



# **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | NOV. 8, 2026**

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## AGENDA

1. Meal provided by TNT Youth Ministry
2. Welcome and Prayer / Tyler Ranck
3. Minutes Approval from May 2026 Congregational Meeting / Tyler Ranck
4. Welcome of New Members / DJ Weaver
5. Project 2:42 Video and Wrap-Up / Eric Wenger & Tony Hunt
6. Worship / Alex Swann
7. Update on LEFC Areas of Focus / Tyler Ranck
8. Looking Ahead / Tony Hunt
9. Closing / Tyler Ranck & DJ Weaver

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*If you have questions about anything represented in this document,  
please contact the elders at [elders@lefc.net](mailto:elders@lefc.net).*

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026 / 6:00 PM

LOCATION: LEFC AUDITORIUM

## 1. Thailand Mission Trip

The mission team planning to visit Thailand was introduced. The team will serve preschool children by teaching English as well as supporting with general ministry care. The heart of the mission is to seek and serve. They requested prayer and financial support for the trip, noting this would be their second visit to Thailand with Crossover in four years. Kurt Zimmerman then led the congregation in prayer over the trip to Thailand.

## 2. Welcome and Prayer:

The meeting then officially opened with Tyler Ranck, chairman of the Elder Board, welcoming attendees.

## 3. Minutes Approval from November 2025 Congregational Meeting:

The meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

## 4. Confirmation of New Members:

Gary Hoover announced the acceptance of 44 new members at LEFC and explained the process of welcoming new members, emphasizing the importance of unity. He highlighted that new members have been visited by elders and shared their testimonies, which are posted on the website. There was a motion to accept all proposed candidates for membership, and the motion was seconded, leading to a voice vote to approve the new members. The motion carried; all new members were approved.

## 5. Affirmation of New Leaders:

Tyler outlined the leadership transition for the next cycle at LEFC, expressing appreciation for outgoing leaders and introducing new nominees Chip Mershon, Darryl Preziosi, and Dan Martin to join the elder board. Deacons, Deaconess, Members-at-Large, and Financial Secretary names were also proposed. There was a motion to affirm the new leaders, followed by instructions for members to complete ballots and a prayer led by Dave Cox for new members and leaders. All new leaders were affirmed by ballot vote.

## 6. Budget Approval and Financial Update:

DJ Weaver, elder and treasurer, presented the proposed budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year, highlighting double-digit growth in attendance and giving, as well as increased expenses due to building expansion and staff growth. There was a motion to approve the 2026-2027 LEFC budget as proposed. The motion was seconded and there was an opportunity for discussion with no comments raised. A vote was taken through ballot and the budget was approved.

## 7. Project 2:42 Update:

Joel Lingenfelter announced an upcoming church software transition, including the launch of a new LEFC app available in early June, which members will need to download and set up with their photos.

Joel proceeded to provide an update on Project 2:42, the building construction project, which is on schedule to open in early September. He described the new children's wing with six nurseries and four rooms for ages 4-5, along with a lower-level space where G56 will be relocated. The project has raised \$4.758 million toward its \$5.5 million goal, with \$742,000 still needed to be collected by September. Eric Wenger outlined various giving options including appreciated securities, real estate donations, IRA charitable distributions, and charitable gift annuities for those looking to make larger contributions.

## 8. Ministry Spotlight:

Matt Sowada led the congregation through recent examples of how ministries have been impactful in people's lives.

- Crossover leaders highlighted the positive impact of a student-led Bible study initiative at Crossover, where 12th grade girls are connecting with students across different grade levels, demonstrating true engagement with the Lord and community building.
- The meeting also featured testimonials from parents and shepherds about the positive impact of the Kid-min ministry, including how trust has been built with a challenging student over several years.
- Fourth grade Shepherds have enjoyed watching their students grow, highlighting their deep questions about God and faith, and expressed gratitude for the church's supportive environment for children and families.
- A Re-Gen participant shared his personal transformation through the ministry, describing how Christ's grace helped him overcome alcoholism and people-pleasing, leading him to nearly complete reading the Bible. He expressed his gratitude for the church's Bible-centered teaching and asked for continued prayers as he continues his spiritual journey.
- Linsey Smoker introduced the Women's Bible Fellowship (WBF) ministry at LEFC, explaining that it meets on Thursday mornings and evenings with 300 women attending the recent semester studying Joshua. She shared survey results showing how the ministry has led to increased biblical understanding and love for God's word among participants, with one woman reporting she now craves scripture more and another describing it as life changing.

## 9. Teaching/Multiplication Next Steps & Invitation:

Tyler Ranck provided an update on the church's multiplication efforts, explaining that the elders have been working on documenting their priorities and values for replication while seeking counsel from others. He outlined various multiplication initiatives already underway at LEFC, including intern programs, pastor's pathway, teacher training, life group expansion, and missions' partnerships. Tyler emphasized that multiplication also represents a broader church cultural movement focused on prayer, teaching, and equipping the body for gospel impact, rather than just a singular church planting project.

Tony Hunt discussed the church's mission to make disciples of all nations, referencing Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8. He emphasized the importance of expanding beyond their local area of Lititz to reach Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and eventually the ends of the earth. Tony also highlighted the role of church leaders in equipping members for works of service, rather than doing the work on behalf of the congregation, as described in Ephesians 4:11-16.

