



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING | MAY 19, 2024**



LEFC

LANCASTER EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH



AGENDA

1. Welcome and Prayer: Tom Daly, Jr.
2. Minutes Approval from November 2023 Congregational Meeting: Tom Daly, Jr.
3. Confirmation of New Members: Scott Galen, Tom Daly, Jr.
4. Affirmation of New Leaders: Tyler Ranck
5. LEFC Vision – Tony Hunt
6. Immanuel EFC: Past, Present, and Future – Phil True
7. Panel on Teaching & Additional Teaching Space – Matt Sowada, Corey Mitchell, Julia Brown, and Joel Lingenfelter
8. Financial Update/Approval of 2024-2025 Budget: DJ Weaver
9. Update from Deacons & Deaconesses: Blake Herr
10. Prayer and Close: Tom Daly, Jr.

PACKET CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. Agenda and Table of Contents.....	1
2. November 2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes.....	2
3. Confirmation of New Members and Membership Commitment	4
4. Affirmation of New Leaders.....	5
5. Recognition of Departing Leaders/Motions for Approval	6
6. Ministry Highlights	
a. Elders: Tom Daly, Jr., Elder Chair.....	7
b. Senior Pastor: Tony Hunt.....	8
c. Executive Pastor: Joel Lingenfelter.....	9
d. Executive Administrator: Danielle Wittmaier.....	10
e. Worship Arts & Technology: Alex Swann.....	11
f. Mobilization: Bob Travis.....	12
g. LEFC Adults: Matt Sowada, Jenny Hoover, and Jeff Travis.....	13
h. LEFC Students: Nick Vargas and Caleb Roberts.....	16
i. LEFC Kids: Julia Brown.....	17
7. Financial Report	
a. Treasurer’s Report: DJ Weaver.....	18
b. LEFC State of the Church: July 2023 – March 2024 Report.....	19

If you have questions about anything represented in this document, please contact the elders at elders@LEFC.net.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023, AT 6PM

MEETING LOCATION: LEFC

Tom Daly, Jr., Elder Chair, opened the meeting in prayer at 6:00 pm.

- **DJ Weaver spoke briefly about TEAM 127** and its adoption care ministry. They support orphan care through Education and Training, Social and Community events to connect families, Mentoring relationships, Grants to help fund adoption, and Care Communities to provide extra support for fostering families. DJ also showed pictures of several LEFC families who have adopted either domestically or internationally.
- **Wayne and Ruth West led the congregation in the singing of hymns.**
- **The minutes from the May 2023** meeting were approved without objections or changes.
- Tom reminded us that Romans 12:5 teaches that as members of a local church such as LEFC, we belong to one another. This verse also reminds us that we each have gifts that are to be used to serve each other within the body of Christ. Tom went on to share further that the elder board and other leaders are here to serve the body of LEFC and to discern where God is leading LEFC. He affirmed that God equips each local church with the talents and abilities that are needed for serving Him.
- **Scott Galen led the elders and new member candidates in the membership approval process.** The following new members were put forth for approval: Mandy and Jason Bell, Barb and Bob Buehrer, Megan and Samuel Counts, Monica and Connor Diver, Ashley and Justin Eberly, Abigail Gehman, Lynn and James Herbert, Ky-Leigh and Chris Leighty, Becky and Rob Marshall, Lucy and Steve Martin, Steven Reynolds, Linda Sams, Emma and Stephon Smith, Evelyn and Daniel Teti, Janet and William Thompson, Janet and Bob Travis, Patricia and Albert Travis, Emily and Zach Wilkerson, Carissa and Isaac Williams

***All candidates were approved by a voice vote, and we read the Membership Commitment together.**

- **Senior Pastor Tony Hunt spoke on “Vision for the Four Rocks”:** Pastor Tony shared the importance of a church’s leadership team constantly putting a clear vision before its members with the purpose of keeping the congregation focused on Christ and living for Him.
 - o Balancing the Campus - He further reviewed “Creating Space and Expecting Harvest” and how God has blessed LEFC with many new members and has grown LEFC tremendously. He reported that our growth has been across all age levels and especially in the area of young children. Specifically, he mentioned that there are 70 two-year-olds regularly attending LEFC on a Sunday morning. He went on to share how our KidMin classes are filled and even overflowing. He reiterated that we see our role to make disciples of our young children and not just provide childcare. He reported that our sanctuary is not yet filled to an 80% capacity (900 per service – we currently average around 1100 worshippers between the two services) and we have more room for more worshipers, but our KidMin rooms are overfilled. In addition, our parking lot is full as we are now having staff and other leaders park at Witness Park to make as much room as possible for attendees.
 - Pastor Joel affirmed verbally and through drone footage that we are now at a point where all parking spaces are regularly filled. Pastor Joel requested that, if possible, members should try and carpool or in some way reduce the number of vehicles each family is bringing to church on Sundays. He went on to show possible plans for expanding parking. Pastor Joel reminded us that it will take about 6 months after any final plans would be drawn up before work could begin due to required permits.
 - Pastor Joel further shared how we have moved an ABF to make more room for some of the overflowing KidMin rooms. He went on to share possible plans to expand our facilities to provide more room for KidMin, including an area for special needs children and their families. This new space would tie directly into our current secure KidMin area and therefore children and families would continue to be in the same area in one secure section. In addition, Joel shared how G56 could then be moved downstairs below the Junior and Senior HS which would keep all children and youth in the same general area of our building.

