

# The LCF Connection

March 2022

## Moving Day for the Biscups

by Amie Smith, Leader of LCF's Congregational Care Team



On Saturday, January 22, a group of LCF volunteers (10 men and 2 women) came together to help say farewell to Aaron and Andrea Biscup and their 3 children, who were moving to Portsmouth, Ohio. It was an early and cold morning for moving all of their belongings into various trucks and trailers. Thankfully, the Congregational Care Team provided coffee and delicious donuts from the Der Dutchman to help warm and fuel the hard-workers.



Harmony and I (Amie) assisted Andrea with cleaning, emptying the refrigerator, vacuuming floors as rooms were emptied, etc., in preparation for their house closing. Andrea's mom, Shanna, was there also, and was very thankful for all of the help. She was in awe of how many people showed up to help them move on such a cold day. In a matter of just two hours the entire belongings and boxes from the house were loaded into trailers and the men were on their way south to unload it all at the house the Biscups will be renting for a few months.

The Care Team sent them off with a packed lunch from Vallery Farmhouse Bakery since they would have a two-hour drive down to the rental house and another two-hours back home, after unloading everything. Thanks to all who helped out, including: Harmony, Joe, Shepherd, Dan, Jeremy, Nathaniel, Joel, Kelvin, Clete, Jesse, and Jeff. It's true that, "many hands make light work" and make it a lot more fun, as well!

We are so thankful for the many ways that Aaron and Andrea have served at LCF over the years (worship team leader, small group leaders, etc.) and were glad for the opportunity to show them our love and appreciation. They said that they will miss us and will come back to visit as often as they can. We will miss them too, and will be praying for them in this time of transition.

Our church family, led by the Congregational Care Team, helps people out in many different ways: from helping people when they move, and organizing/providing meals for those who have had surgery or a baby, to sending flowers when a close family member has passed away, sending cards of encouragement, etc. Thanks to each one of you who help us to care so well for one another. Feel free to contact the Congregational Care Team if there is any way we can be of help to you. ■

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## A Perspective on Change

by Andrea Biscup

Only a few months ago, in mid-November, Aaron was searching for a job, with just a month left as an intermittent forester for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). We were preparing for a long, hard job search and possibly some months of joblessness, when the ODNR gave Aaron a congratulatory call

informing him that his latest interview had won him a permanent forestry job at Shawnee State Forest! We were thankful and excited first, then thrown into a whirlwind of busyness.



We spent all our spare time (and then some) during the next 2 months looking at houses near Shawnee (2 hours south of Columbus, near Portsmouth, Ohio), meeting with a realtor to sell our house, packing and decluttering, completing endless house projects large and small, making the daunting decision about which house to buy, and signing myriad legal documents (someone—a realtor, banker, or insurance agent—seemed to email us at least once a day). Additionally, Aaron started his new job, which meant a 2-hour commute one way. I am exhausted just remembering those months.

The intense busyness made me unable to connect well with my emotions or to process the happy and sad changes coming up for our family. In the few special minutes of quiet I enjoyed each day,

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Aaron & Andrea Biscup, in their current backyard, with Matthias, Silas, and Elana (and Baby Biscup due in June).



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## Elders Notes

by Rob and Doris Swartz

Due to sickness, weather, and travel, we did not have an official elders meeting during the month of February. Instead, we discussed various needs and issues as they came up throughout the month via WhatsApp.

On Sunday, February 13th, Rob ordained Andrew Sauder at Olentangy Community Church. Andrew and his wife, Nita, along with their infant daughter, Eden, are planning to go overseas as missionaries sometime soon. Pray that God would guide them to where he wants them to serve.



Rob and Doris had an encouraging time at CMC's annual Pastors Conference (along with a short Overseers Retreat tagged on the end), which was held in Kalona, Iowa, February 14-17. After not having met for two years, it was good to connect once again, with other pastors and their wives from our conference.



We are happy to recommend Abraham Ndungu to serve a 3-year-term as elder. We presented the recommendation to the congregation on Sunday, February 20, and will take an affirmation vote on March 6.