Tony welcomed Gary Christman, pastor of Immanuel Church in York County, who reported significant growth at the revitalized church, including increased attendance from 18 to 65 people and tripled finances over two years. Gary shared specific discipleship stories and emphasized the importance of understanding that there is a cost when engaging in mission work, but it is worth it. Gary thanked LEFC efforts of multiplication leading to a specific story of salvation.

Tony outlined three potential church revitalization opportunities and presented a prayer map for three target areas where LEFC might consider future church planting, inviting members to pray for these areas and offering to host prayer gatherings in their homes. Tony invited those interested in being a part of LEFC's vision for planting or revitalizing churches to attend an informal Q&A session planned for June 7 during second service in room A7.

Tyler wrapped up the conversation by explaining a handout is available highlighting areas of prayer. There is an opportunity to provide feedback via a QR code on the handout.

## 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](http://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 Tyler Ranck ([tyler.ranck@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.ranck@gmail.com)) to voice your concern.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Corey &amp; Sarah Faus</b><br><b>Johnny Grisbacher</b><br><b>Steve &amp; Heather Halstead</b><br><b>Corey &amp; Lori Hamilton</b><br><b>Jadeyn Hamilton</b><br><b>Michael Hamilton</b><br><b>Emily Huber</b> | <b>John &amp; Lauran Huber</b><br><b>Kris &amp; Rochelle Huber</b><br><b>Hunter Leigey</b><br><b>Robert &amp; Angela Licata</b><br><b>Grace Lingenfelter</b><br><b>Roy &amp; Beth Lowe</b><br><b>Tyler &amp; Lydia Martin</b> | <b>David Oberholtzer</b><br><b>Lydia Peters</b><br><b>Steven Ribaudo</b><br><b>Heather Stauffer</b><br><b>David &amp; Reagan Stirpe</b><br><b>Barry &amp; Gini Timmins *</b><br><b>Amelia Wittmaier</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

*\* Denotes former members returning by way of membership reinstatement.*

### 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!

## PROJECT 2:42 UPDATE

Dear LEFC Family,

What a great God we serve! Our new building addition has been completed ... **on time and on budget! Praise God!**

We want to express a huge thank you to so many of you who toured the new space during our Open House Sunday, now two months ago. It is not only a beautiful space, but also so thoughtfully designed for optimum usage. What a blessing to imagine all the Biblical teaching that will take place in these spaces. People of all ages - from the tiniest little ones to those who've had many, many birthdays - will experience teaching that emphasizes the Gospel and calls us to be more like Jesus!

Are you ready for an awesome financial update? As of October 20, **our total giving to Project 2:42 is now \$5,539,940! The new building addition is now paid in full! Again, Praise God! He deserves all the glory, honor, and our highest praise!** As you remember, our LEFC Leadership and our Project 2:42 Team had decided to approach fundraising for this project in a very unusual way. Rather than relying on asking all of you to make a multi-year pledge (as is the norm), **we asked you simply to pray!** Being even more specific, we asked you to **inquire of the Lord**, a unique mode of prayer modeled in scripture. **Thank you for your generosity, and even more importantly, for being obedient to what the Lord has directed you to give!** What a blessing it is to move forward in ministry without having the obligation of additional mortgage debt!

**What have we learned and how has Project 2:42 changed us at LEFC?** Long after the building addition has been paid (without needing a mortgage), and the name Project 2:42 has been forgotten, **may LEFC continue to be a church that is fully committed to Biblical teaching! And may our experience of inquiring of the Lord and leaning into prayer have moved us much closer to becoming a praying church!**

In closing, we would like to remind you of the three things that Pastor Tony asked all of us to pray at the beginning of Project 2:42:

- Lord, what area of my life would you like to do more work in – to draw me closer to You?
- Lord, who in my oikos would you have me pray for, and meet with, to move them closer to Jesus?
- Lord, how would you want me to invest my time and resources in my church's future?

May these three specific prayer requests become timeless and permanent in each of our lives as well!

Giving God all the glory for what He has done and will continue to do,

*Charlie & Colleen Keller*  
Project 2:42 Co-Chairs

## ELDERS' MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Church Family,

Over the past six months, the elders have continued to seek the Lord together through prayer, discussion, and discernment for how LEFC can faithfully follow God's leading in the years ahead. We are grateful for the staff and members who serve throughout our church, and for your continued prayers and involvement.

Some of the key areas we have been working on include:

**Multiplication:** We are planning the next steps for LEFC in church planting and revitalization, including the principles that should guide us, how potential leaders and locations will be discerned, and what ongoing support and oversight will look like. Prayer gatherings, a documented roadmap, and conversations with EFCA district leadership have been exciting developments as we continue to prepare for the future.

**Leadership development:** We have continued conversations about identifying and equipping future church leaders. The board has reviewed a proposed residency program, including its ministry, staffing, and budget implications.

**Resources:** We are grateful for how the congregation responded to the invitation to "inquire of the Lord" and obey His leading, and for how He was faithful in bringing Project 2:42 to completion, within the anticipated timeframe and budget. We celebrate seeing the new education space being utilized and commit to using it to teach the word to future generations! Our financial discussions have shifted to discuss future spending priorities and congregational needs moving forward, including parking plans and staffing needs.

**Church leadership and governance:** The elders have been discussing the role of non-sitting elders and how staff and lay leadership can best serve together. It has been many years since we've made any by-law revisions, and there are various aspects that need to be brought up to date, which we hope to complete in the coming months. We have also sought to strengthen relationships between elders and staff by creating opportunities to interact and discuss vision for future initiatives together.