Pastor Tony went on to review basics of past expansion and put the following motion before the congregation. Elder DJ Weaver made a motion that was seconded by Tyler Ranck. The motion read, The Elder board makes a motion to approve the raising of \$1 million towards expansion of the parking lot, with additional funds to be used to begin planning for facility expansion. Opportunity was given for discussion and then a paper ballot was taken. Ballots were given to both members and attenders who are not members to vote on the motion. **The motion passed with 98.8% of voters affirming the motion as stated.**

Pastor Tony and elder chair Tom Daly, Jr., affirmed that the money be asked for by this motion would not require taking on new debt.

- Southeast Asia – The vision for this area was started in 2018. While on an exploration trip to Southeast Asia in 2019, Tony had a meeting with the president of OMF. Out of this meeting a specific burden for Vietnam was affirmed. Since LEFC’s involvement with Global FingerPrints, 11 new churches have been planted. Pastor Tony went on to share that we are looking for God’s leading in other countries in this region. There are both short-term and long-term opportunities for gospel work in Southeast Asia, which leadership is currently exploring. LEFC has several global partners throughout different parts of the world. One of our global partners was working with Bible translation with oral languages in African countries, but doors were recently closed for this work to continue. As this door in Africa closed, a request was then made of LEFC to become involved in translation work in Indonesia.
- Teaching Church – Pastor Tony shared how new attenders regularly share that they are coming here because their past church has stopped preaching from the Word of God. The vision was shared that LEFC wants to be available to encourage other churches to continue to follow and honor Christ and stay true to His word. Pastor Tony set forth the vision of LEFC becoming a “Teaching Church” in the same way that our society has teaching hospitals. Becoming a Teaching Church would involve multiplying leaders and teachers that go out and serve and train others in other churches and areas of our country and world. Our world needs more Biblically trained teachers at a time when traditional seminaries are dwindling and there are fewer and fewer well-trained pastoral candidates available.
- Multiplication – Pastor Tony shared how God appears to be opening doors for us to be involved in helping another church that is struggling. There is a meeting on December 6th to explore whether or not this is a relationship God is leading us into. He also shared the importance of all members of LEFC becoming disciple-makers and that we have a “multiplying mindset”. Pastor Tony shared a model of multiplying from the book *A Master Plan of Discipleship*.
 - Jeff Travis next shared further how important it is that we all become disciple-makers. He shared some barriers that he has heard others share as to why they were not more purposeful in multiplying disciples. Pastor Jeff shared about a booklet that has been put together to assist and give direction as to how to disciple others. This resource takes deeper marks of being a disciple of Christ and explores each one and how a person can grow and help others to grow. This booklet is in the final stages of being completed and will soon be available for members to use.

- **Close of Meeting:** Wendy Andrews closed the meeting with prayer at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Andrews
Elder Secretary

CONFIRMATION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following desire to become members at LEFC. They have been through the New Members Class so that they have an understanding of the structure of LEFC and their responsibilities as a member. They have been interviewed by an Elder and are being presented for membership by the Board of Elders.

You can read their testimonies online at www.lefc.net/meetings or pick up a copy at the Welcome Desk. If there is any reason why you believe they are not suitable for membership, please contact Elder Chair Tom Daly, Jr. (tdaly678@gmail.com) to voice your concern.

Josh and Hannah Carr
Nathan and Lauren Eakin
Keith and Sarah Evans
Harley Foster
Daniel and Megan Gallagher
Jeff and Amanda Groff
David and Amanda Hershey
Paul and Tammy Jones

Kyle and Rebecca Kutz
Morgan Meadows
Kevin and Erin Perigo
Gary and Ellen Poorman
Maddison Reapsome
Travis and Kristin Reardon
John and Wilma Roberts
Brian and Shannon Roland

Andy and Erika Schell
Zane and Kathryn Seitz
Ken and Dawn Siegrist
Anthony and Kayley Stoner
Dylan Weaver
John and Nancy Wentworth
Nathan and Catherine
Woodcock

Reinstated Member:

Gail Larkin

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

Believing that Christ died to save His people, I acknowledge that Jesus Christ is my Lord, and commit myself to this body of believers.

By becoming a member of this church, I willingly submit to God, the Scriptures, this body, and its leaders, to hold me accountable for my faith, doctrine, and personal life. Should I ever deviate from scripture, I expect the church to lovingly, yet firmly, call me to return to those ways that honor our Heavenly Father.

I agree to study God's Word and model Christ in my home, work, and community. I endeavor to give a set portion of my income, speak with others about Christ, protect my home as a place of dwelling for God's Spirit, pray for others, and use my abilities and resources to serve others. I will at all times strive to maintain unity with my other brothers and sisters in the faith.

I will do these things out of obedience to God who paid the full price of my redemption through the death of His Son. To Him be the Glory!

AFFIRMATION OF NEW LEADERS

The candidates for leadership are listed below. If you have a concern about any of these people serving in leadership, please contact Elder Chair Tom Daly, Jr. (tdaly678@gmail.com).

Elders

Dave Cox
Tom Daly, Jr.
Gary Hoover
Chip Mershon
Corey Mitchell
Tyler Ranck
Ed Scheuerman
Phil True
DJ Weaver
Eric Wenger
Todd Andrews*
Dan Bailey*
Jon Balson*
Fred Eberly*
Scott Galen*
Art Horn*
Pete Wittmaier*
Kevin Zook*

*Non-sitting elders

Deacons

Dave Cassel
Jon Clark
Andy Derr
Mike Donghia
Blake Herr
Ben Hostetter
Walter Piasecki
Justin Sensenig
Jordan Snader

Deaconesses

Alison Dahl
Maggie Demers
Joy Desiato
Donya Galen
Peaches Gehman
Vickie Geiman
Ann Gillman
Jalisa Gingrich
Dixie Haverstick
Colleen Keller
Pat Landis
Gretchen Leed
Kim Murray
Alison Swann
Vanisa Weist

Members At Large*

Julie Hurst
Charlie Keller
Lindsey Snader

*Serve as part of the nominating committee that creates the slate of candidates we affirm at the May meeting, and as part of the pastoral search team in the event we have a senior pastor transition.