Please be praying with us that God will provide youth leaders and a worship team leader.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15. ■

## Council Update

by Jim Jones

The Council met via phone on Tuesday, February 15th.

Sarah set up a Venmo profile as a convenient payment option that will be available for members buying coffee on Sunday mornings.

The pastoral agreements were reviewed and discussed for Rob and Reuben. Some of the main topics discussed included mileage rates and continuing education amounts (budgeted and accumulated) that are available. ■

## Getting to Know... Corin & Katie Wenger

Interviewed by Elisabeth Yoder

Note: Elisabeth and Katie are 2 of John and Rosy Shenk's 9 children. How many other of the 7 children (2 of which also attend LCF) can you name?

**Help us get to know you better with a brief background, where you came from, and how you came together as a couple.**

**Katie:** I grew up in Central Ohio; my family lived ten minutes west of Plain City. I had a lively childhood with my eight siblings, though much of my time was spent with my three sisters closest to me in age (Elisabeth, Kerry, and Alisha). The Wengers, Corin's family, were close family friends who would stop by to visit my family about once each year. Though Corin and I always got along and had fun when we hung out, we did not experience mutual attraction until the end of 2015/beginning of 2016, when I was seventeen and he was twenty. We officially started dating on April 1, 2016, got engaged January 4, 2018, and got married August 18, 2018.

**Corin:** My parents are both from Pennsylvania, I was born in Oklahoma, I grew up in Minnesota, I lived in Argentina for nine months after high school, I went to college in Michigan, and now I've lived in Ohio for four years.

**What are things you really enjoy doing together?**

We enjoy doing most things together. When we're at home we enjoy playing video games together. We both enjoy action movies and enjoy sometimes ending our evenings watching one together. We also enjoy traveling and the time we get to spend together in the car—I (Katie) spend most of it dozing while he drives and listens to music or a recorded book. We also enjoy eating good food, spending time with people, and going hiking.

**What are some long-term goals you would love to accomplish together?**

We dream about hiking the Appalachian Trail. We would love to build an A-frame house someday. We also would like to foster kids.

**What are you passionate about as individuals? Are there passions you share together?**

We are both passionate about justice and seeing right accomplished in the world. We are also both passionate about discovering more and more each day about what it means to be like Jesus and to live the life He has called us to.

**Katie:** I am passionate about people, specifically women, in the church learning more in depth about the Bible, theology, and Christian history.

**Corin:** I'm passionate about good sleep, fun hobbies, deep relationships, and Christian discipleship.

**You became parents to Cor in December 2021. How has becoming parents affected you for the better?**

**Katie:** It has taught me how distracted and selfish I can be throughout my day and has challenged me to give of myself and to actively love and serve my family. It is humbling to have someone entirely dependent on you to meet their needs.

**Corin:** I care more about wisely passing the hours in a day.

**What are some things you've been learning about yourself in parenthood?**

**Katie:** I easily justify selfishness and allow myself to be distracted from the best things in life because they take more effort than scrolling through my phone, baking, doing an art project, or working on any of my other hobbies.

**Corin:** Turns out I don't like changing diapers or soothing fussy babies; although it turns out that I'm okay at both. Also I see more than ever how much time I don't use for things that are productive or desirable.



**What are some experiences you would love to share with Cor as he grows up?**

We want to take him on adventures and will try hard to not give the excuse that it is harder to do something because we need to take him with us. We want to have him experience the beauty of hiking mountains, traveling to different countries, baking delicious food, etc. and, of course, taking long car trips to see family and friends.

**If each of you could choose a super power, what would it be? What super power would you choose to bestow upon Cor?**

**Katie:** I would choose to be able to become invisible. I would choose for Cor to have unending endurance, so that he could hike, run, etc. indefinitely.

**Corin:** I think I would choose teleportation.

**What are things you really enjoy about being part of the community at LCF these past few years?**

**Katie:** I enjoy the inclusivity of the community and the encouragement to participate in the workings of the church. I appreciate how friendly and welcoming people are.