The elders have remained committed to leading with prayer. We invite you to pray for us as we serve. Pray for unity and shared vision, for wisdom and passion. Pray for our marriages and families. Pray for us to be led by the Spirit and to not lean on our own understanding. Pray that God and His word would remain central to all that we do at LEFC.

We want our work to support the church's shared calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ, who Love God, Love People, Live Truth, and Proclaim Jesus. May the Lord give us wisdom and unity as we follow him together.

With gratitude,

***Tyler Ranck***  
Elder Chair

[tyler.ranck@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.ranck@gmail.com)

## SENIOR PASTOR'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear LEFC Family,

It has been a great start to the fall season here at LEFC. At our May congregational meeting we shared the three areas we are considering for a church plant: South Lebanon/Cornwall, Denver/Adamstown/Reamstown, and East Petersburg/Landisville. From that meeting, people volunteered to host prayer gatherings in their homes that are in each of these three areas. Those prayer gatherings began in July and continue. They are praying for their community, discerning the spiritual needs of these areas, and asking the Lord what He would want us as a church to do in these communities. Please consider joining one of these prayer gatherings that meet monthly and be part of the journey of what the Lord is doing and going to do through LEFC.

We are now several weeks into using our new space at LEFC, at the tail end of the journey that began two years ago as Project 2:42. Do you remember the 70 two-year-olds that we had when we began casting the vision for this expansion? Well, they are now five years old, and there are over 80 of them that are actively attending! Their classrooms are in this new addition, and it is fun to see them active in this new space. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to make this space a reality.

Project 2:42 has been a prayer movement from the beginning. Our prayer was that we would see the building portion of the project (\$5.5M) fully funded and that has happened—PRAISE THE LORD! That leaves us with approximately \$300k to pay for the additional parking we have already completed. It is our prayer that we would have that fully funded by the end of the year, which would mean that we complete this project debt free. Please ask the Lord what He would have you do to help us complete Project 2:42. I do look forward to celebrating the completion of this project with prayers of praise and gratitude! It is already evident how this new space is allowing us to continue to fulfill our mission as a church in making disciples but also our vision to be a “teaching church.”

As I look ahead, 2027 will be a year of multiplication both locally and globally. Not only are we on the precipice of planting a church, but our efforts in Southeast Asia have played a significant role in planting several churches. Our investment in sponsoring children through Global Fingerprints has infused much energy into the church-planting movement in several countries in Southeast Asia. We are looking to expand our investment and give new ways for the congregation of LEFC to be a direct part of this movement. Keep praying that God will continue to lead us as a church to multiply in making disciples of Jesus Christ in this next year.

In expectancy,

***Tony L. Hunt***  
Senior Pastor

[hunt@lefc.net](mailto:hunt@lefc.net)

## EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Dear LEFC Family,

It is a joy to share some updates from our staff team this fall! God continues to display His faithfulness through the people He brings to serve this church family, and I'm grateful for the chance to tell you a little about what He's doing among us.

**Welcoming new team members:** In early July, Allie Garver joined our team as Mobilization Assistant. She has jumped right in, and we're so glad she's here. On November 3, Ashley Martin began a new role as our Student Ministries Coordinator. We're eager to see how God will use her in our student ministry.

**A fond farewell:** We also recently said goodbye to Lizz Cagno, who has served as our Children's Ministry Assistant Director. We are so grateful for the love and care Lizz poured into our kids and families, and for the ways she blessed our team. Please join us in praying God's richest blessing over her in the season ahead.

**Celebrating milestones:** We have many anniversaries to celebrate this year:

- Tony Hunt, Senior Pastor: 15 years
- Danielle Wittmaier, Executive Administrator - Office & HR Management: 10 years
- Nick Vargas, Pastor - Student Ministries: 5 years
- Julia Brown, Minister - Kids Ministries: 5 years

As you see above, this year marks my own 10th anniversary on staff. When I look back over the last decade, I see God's faithful provision and love for me as well as His love for His Church and this body of believers. Thank you, LEFC family, for your kindness, your prayers, and your encouragement over these ten years. I'm still so grateful to be here.

**Investing in our team:** At the end of September, our pastors, ministers, and directors went away together on retreat, focused on spiritual renewal and relationship building. Our elders encouraged the team through recorded devotionals and words of blessing, and it was a sweet gift to be cared for by them in that way.

In November, the whole staff will gather for our fall Equip Day, a day set aside for staff development. We'll spend part of it learning about ministry in LEFC's strategic region of Southeast Asia and part of it on self-care for longevity in ministry. We want our team to be healthy and to be in this for the long haul, rooted in Christ and serving from a full cup.

**How you can pray:**

- Pray for our newest team members, Allie and Ashley, as they settle into their roles.
- Pray for Lizz as she steps into what God has for her next.
- Pray for our staff to be refreshed and to keep walking closely with Jesus.
- Pray that God would use our Equip Day to grow our hearts for the work being done in Southeast Asia and to strengthen healthy rhythms that sustain ministry over many years.

Thank you for the many ways you encourage and support our staff. It's a gift to serve together as we make disciples who love God, love people, live truth, and proclaim Jesus.

With joy,

***Danielle Wittmaier***

Executive Administrator – Office & HR Management

[wittmaier@lefc.net](mailto:wittmaier@lefc.net)

Greetings, Church!