Financial Secretary**

Kevin Henry

**Ensures the proper receipting of all money received by the church and keeps proper records of the source and the purpose for which the money was given.

Qualifications for Leadership

What are the qualifications needed for an individual to serve as a leader at LEFC? Is it their ability to carry out the responsibilities of their office? Is it based on education? Experience? The answer is “yes,” and a whole lot more. Carrying out the work of ministry is more than natural, it is spiritual. We find the spiritual qualifications for leadership in 1 Timothy 3:1-15.

“Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.

Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING LEADERS

“The first step to leadership is servanthood.” – John Maxwell

Those in leadership at LEFC make many sacrifices. They give of their time extensively. They are involved in meetings and planning and prayer for the benefit of the body. Those who faithfully led this past year have blessed us, and we recognize and thank those listed below who are stepping down from their leadership positions. Thank you for your dedication to LEFC.

Elders

Todd Andrews

Deacons

Matt Messersmith
Bruce Miller

Deaconesses

Katrina Harrington
Carol Scheuerman

MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Leadership Candidates

The Elder Board recommends the congregation approve the proposed 2024-2025 Leadership Candidates.

Immanuel Evangelical Free Church

The Elder Board recommends that LEFC assume spiritual headship and operational leadership over Immanuel Evangelical Free Church for the purpose of multiplication through church revitalization, effective June 1, 2024.

Facility Expansion

The Elder Board recommends the congregation affirm the development of a final plan for facility expansion and the commissioning of a Funding the Vision Team.

2024-2025 LEFC Budget

The Elder Board recommends the congregation approve the proposed 2024-25 LEFC Budget.

The budget brochure will be posted online at lefc.net/meetings. Printed copies will also be placed in LEFC mailboxes and available for pickup at the Welcome Desk. If you have questions about the budget or anything else in this brochure, please contact the elders at elders@lefc.net.

ELDERS' MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Before every congregational meeting, our various ministry leaders are asked to reflect on their Ministry Highlights from the prior six months and summarize them here for the benefit of the congregation. As I shared with you in my earlier ministry highlights, the word "ministry" in scripture comes from the Greek word *diakonia*, the word from which we derive the words deacon and deaconess. But the word is used to describe a variety of ministry activities in the church, including prayer, teaching, equipping, and service.

As I reflect on the activities of the past six months, what strikes me as truly unique is the amount of discussion your elders have had regarding a church body that was not LEFC. This was certainly not due to a lack of things to discuss regarding our own growing and diverse church family. But when we look at how the earliest churches pursued making disciples of all nations, they considered not only the needs of their own body, but also the needs of other bodies of local believers.

For example, New Testament churches supported each other financially: "For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem." Romans 15:26

They supported each other doctrinally: "To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia...we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing." Acts 15:23, 27 (see Acts 15:1-35 for the full story!)

And they supported each other through sending people: "News of this [a new church in Antioch] reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch." Acts 11:22

In November of 2021, as the elders considered the many ways the Lord has blessed LEFC, we felt compelled to offer up our church for the service of others, and for an opportunity to do so. When we met for our last congregational meeting in November 2023, an answer to that prayer had begun to take shape. We had connected with a church in York County called Immanuel Evangelical Free Church (IEFC) who said they might be interested in partnering. Those initial conversations led to a months-long prayer and discernment process as we discussed the vision of what it might look like for LEFC to partner with IEFC. There are many models and approaches within evangelicalism on how churches can work together, and we believe the Holy Spirit is leading our two independent churches into a season of greater interdependence, for our mutual strengthening.

Tonight, we will be discussing this in greater detail, along with a number of other big things God is doing in our church body, our community, and around the world. Regardless of where the Spirit leads us, I am thankful that He has brought together this family of brothers and sisters in Christ. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Blessings,

Tom Daly, Jr., *Elder Board Chair*
tdaly678@gmail.com

SENIOR PASTOR'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

These past few months have been nothing short of extraordinary. Since we set out to prioritize “The Four Rocks”, we have seen the Lord bring about so much fruit and guide us into some never-experienced-before opportunities. These Four Rocks are:

1. Balancing the Campus
2. Teaching Church
3. Reaching Southeast Asia
4. Multiplication.

Balancing the Campus

You will hear at this meeting a report on expanding our facilities to fulfill our Teaching Church vision, as well as to address the tremendous growth in our children's ministries and ABF's. Because we have Teaching Church as one of our Four Rocks, we value our Sunday morning strategy of ABF's, Crossover, and LEFC Kids. This creates a need for more facility and more parking with having so many people on campus for two services. Please look at our report for facility and parking expansion for more information. Ultimately, the need to expand our education space and parking is driven by the vision to be a Teaching Church.

Teaching Church

Having spoken of our vision to grow our capacity for ABF's and teaching more children, this means we need more teachers. We have created a “teacher pathway” that trains and mentors teachers who can serve at various age levels in the church. We are also utilizing this growth to prepare for further multiplication as we serve the big “C” church. To serve that greater church, we hosted The Perspectives Course at LEFC this past Fall. We had an extraordinarily large class filled with students who are in the pursuit of our vision for reaching all people for Jesus and, for us, Southeast Asia. As we consider the future, we are exploring opportunities to be a satellite location for a seminary to promote the next generation of church leaders and teachers.