**Corin:** I really love getting to be a participant in church, rather than just an observer.

**Are there Biblical characters, passages, or stories that have had a strong impact on you as individuals and/or on your relationship?**

**Katie:** Isaiah 58:6-12 is a passage that has lingered with me ever since I first read it, and it frequently comes to mind throughout my day-to-day life. It encapsulates the heart of God and the mission of Christ and His people. It challenges me and reminds me of both God's calling to us and His promises to us.

**Corin:** I admire the deep friendship shared between David and Jonathan.



**You are, unfortunately for us, moving to Minnesota in the next few months.**

**What are the considerations that helped you make the decision to move to Minnesota?**

**Katie:** Over the space of a year, we both felt as though God was calling us to move to International Falls. It was liberating to me to feel the call personally, because I knew it would be easy for me to convince myself that we should go, knowing that much of Corin's heart yearned to be back where he grew up. To personally feel God laying the call on my heart allowed me to have confidence that He was indeed, leading us to Minnesota. I have been hugely comforted by the community that we have in International Falls; knowing people in the area we are moving to felt important to me, especially given Corin's current job situation.

**What is Corin's job situation?**

**Corin:** I work as an engineering officer in the US Merchant Marines. Typically I work in the engine department aboard bulk cargo freighters on the Great Lakes, with one stint at work lasting 30-75 days before I get to come home. My role is a very hands-on, mechanically oriented position, where I operate propulsion and generation engines and perform maintenance and repair work on many different industrial systems.

**What will you be doing after you move there?**

God has called us to be involved with the International Falls Evangelical Covenant Church. It is the church where Corin went to youth group as a teenager, and attended there his senior year of high school before moving away. We are very good friends with the pastors there (one of whom Corin went to high school and college with) and they have asked us to come be a part of their fellowship and their outreach to the community of International Falls. We expect to spend much of our daily time serving the church and our neighbors at large.

**What excites you about life in Minnesota?**

**Katie:** I'm excited about focusing on being a part of the community of International Falls. I'm naturally reserved and introverted, and I'm excited to face the challenge of reaching out to people and learning to know them. (I'm also pretty terrified about it.)

**Corin:** I'm excited about winter sports, and being involved with the church and community of my youth.

**In moving to the Northern woods, what do you think the odds are that you will suffer an animal attack in the next year? What animal? Will you survive?**

**Katie:** I think there is a 40% chance I will be attacked. It will probably be a raccoon, and I'll probably die.

**Corin:** 99% chance, but probably just by a dog or a rat or something, and yes, I will survive, even if it turns out to be a bear or a wolverine.

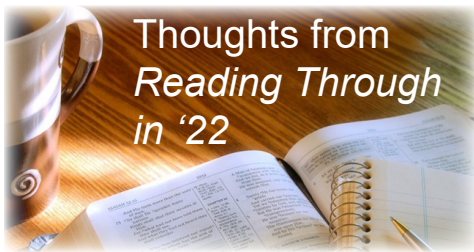
**How can we pray for you as you transition into this new chapter of your life?**

- Pray that we have courage to reach out to those around us and to develop relationships in the community.
- That things would go well with living in a new place and having Corin away at work for long periods of time.
- That we would find creative and effective ways of engaging with people and showing them Christ's love.
- That the Lord would watch over our spirits as we move.

*We will certainly miss having you here at LCF but are excited about how God is going to use you to share his love with people in Minnesota. We will be praying for you in this transition! ■*



*Corin has been meeting with Rob for discipleship and preached his first sermon at LCF on February 20. Katie helps out by playing keyboard on the worship team.*



## Thoughts from Reading Through in '22

by Jeremy Hisey

This year LCF is participating in a plan to read through the Bible in a year. Whether you choose to read through the entire Bible or just part of it, I assure you that it will be time well spent. Timothy tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

Personally, I am excited about this challenge as I have yet to read through the entire Bible.



Although I look forward to reading many Old Testament scriptures that I have alluded to, I am anxious to see how familiar passages will speak to me this time around. Hebrews 4:12 says, "The Word of God is living and active." God never ceases to amaze me when I read a passage that spoke to me one way in the past, but touches me in a new way the next time.

