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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | MAY 17, 2026



LEFC

LANCASTER EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | MAY 17

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Prayer: Tyler Ranck
2. Minutes Approval from November 2025 Congregational Meeting: Tyler Ranck
3. Confirmation of New Members: Gary Hoover
4. Affirmation of New Leaders: Tyler Ranck
5. Budget Approval and Financial Update: DJ Weaver
6. Project 2:42 Update: Joel Lingenfelter and Eric Wenger
7. Ministry Spotlight: Matt Sowada
8. Teaching/Multiplication Next Steps & Invitation: Tony Hunt and Tyler Ranck

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025, at 6PM

MEETING LOCATION: LEFC

1. Welcome and Prayer: Tyler Ranck
2. Minutes Approval from May 2025 Congregational Meeting: Tyler Ranck
 - May meeting minutes were approved without objection.
3. Confirmation of New Members: Kurt Zimmerman
 - The process for membership was highlighted including membership classes, visit by elder, and testimony reviewing relational commitment and doctrinal alignment.
 - New Member Candidates:
 - Terry & Sheryl Ambrose, Alex & Gaby Arseneau, Jack & Rachel Baker, Jacob & Natalie Bates, Jesse & Tess Buckwalter, Don & Jan Carper, Terry & Cindy Corl, Nick & Lauren DiPiano, Cheryl Forrey, Rebekah Hannon, Kaitlyn Hawbaker, Bob & Patti Kulp, Ash & Thiago Naque, Marcos & Casie Reynolds, Adam & Lauren Timmins, Don & Eunice Warfel, and Dianne Wassall
 - A motion was made to accept all new member candidates followed by a second and voice vote with membership confirmation.
 - Membership commitment was read by all members
4. Project 2:42 and Financial Update: DJ Weaver, Joel Lingenfelter, Eric Wenger, Charlie Keller
 - Giving for this fiscal period to date has been consistent with the previous year for the same interval (Jul-Sep 2024).
 - In addition to the giving toward the general fund, there has also been significant giving specifically toward the project 2:42.
 - The motion that was passed by the church body from the Fall 2024 congregational meeting was reviewed which included:
 - proposed classroom expansion and additional parking with a budget of \$7,000,000.
 - The recommended cash on hand goal of \$3,000,000 to break ground.
 - Short term financing of up to \$4,000,000 (if needed) as a bridge loan to complete construction of classroom expansion and parking expansion.
 - Joel gave an update on the current status of project construction and the parking lot expansion. Ground has been broken on the classroom expansion. We are on target to complete on budget. There have been four historical parking lot expansions to date and one additional is planned (soccer field area). Two crosswalk areas will be painted on the parking and driveway to improve safety for people walking.
 - Eric gave an update on the reasons why we are doing this project including the growth in the kid ministry areas, the ABF areas, and the parking. The project is intended to maximize the capacity in all areas and to balance the campus.
 - Charlie Keller provided an example found in scripture in which David inquired of the Lord, 2 Samuel 5:17-25. Project 2:42 funding is being approached from the perspective of this scripture. Instead of pledge cards, the church body is being asked to also inquire of the Lord on how individuals may contribute.

5. Guided Individual Prayer: Dan Heller

- The church was led through a time of prayer covering three main areas of reflection:
 - God, how are we doing? Are there things in my life that need attention?
 - God, how do you want me to invest in my church? Serving, giving, multiplying?
 - God, who in my oikos do you want me to spend more time with for the sake of sharing Jesus?

6. Testimonies from Southeast Asia: Indonesia Team

- The Indonesia Team update was provided by Jerry Hoffman and Caleb Anderson. Caleb provided an overview of how he saw God working on the trip including how people filled in for each other to keep the camp going during the trip while sickness was going around. He also saw God working in the lives of the kids being served. The kids began to engage more and more throughout the week with deeper conversations happening as trust was built.
- There was a time of prayer for the global partners

7. Teaching and Multiplication: Tyler Ranck, Tony Hunt

- Tony provided a summary from a previous congregational meeting using an example from a teaching hospital, and how this links to the vision of LEFC. We want to be known as a teaching church, including development of new teachers. This played out in working with Tom Daly, and as his teaching and preaching progressed, it became clear of his calling to being on staff. Tom will be involved with building up of new leaders along with teaching 18-20 Sundays per year. This will reduce the number of times that Tony teaches, and still allowing time for other staff and elders to teach.
- Tony explained how the teaching church vision ties together with project 2:42. This is due to the LEFC model for ABFs, and the commitment to teaching at that level in smaller groups including kid ministry area focus. There is a commitment that ABF size remains optimized to foster community and interaction. We need to multiply our ABFs, and cannot do that in our current facility. The project 2:42 will also give us opportunities that we cannot pursue in our current space including additional avenues for the development of new leaders and teachers. He highlighted the importance of leaving a lasting legacy beyond the physical building, focusing on equipping the next generation. Tony also touched on the growing trend of younger people returning to church and the need to multiply efforts for the glory of God and His kingdom.
- Tony discussed LEFC's vision to multiply through revitalization, planting, and collaboration, with Tony explaining the aim to send elders and pastors while maintaining teaching and eldering at the church (in-person). The church is developing leadership pathways and considering alternative seminary options to equip future leaders, with next steps including prayerful consideration of potential church multiplication opportunities.