It's such a blessing to serve alongside the many gifted, hard-working, and Christ-loving members of this church as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Looking at the last year and the upcoming year, there is much to be thankful for and much to pray over.

This past year has been monumental for the Technical Arts ministry, led by Daniel Spangler, as it worked to equip every room on this campus and in the new building to be effective for ministry. Daniel is incredibly passionate about removing technical obstacles from day-to-day ministry. Every time someone wants to play a video, be heard in a loud room, show a slide from their phone, have song lyrics visible, or play a Spotify playlist to set the tone of a room, it involves many hours of prior planning, setup, training, and seemingly several miracles to make that not only possible, but simple and easy for our ministry leaders, teachers, and volunteers. The church has grown, the ministries have grown, and the campus has grown. As we tally up the classrooms, gathering spaces, auditoriums, TVs, sound systems, computer servers, cables, microphones, wall panels, and so much more, it can quickly feel overwhelming. Every time an ABF teacher shows a slide, a G56 host uses a microphone, WBF plays a video, or a time of worship involves projected lyrics or a sound system, I'd encourage you to pray with gratitude and for provision over our tech team. Daniel, Rod, Kathy, Joel, and many workers from within our congregation have worked incredibly hard to make these things possible.

As we move forward in all areas of Worship and Technical Arts ministries, I'm particularly grateful for the gifted musical leadership our church has. Kids worship teams, Youth and G56 worship teams, Re:Gen worship times, Hymn Sings, so many gifted volunteer leaders, and a steady stream of growing interns all feel like the overflow of a church that loves Jesus. I've watched our musicians and vocalists grow in their leadership and shepherding abilities, and I've watched many of them struggle with how to effectively lead our congregation in fixing their eyes on Jesus while they themselves carry deep grief, tension, and uncertainty. As we look at the coming year, please pray for our teams to be filled with the joy of the Lord as their strength. Pray that our worship would be deeper in authenticity, in both grief and gratitude. Pray for songwriters to be formed in their conversations with God like the psalmist (and if that piques your interest, email me for more info!), and pray that the church would be spurred on toward love and good works through our gathering together to sing.

If you're interested in a way to incorporate singing into your daily devotional walk with God, I'm beginning to encourage our teams to check out [sing.theworshipinitiative.com](https://sing.theworshipinitiative.com). It's a 10 to 15-minute daily devotional centered on a specific song and passage of Scripture, with an opportunity to sing to the Lord each day as an act of worship.

Thank you for your prayers!

**Alex Swann**

Minister – Worship Arts

[swann@lefc.net](mailto:swann@lefc.net)

# MOBILIZATION MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## HELPING GOD'S PEOPLE DISCOVER THEIR ROLE IN HIS MISSION

### Ministry highlights:

- In 2026, LEFC sent teams to North Carolina and Florida to serve with EFCA Crisis Response.
- In January, approximately 250 individuals attended our Living Out Loud seminar. Kevin King, President of International Project, spoke on letting your love for God flow into your everyday language. Living out loud isn't a strategy for sharing the gospel, it's when your faith becomes so obvious to those around you in the way you speak and live and love, evangelism stops seeming like a duty and simply flows from who you are.
- In February, LEFC hosted a local outreach ministry fair. The fair provided a means for our church family to get to know our local community partners and ways in which our people can serve with these partners.
- An LEFC-owned ministry house at 401 Pierson Road was completely renovated, providing another housing option for global partners while in the Lititz area.

### Strategic ministry in Southeast Asia:

- In June, Ed and Carol Scheuerman led a team consisting of six adults to serve in Thailand, where they served with two of our global partner families.
- In July, fifteen students and leaders from our Crossover ministry served for over a week in Thailand. They also had the opportunity to serve alongside LEFC global partners.
- In October, Pastor Bob, Pastor Gary, Ellen Poorman, and Chip Mershon served together for over a week in SE Asia. Bob, Chip, and Gary spoke at two church-planting leadership conferences. Ellen co-led a conference for women, strengthening them in their faith, equipping them for ministry, and providing an opportunity for deepening relationships.
- LEFC is providing consulting help to a national church planting ministry within Southeast Asia to help them develop a long-term ministry plan and to provide biblical children's ministry curriculum in their language for use in Sunday schools throughout their churches.



2026 Southeast Asia

### Looking ahead:

- LEFC will be offering three crisis response trips in 2027. The first is a hurricane relief trip to Fort Myers, FL in January 2027.
- LEFC will be hosting a Seed Week trip for adults to New York City in July 2027 with the International Project. A Seed Week is a week-long short term mission trip providing an immersive, hands-on Great Commission experience. Participants will receive cross-cultural training and practice engaging people in spiritual conversations.
- Our local outreach ministry fair will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2027.
- On Saturday, May 8, 2027, LEFC will hold a church-wide ministry service day. This event is designed to get our church family out into the community to serve our local community partners, individuals in need, and our community as we show the love of Jesus through our service. Numerous service projects will be offered so everyone can be involved. We will conclude the morning of service with a church cook-out in the LEFC parking lot.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bob Travis**

Pastor of Mobilization

[btravis@lefc.net](mailto:btravis@lefc.net)

As LEFC works through the book of Hebrews this year, we've challenged the church to memorize sections of the book together. As I write this, Hebrews 3:13 is an upcoming verse to memorize, but we'll have moved beyond it by the Congregational Meeting. The charge in Hebrews 3:13 calls for the believers to encourage each other each day so that no one becomes hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

That verse has both a call to community and a warning against the sin that we allow to creep into our lives. In Adult Ministries, we desire to see each person transformed by Christ by being rooted in the Word, engaging in multiplying relationships, and being sent on mission as a unified body under Christ. If those things are true about our lives, we clearly will be in community with each other to an extent where sin will be seen and addressed before it hardens our hearts and pulls us apart.