Reaching Southeast Asia

Our budget has significantly been impacted by the growth of our vision to reach Southeast Asia—we will have sent, or are about to send, three more global partners (3 families) to serve in that region. The Perspectives Course was also a provision of equipping a new generation of global leaders and furthering the vision in making disciples of all people. I could not be more excited for the momentum we have in this region of the world. Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, and Cambodia are current places we are now serving through global partnerships. So many at LEFC have sponsored children from Southeast Asia through Global Fingerprints. This support directly serves to plant churches through the ministry of these child sponsorships.

Multiplication

The strategy of Jesus in the Great Commission is a strategy of multiplication. Life by life. Group by group. Church by church. Country by country. We are working to create a stronger culture of discipling. We are developing tools to make it simpler for you to disciple another and then to help that disciple to disciple another. Each ministry of LEFC should have an inherent mindset of multiplication. Life Groups and ABF's should have a culture of advancing the gospel by multiplication.

Multiplication drives our vision for Teaching Church, Reaching Southeast Asia, and the need for maximizing our campus. Multiplication also drives our desire to serve other churches by revitalizing them and releasing them to fulfill their mission. I am thrilled to report that after many years of prayer and preparation, the Lord has given us our first opportunity to enact that vision. Immanuel Evangelical Free Church voted on April 7th to give LEFC Spiritual Headship and Organizational Leadership of their church. Assuming your approval, our plan is for the next 3-5 years to instill our vision and strength in them to give them opportunity to thrive on their own. Immanuel will maintain their identity, but we will be infusing our strength given in grace by our great God. Jesus said “he will build his church.” AMEN! By His grace, we will do so from Litz, York, and in Southeast Asia.

Pastor Tony Hunt, *Senior Pastor*
717-626-5332
hunt@lefc.net

EXECUTIVE PASTOR'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

There has been a lot going on since our last congregational meeting! Some of the highlights:

Our solar array began generating electricity the week of April 21. This is approximately five months later than planned due to delays in sourcing some of the components. With the array active, we expect to reduce our electricity bill by approximately \$65,000 per year. In addition to this savings, LEFC will receive some income from the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Credits that will offset some of the system purchase cost. We have not yet received our rebates from PPL and the ITC, but those should be forthcoming now that the system is operational. LEFC paid cash for this system, thanks to for your generosity, allowing us to install this system debt free.

In November I reported that Gary Poorman was joining our team as Care Coordinator. Gary has been an incredible addition to our team, significantly improving how we care for people. We are pleased to propose making him a full-time employee as part of the 2024-2025 budget.

In January Emma Smith started in the role of Connections Coordinator, and she has been vital in allowing our Life Group ministries to continue to grow, as well as being a key part of our team leading our welcome ministries. With the retirement of Ken Martin, February saw Daniel Spangler join our team in the role of Technical Arts Supervisor. Daniel brings a servant's heart coupled with a lot of fresh ideas in ways technology can serve our ministries.

LEFC continues to grow, which continues to impact our parking lot in unforeseen ways. After no less than 17 different revisions of additional parking designs, I believe we are close to one that we can build within a reasonable budget. This design is working its way through our engineers as I write this, and I'm looking forward to sharing good news with you at the meeting. In addition, work is proceeding on the planned development of the education wing to provide additional space for KidMin, a new location for G56, and additional adult classrooms.

God has been leading in incredible ways, and it is a joy to be part of what He is doing here at LEFC.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this body.

Pastor Joel

Joel Lingenfelter, *Executive Pastor*
717-626-5332
lingenfelter@lefc.net

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Church Family,

I am excited to give you an update on our dynamic and growing staff here at LEFC. Over the last several months, we have welcomed a bunch of awesome folks to our staff team!

- Daniel Spangler, Technical Arts Supervisor – we can't wait to see how he uses his skills to amp up our Technical Arts ministry
- Emma Smith, Connections Coordinator – blessed with exceptional organizational skills and a heart full of warmth, she is suited to lead LEFC's hospitality teams and enhance our Connections ministry
- Erin Martin, Nursery Coordinator – Our nursery shepherds and littles ones are in the best of hands with Erin at the helm
- Izzy Werkheiser, G56 Coordinator – her passion and energy are what we need to keep LEFC's 5th & 6th grade ministry vibrant and engaging.

We are thrilled to have these new team members on board. Each one brings fresh perspective and new ideas. We look forward to seeing the Lord use each member of our staff for His honor and glory! It is a blessing to currently be fully staffed.

Of course, as we welcome these new faces, we must sadly say goodbye to others. Danni DeVinney transitioned from her G56 role into full-time ministry at GracePoint Church in Palmyra. After retiring from her full-time role 2 years ago, Ann Unruh officially stepped down from hospitality ministry at the start of 2024, though she continues her involvement with Witness Park Cemetery. God is doing great things as she pours into her neighborhood and other oikos relationships. Mikala Hess has also departed from our Kids Ministry team, choosing to spend more time with her young son. We send each of these team members off with warm blessings and prayers for God to continue to use them where He has placed them in this season!



Recently, the team honored Ken Martin, who retired from full-time ministry in February. During a time of celebration, we enjoyed a special lunch filled with an abundance of laughter, a few tears, and some thoughtful gifts for Ken to commemorate his time at LEFC thus far. Ken will continue to serve on staff as Pastor Emeritus.