I experienced that already as I read about Joseph and the many struggles he faced. I have always been inspired by how Joseph handled situations that he was unfairly facing, with obedience and grace. His trust in God in those circumstances encouraged me during hard times. But as I read his story this time, I was reminded that in those times "the Lord was with Joseph." Because the Lord was with him, he prospered in everything he did and he found favor with the guard.

It is a good reminder to us that even in difficult times, we don't face them alone. God is with us even though we don't always feel like He is there. Joseph was able to deal with those circumstances with obedience and grace because he understood that it was God who provided for him and was with him—even during trials.

I believe that as we read through the Bible this year and God teaches, corrects, and trains us up in righteousness, we will be able to handle difficult circumstances more like Joseph, with obedience and grace. And like Joseph, we can face each day with confidence because God is with us. ■

## Connections Can Happen Anywhere

by Theresa Hennis

Before the Super Bowl, Pastor Rob made a YouTube video titled, "Why Have a Super Bowl Party?" And that was my thought, exactly...why? But when he pointed out that it was about making connections and enjoying fellowship, I was all in.



On Sunday mornings, I don't always get to meet everyone who is new to our church. Sometimes I find out they've been coming for a while, and I never even knew it!

So, I went to the party, and wouldn't you know it—I got to meet someone I had wanted to meet but hadn't yet: Linda Pratt and her husband, Rich. I've seen Linda singing with the worship team, but I never got the opportunity to meet her, because I'm always busy tending to my grandsons. I look forward to getting to know Rich and Linda better, and I'm thankful I decided to go to the party.

Whenever the opportunity arises to attend social functions at LCF, you might think it's not your kind of event, but trust me, you just might enjoy it. Everything that we plan at LCF always points to connecting with one another. And that is what really matters. ■



### Perspective...continued

however, I felt God was saying, "Remember that I am bigger than all these decisions and changes." I calmed my mind by reciting Psalm 100:3: "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." On the crazy day that we put our house on the market, had 12 showings, 7 offers, and were in contract by 10:00 that night, Psalm 115 pulled me back into focus, reminding me that the glory belongs to God for all the ways he has blessed us and that my trust needs to be in him, not in money. Through all the busyness, the word "Connect" has resonated with me, prompting me to take time to connect with God, my husband, and my kids, not just let tasks drown me.

Now we are finally moved into a rental house in Latham, Ohio (A big thanks to all of you who helped our moving day to be so smooth!), waiting to get possession of our new house so we can fix it up before another move. These few weeks of rest before craziness resumes have allowed me to think more about change, both good and bad. We have moved from a suburb near Columbus to a remote hillside in Pike State Forest, from easy access to groceries to a 20-minute drive to Kroger, and from windows looking out on endless houses to a vista of a forest, lake, and mountains. Nothing worse than an occasional stink bug invaded our old house; here we are learning to cope with multitudes of ladybugs (which seem especially attracted to toothbrushes) and to keep our eyes out for snakes in our basement. The boys are loving our sledding hills and the big basement to ride their bikes in, but miss playing with their friends. The realization that I actually don't have any friends here, either, makes me feel weird, but the first new church we visited encouraged us by its similarity to LCF, with the potential to make friends for all of us soon.

On a walk through our backyard forest, I was struck by a ravine with one hillside completely melted and brown and the other completely snow-covered. One was facing the sun; the other wasn't. Foresters call this "aspect," and it plays a big factor in determining what kind of trees can thrive on the slope. It spoke to me of perspective. Will I stay in shadows of sadness and loneliness, or will I face the sun? I want a perspective of thankfulness for all the wonderful changes God has given us and a perspective of trust in his faithfulness to prepare a way for us in the changes up ahead.

We miss our LCF family and are so grateful for the connection we have shared with you. Please come visit—hiking, scenery, and Amish shops abound down here! We appreciate all your prayers for us during Aaron's job search and your continued prayers as we settle into a new place and look for friends and a church. ■

## The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship

What did you think? If any of the stories in this Connection sparked an idea or opinion you'd like to share, email us at [secretary@lcfweb.org](mailto:secretary@lcfweb.org). Editors: Theresa Hennis, Elisabeth Yoder, Kelli Dean, and Doris Swartz. If you prefer that we do not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us.