

# The LCF Connection

June 2024



*Joseph and Kerry's apartment*

## The Shenk Shuffle

BY ROSY SHENK



The last months have been a moving time for the Shenk family. It all began earlier this year when our daughter Elisabeth and her husband Jeff began house shopping. With their second child on the way, the apartment they were living in would soon be too crowded. Their search led them to a house in Mechanicsburg with three bedrooms and a nice yard. It was exciting!

But what was also exciting was their soon-to-be empty apartment! Joseph and Kerry had been living with us for a year. They were ready to find a place of their own, a little less crowded and a little more personal. Jeff and Elisabeth's old apartment was a tantalizing option!

By late March, everything was in place for a grand Shenk Shuffle! In the middle of all the planning, our oldest son and his wife also found a house in Mechanicsburg that fit what they were looking for. The Shenk Shuffle just expanded!

On April 13, Jeff and Elisabeth moved to Mechanicsburg. As they began the process of settling in, Kerry and Joseph began packing their belongings and getting ready for their move. That happened on April 20!

Fortunately, our son's family gave us a two-week breather before their move on May 11. It was a whirlwind of boxes packed, houses changed, and lots of deep breaths! It was also an exciting time of seeing how the Lord provided for our family.

Now the moves are complete, most of the boxes are unpacked, and we are all happy to have the Shenk Shuffle behind us!



*Jeff and Maia  
planting raspberry bushes at their new house*

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## Council Update

BY JIM JONES

Due to some additional April expenses, the payments to Rosedale International, the Masts and Rosedale Bible College for May will be deferred. Council approved a \$60 expenditure for new storage bins for the nursery. LCF will be switching our background check provider to the Planning Center, due to better service.

Since my two consecutive terms are up as council chair, I will be stepping down from council. Russ will be taking over as the church council chair for the remainder of his term. The leadership team will be accepting nominations for a replacement to serve on church council. It is a three-year term. Council meets via phone conference on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30, and meetings last approximately one hour.

*London Christian Fellowship seeks to develop authentic and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.*

# The Calling

## A Message from the Pastor

BY ROGER HAZEN

I recently purchased some new socks. I know, kind of living on the edge, but I like a little excitement every so often. Anyway, as I was putting on these very nice, 41% Alpaca wool socks from Peru this morning, I observed something. On the inside of the sock, around the top edge, the makers had woven in the words, "Go outside!". When I ordered from them, I noticed they emphasized helping local workers and being part of nature. Thus the "Go outside!" admonition provided work, as more socks would need to be made if people did that, and encouraged people to get out and enjoy hiking. Perhaps we lethargic Americans need this word of encouragement to exercise our bodies.

This made me think of another admonition in Scripture. It's given to ancient Israel first, then reiterated to the new people of God in the New Testament. It's this - *"Be holy, because I am holy."* (Leviticus 19:1,2 & 1 Peter 1:15,16). Maybe we lethargic Christians need this word of encouragement to exercise our faith.

Of course, the one giving this admonition to "Be holy!" is God Himself. This has to be the highest bar ever set for humanity. This is because God is utterly holy, unwaveringly holy, intrinsically holy. This holiness has to do with God's moral purity and love. As God, He is perfect in moral purity and boundless in love. As His people, God expects us to be morally pure and boundless in love. He doesn't just expect it - He calls us to it.

There are two ways to respond to this calling. One is to reject it; the other is to accept it. Under the heading of rejecting it, we would also put the ideas of ignoring it, reinterpreting it, or reducing it. For to do any of these is to reject it. Under the heading of accepting the calling, we would put obedience, trust, and faithfulness, among other ideas. To accept God's calling to holiness is to hear what He says and respond in real ways. This means rejecting sin and accepting the work of the Holy Spirit. And let me be clear: there is zero chance of us being holy without the work of the Holy Spirit who abides in the believer. There is also every chance that we can be holy - reject sin and live for God - if we allow the work of the Holy Spirit. We must believe that God wasn't merely writing Romans 6:14 to use up extra ink - *"For sin shall not be master over you . . ."*

