death and established the resurrection of all men. The righteous will resurrect to happiness and the unrighteous will resurrect to misery.
  (Matt. 27:52-54; I Cor. 15; Alma 40 & 41; II Nephi 9:4-22; III Nephi 23:9-11)

Ref.: Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, & 15, Faith and Doctrine

7 We believe that the Lord God continues to reveal His will through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Divine revelation continues in modern times consistent with examples in the scriptures. These are given in dreams, visions, signs, gifts, and His word to whomever He chooses.
(Joel 2:28; I Cor. 12:3-11; Alma 9:21; II Nephi 26:13, II Nephi 29; Moroni 10:8-24; Mormon 9:7-8)

Ref.: Articles 7 & 25, Faith and Doctrine

8 We believe that the resurrection of Jesus Christ established resurrection for all mankind.

Jesus's resurrection was a victory over the power of death.

- Jesus's resurrection was to eternal life, immortality
- The righteous, who believed in Christ through prophecy before His birth, expected to resurrect with Him. Many of them were seen at the time of Jesus's resurrection. At the time of Christ's second coming, there will be another resurrection of the righteous who have died *(or will die) since Christ's resurrection.*
  (Matt. 27:52-54; Alma 40; II Nephi 9:4-22; III Nephi 23:9-11)

That second coming of Christ will occur, in sequence to the Peaceful Reign, at the end of the world.

- Christ will wed His bride *(the Church) gathering to himself all the righteous (those who have resurrected, those resurrecting with His coming, as well as those alive at His coming who will be converted to the resurrected state) to dwell with Him for 1000 years (Millennium).*
- Ultimately, all of mankind will resurrect and face judgment: the righteous receiving the reward of Promise; the unrighteous receiving condemnation.
  (Matt. 24:36-42; Luke 17: 23-27; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:17; Rev. 19:7-9; Acts 3:20-21; III Nephi 28:7-8.)
- The rewards to the righteous and the consequences to the unrighteous are for eternity.
  (See also Belief #6)

(John 5: 24-29; I Cor. 15:3-24, 35-58; Rev. 20; Rev. 21; Mosiah 16:1-13; Mos. 26; Alma 41; Alma 42; III Nephi 26:4-5; Alma 12:24-26, 31)

Ref.: Articles 15 & 23, Faith and Doctrine

9 We believe that marriage between a man and a woman is a holy institution.

Marriage instituted by God as a covenant between one man and one woman for life.
(Gen. 1:27, 2:18 -24; Matt. 19: 3 – 8; Jac. 2:23 – 28)

Ref.: Article 26, Faith and Doctrine

10 We believe that many pure and precious tenets of Christ were eventually changed in the early centuries of The Church of Jesus Christ and that God restored the Gospel of Christ in its fullness.

Many pure and precious tenets established by Christ were changed or lost during the early centuries of the Church. Take note of references to this apostasy.
(Isa. 24:5-6; Acts 20:29-30; II Thes. 2; I Tim. 4; II Tim. 3 and 4; II Peter 2; IV Nephi 1:24-49)

The apostasy was not to be resolved by reformation but only by restoration.

- The Restoration took place in the 19th century with the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon
- This is represented by the angel in Rev. 14:6-7
- John saw other related prophetic events.
- The coming forth of The Book of Mormon marked the initiation of the Restoration. Refer to the belief #3 and its references to review the events that follow.

(Isa. 24:5-6; Acts 20:29-30; II Thes. 2; I Tim. 4; II Tim. 3 and 4; II Peter 2; IV Nephi 1:24-49; III Nephi 16:10-11; Ezek. 34:11-16; III Nephi 20; III Nephi 21:14-21; Gen. 49:22-26; Deu. 33:13-17; Ezek. 37:25; Isa. 33:17-21; Dan. 2:34-35)

Ref.: Articles 17, 18, & 22, Faith and Doctrine

11 We believe that God has promised many blessings to all who love and serve Him, and that He will remember His covenants to the House of Israel.

We believe in the promises of the Savior as they are written in Mark 16:15-18. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."
(I Cor. 12:1-12; Moroni 10:8-25)

God will remember His promises to Israel and will restore Israel.
(III Nephi 16:10-11; Ezek. 34:1-11; III Nephi 20; 21;14-21)

God will use His church to fulfill His plan.
(Jer. 31:10, 16:16; III Nephi 21, 22)

We believe in observing all things that the Lord has commanded. He has promised that if mankind is obedient to His commandments that He will be with them continually even to the end of the world.
(Matt. 28:20; III Nephi 12:19-20; III Nephi 27:6-22)

Ref.: Articles 11, 16, 19, & 20, Faith and Doctrine

12 We believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ to occur at the end of the world – with the First Resurrection – and that He will wed His Bride, the Church, and gather unto Himself all the righteous.

(Also see Belief #8)

At the time of Christ's second coming, there will be another resurrection of the righteous who have died (or will die) since Christ's resurrection.
(Matt. 27:52-54; Alma 40; II Nephi 9:4-22; III Nephi 23:9-11)

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Christ will wed His bride (the Church) gathering to Himself all the righteous (those who have resurrected, those resurrecting with His coming, as well as those alive at His coming who will be converted to the resurrected state) to dwell with Him for 1000 years (Millennium).

- Ultimately, all of mankind will resurrect and face judgment: the righteous receiving the reward of Promise; the unrighteous receiving condemnation.
  (Matt. 24:36-42; Luke 17: 23-27; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:17; Rev. 19:7-9; Acts 3:20-21; III Nephi 28:7-8.)
- The rewards to the righteous and the consequences to the unrighteous are for eternity.

(John 5: 24-29; I Cor. 15:3-24, 35-58; Rev. 20; Rev. 21; Mos. 16:1-13; Mos. 26; Alma 41; Alma 42; III Nephi 26:4-5; Alma 12:24-26, 31-32)

Finally, whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report; and everything virtuous, praiseworthy and upright, we seek after, looking forward to the recompense of reward. (Phil. 4:8)

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