8. Prayer and Closing

CONFIRMATION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following desire to become members at LEFC. They have completed the New Members Class so that they have an understanding of the structure of LEFC and their responsibilities as members. 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 Tyler Ranck (tyler.ranck@gmail.com) to voice your concern.

Danyel Brunsch
Caleb & Lizz Cagno
Scott & Victoria Cagno
John & Brenda Clark
Sam & Lynette Fasnacht
Gregg & Kris Hershey
Justin & Sarah Hertzog
Robert Hoffman

Keith & Tammy Kratzer
Austin & Amy Martin
Michael & Alicia Martin
Scott & Erin Martin
Matthew & Nicole Motyka
Michael & Katie Myers
Jon & Sarahbeth Norton
Steve & Shari Oberholtzer

Barbara Rennix
Dave & Lori Schlotter
Sean & Kayla Schreckengast
Larry & Jessica Schweers
Ben & Laura Sheard
Steve & Pamela Weber
Raymond & Madelyn Yates
Holly Yaw

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 Tyler Ranck (tyler.ranck@gmail.com).

Elders	Non-Sitting Elders	Deacons	Deaconesses	
Dan Heller	Dan Bailey	Dave Cassel	Megan Counts	Pat Landis
Gary Hoover	Fred Eberly	Jon Clark	Alison Dahl	Leslie Morrissey
Dan Martin	Scott Galen	Andy Derr	Maggie Demers	Kim Murray
Chip Mershon	Blake Herr	Nick Desiato	Joy Desiato	Ruthann Sherbine
Darryl Preziosi	Art Horn	Mike Donghia	Donya Galen	Debbie Spangler
Tyler Ranck	Shawn Reinfried	Colton Keller	Peaches Gehman	Alison Swann
Phil True	Ed Scheuerman	Steve Martin	Ann Gillman	Vanisa Weist
DJ Weaver	Pete Wittmaier		Jalisa Gingrich	Emily Wilkerson
Eric Wenger	Kevin Zook		Dixie Haverstick	
Kurt Zimmerman				
Members at Large*	Financial Secretary**			
Julie Hurst	Kevin Henry			
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.*

*** 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 let 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	Deacons	Deaconesses
Dave Cox	Ben Hostetter	Colleen Keller
Corey Mitchell	Justin Sensenig	Vickie Geiman
	Jordan Snader	

MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Leadership Candidates

The Elder Board recommends the congregation approve the proposed 2026-2027 Leadership Candidates.

2026-2027 LEFC Budget

The Elder Board recommends the congregation approve the proposed 2026-27 LEFC Budget.

The budget brochure will be posted online at lefc.net/meetings. Print copies will also be 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 Church Family,

As we look back on this ministry year, we have much to be thankful for! God has been working at LEFC, and it is exciting to be part of what He is doing among us!

I feel like this year has been marked by meaningful developments in the following areas:

- A renewed commitment to coming before our Father in prayer
- Multiple opportunities for our leadership to hear from experienced leaders outside of LEFC to sharpen our vision for the future (Authors Peter Greer and Kevin King, EFCA leaders Tony Balsamo and Mike Sciarra)
- Clarity and progress in our elder discussions to shift from ideas towards action, as we've prepared our theological and practical "plumblines" for multiplication in exploring both planting and revitalization pathways, which reflects our preparation and growing readiness to invest beyond our walls
- A steady pipeline of leaders and teachers who God continues to raise up, who are passionate to learn and to serve
- Thriving ministries led by a committed staff team who keep us focused on our mission

We are consistently reminded that God is the one building His church, and we are grateful for how He has led us to this point, and we trust Him as we move forward.

As we look ahead, we invite you to pray with us:

- For the leaders being nominated to positions for the upcoming year, and for wisdom and endurance as they serve this body with their gifts and time
- For continued clarity and unity as the staff and elders work together to discern new ministry and multiplication opportunities
- To prayerfully consider your role in the year ahead and to be open to the Spirit's leading to possibly step out in faith to something new or different

Thank you for your prayers and your commitment to this local body. We look forward to all the Lord has in store in the season ahead.

With gratitude,

Tyler Ranck, *Elder Board Chair*
tyler.ranck@gmail.com

SENIOR PASTOR'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Friends,

What a unique time we are in. The world is changing around us and much of it can alarm you, but there is also much to be excited for. Everything happening today is known to the Lord and will serve His great plan for building the Kingdom. Jesus said He will build His church, and we are under that promise. It is so good to know that we will not fail if we remain faithful to our King.

At our last congregational meeting we shared some initial plans for multiplication. Those plans included multiplying leaders and teachers, Life Groups and ABF's, church revitalization, and church planting. Since then, we have interfaced with several other churches who are considering partnering with us as they pursue renewed health. We are still in the early stages of those discussions, and it is not discernable as to what the timeline may be with each of them. However, we have made much progress in preparing for a church plant. Currently, we are establishing the guiding principles we want this church plant to embrace. We have also identified three communities/areas we are prayerfully considering for a church plant. Additionally, we are in the early phases of engaging with a potential pastor for this church plant. We expect to have a church planter (pastor) identified by the end of the year. The location of the church plant may not be discerned until next year. Our hope is to launch the church plant into this new community in the Spring of 2028. Much work will need to be done once we identify the planter and elders who will go. After leadership has been identified, the next big decision will be location. We will then extend an invitation for people to go with this plant.