Daily community with brothers and sisters in Christ is one of the greatest defenses against sin that God has given us. Hopefully, as you read this report, you will find yourself excited about the areas in which you participate or possibly convicted that you need to join us in fellowship.

### Care Ministry

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. - 1 John 3:16*

I'm grateful for God's faithfulness as He continues to provide willing hands and serving hearts at LEFC! Care ministry isn't static, disengaged, or aloof, but active, intentional, and personal, as one definition reads: "Care is **presence over time**, offered by someone who knows God loves the **person in front of them**." (BCC Care Network)

Here's a question worth pondering: Who is the person God has placed in front of me that I might bless by simply being present? Present to listen, share a coffee, mow a lawn, rake a yard, clean a room, sort a fridge, help move, provide a ride, cook a meal, visit, pray, walk or cry with, wave to, hold a door for, smile at, or gently nudge toward Jesus? The possibilities are limitless, as varied as the people we encounter on a daily basis. And the best part? You don't have to be on staff at LEFC or have the title of Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Deaconess, or Chaplain to bless others. You only need to show up as YOU, since **God** has arranged all the parts in the one body according to **His** design (or just as **He** wanted them to be). (1 Cor. 12:18)

Thank you, church family, for caring well! Whether known or unknown, public or private, your acts of loving service and sacrifice have not gone unnoticed. Heaven sees and smiles while others are blessed, as one couple recently shared after being served by a team from LEFC: "Words can't adequately express our gratitude for their sacrificial labor. Truly, they have honored the Lord."

To share a need or explore serving: [lefc.net/needhelp](https://lefc.net/needhelp) | Gary Poorman: [g.poorman@lefc.net](mailto:g.poorman@lefc.net)

## Deacon/Deaconess

Much of the most meaningful ministry at LEFC happens quietly — underneath the fabric of the community, often unseen. Our Deacon and Deaconess teams have been faithfully serving in just that way.

- **Funeral Meals Team:** What a beautiful service it is to come alongside providing a meal for a family in their greatest grief. These past 6 months, LEFC has served more than 5 funeral meals.
- **Mercy Network:** Looking for ways to proactively meet needs that often arise and seeking to partner with larger communities (ABF's and Life Groups) to both meet needs and connect those in need into longer-term community.
- **Ladies Car Care Team:** Once again, this team faithfully served widows and single women by caring for their vehicles — offering practical help and genuine encouragement.
- **Meals Team:** Not only rethinking and improving policies, but graciously coordinating dozens of meal deliveries to individuals and families in need.
- **Budget Coaching:** Men and women who are committed to faithfully walking alongside and coaching those in need of wise biblical habits and practices.
- **Servants Fund:** Quietly and generously meeting practical needs behind the scenes, while also partnering with the Warwick HUB to maximize resources alongside other ministries.

*For more information on any of these ministries, please email [office@lefc.net](mailto:office@lefc.net).*

## Disabilities Ministry

This ministry exists not only to offer programming, but to walk closely with families navigating life with disability — providing resources, prayer, and the kind of compassionate presence that equips people to move forward and care well for their family.

Here is a glimpse of what God has been doing:

- **Imago Dei ABF:** Our Imago Dei ABF meets during second service in the lower level of LEFC. We typically welcome 10–12 regular attenders, with 18 adults on our full roster. We took a break from our regular Sunday gatherings over the summer, but ended the season with a special time of prayer. Two of our elders joined us to pray for each participant by name as we headed into the summer break. In July, we also enjoyed our annual family picnic — a wonderful time sharing a meal, having fun, and giving families in LEFC's disability community an opportunity to connect and build friendships. This fall, we are excited to be back together with a new focus: ***Love God, Love Others, Grow Together!*** Through the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 and the parable of the Good Samaritan, we are learning how to grow in our relationship with the Lord and put His love into action by caring for others. Our desire is to continue growing in our relationship with the Lord, building friendships, and discovering practical ways to reflect the image of God in everyday life.
- **Ladies Bible Study (Bible and Breakfast):** Women with intellectual and developmental disabilities meet monthly to explore their identity in Christ. Nine women gather regularly, and the depth of community in that room is a gift. The group spends time studying God's word, worshipping together (they love to worship!) and praying for each other.
- **Lititz Social Club:** This monthly gathering for adults facing unique social challenges, including those on the autism spectrum, continues to grow — with 14-16 regular attendees. We have also partnered with a disability ministry at a nearby church to offer a monthly Bible study for this

group. This group is forming genuine friendships and demonstrating genuine support for each other. Recent activities have included a trip to Fox Meadows and a fall community party.

To serve or learn more, reach out to Sandy: [sandy.morris@lefc.net](mailto:sandy.morris@lefc.net).