For those who want to fulfill God's calling there are plenty of places in Scripture that clearly tell us what sin is and what holiness is. Any believer serious about being holy will be reading the Bible regularly, and in doing that he or she will soon discover what God thinks about all this. What we must do is believe that when God calls us to something He's not toying with us, or calling us to do the impossible. He actually expects us to fulfill that calling, and enables us to do it by His own power of the Holy Spirit in us. To every believer God calls - *"Be holy, because I am holy."*

# Transformed by Fatherhood

BY NATHANIEL SMITH



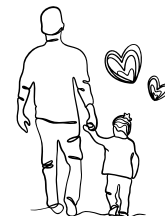
Parent/Child Dedication at LCF on May 12, 2024:  
Brandon & Megan with Ruby, Jeff & Elisabeth with Maia,  
Peyton & Audrey with Aria, Nathaniel & Amie with Howie

When you are blessed with the chance to become a father, you lean on your foundations. Your work, marriage, parents, friends, and most of all, God. Putting my faith in God has become easier the more children I have because I'm in constant need of guidance, grace, and peace by laying burdens on him. LCF has been a major foundation to me because of the wonderful church family. Which is why I'm so honored to have my children dedicated at LCF.

When Amie showed me that she was pregnant with Lizzie, I had so much fear that I wasn't prepared, and I selfishly thought of all the free time I would be losing. Until I first saw Lizzie...the day she was born, those negative feelings disappeared. I was reminded yet again why I'm not in charge of my life and how God's plan is perfect. I no longer felt the weight I felt when Amie was pregnant because I could never make something so beautiful. I fell in love with my wife more, I understood my parents better, and I was ready to work double. When Abe, Emma, and Howard came along, that feeling never left. My favorite part of my children is the qualities they have of their mother.

I'm so grateful for my mentors to show me Christ. My mother didn't have all the answers, but she has made it through so many trials by having faith in God and looking for His plan, not hers, and I got to see how blessed she was. I made a commitment to search for a wife at a very young age, so I said no to a lot of temptations and looked at happy marriages to prepare to be a good husband for my wife. I saw two important things: both of them worked toward a better relationship with God, and they always put the other first. I'm so grateful I have a partner I do both with. And without her I wouldn't have come to LCF and have this wonderful church family.

I promised to God I would have a Christian household, not to look good or because of social pressure, but it has saved and blessed my life, and it's an opportunity to give back to God for the wonderful people He's given me.



# Celebrating Our 2024 Graduates

*Derek and Josiah*



Hi, my name is Derek Elfrink. I'm pretty sure all of you know me. If you don't, that's fine as well. I'm the son of Phil and Lucy Elfrink and a proud graduate of two schools: London High School and Tolles Career Technical Center. After I graduate, I plan to Attend Rosedale Bible College. Then after Rosedale, I plan to do one of two options: go to Wright State University and study Criminal Justice or wait until I'm 21 then join a police department and do the academy they want me to attend.

As I said before, I plan to become a police officer. I have been planning to study Law Enforcement ever since Covid, and I found out Tolles does criminal justice, so I decided to apply and what do you know, I got in. I don't know what department I plan to go to, but God knows and whatever He wants me to do, I trust His decision

A favorite verse of mine has to be John 3:16. I know it's a Sunday school verse, but it really has a powerful meaning if you dig into it, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"*. This verse is deep because God loved us so much that He sent HIS only son Jesus to die on the Cross for our sins, because if we believe in Him and that He died for us, He will give us eternal life in heaven.

A highlight during my Junior year at Tolles was getting pepper sprayed. All the juniors get pepper sprayed, and if you never have been pepper sprayed, DON'T DO IT!!!!!! Unless you go to the military or go to a police academy—then you have to do it whether you like it or not. PEPPER SPRAY BURNS!!! When the effects hit me, I screamed. It was the worst feeling I ever felt, but in the end, I'm telling you, that was the longest 30 minutes of my life. The burn was crazy, then when you take a shower, it reactivates. But it told me you can fight through pain. The reason why you get pepper sprayed and tased is because they want you to feel what it's like to go through that so when you use it on a criminal you know how they feel when you use it.

Yeah, and that basically sums it up. If you could, I would like to ask all of you to pray for me that God will help me decide which field I go into.