What can you do now? We invite you to pray with us for God to guide us in discerning the location of this plant, determine which elders will go, and what pastor will lead the way. At the May Congregational Meeting we will be sharing the locations we are praying over and providing ways for you to participate in this process. I am excited to share in greater detail at the Congregational Meeting what we have been doing since last November and how you can get involved in the current season.

Lastly, I want you to know that I sense the Lord has some great things in store for LEFC. We have been on an exciting journey as a church. I see what God is stirring among us, and I believe our future will be quite significant if we continue in a posture of prayer and seek the advance of the gospel in Southeast Asia and locally through our oikos. Serving such a vision requires multiplying teachers of the Word, leaders of faith, and churches who reach their communities one person at a time.

We multiply because Jesus said we are to go and make disciples of all nations beginning at home and ultimately to the ends of the earth. Jesus is not satisfied with the 99 which is why you and I were sought after by Him. He could have called the number he wants for His family before our time, but thankfully He wanted us. Since Jesus has yet to return, that means He desires more to be with Him for eternity. This mission begins with each of us individually discipling our oikos with a heart beyond ourselves as we invest in the work of the Lord locally and across the globe. If we fail to carry His vision for reaching others for Jesus, the church will begin to decline as it loses its zeal for the Lord and for others. Let it not be so on our watch.

To Him be the glory forever and ever.

Tony Hunt, *Senior Pastor*

hunt@lefc.net

EXECUTIVE PASTOR'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

I'm excited to share with you the things that God is doing at LEFC!

In addition to the normal aspects of my role, there are two big projects taking a significant amount of my time: The Education Wing Construction and the transition to a new church database (known as RockRMS).

On the building front, despite all of the various delays we've experienced, we are still on target to start using the building in September of 2026! It's fun to watch this addition to our space come together, and I look forward to sharing a few photos with you at the meeting. Thank you for your prayer about this project and for your generosity as you inquire of the Lord. Please continue to pray! Specifically, please pray for the safety of the construction workers on site each day, for no further delays as we move toward completion, and for favor with inspectors as we work through the final stages.

On the database front, our team has been working very hard to prepare for launch weekend: June 7, 2026. This is a massive undertaking, as we are moving an enormous amount of information to a tool that we believe will allow us to be more effective at ministering to the people of LEFC. It's a lot like building a building – there are a myriad of steps as we build out the structure that our data will inhabit. The end result should be a system that will benefit LEFC for many years to come.

As a part of this database transition, LEFC will be rolling out an iOS and android app that provides access to our sermons, events, and directory, as well as providing new tools for small group and ABF leaders, new ways to give, and more. I am super excited about putting this tool into the hands of everyone at LEFC! Another great benefit of this change will be a reduction in some of the fees we pay to process online giving. This is where you can play a part: When we roll out the new LEFC app, you will have the opportunity to move any of your recurring online giving to our new systems. Not a mobile app person? You will also be able to do this through our website. The sooner you make the change, the more money we will save in processing fees that we can put towards ministry.

I'd ask for your prayers here, too. Please pray that the transition would go smoothly, that our giving data would transfer without issue, and that the end result would be a system that helps us care for our people well.

Doing these two projects at once has been a little overwhelming at times, but I'm excited for the way LEFC will be equipped for the future when both are completed.

Thank you for allowing me to serve LEFC.

Joel Lingenfelter, *Executive Pastor – Operations and Theology*
Lingenfelter@lefc.net

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear LEFC Family,

What a gift it is to serve alongside this amazing staff team at LEFC! Here are a few staff team highlights from this past ministry year that I am delighted to share with you.

We celebrated several milestone anniversaries with some wonderful people this year:

- Lori Pietsch — 10 years
- Beth Lougee — 15 years
- Megan Wark — 15 years
- Kathy Bewley — 25 years

We were also able to celebrate the retirement of Randy Hunt from vocational ministry. What a blessing it was to have him as a member of our team for over 6 years.

On January 1, Tom Daly officially joined our team as Teaching Pastor. His journey here was marked by prayer and careful discernment, and we eagerly anticipate what God will do in this new season of vocational ministry.

On another celebratory note, we are thrilled to share that Brianna Roberts will be expanding her role from part time to full time beginning July 1! Brianna will continue to serve as our Adult Ministry Assistant while also taking on a new role as Rock Specialist as we transition to this new church management software platform. We are also excited to officially welcome Michelle Bennett to the team as our part-time Weekday Kids Coordinator, where she will support Recharge on Wednesday evenings and WBF Kids on Thursday mornings.

This spring also brings some bittersweet transitions as a few team members step away from their roles. We would like to express our gratitude to Izzy Werkheiser and Sarah Anderson, who have served faithfully and been a blessing to the team and their ministries during their time with us. We look forward to continuing to worship and serve alongside them in other ways.

Also of note in this past year, we launched Equip Days – staff development days that include spiritual encouragement, strategic conversations, and development topics with guest speakers. We held our first one in the fall with the development time focusing on prayer, while a focus on multiplication guided our spring day. We have already seen the value of investing intentional time in equipping our team for the work God has called us to as described in Ephesians 4:12.

And as always, our team enjoys being together. Our All-Staff Retreat Day in May is an annual highlight and a chance to step back, reset, and enjoy the people we get to do ministry with.