## Discipleship

LEFC's mission statement is "making disciples of Jesus Christ." We desire to equip the body so that every single person is living this out. We know that it can be challenging to know how to start, who to disciple, or what to talk about. If you find yourself stuck by some of these barriers, or if discipleship is a regular part of your life and you want to continue to grow in it, consider joining us for the Multiply class that meets every second and fourth Sunday of the month. The class is designed to foster community for encouragement and accountability as well as to equip with practical disciple-making tools.

This summer, we also launched our first theological training course entitled Core Beliefs. We plan to expand our course offering in 2027, because we see it as an essential discipleship tool. As Martin Lloyd Jones once said, "The more theology I know, the more it should drive me to seek to know God."

Don't forget about our Deeper Marks Discipleship Study books that LEFC has created for people to use in one-on-one or small group settings to look closer at what it means to be a disciple of Christ and how to grow in those areas.

## Groups and Connections

In following the command in Hebrews 3:13, group ministries at LEFC are some of the best ways to gather regularly with other believers to encourage and be encouraged so that sin doesn't harden us and pull us apart. We continue to regularly launch new Life Groups or help those looking for a group to join one that is already started. Many of our Life Groups use the sermon discussion guide to talk more deeply about what we're learning in Hebrews. And ABFs continue to be a source of connection and encouragement, often leading to the formation of new Life Groups.

We had a great season of Summer Interest Groups, seeing connection and community thrive even as schedules change a bit. We'll bring them back again next summer. Consider if there's a group you'd like to see at LEFC!

We continue to hear incredible stories of transformed lives in Christ from those who have gone through Re:generation. It's a joy to see the shackles of sin and shame fall off as we vulnerably admit our need for Jesus' help to redeem us. The relationships built in Re:gen last well beyond the 10-month program. New groups will launch in early February; we'd love to have you join us!

Jeff Travis: [travis@lefc.net](mailto:travis@lefc.net)

## Marriage Ministry

Marriage ministry has kept us dependent on and praising the Lord this year. He has been faithful.

So far in 2026, we have walked alongside 19 couples as they have gotten engaged and moved toward a lifelong covenant with one another — and we know more are coming. Our team of more than 20 mentor couples invest several months meeting with engaged couples both leading up to and following the wedding. We are thankful for their partnership in ministry!

In July, we hosted a marriage date night and had a great time together. We even had a cotton candy machine, which was a special treat!

Relengage has continued to be a meaningful tool for couples looking to reconnect, reignite, and even resurrect their marriages. Twelve couples — alongside four leader couples — are currently in the midst of a 16-week journey focused on their marriage. We started a new initiative this semester with three couples helping facilitate our leader meetings and opening large group time. We could not do what we do without our faithful leadership and hospitality teams.

In March, we are planning to host our tenth annual Marriage Retreat to Remember! Josh and Anna Beers will join us again and lead us through the theme of “Nurturing Vision.” We continue to pray that the Lord will use these gatherings to strengthen and encourage marriages at every stage.

We believe healthy marriages strengthen families, the church, and our witness to the world. It is a privilege to serve you in this way. Our team is praying for you.

Questions or needs: Jenny Hoover, [hoover@lefc.net](mailto:hoover@lefc.net) | Matt Sowada, [sowada@lefc.net](mailto:sowada@lefc.net)

## Men’s Ministry

Starting at our upcoming Men’s Breakfast on November 21, we’ll be exploring the theme “men after God’s own heart” for the next year, culminating at our next Man Camp in November 2027. During this year, we’ll look at repentance, prayer, pursuing holiness, authentic leadership, spending time with Jesus, and sharing the gospel with others. Men, let’s do these things together as we each grow in Christ! Don’t miss the Men’s Breakfast to begin the journey with us.

## Women’s Ministry

The Lord continues to faithfully show us the way. It's been a GIFT to hear testimonies of how lives are being changed as we interact with Him by His Spirit and in His Word.

### Coram Deo: A Multi-Year Vision

Our theme, Coram Deo: “*before the face of God*,” continues to shape us personally and in how we lead. It guided our choice to center both WBF and the retreat on the Psalms this year. We’re thankful for the Lord’s leading and eager for what’s ahead.

### Women’s Bible Fellowship (WBF)

This fall, 380 women are studying the Psalms through an original curriculum written and taught by LEFC women, alongside a video curriculum from The Village Church. We’re grateful for our writing and teaching team, and we are encouraged by the hunger we see for the Word, for fellowship, and for transformation in the Lord by His Spirit. Our teams continue to grow - we had five women teaching, three additional women on our writing teams, and over 50 women leading small groups.

### Looking Ahead: Judges & Ruth (Spring 2027)

Our team has been hard at work writing our spring study, which begins in January. Judges shows us the depths of our depravity, and Ruth shows us the beauty of God’s redeeming grace. Together they point us to the gospel.

### Women’s Retreat: Draw Near

Ninety women, including several from IEFC and other area churches, will gather at Black Rock Retreat October 30–November 1. Through teaching and worship led by women from our church, we will journey through Psalms of lament and praise and rest in the fact that God is present in

both. During both WBF and the retreat, we are learning to pray the Psalms as we draw near to God.

Our verse for the year continues:

*For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life. - Psalm 56:13*

We're praying for you. Reach out anytime!