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Hi LCF. Does anyone else, when asked to write something about themselves, kind of just say, "Uhhhh..."? Well, I do, so bear with me. My name is Josiah. I am graduating from homeschool. There are advantages to being homeschooled. For instance, I can sleep in and eat whenever, but most importantly, I can focus my studies on extremely personalized fields such as aviation. However, as with most things, there are cons. I can't make circles, and I don't know my left and right.

I do have plans and goals for this year and next. The first is to achieve my private pilot license (PPL), so I could use some prayer. After that, I intend to go to Bethel Camp for a couple of weeks in July. Then I plan to go on a short-term mission program called REACH. This will allow me to grow my relationship with God and serve the kingdom simultaneously. I do not yet know where I'm going, but I do know the cost I must raise, which is \$10,000, so I will take this opportunity to ask for any donations. If interested, you can give online through the RI website. Be sure to enter my name in the 'name of participant' box under Short Term Missions - Reach to make sure it gets credited to my account. RI asks that if you or someone you know is planning to give a large donation (more than \$200), please send a check instead of giving it online.

After that, I don't have a detailed plan; I want to go to college and get my certifications for commercial pilots, etc. But I don't know in what order I will do that. God has been teaching me this past year to trust him more and build a better habit of spending time with Him. My favorite verse is 1 Timothy 4:12, *"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."* I love this verse because, well, I'm just going to leave it as I love this verse.



# Refreshed by Your Love and Generosity

BY ROB AND DORIS SWARTZ



We are very grateful to the Congregational Care Team and you, our LCF family, for the Ohio State Parks gift certificate that you gave us for Pastor Appreciation last October. We used it at the end of April to stay at the Hocking Hills State Park Lodge. It was a beautiful facility and had convenient access to many of the hiking trails around Old Man's Cave area. We were thankful that the rain held off and we were able to do a lot of hiking and exploring. The beautiful scenery, nice accommodations, and escape from the normal day-to-day responsibilities was just what we needed. We have been learning over the past few years that these are the kinds of things which bring renewal, rest, and rejuvenation for us; so this gift was perfect.

With the current challenges we are facing, the timing was good preparation for us. It was timely to reflect on God's faithfulness and His goodness, and to be reminded of His power and sovereignty. We are thankful that He is always with us and gives us just what we need when we need it. We feel your love and support in so many ways. We love our church family and are grateful for each one of you and your generosity towards us. It is a joy to partner with you in ministry. Thanks again for the blessing and encouragement you are to us!

BY REUBEN AND VICKI SAIRS

*It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.  
~ Psalm 127:2*

*Sleep is the cousin of death.  
~ Nas, in "N.Y. State of Mind" (1994)*

Reuben and I are night owls whose wings have been clipped by work schedules and reality. Perhaps that's why we sometimes struggle with sleep. Or maybe it's just stress, fear, and anxiety—the usual culprits.

When we arrived at Burr Oak State Park Lodge in mid-April, we were operating on a deficit of rest. Two nights and three days later, we left, greatly refreshed by a span of time in which we read books, took short hikes, and slept—deeply at night and randomly during the day. The lodge's great room featured floor-to-ceiling windows, a wooded lake view, and ridiculously comfortable easy chairs and hassocks. A reader's dream.

On our first night, we ate in the dining room (also overlooking the lake) to the cheerful clatter of families eating supper with little kids who'd had too much fun at the park. The next day, the lodge was almost empty. So quiet! Perfect for reading and sleeping.

At breakfast the first morning, Reuben spied a cardinal strutting up the balcony railing like he owned the place. Which he did, in a way. Our server told us the bird's name was Dude, and he and the other staff had trained it to come and eat from their hand. He also pointed out a noisy crow that flew low in the trees: "We named him, too." I can't remember the crow's name, but it was something like Gerald.

On our walks, we saw a rufous-sided towhee (a favorite) and an osprey. Sadly, no snakes or woodchucks showed up. What did show up was a sense of gratitude to all of you for giving us this chance to go away and rest. Church, we thank you!



## The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship.

We would love to hear your feedback. Email us at [secretary@lcfweb.org](mailto:secretary@lcfweb.org).

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