I remain grateful for a truly invested team that grows together and serves this church family well. Please continue to pray for the staff as they lead LEFC's ministries, that they would be refreshed and renewed in the season ahead, remain faithful to their calling, and continue to grow in their relationship with Christ.

With joy,

Danielle Wittmaier, *Executive Administrator – Office and HR Management*

wittmaier@lefc.net

Dear LEFC Family,

It's been a whirlwind of a year for most of the areas of the church, and the Worship Arts team hasn't been an exception. We began Summer 2025 with a sabbatical for myself, and the team (Daniel Spangler, Beth Lougee, Ross Unruh, and Toby Hahn) kept the wheels on the bus and kept the ministry moving forward. I returned for the fall with some new ideas and more energy just in time for us to start what I call the "Worship Arts Sprint." Christmas Eve, Christmas Choir, Winter Blast, Maundy Thursday, and Easter all come quickly, with plenty of other events scattered in between them. The Lord has been faithful in our church through all these events, and every time we get through another one of those milestones I'm reminded just how blessed our congregation is with artists of all different types. I'm feeling particularly surrounded by passionate volunteers who love to see God's people worship. Set aside the songs, the instruments, the music, the technology, and the services – praise God for the people that gather on Sundays and throughout the week to extol, praise, and thank the Lord for who He is.

As we look to the future – the "Worship Arts Sprint" has wrapped up, and we get a season to set our heading before running at the same pace. We're looking forward to a night of worship in June, two summer interns (one for Worship Arts, one for Technical Arts), a hymn sing in the fall, and some other unique creative endeavors. Would you pray for us as we seek to glorify the Lord and shepherd His people through all of the events, work, and artistry?

Alex Swann, *Minister – Worship Arts*
swann@lefc.net

MOBILIZATION MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Local Ministry Highlights

- In January, LEFC hosted 250 people for the Living Out Loud Seminar led by Kevin King, who serves as the President of the International Project. Kevin encouraged us to let our love for God flow into our everyday language by equipping us to engage in spiritual conversations within our community, helping us, as a church body, grow our confidence in sharing spiritual things with others. Since the conference, individuals and several Life Groups have been putting into practice what they learned, as well as holding one another accountable for engaging our community with the gospel.
- In February, LEFC hosted a Local Ministry Fair with ten of our local ministry partners! It was a great opportunity for the church family to connect with our local ministry partners to discover ways to serve and learn how we can be praying for them.
- At the beginning of 2026 the Warwick HUB officially became a local community partner of LEFC. The Warwick HUB's mission is to break the cycle of poverty in our community by connecting people to resources, empowering next steps, and restoring lives because of Jesus Christ. We look forward to building a close relationship in the years to come.

Global Ministry Highlights

- LEFC is preparing to send a team of 6 adults led by Ed and Carol Scheuerman to Thailand in June of 2026 for a vision trip. They will be connecting with LEFC global partners serving in Thailand.
- In July of 2026, LEFC's Crossover ministry will be sending a team of 16 adults and students to Thailand to serve with global partners of LEFC and a local Preschool.
- In August of 2026, Pastor Bob, Chip Mershon, and Pastor Gary Poorman and his wife Ellen will be traveling to Southeast Asia to speak at two church planting leadership conferences. Ellen will be able to gather with, encourage and develop relationships with pastor's wives. The team will also be travelling to visit and encourage global partners of LEFC.
- Recently, Alex and Ali Swann and Rod Huber visited and served with our global partners Dan and Lynn Hollingsworth in Spain. Several of our pastors and their spouses are making plans to visit LEFC global partners during their sabbaticals in the coming year.



LEFC Adult Thailand Team

Crisis Response Highlights

- North Carolina experienced tragic flooding last year. In 2026, LEFC is sending two teams (July & October 2026) to serve flood victims and share the love of the gospel of Jesus.

Bob Travis, *Pastor – Mobilization*
btravis@lefc.net

LEFC ADULTS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

A few months ago, our team spent a day together praying, seeking the Lord, and preparing for the year ahead. We left that day united around a theme:

Object of Our Faith

Our desire for 2026 is to abide in God, who enables us to live fruitfully, trust Him in every season, and rest in His faithfulness no matter the circumstance. Our union with Him is not separate from the work we do; it is the very root of it.

The sermon series this spring and summer, Characters, is a well-timed invitation to walk with the heroes of faith and trace their journeys with the Lord. Would you consider what it looks like — in the ordinary rhythms of your week — to keep your heart and eyes fixed on the Object of your faith?

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights." Habakkuk 3:17–19

May that be our prayer together this year. 2026 has also brought some changes to our team. A few roles and titles have shifted slightly, and we are grateful to welcome Tom Daly as our full-time Teaching Pastor. This month, Paige Huber concluded her yearlong apprenticeship with us. Please pray for Paige and her husband Drew as they seek to follow the Lord's call on their lives.

CARE MINISTRY

God has been quietly and faithfully at work in our community of care. It is a genuine delight to watch Him deepen our love for one another, both in word and in deed.

One of the significant milestones this past year was the official launch of Hope in Mourning, a monthly grief ministry meeting every second Thursday. What a gift it has been to offer a place of unhurried, compassionate presence to those walking through loss.

We have also been moved by the faithfulness of our volunteer chaplains who serve as an extension of LEFC's pastoral staff, ABFs, Life Groups, the Mercy Network, and the broader church community.