As we finish this ministry year, it is amazing to see how God has answered our prayers, guided our steps, and taken us to places beyond what we could have imagined. We trust Him as we continue to grow and take on new responsibilities in this new season of church revitalization. He is faithful!

In His love,

Danielle Wittmaier, *Executive Administrator*
717-626-5332, ext. 21
wittmaier@lefc.net

WORSHIP ARTS & TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

The purpose of the Worship Arts Department is to glorify God and to draw others into an encounter with Him.

“So that the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other.” 1 Kings 8:60

As we reflect on the past few months, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the rich times of worship that we have experienced as a church community. The Worship Arts ministry at LEFC aims to use art to make disciples by teaching people truth, reminding people of truth, and helping people feel truth.

We extend our deepest appreciation to all those who contributed their time, talent, and passion to make our Christmas Services, Christmas Eve Services, Maundy Thursday, and Easter services truly artistic occasions. The dedication of our choir, tech team, brass players, singers, and instrumentalists brought a richness and depth to our worship experiences that refreshed many and ministered to many more.

At the beginning of the year, we embarked on a journey of joyful worship and growth, taking a worship and tech team to lead the youth group at Winter Blast. This experience not only nurtured our ability to "Abide", but also pushed our team musically and technically, while strengthening our relationships throughout the church community. Additionally, we hosted the Celebrate God worship night of gratitude, starting the year off with a posture of thanksgiving towards the Lord.

In February, we welcomed Daniel Spangler as our new Technical Arts Supervisor. Daniel brings a wealth of experience and a deep connection to our church, having grown up within our community and spent the past decade in Michigan honing his skills. His leadership promises to elevate our technical capabilities and enhance our worship experiences in profound ways.

Amidst these transitions, we also acknowledge the retirement of Ken Martin from full-time worship ministry into his new role as Pastor Emeritus. Ken has been a pillar of our community, guiding us in worship with grace and dedication for many years, and more recently guiding our technical teams and equipment. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for his faithful service and leadership. The Seasons of Praise worship night in April was a fitting tribute to Ken's legacy, where volunteers and congregation members alike joined in first worshipping and thanking our great God, and then acknowledging the many different seasons and years that God has used Ken Martin (and many others along the way) in building His church here at LEFC.

As we look ahead with anticipation, we are filled with hope and excitement for the future of our Worship Arts ministry at LEFC.

Thank you to all for your continual encouragement and participation!

Alex Swann, *Minister of Worship Arts*
717-626-5332, ext. 20
swann@lefc.net

MOBILIZATION MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Our mobilization ministry consists of four areas of ministry: global ministry, local ministry, crisis response and Sunday in the Park. We seek to help each member of the church family find their role in God's mission.

Global Ministry Highlights

- In July 2024, Matt & Grace Messersmith and their family will be leaving for New York City for training and service with International Project as global partners with LEFC. In the summer of 2025, they will leave for Thailand.
- In July 2024, James & Nica Yates and their family will be leaving for Cambodia as new global partners of LEFC.
- Fifty-three individuals attended the Perspectives course at LEFC during the fall of 2023. Of those, approximately 15 were members of LEFC. Perspectives is a 16-week study rooted in Scripture, clarifying each believer's remarkable opportunity to join God in His global purpose.
- In July 2023, sixteen individuals will be serving in Thailand with our global partners Zach and Kara Hallead as part of a Crossover (youth) short-term team. In October 2024, six individuals will be serving in Thailand with our global partners Zach and Kara Hallead and Lowell and Debbie Stutzman as part of an adult short-term team.
- This past fall, nine individuals attended CULTURELink training to be equipped as trainers for LEFC's short-term missions trips.
- Our relationship deepened with the Hope for Vietnam church planting network as Bob & Janet Travis and Joel & Patti Lingenfelter visited Vietnam in June 2023, and Hoi and Phumey Nyugen visited LEFC in November 2023.



Buddhist Temple in northern Thailand

Local Ministry Highlights

LEFC members have been very involved in serving with various local community partners such as Abundant Living, Align Life Ministries, Bible 2 School, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Green Meadow Farm, Lifesong, North Star Initiative, TNT (Teens Need Truth), Warwick Released Time, and Water Street Mission.

Crisis Response Highlights

In 2023, one LEFC team served in Kentucky doing flood relief, and one team served in southwest Florida on hurricane relief. Plans are now being made for the next two crisis response trips.

Sunday in the Park

In 2023, approximately 2,300 people attended Sunday in the Park in Lititz Springs Park. This year we will be gathering as a church family on Sunday, June 2 for Sunday in the Park 2024.

Bob Travis, *Pastor of Mobilization*
717-626-5332, ext. 13
btravis@lefc.net

LEFC ADULTS HIGHLIGHTS

Philippians 2 begins, “Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” These verses capture the heart of what we pray for the body of Christ here at LEFC. Despite our different past experiences, church backgrounds, and various stages of life, we are united in Christ and called to be one in spirit and mind. What a beautiful picture of community!

Over the past few months, our Adult Ministries team has grown and become an even more fun team! Our staff now includes Matt Sowada (Pastor of Adult Ministries), Jenny Hoover (Minister to Women), Jeff Travis (Connections Pastor), Randy Hunt (Relengage Coordinator), Gary Poorman (Care Coordinator), Emma Smith (Connections Coordinator), and Beth Lougee (Adult Ministries Administrative Assistant). It is a joy to serve at LEFC together and be a part of what God is doing in Lititz!

Men’s Ministry

The past six months in Men’s Ministry has created both energy and relationships. Between ManCamp, multiple breakfasts, and weekly studies God has used these contexts to “spur one another on towards love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24).”