Jenny Hoover: [hoover@lefc.net](mailto:hoover@lefc.net) | Linsey Smoker: [linsey.smoker@lefc.net](mailto:linsey.smoker@lefc.net)

Respectfully submitted,

**Matt Sowada**

Executive Pastor – Discipleship Ministries

[sowada@lefc.net](mailto:sowada@lefc.net)

**Jenny Hoover**

Minister – Women and Marriages

[hoover@lefc.net](mailto:hoover@lefc.net)

**Jeff Travis**

Pastor – Adult Ministries

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**Gary Poorman**

Pastor – Care Ministries

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**Tom Daly, Jr.**

Pastor – Teaching

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**Linsey Smoker**

Assistant Director – Women's Ministries

[linsey.smoker@lefc.net](mailto:linsey.smoker@lefc.net)

## Summer Highlights

**Summer Nights:** These were weekly summer gatherings for our High School and Middle school students, and we played games and heard from multiple speakers on how they have been called to be on mission for Jesus. Our students got to pray for those on mission but also ponder how they too can be on mission!

**The Summit:** For our summer middle school camp, we went back to Montrose Bible Camp for a great time of fellowship, games, intentional discussions, and worship! Our theme for The Summit was the beatitudes. As we identified the realities of God's Kingdom, we reflected on how we can live differently as someone *in* the world but not *of* the world. Our students left camp with an understanding and an excitement to live out God's Kingdom.

**Beach Camp:** For High School, we returned to Harvey Cedars for another year at Beach Camp! This was a fun time filled with teaching, worship through music, fellowship, and of course ... The Beach!! Our theme for the week was "God Is, I am." We looked at Yahweh as being creator, holy, savior, and sovereign. In light of these, we observed the reality that we are created, sinful, redeemed, and purposed through God. We also spent time learning what it looks like to study the bible as we read through Colossians. Our students came home with a hunger for God's word and unity that God continues to cultivate in Crossover.

**Thailand:** We sent a team of 12 students and 4 leaders to return and serve in Chiang Mai Thailand! We sought to partner with Good Kids Preschool as they share the gospel of Jesus through their elementary school's curriculum. Our time was spent assisting the teachers in caring for the students in their pursuit to learn about English and Jesus. We also assisted in some of the outreach ministries that revolve around sports and visiting the public schools. It was also a joy to serve alongside and spend time with our global partners Zach, Kara, Jaina, and Fiona.



## Kicking off the Fall

**Crossover AM:** On Sunday mornings, High School and Middle School will be going through the book of Hebrews. This series will primarily equip students to study God's word and to find enjoyment in it. The other goal will be to prepare our understanding of Hebrews so that students can go into the main service ready to receive the word.

**Crossover PM:** In the evenings, High School and Middle School primarily meet in life Groups. High School and Middle School will be going through a series called "Communal Questions," where we will be discussing big commonly asked questions about Christianity and we will do so in the context of community. We also have our bi-monthly oikos event, which is our community event where we encourage our students to invite their friends who may not know Jesus or participate in biblical community.

**G56:** This year G56 is going through the narrative of scripture in their Sunday morning study. In this study we will be exploring the overarching story that the Bible is telling about God and humanity. In the spring we will have our very first 6<sup>th</sup> Grade retreat, which will serve as a launching point into life groups as they prepare to move up into Crossover! We also have our monthly community events where we gather together in fellowship for some fun relationship building.

Our hope and prayer for all LEFC students is that they would grow to experience the joys of true Christian community by deepening relationships with their peers, their leaders, and with God. We also pray they will grow in their knowledge of God, affection for God, and obedience to God.

In Christ,

***Nick Vargas***

Pastor – Student Ministries

[vargas@lefc.net](mailto:vargas@lefc.net)

***Caleb Roberts***

Director – Student Ministries

[roberts@lefc.net](mailto:roberts@lefc.net)

## LEFC KIDS HIGHLIGHTS

### Gratitude

We are counting our blessings in Kids Ministry!

**65 people rallied together for our moving process!** Adults, teens, and kids worked together — organizing, packing, moving, assembling furniture and toys, and setting up and rearranging our new and refurbished spaces. We are so grateful for every helping hand!



**254 people served during our July and August Sundays!** Their investment made it possible for kids to continue learning and growing while providing time for rest and refreshment for those who serve regularly during the school year.

**More than 500 kids!** What an amazing gift that God continues to bring so many children to LEFC! Each one is a vital part of our church family, and we treasure the opportunity to partner with families to help kids know, love, follow, and share Jesus.

**Well over 300 people serve in Kids Ministry!** This ministry involves so many people sharing their time and gifts — Shepherds, Junior Shepherds and their mentors, Kids Worship leaders, large group Bible teachers, one-to-one buddies, our Welcome Team, and those who prepare and organize resources behind the scenes, pray, clean nurseries, or jump in as substitutes. We are deeply grateful for the many ways our church family invests in kids!

**New space!** Wow! Have we mentioned how exciting it is to have space for all our kids? We cannot overstate our gratitude for these new and refurbished spaces and the opportunities they provide for kids to be welcomed, seen, and loved; build friendships; and grow in their faith. Have you seen our Bible story timeline in the hallway? Stop by and check it out!

**Our Kids Ministry staff team!** Our church is blessed by six part-time Kids Ministry staff members who lovingly and intentionally invest in this ministry in so many ways. A big shout-out, with heartfelt appreciation, to Amanda Ranck, Kaitlyn Hawbaker, Erin Martin, Brianna Kauffman, Lizz Cagno, and Michelle Bennett!