"God has combined the members of the body... that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." 1 Corinthians 12:24b, 25b–26

Chaplain visits, prayers, rides, calls, and cards have averaged 4.5 interactions per week — a quiet tribute to God's faithfulness working through willing hands and hearts.

Looking ahead, we continue to wait on the Lord's guidance for two new directions: a respite care ministry and a team of Lay Listeners to walk alongside those in crisis. Would you pray with us as we consider these fresh, relational expressions of care at LEFC?

To share a need or to explore serving: lefc.net/needhelp | Gary Poorman: 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.

- **Mercy Network:** Actively connecting those in need with those ready to help and encouraging deeper belonging through ABF connection. Sometimes caring for someone's practical needs is also an act of community.
- **Funeral Meals Team:** Providing comforting and timely receptions for grieving families. This year, LEFC has served seven funeral meals.
- **Meals Team:** Not only re-thinking and improving policies, but graciously coordinating dozens of meal deliveries to individuals and families in need.
- **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.
- **Servants Fund:** Quietly and generously meeting practical needs behind the scenes, while also partnering with the Warwick HUB to maximize resources alongside other ministries.
- **Harvest Blessing Team:** Coordinating a food and paper goods drive to support the Warwick Community Chest and bless local families in need.

"The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with His hand." Psalm 37:23–24

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 with confidence and faith.

Here is a glimpse of what God has been doing:

- **Imago Dei ABF:** Launched in February 2025, this class meets during the second service and has maintained a steady attendance of 10-14 young adults each week. Though it paused in the summer, three family events — including a picnic with 12 families — kept the community connected. The group has recently been gifted a xylophone and a cajon (box-shaped percussion instrument) that has allowed the participants to be active in our morning worship time. There has been a season of growth and a deeper understanding of who they are in Christ, along with a growing desire to pray and seek the Lord.
- **Ladies Bible Study (Bible and Breakfast):** Women with intellectual and developmental disabilities meet monthly to explore their identity in Christ. Eight women gather regularly, and the depth of community in that room is a gift. It has been a joy to witness their growing friendships, transparency, and heart posture of care and prayer 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 dinner outing at a local restaurant, a game night, and a walk on the local Rail Trail.

To serve or learn more, reach out to Sandy: sandy.morris@lefc.net

DISCIPLESHIP

This fall, our Discipleship Training Labs are being reshaped with the hope that more people will find their way into community as we pursue the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ together.

Beginning in September, the name may change, and gatherings will move to the second and fourth Sundays of each month. If you have been part of Discipleship Training Labs before, or have been curious about joining, keep an eye out for updates on timing and location. This is a wonderful community for asking hard questions, being equipped for mission, and sharing how God is using you to reach your Oikos.

GROUPS & CONNECTIONS

We continue to see new people come to LEFC longing for community, and God continues to be faithful in meeting that longing. A few new Life Groups have launched recently, and the stories of deepening relationships and pursuit of God together are deeply encouraging.

We are also preparing for another summer of Summer Interest Groups, a great way to meet people who share your interests. If you plan to join one this summer, would you consider the challenge of inviting someone from your Oikos who may not be connected with a church? Use this summer to live out loud — to find ways, in the rhythms of ordinary life, to introduce Jesus to those God has placed in your path.

Re:generation remains one of the most profound places of transformation in our church community. In a few weeks, about 35 LEFC members and friends from the broader community will conclude ten and a half months together in the program. Commencement Night — when we hear brief stories of God's grace, freedom, and renewal — is a highlight of the entire year. New groups will launch on August 26. If you would like to be part of one, reach out to Jeff Travis.

TEACHING MINISTRY

“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.” Psalm 119:18

As a church striving toward the vision of a Teaching Church, our primary aim is not head knowledge. It is not the accumulation of facts or having an answer to every question. Our heart is spiritual sight: beholding the glory of God revealed in His Word, that we might be transformed more and more into His likeness by that truth through the Spirit.

In every area, from the pulpit to the classroom, to the classrooms still under construction, we are boldly praying for more. Open our eyes and grant us understanding (2 Tim. 2:7), that we may behold wonderful things and proclaim the truth with joy to the world.

MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Marriage ministry is flourishing at LEFC, and we are grateful for every couple God has entrusted to us.

So far in 2026, we have walked alongside 13 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. It is a significant commitment of time and love, and we are deeply thankful for their partnership in ministry!

In March, we hosted our ninth annual Marriage Retreat to Remember, with over 40 couples joining us. Josh and Anna Beers led us through the theme of Re-new, and we continue to pray that the Lord would use these gatherings to strengthen and encourage marriages at every stage.

Relengage has continued to be a meaningful tool for couples looking to reconnect, reignite, and even resurrect their marriages. Thirteen couples — alongside five leader couples — are currently in the midst of a 16-week journey focused on their marriage. We have begun an interest list for our fall semester, which starts in August.

In July, we are planning to host a Marriage Date Night. More details coming soon.

Marriage matters, and 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.

MEN'S MINISTRY

After a powerful — and memorable — Man Camp last November (it may be too soon to mention the word “bedbugs”), our team has been in a season of prayerful discernment about what it looks like to continue joining together as men in pursuit of Christ.

Our next Men's Breakfast is July 11. Come ready to hear how some men are already finding intentional ways to build community and reach those God has laid on their hearts — and to learn about a new opportunity for prayer to become a driving force in men's ministry going forward.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Serving the women of LEFC is a joy that does not grow old. Linsey and I continue to be moved by what God is doing in our midst, and we are so grateful for the gift of serving together.