Professor/Pastor Timothy Witmer (author of The Shepherd Leader) joined us at ManCamp this past November. 50+ guys spent the weekend of November 17-19, 2023 at Refreshing Mountain processing what this concept of being a Shepherd Leader would practically look like in our lives. It was a great weekend, filled with solid teaching, real conversation, and lots of laughs!

Since the retreat, we’ve hosted two breakfasts and a manuscript study on the book of 1 Peter. We’ve been challenged (along with Women’s Ministry) to memorize Romans 12 with a partner. The hope is to not only hide God’s word in our hearts/minds, but to do so in community!

We’ve also seen growth in our Monday night Men’s groups. Rob Troxell and Mike DiPaola have faithfully led groups that meet at LEFC on alternating Monday nights. These groups have facilitated not only healthy conversation on Scripture, but also community and connection for the guys in attendance.

As you can see, our hope has been to create contexts in which men can Love God, Love Others, Live Truth and Proclaim Jesus with one another!

Women’s Ministry

Our winter/spring semester of Women’s Bible Fellowship (WBF) at LEFC journeyed through the book of Deuteronomy. We had 265 women join us for our morning, evening, and virtual sessions. It was a joy to learn from four teachers from LEFC as they led us through God’s precious Words for His people. Deut. 30:19-20 says, “Choose life, that you may live – loving the Lord your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days.” One resounding remark since the study ended is, “I miss it! I was surprised how much I loved studying the book of Deuteronomy!” What a joy it is to open the Bible and have our hearts changed by what lies within! We look forward to studying the Book of Acts when we return to WBF in the fall.

The women of LEFC embarked on a Scripture Memory initiative back in November called Memorize with Me. We kicked off Memorize with Me with a brunch led by Jess Daly and Kristin Reardon. They encouraged us with heart-level, practical ways to hide God’s Word in our hearts...TOGETHER! Doing this in the context of community makes it all sweeter! It has been fun to hear testimonies of how God encouraged and changed hearts as women in our church memorized Psalm 103 together.

Our spring Women’s Brunch theme was “How Does the Reality of the Gospel Impact How We Love Others?” Janet Travis led us to examine our own hearts and what it looks like to allow the gospel to impact our relationships. The goal was not practical conversation by life stage, but rather how the gospel impacts our relationships vertically and horizontally wherever God has called us to be. We also furthered our Memorize with Me Scripture initiative with an invitation to join us in memorizing Romans 12. And bonus! The men of LEFC are joining us this time!

WBF and Women’s Brunches all take teamwork, and I’m so incredibly grateful for the dozens of ladies who give of their time, talents, and gifts to join us in ministry. We would not be able to do what we do without our teams, and it would certainly be a lot less fun! Thanks for blessing us with yourselves!

It's the ladies' turn to go on a retreat this year! We will get away November 15-17 at Black Rock Retreat. Robyn Sowada will lead us through our time theme "Deeply Rooted". More information coming late summer/early fall!

Marriage Ministry

We love to invest in marriages at LEFC! Ed and Carol Scheuerman led us through the theme of "Connected" during our seventh annual marriage Retreat to Remember on March 1-2, 2024. We had over 60 couples join us for an encouraging time of worship, fellowship, and focus on marriages. We changed the format of the sessions, and couples were given opportunities to connect and discuss what they were learning in real-time.

Relengage has been a powerful tool in helping marriages reconnect, reignite, and resurrect. This past year 54 couples have spent 16 weeks focused on their marriage. Relengage is being led by a leadership team that is committed to helping strengthen marriages. Powerful stories of God working in marriages are being heard each week.

Groups and Connections

It brings us great joy to see the various communities within LEFC thrive, whether that may be a Life Group, an ABF, a Hope Group, or a group of people serving together. As summer approaches, we're excited about two different community opportunities: ABF Electives and Summer Interest Groups.

If you were with us this morning, you no doubt saw the excitement as we launched our Summer Interest Groups. Make sure you take advantage of these fun communities of brothers and sisters in Christ and make some new friends this summer doing something that you love! Also, be on the lookout in the coming weeks for what ABF Elective classes will be offered in July and August. If you are a parent or grandparent of a child at LEFC, one of our electives is strategically designed to go alongside KidMin's theme of "Across the Street and Around the World". We hope by equipping kids and their parents and grandparents with the same things, great conversations can happen at home!

This past year 10 new Life Groups have launched and just shy of 100 people have joined a Life Group! We also had more people than ever in the past attend Starting Point to learn about LEFC and decide if this is the right church for them. As LEFC grows, the need for each of us to be in community grows. If you are struggling to connect, please let us know, it gives us joy to help people know others and be known.

Care & Mercy Ministries

God's love, poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5), is an incredible gift. But with this divine deposit comes the solemn responsibility of being a conduit of God's love to others. LEFC demonstrates this relational and practical care well in many ways. Not only are needs addressed via Life Groups, ABF's, personal initiative, and pastoral counsel, but also formal structures facilitate care, too. LEFC Chaplains are responding to calls in hospitals, retirement communities, nursing facilities, and homes. Over the past six months, here are some snapshots of what's happened through the deacon and deaconess teams:

- We've hosted a Ladies Car Care Day, serving widows and single ladies.
- Finances. Our servants fund and Budget Coach ministry has been busy crunching numbers and establishing budgets.
- Our Mercy Network has coordinated multiple work projects and transportation needs.
- We've matured our relationship with the Warwick HUB.
- Our meals team has served (what seems like countless) meals over the past six months.
- Our funeral meals team has done a tremendous job serving a meal after funerals. What a beautiful opportunity to love someone in their toughest moments!
- We served dozens of families with a Thanksgiving meal through the Harvest Blessing and are in the middle of a food drive to benefit the Warwick Community Chest.

