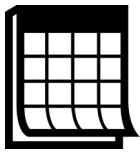


The LCF Connection

January 2025



New Year Reflections

COMPILED BY JODI TRAVERSE

Jodi Traverse - We asked several people to share some reflections with us about what they've learned this past year and how they are hoping to grow in the next one. I love all the different perspectives here and hope you find them as thought-provoking as I did!

For me, personally, I think this year has reminded me to slow down. Raising a toddler is no easy task! But one thing it has really taught me is that efficiency is not always the best option. Sometimes we need to just slow down and enjoy the process. Our culture really emphasizes the importance of completing each task as quickly as possible so we can get on to the next thing. But what would happen if we all stopped stressing about everything we "need" to do and just focused on doing what we can without overextending ourselves and stressing out everyone around us in the process? This next year looks a little crazy to me, but I'm hoping everything will fall into place in God's perfect timing. My ability to trust and let go will definitely be stretched!

Lucy Elfrink - Why do we have instructions for almost everything? They are supposed to be followed, and failure to follow them often results in an unintended outcome. The Bible contains many instructions on how to lead a Godly life here on earth. The problem I have is in trusting the process. Sometimes I find a new recipe, but the results of my baking tend to be bad, I mean bad. I have burnt cookies and cinnamon while baking because of not following the simple instructions. At the beginning of every new year, we make resolutions on what we want to accomplish or some goals we want to attain in the coming year. Some resolutions are creating better life habits, staying well and being healthy, serving more, and the list can go on and on. In the past, I have set goals to read the Bible through in a year, and within a few months, I found myself on the sideline falling off. This past year, one of my stay healthy goals was challenged by being off work for two months due to a foot surgery. This resulted in many complications, especially financial flow while still planning for a kid to go to college. During this time, God's voice was very clear. Just trust the process! I got

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Healing

A Message from the Pastor

BY REUBEN SAIRS

Healing. We pray for healing. Jesus spent a lot of time healing. There are multiple passages; here's just one. Luke 9:11, "*But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.*" Just before that He had sent out His twelve apostles, "*...and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*"

We often think of healing in terms of disease, injury and surgery, but there is more to it. Anyone experiencing those things will tell you, they're about more than our bodies. Those things come with hurt, disappointment, anger, and fear. More than our organs and cells are touched by physical disease. To be healed is only partial until other wounds are also healed.

I'm very grateful for modern science, doctors, and medicines. They have healed many people, at least their bodies. I don't know that they can reach those other places.

I hope our prayer life at LCF can grow. We pray for the healing of

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bodies, and I believe it happens to varying degrees, but I hope we can pray for what one old hymn called, “the sin-sick soul.”*

Let’s consider those people who get strung out on fentanyl or alcohol. Let’s consider the distortions or wounds of personality that might lead to sexual or gender identity pain. Let’s consider the shooters, the obsessed, the distorted lives caught up in strange mental loops and bizarre misinformation. Let’s consider the other old standbys: loneliness, anger, feelings of defeat. There is healing for these as well.

Many believers are investing now in political and legal solutions, but I ask—can you stop production and transport of fentanyl? Maybe, but some new drug will come along. Can you hold society back legally from sexual sin? Sometimes, but it has been around for a long time and people find ways around the law. Gender issues are particularly thorny right now, but they are also nothing completely new. I don’t know what the best social answers might be, but I think they are all very limited, and some are even going to be wrong and create their own problems. But healing can’t be wrong. Heal the gaping wounds of the soul, and some of these issues can be answered.

As I write, in chapel at RBC this morning, our speaker quoted Proverbs 3:7. It resonated with me. This is where the church must invest its powers:

Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.
It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.

I think we should see the wounded of the world, not as our enemies, but as our friends who could be healed by the touch of God’s hand in Jesus.

*I highly recommend the hymn “Balm in Gilead.”

this. I learned to trust that even in our desperate situations, all we have to do is trust and look up to Him. During this time, I found a very simple Bible reading plan I have enjoyed and hope to complete sometime in the next year.