In **Women's Bible Fellowship (WBF)** This spring, more than 300 women studied the book of Joshua through an original curriculum written and taught by LEFC women. We are grateful for every member of our writing and teaching team and thrilled by the hunger we are witnessing for the Word, for fellowship, and for transformation.



Women's Bible Fellowship

This fall, we will be studying the Psalms together, with both video and live teaching options. Please pray for our team as they spend the summer preparing for Psalms, as well as Judges and Ruth for Spring 2027. Here is what God has been doing in the hearts of women along the way:

"The Lord has kindly used His Word to meet me in the middle of life. I didn't realize how much I would need His promises to carry me, convict me, and increase my faith. To know that our Sovereign Lord goes before us — even in the providential timing of these studies — never ceases to amaze me." (WBF Participant)

"It's truly been life changing. God has used WBF to mold me into a more godly wife, mom, daughter, and friend. I've formed deep friendships, joined a life group, grown in sharing the gospel, and gained courage to pray aloud. The trajectory of the last two years speaks volumes of how much the Lord has been working in my heart." (WBF Participant)

Coram Deo – A Multi-Year Vision

You prayed for us as we sought vision for women's ministry — and God was faithful. Thank you. In mid-April, 200 women gathered for our Spring Brunch, where we unveiled our multi-year vision: Coram Deo — a Latin phrase meaning "before the face of God" — and the three realities it holds: living in the presence of God, under the authority of God, and to the glory of God. We look forward to exploring these together in the years ahead. (And a warm thank-you to the Men's Ministry for blessing us with a wonderful breakfast.)

This fall, we look forward to our retreat at Black Rock from October 30 to November 1 — a weekend in the Psalms, going deeper into what it means to live Coram Deo, in His presence. We cannot wait! Registration information will come this summer.

"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 are praying for you — reach out anytime.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Sowada, *Executive Pastor – Discipleship Ministries*
sowada@lefc.net

Jeff Travis, *Pastor – Adult Ministries*
travis@lefc.net

Jenny Hoover, *Minister – Women and Marriages*
hoover@lefc.net

Gary Poorman, *Pastor – Care Ministries*
g.poorman@lefc.net

Tom Daly, *Pastor – Teaching*
daly@lefc.net

Linsey Smoker, *Assistant Director – Women's Ministries*
linsey.smoker@lefc.net

LEFC STUDENTS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

What a year of grace.

Across every grade level, from our youngest fifth graders to our graduating seniors, God has been faithfully at work in Crossover Student Ministries. We are humbled to share a glimpse of what He has done and what lies ahead.

This year our morning curriculum took students into the heart of Paul's pastoral letters, exploring the missteps, corrections, and encouragements he delivered to the early church. Rather than keeping Scripture at arm's length, we asked students to wrestle honestly with what it looks like when the church gets things wrong and how God, in His mercy, calls His people back. Week after week, students saw that Paul's words were not merely historical but alive. They discovered that the same God who corrected the church at Corinth is still correcting and encouraging His church today. That realization opened meaningful conversations about what faithfulness looks like in their own lives, friendships, and families.

Our evening series, Transformed, sought to anchor students in the biblical call to repentance and renewal. Students studied what God calls us to turn away from - pride, idolatry, bitterness, and conformity to the world - and what He calls us to turn toward: holiness, humility, love, and a life shaped by the gospel. The series created space for honest conversation about sin, identity, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Many students took steps to confess areas of bondage and pursue accountability with peers and leaders. The fruit has been evident: students walking with greater conviction and a deeper hunger for Scripture.

This winter, 150 students packed up and headed to Winter Blast, our annual winter retreat. What God did in the quiet moments was even more significant than we hoped. Gary Christman delivered a powerful series on the Kingship of Christ. Over the course of the weekend, students were confronted with a simple but transforming question: who sits on the throne of your life? Session after session, the Holy Spirit moved with conviction and tenderness. Students responded in worship, in tears, and in surrender. The conversations that followed in the weeks since have reflected a genuine move of God among our students.

We are stepping into summer with great expectation. Students will have the opportunity to attend summer camps, where the rhythms of focused teaching, worship, and community have historically been pivotal moments in the faith journeys of our students. Additionally, a team of students and leaders will be traveling to Thailand on a mission trip, seeking to carry the love of Christ internationally, serving alongside local believers, and experiencing firsthand the global scope of God's kingdom. Please pray for safety, open hearts, and lasting fruit from both endeavors.

Thank you for praying for the ministry and our students. They are not the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today, and it is a joy to see God is moving among them. To Him be all the glory.

In His Service,

Nick Vargas, *Pastor – Student Ministries*
vargas@lefc.net

Caleb Roberts, *Director – Student Ministries*
roberts@lefc.net

LEFC KIDS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Partnering with families to help kids know, love and follow Jesus!

Quick Stats

- 52 Junior Shepherds Serving
- 146 Shepherds Serving
- 54 Substitute Shepherds Serving
- 518 Number of active kids attending LEFC
- 250 Kids picked up Big Church Bags as they walked into service on Easter Sunday morning [for Pre-K – 4th Grade]
- 97 Children registered for this past spring semester of WBF Kids
- 30 Children registered for this spring semester of Recharge Kids
- 20 *Baptism for Kids* books given out in the past 6 months
- 33 Number of kids dedicated in our services [between November and April]
- 19 Number of new baby cards sent [between November and April]
- 107 Kids who participated in Created to Praise at Christmas time
- 400 People who attended the Family Christmas Night
- 75 *Bible Reading Plan for Kids* books given in the past 5 months
- 10 LEFC Global Partners who have been specifically “adopted” for Kids Ministry to pray over, hear updates from, and keep in touch with through our pen pal project initiative.