Over the past few months, you may have heard people talking about re:generation, or re:gen for short. We are so excited to be only a few months away from launching this incredible ministry publicly to LEFC and our community. Re:gen is a discipleship program that helps identify the idols that have grabbed hold in our hearts as we work through spiritual disciplines to pursue freedom and new life in Christ! Consider committing next year to joining re:gen or going through it as a Life Group!

However, as wonderful as this is, there's room to grow as we seek to enhance a community of caring and being cared for at LEFC. Would you pray about your role in blessing others as a channel of God's love and grace? Would you reach out if God tugs at your heart, or you have any care ministry questions? We hope you will...you are needed to care for this body well!

Grace and Peace,

Matt Sowada,
Pastor of Adult Ministries
717-626-5332, ext. 18
sowada@lefc.net

Jenny Hoover,
Minister to Women
717-626-5332, ext. 33
hoover@lefc.net

Jeff Travis,
Connections Pastor
717-626-5332, ext. 23
travis@lefc.net

LEFC STUDENTS HIGHLIGHTS

It is with great pleasure that we share with you a look at the past year of Crossover Student Ministries. Over the past few months, our ministry has been blessed by much transformation and spiritual growth for our middle school and high school students. We are excited to highlight the ways in which our students have flourished in their faith journeys, as well as the exciting developments within our ministry.

Throughout the year, we have been privileged to witness remarkable growth and encouragement among our students as they draw closer to God. From weekly Sunday morning gatherings to intimate life group studies and personal devotional practices, many of our students have demonstrated a profound commitment to deepening their relationship with God. Their hunger for Jesus and their eagerness to apply biblical principles in their lives have been both inspiring and humbling to witness.

One of the standout events of the year was our winter retreat, Winter Blast. Held for the first time at North Bay Adventure Camp in Maryland, Winter Blast proved to be a transformative experience for our students where we clearly saw the Spirit move. With the theme "Knowing God" as our guiding focus, our students engaged in a weekend filled with impactful worship sessions, great teachings, and meaningful discussions. Under the lead of Tom Daly, Jr., our students were challenged to move beyond mere head knowledge of God and enter a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him. The retreat provided a great space for reflection, growth, and spiritual renewal, leaving a lasting impact on many who attended.

In addition to our middle and high school ministry, we continue to invest in our G56 ministry, catering to our fifth and sixth grade students. These young students have shown what one leader titled "remarkable enthusiasm" and receptiveness for learning about God. Our leaders have been instrumental in serving and providing them with a solid foundation in biblical truth. We are thrilled to welcome Izzy Werkheiser to our Crossover team as the G56 coordinator! Izzy's passion for serving others and her heart for ministry make her a valuable addition to our team, and we are excited to see the positive impact she will have on our students' lives.

Again, as we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for God's faithfulness within our ministry. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unwavering support and prayers for our ministry. Together, let us press forward in our mission to impact lives for the glory of God!

Grace and Peace,

Nick Vargas, *Pastor to Students*
717-626-5332, ext. 29
vargas@lefc.net

Caleb Roberts, *Assistant Director of Student Ministries*
717-626-5332, ext. 28
roberts@lefc.net

LEFC KIDS HIGHLIGHTS

At the end of this summer, we wrap up our third year in our 3-year cycle through the narrative of God's Big Story by ending with Paul's three missionary journeys. In September we look forward to starting in Genesis again with the start of a new 3-year cycle!

We are passionate about kids learning God's truth and understanding God's Big Story in the biblical narrative. But it's more than that! As we plan, prepare, and pray over the kids in this ministry, we pray they would internalize God's Word and even at these tender young ages, begin to experience what it's like to live moment by moment in God's presence! This is what is so wonderful about all the Shepherds investing in kids' lives...they are partnering with our families and modeling what it's like to have a relationship with Jesus. When kids get to see and feel God's power at work modeled in life and shared through testimonies, they can make connections between God's living and active Word and His purpose and plans for our moment-to-moment life with Jesus!

We now have 30 classes of children on Sundays (including our 4 nurseries)! Did you know that we have 557 children in our ministry with kids? As we continue to grow, we continue to see and feel the need for additional space!

When you count all our Shepherds, Junior Shepherds, our Welcome Team, Hands and Feet Ministry Buddies, and Behind the Scenes Team, we have more than 275 people investing in ministry with kids! That's a lot of love for our kids! We are so over-the-top blessed by people living out 1 Peter 4:10 which says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"!

In Kids Ministry we have "adopted" global partners with kids! This means we have 12 global partner families and 24 missionary kids we are excited about praying for and supporting! We love getting to hear updates from these 12 families in our Kids Worship-Missions Moments.

Kids Ministry Staff Team update: This past winter, Mikaila Hess made the switch to staying at home with Judah. We are deeply grateful for Makaila's ministry in serving on our team! And we are thankful for God's provision as Erin Martin has recently stepped into the Nursery Coordinator role with great energy and excitement. We are so blessed by the creativity and expertise that Amanda Ranck, our Elementary Coordinator, and Julie Reed, our Preschool Coordinator, infuse into lesson plans to support our Shepherds as they teach God's Word! Brianna Kauffman, our Administrative Assistant, continues to enhance and upgrade our systems for processes such as clearances and schedules and manages many details of the ministry with her special touch of making it all look easy.

Across the Street and Around the World, is our theme for our Sundays in July and August. Our kids will get to explore worldviews, "travel" with Paul on his missionary journeys, and learn how to share Jesus with their friends!