Sarah Eichorn - We are coming off the heels of what was probably the fullest year of our lives. In the midst of weeks filled with appointments and meetings and in the many days where it felt like a struggle to get the basics done, I learned the value of focused intentionality—intentionality in spending time with Jesus, intentionality in strengthening my marriage, intentionality in daily walks to clear my mind, intentionality in investing in relationships and community, and intentionality in recognizing limits and knowing when extra activity is not beneficial in this season. I see the mastery of intentionality as unattainable but a process I want to improve on in this next year. The nature of this last year has also made me come to realize, in a deeper way, that serving and meeting the needs of my family reflects God’s heart for little children and caring for the least of these. Coming to us through adoption and foster care, the majority of my time is spent caring for our children who have unique needs that many other children have not experienced. Though it may not feel like caring for my family makes a big splash in the many ministry opportunities around me, it is in fact kingdom building and emphasizes the value God places on all humanity. This year I would like to develop more contentedness in this season of motherhood and keep an eternal perspective on this very worthwhile ministry.

Gideon Eichorn - Trusting God with my family’s future was the biggest challenge I faced this past year. It was a very busy year. Many days it felt like there were not enough hours in the day to take care of everything that needed my attention. Through it all, I found myself worrying about the future more than I ever have before. I’m not naturally a person that worries a lot, so this was a new challenge for me. I’m learning that prayer really is the antidote to worry. It was amazing to watch God work through the prayers of loved ones, especially through our toughest weeks. Are there things I could still be worried about? Yes, for sure, but I’m trying to focus on thanking God for the ways He has taken care of us in the past. This coming year I want to focus on spending more time in prayer for others who are going through hard times and continue to thank God for the specific ways in which He has provided for us.

Martie George - As I reflect on the last year, I am once again disappointed in my performance. I’ve disappointed myself, others, and God. I really have a difficult time at every year’s end because of this. I really struggled with writing anything when Jodi asked me. I got quite distressed. I’ve already thought all those negative thoughts about myself, but what I should do every year’s end, instead, is reflect on what God has done. He is so faithful, loving, and He has answered so many prayers with blessings. Going forward, this is how I will reflect on the year: Thinking of what God has done and thanking God for what He has done. I will give myself grace for being human and thank Him for His amazing grace. Peace and prayers.

Snapshots of 2024



Celebrate the Church puzzle



New members



Potluck at the 40th Anniversary of LCF



Arts and Crafts Night



Valentines Date Night



Children's Christmas Play



Outdoor service and potluck



New space for C4



Baby dedication on Mother's Day



C4 ready for City Challenge



LCF 101 Class

Getting to Know Clara Weaver

BY THERESA HENNIS

Where are you from, originally?

I've lived in Baltimore, Maryland my whole life. Well, except right now I guess.

Are you from a large or small family?

I come from a pretty big family. I'm the second youngest (or sixth oldest, depending on how you look at it) of seven kids. And on my mom's side there's close to 40 first cousins.

How did you find out about LCF, and what was it that drew you to come there to worship?

John and Rosy Shenk are my aunt and uncle, so it was an easy choice to start coming here. I stayed because I appreciate the small, diverse congregation.

Are you a student or grad, and if you attended college, where, and what was your major?

I just graduated from Rosedale last year, and I have ideas of studying plant science sometime in the future.

Is there a special hobby or interest you love?

Put me with some plants, and I'm a happy camper! Gardening, houseplants, just admiring a patch of moss...I love it!

What is the best advice you ever received in your life?

Best advice ever? That's a big question. Probably to stop overthinking things. Maybe. Let me mull it over.



Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

Attendance: Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, Zach Freer, Russ Hauge and Rob Swartz by Zoom conference.

November income was \$16,892 which was more than our expenses of \$13,882 by \$3,010. Our YTD income is \$192,898 compared to our YTD expenses of \$154,410, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$38,488.

We finished the year on schedule with all payments to RNO, Rosedale International, and Rosedale Bible College completed during December.

With the winter/snow months upon us, we are still in need of any information on a company or individual that will be able to perform snow removal at the church. Any suggestions are welcome and please send those to Russ Hauge or Sarah Eichorn.

A limited amount of time was spent reviewing the draft church budget for 2025 and will be further addressed during the next council meeting in January.

The Premise Use Policy was also briefly addressed and remains an open topic after Rob shared an initial vision on how the church should be used. Additional questions were addressed and a new document will be reviewed in January. We do understand that this is a topic that needs to be finalized soon based on outstanding usage requests.

Additional topics that were tabled for future discussion: re-investigate the cost impact of installing lights in the church parking lot and the need to develop an investment policy to address how unbudgeted funds are held.

Next meeting will be: Tuesday, January 21st, at 6:30 pm by Zoom conference.



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.
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