New Building Spaces

- Moving from 4 current nurseries to 6 nurseries
- Moving from 3 rooms for two’s and three’s to 6 rooms
- Moving from 3 rooms for Pre-K and Kindergarten to 4 rooms
- Moving from 4 rooms for 1st - 4th Grade to 8 rooms
- Adding new large group space for Pre-K and Kindergarten
- Adding new play space for two’s and three’s
- Adding new sensory/breakout space for kids with special needs

Prayer Requests

- Provision of Summer Sunday Shepherds serving with joy and engagement!
- Transitions with our new church management software system (RockRMS), as well as moving into our new spaces this fall!
- Preparing for our new G4 Kids Ministry for this fall, including new curriculum, small groups and game/activities to celebrate and ease the transition year between Kids Ministry and G56 Ministry!
- Shepherds for the fall [with all our new classrooms]
- Pray for every child to feel seen, loved, accepted and encouraged on their journey of learning to love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength, and loving others around them!

Respectfully submitted by our Kids Ministry Team:

Brianna Kauffman, Erin Martin, Kaitlyn Hawbaker, Amanda Ranck, Lizz Cagno and Katie Phillips
(serving during Lizz’s maternity leave)

Julia Brown, *Minister – Kids Ministries*

brown@lefc.net

IMMANUEL CHURCH YORK HIGHLIGHTS

Dear LEFC Family,

We at Immanuel are grateful for your continued partnership, prayer, and support as the Lord continues to work among us. We want to share several key updates that highlight His faithfulness in this past season.

A significant milestone has been the completion of our first long-format sermon series through the Gospel of Luke. This marks an important step forward for our church, as we previously lacked consistent teaching and shepherding due to relying on pulpit supply. Through this sustained, expository preaching, we have seen encouraging signs of growth in the congregation, both in spiritual maturity and in a deeper delight in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In November, we celebrated the adoption of a new membership covenant, followed by the joyful induction of 12 new members. This has brought greater unity and shared commitment to our life together as a local body.

In that same month, with thankfulness, we appointed both a deacon and a trustee. These roles are already proving to be a meaningful support in caring for the practical needs of the congregation and the stewardship of our building, presenting a renewed space for ministry and gathering.

Several recently-initiated Word-focused ministries are beginning to bear fruit and reach beyond the walls of our building. It has been especially encouraging to see more of our members equipped and growing in confidence to share God's word with others. This multiplication of discipleship is strengthening the church and helping to establish a culture centered on the Gospel.

As you pray, ask that God would raise up more leaders from within our own body to serve and shepherd His people. Pray for continued clarity and unity among our elders as they seek to lead with a clear sense of mission, developing a healthy, disciple-making church.

We thank God for His continued provision and for your role in this work. Pray with us for ongoing growth in maturity, unity, and faithfulness as we seek to make disciples and proclaim the Gospel.

With gratitude,

Gary Christman, *Senior Pastor of Immanuel Church*
gary@immanuelyork.org

Dear LEFC family,

What a privilege to reflect on the previous 18 months since Project 2:42 was unveiled at our Huge Tent Event. That was a special evening! Much has happened since then. Obviously, our church building addition is making tremendous progress.

However, we would rather just reflect on the goodness of our God! Friends - do you realize and truly appreciate the blessing it is to be part of a church that is wholly committed to providing biblical teaching for all age groups without compromise? Praise God! It is because of this commitment that we need more facility space to deliver this Biblical teaching. It also requires more parking lot capacity as more people remain on our church campus for two services. **These building and facility expansions are just a tool used to facilitate our teaching ministry.**

We are also grateful that LEFC leadership has expressed the desire for LEFC to become a Praying Church (not just a church that sometimes prays). Becoming a praying church is certainly not specific to Project 2:42! However, our church leadership's decision to solicit prayer (inquiring of the Lord) vs. financial pledging to fund the campus expansion of Project 2:42 aligns perfectly with our desire to become a praying church. Could it be that God will use this posture of prayer as the "on ramp" to becoming a praying church? We hope it will re-define our DNA for the long-range future of LEFC and its ministry impact!

Finally, we are so grateful for the generosity of the LEFC family! In the absence of financial pledges, you have already contributed over \$4.7 Million to Project 2:42. Again, Praise God! Our next significant goal is to reach the \$5.5 Million mark by the first Sunday in September. This will mean the building expansion will be paid in full by the time we begin to use it! This is a tremendous blessing for two specific reasons:

- It is simply good stewardship and very financially prudent. Not only would we avoid having additional mortgage payments, but that money would then be available for additional ministry opportunities that God would lead us to.
- It will provide a unique opportunity to make God known and give Him glory! Pastor Tony has been meeting with leaders of several large churches in Lancaster County, as well as leadership teams from larger Evangelical Free churches across the country. They have all been curious and waiting to see if you can actually fund an expansion project by promoting prayer instead of financial pledging. With God, we believe you can ... and He will get the glory!