We also look forward to a new ministry adventure this summer, partnering with LEFC's library team and inviting children for Storytime during the week! We will be sharing details soon. This is a wonderful "oikos" opportunity for families to invite their friends and kids to come for Storytime and enjoy an informal picnic lunch together afterwards.

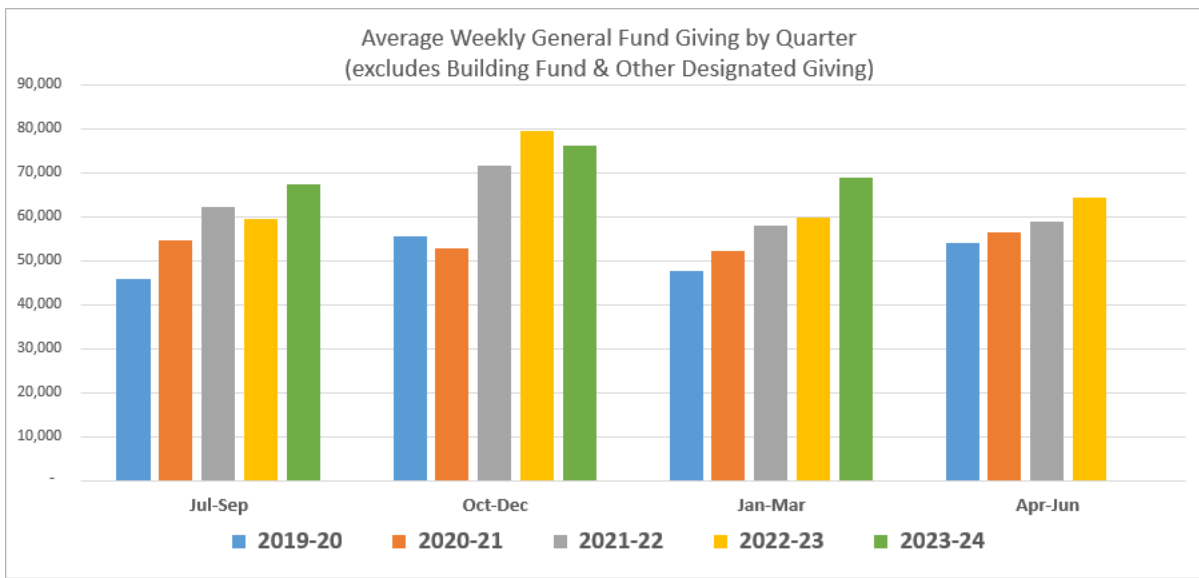
It is an absolute joy to partner with families to help children know, love, and follow Jesus!

Julia Brown, *Minister to Children*
717-626-5332, ext. 34
brown@lefc.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

It's a joy to serve a very generous congregation. Our giving continues to outpace projected giving for our 2023-2024 budget which was affirmed by the congregation last May. The staff has also done a great job of managing expenses resulting in expenses tracking lower than projected. These combined trends put us in great shape as we close out the fiscal year at the end of June 2024.

Through the end of March 2024, which completes our fiscal 3rd quarter, giving has grown at a rate of over 9% year over year versus the comparable 1st – 3rd quarters in our prior fiscal year. Beyond that, our giving in the 3rd quarter (Jan – Mar) was up 15% year over year versus the 3rd quarter that ended March 2023. Our average weekly giving has grown to about \$71,000.



In March of this year, the 5-year rate lock on our mortgage expired. We were able to negotiate a favorable increase of 3% which is less than the max rate increase of 4%. We are blessed to have a new interest rate of 6.75%. Our current outstanding principal owed on our mortgage is about \$3.6 Million. We continue to see funds come in to help with the congregation's paving project last fall.

By the time you are reading this, the solar project should be up and running. The system is expected to generate enough electricity to power our entire campus. Fortunately, we funded the project through cash flow while maintaining a strong cash position to fund regular operations. The cost of the project came in at about \$800,000. Roughly half of the project cost will be covered by grants and tax credits that we are now eligible to file for with the completed project.

Thank you again for your faithful giving and entrusting us with your resources to advance the Kingdom! Praise God for His faithfulness to our church!

Respectfully submitted,

D.J. Weaver, *Treasurer and Elder*
717-286-5103
weaverfamily082711@gmail.com

FINANCIAL REPORT: LEFC STATE OF THE CHURCH

JULY 2023 – MARCH 2024

Giving Total	\$2,838,772.00
Increase over 2021-2022	9.76%
Average Attendance Jul '23 - Mar '24	1124
Average Attendance Jul '22 - Mar '23	997
Avg Attd w/stream Jul '23 – Mar '24	1342
Avg Attd w/stream Jul '22 – Mar '23	1202
Expenses:	\$2,483,589.23
Giving & Misc.:	\$2,838,772.00
NET INCOME:	\$355,182.77

BALANCE SHEET:

General Funds & Reserve	\$284,627.73
Specials Fund	\$96,400.67
Capital Projects Fund	\$561,082.62
Servant's Fund	\$21,433.92
HRA Account	\$5,684.73
The Learning Station	\$30,537.77
Witness Park & Perpetuity Fund	\$319,303.10
Total Short-Term Assets	\$1,319,074.54
Total Long-Term Assets	\$20,333,250.48
Total Accumulated Depreciation	\$(4,183,369.57)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,468,955.45
CIF Mortgage	\$3,601,683.83
Other ST Liabilities	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,601,683.83
NET FUNDS	\$13,867,271.62
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET FUNDS	\$17,468,955.45