As we look over this list, we see the kindness and generosity of God reflected in His provision and in the many people who give of themselves to serve. Above all, we thank Him for His greatest gift — His Son, Jesus!

Tonight, as our kids pack Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, we're helping them connect God's generosity with their own response of gratitude. God loved us and sent His Son, and through Jesus, we have forgiveness and new life. **We give because Jesus gave.** Our prayer — for our kids and for all of us — is that thankfulness for all God has given us in Jesus will overflow into the way we live, giving generously, serving joyfully, and sharing His love with others.

Respectfully submitted,

***Julia Brown***

Minister to Children

[brown@lefc.net](mailto:brown@lefc.net)

## IMMANUEL CHURCH YORK HIGHLIGHTS

Dear LEFC Family,

I am pleased to share with you some of the ways God continues to bless the work He is doing here at Immanuel in York. We are deeply grateful for your faithful partnership in the gospel and for the support you have given us through your prayers and financial generosity. Your investment in this ministry continues to bear fruit for the kingdom, and we are thankful to see lives being changed by the gospel.

Here are a few recent highlights:

- **Growing in membership:** We welcomed three new members in May, and we anticipate welcoming another new member at the end of November. We are thankful to see people increasingly committing themselves to the life and ministry of the church.
- **A baptism and gospel testimony:** We recently baptized a young man who shared a powerful testimony of how the gospel has transformed his life. He invited his unsaved friends and family to be present, giving us a wonderful opportunity to proclaim the gospel to those who may not otherwise have entered our church.
- **Women's Bible Fellowship:** Our Women's Bible Fellowship continues to be a fruitful ministry, reaching women both inside and outside the walls of Immanuel. It has become a place where women can build relationships, grow together in God's Word, and invite others into the life of the church.
- **Youth discipleship:** We now have three faithful students who are actively reaching out to their friends and inviting them to our newly launched youth discipleship group. We are encouraged not only by the students who are attending, but by the desire we are seeing in our young people to share what they are learning with their friends.
- **Growing toward greater independence:** We are well on our way toward standing on our own two feet as a congregation. We have recently hired a consulting group that is now handling our accounting, bookkeeping, human resources, and technology needs. This has been an important step in strengthening the church's infrastructure and preparing us for continued ministry in the years ahead.

As we look toward the future, **one of our greatest needs is for God to raise up more elders and ministry leaders from within Immanuel.** We want to see the church continue to mature in faith and increasingly become a congregation where men and women are equipped to serve, disciple, teach, and shepherd one another. **Would you please continue to pray with us?** Pray that God would continue to build His church here in York, that the gospel would reach more people in our community, and that He would raise up faithful elders and ministry leaders who will help shepherd Immanuel for generations to come.

Thank you again for your partnership, your generosity, and especially your prayers.

For His glory,

**Gary Christman**

Senior Pastor, Immanuel Church

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I am grateful for the opportunity to share an update on the financial position of our congregation.

Above all, I want to express sincere thanks to the Lord for His faithful provision and to our congregation for your continued generosity and stewardship. Your giving enables LEFC to carry out the ministry and mission God has called us to pursue.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026, giving was slightly below our budget projection. However, we were blessed that expenses were also lower than budget, resulting in a modest surplus for the year. Highlights from the June 30, 2026 year-end financial statements are included elsewhere in this packet, and I encourage you to review them for additional detail.

This year has also been a remarkable season in the life of our church as we completed Project 2:42 and moved into the new space in September. Project 2:42 represented a significant and ongoing opportunity for the congregation to participate beyond General Fund giving. Rather than asking for pledges, we encouraged each household to inquire of the Lord and seek His guidance regarding how they were to participate. We are deeply thankful for the faithful and generous response of the congregation.

Our prayer is that the \$5.5 million building project and \$300,000 of remaining project-related debt will be fully paid by December 31, 2026. We give all glory to God for how He has strengthened our faith and moved mightily in guiding and directing this project.

Because of the congregation's generosity, church leadership is looking ahead with anticipation. As we continue to advance our calling as a Teaching Church and a Praying Church, we are also able to focus on being a Multiplying Church as we seek to impact and expand God's Kingdom in our region and around the world.

Thank you again for faithfully giving and for entrusting LEFC with the resources God has provided. Praise God for His continued faithfulness to LEFC!

Respectfully submitted,

***Eric Wenger***

Treasurer & Elder

[ericwenger30@gmail.com](mailto:ericwenger30@gmail.com)

## FINANCIAL REPORT: LEFC STATE OF THE CHURCH

### **JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026**

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 2025-2026 Annual Budget              | \$4,280,000.00 |
| Giving Total                         | \$4,268,673.62 |
| Increase over 2024-2025              | 7.65%          |
| Average Attendance Jul '25 - Jun '26 | 1226           |
| Avg Attd w/ stream Jul '25 - Jun '26 | 1464           |
| In-person attd vs '24/'25            | 4%             |
| Giving & Misc.:                      | \$3,984,766.95 |
| Expenses:                            | \$3,775,715.07 |
| Net Income:                          | \$209,051.88   |
| General Fund 6/30/2026               | \$167,289.31   |
| Accrued for Church Revitalization    | \$55,451.94    |
| Accrued for Major Facility Expansion | \$76,962.76    |
| Accrued for Vehicle Replacement      | \$26,606.06    |
| Accrued for Worship Center Tech      | \$21,128.65    |
| Mortgage Balance 6/30/2026           | \$3,394,228.85 |