In closing, we encourage each one of you to keep inquiring of the Lord and then to act in obedience to what He is asking you to do in the support and funding of Project 2:42.

All for His glory!

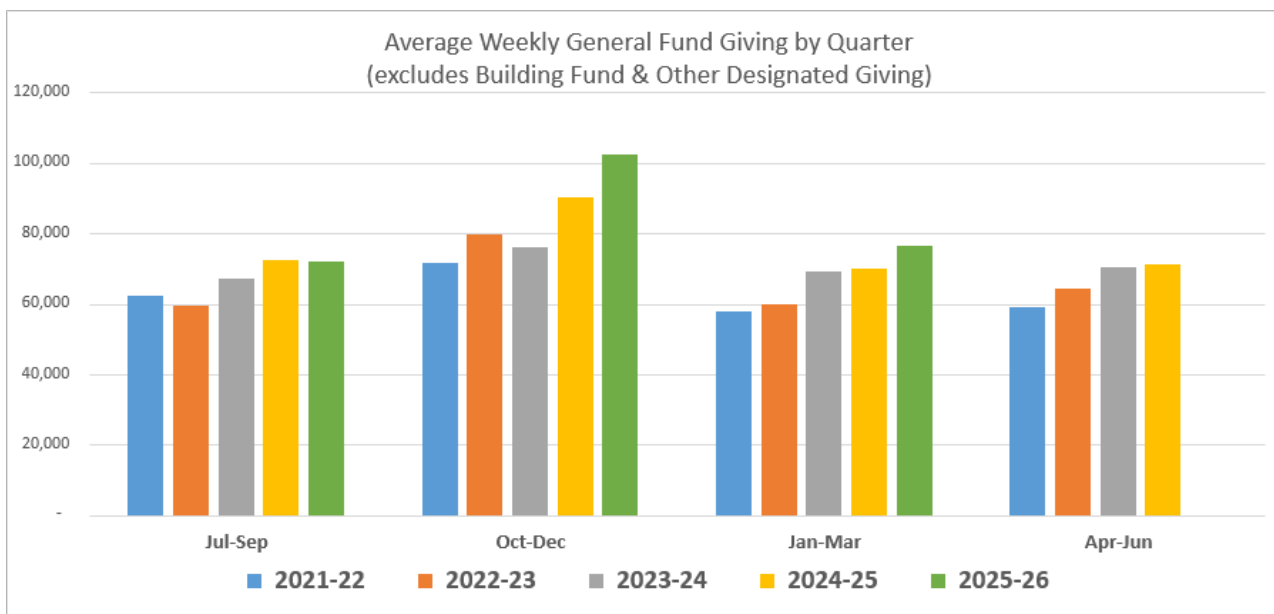
Charlie & Colleen Keller, *Project 2:42 Co-Chairs*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

It's an honor to be trusted to serve as treasurer, and it's my privilege to be able to share this update with you about the financial picture of our congregation. Overall, the financial standing of our church is strong, and God has been faithful. We're grateful for your generosity and the faithful stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to you. Because of your giving, our ministry team can lead us in the collective vision God has called us to as a church.

We are about three quarters of the way through our fiscal year which is July 2025 through June 2026. As of March 30th, which is three full quarters, the giving is right on pace with our budget. If you remember in November, general fund giving was behind what was projected, but God was faithful, the congregation was generous, and we erased any deficit and have been on budget ever since. Average giving per week is up about 10% in this calendar year.



In addition to the general fund, God has been faithfully providing for Project 2:42 as we have journeyed together these last few years. Our next key goal was announced on Sunday, April 19th, which is to have \$5.5 Mil cash in hand when we open the new education wing in the fall. We are currently at just over \$4.7 Mil as of the writing of this report, so we are well on our way to that. To fully fund Project 2:42, the goal is \$7 Mil and beyond (as God provides), which will fund the balance of the additional parking expansion to balance our campus. Praise the Lord! It has been fun to see construction and excavating activities taking place around the campus as a physical representation of where the Lord has led us.

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!

DJ Weaver, *Treasurer & Elder*
weaverfamily082711@gmail.com

JULY 2025 – MARCH 2026

Giving Total	3,260,854.62
Increase over 2024-2025	8%
Average Attendance Jul '25 – Mar '26	1203
Average Attendance Jul '24 – Mar '25	1149
Avg Attd w/stream Jul '25 – Mar '26	1454
Avg Attd w/stream Jul '24 – Mar '25	1383
Expenses:	2,985,247.41
Giving & Misc.:	3,311,143.25
NET INCOME:	325,895.84

BALANCE SHEET:

General Funds & Reserve	\$253,681.07
Long-term Replacement Funds	\$144,582.45
Specials Fund	\$116,961.94
Capital Projects Fund	\$1,637,312.08
Servant's Fund	\$19,425.06
HRA Account	\$8,071.00
The Learning Station	\$27,105.02
Witness Park & Perpetuity Fund	\$430,511.09
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Total Short-Term Assets	\$2,637,649.71

Total Long-Term Assets \$23,457,407.43

Total Accumulated Depreciation (\$5,188,614.15)

TOTAL ASSETS \$20,906,442.99

CIF Mortgage \$3,421,840.27

Other ST Liabilities \$25,795.55

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$3,447,635.82

NET FUNDS \$17,458,807.17

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET FUNDS \$20,906,442.99