

The LCF Connection

November 2025



Journey before Destination

BY LANCE BEACHY

Several months ago, Rob mentioned in a sermon that “If you spend time around Lance Beachy, you’ll probably hear the words ‘Journey before Destination’ at some point.” It’s good to be known for something, and I’m happy if that’s my legacy.

I’m a recovering perfectionist. I wish I had an impressive string of degrees I could put my name to show for it; alas, it’d be more impressive to list all the acronyms of the mental illnesses and disorders that I’ve been diagnosed with at some point in life.

I’ve spent a long time in my life thinking I’ll be happy once I reach the next goal. My house is a small graveyard/memorial for hobbies and projects that I started and never finished. I have far too many days when I get really motivated to do all the things, then work takes it all, and I’m left with time to kill and no energy to fill it. I don’t want to do the mundane chores like laundry, dishes, and making and eating food. I want to do things that MATTER. I want to make cool stuff and do art and host parties. Difficult to do when I need to spend several hours on the couch because I overscheduled myself and had to be social for three days in a row.

Journey before Destination stands in direct opposition to all of that. Focusing only on outcomes means I will never be content once I reach them OR enjoy the journey to get to that outcome. There is nothing in the future that will fill my soul if I cannot be content with the present. That doesn’t mean I do nothing, but it does change my focus.

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Who Are We?

A Message from the Pastor

BY REUBEN SAIIRS

Who are we? Hopefully we all answer that first as “we’re brothers and sisters in Christ called into his church.” We live our lives in our time and place, and we want our fellowship to thrive in a context where through the Holy Spirit we learn and practice love of God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and love of our neighbors as ourselves. That said, and never put aside, I have the following thoughts.

LCF is a member of RNOC—the Rosedale Network of Churches. Until a few years ago, RNOC was known as and did business under the name of the Conservative Mennonite Conference. It was founded in 1911. Before it was the Conservative Mennonite Conference, it was called the Conservative Amish Mennonite Conference, but the word Amish was dropped in 1957.

When we first came to LCF in 2002, LCF was called Shalom Community Church. The name was changed shortly after Vicki and I arrived. Names change, and the reasons are many, but I think the ghosts of the old names hang around. Probably better than Halloween imagery, it’s sort of like Ancestry.com or other genetic genealogy sites. There are old identities lurking around in our chromosomes.

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

Foster Care

(Ministry Spotlight)

BY SARAH EICHORN

A biblical principle that we are passionate about is the inherent value of every life. We were all intricately knit together in a womb and made in the image of our Creator who authors every life and values every one of us equally whether a prisoner, politician, believer, prostitute, homeless, wealthy, disabled, poor, etc.

We are in a season of honoring life through foster care. For us foster care is about more than striving to provide a loving and stable home to a vulnerable child in need. Even though it's not always easy stepping into someone else's mess, it's also about showing compassion, praying for, and speaking kindly of our foster child's birth parents who are undoubtedly finding themselves in a difficult place in life.

It has been my prayer that many who regularly visit our home, including every attorney, consultant, nurse, and caseworker (even the new one who is a practicing Muslim) would find it to be a place of peace and rest. Our approach to foster care is not "us" versus "them" but about working together as a team and making it our aim to represent Christ's love to foster children, birth parents, and every one playing a role in the child's wellbeing while trusting that the outcome will be beautiful whether the end result is reunification or a permanent home elsewhere.



(Who Are We?... continued from page 1)

Conservative Amish Mennonite tells us something—the Amish roots are still there. That original group distinguished itself from the more “liberal” Amish Mennonites who largely left their Amishness behind and joined the more mainstream Mennonites. At the same time, as Amish Mennonites, they were establishing their identity as NOT Old Order Amish either. You have undoubtedly noticed that we all drive cars, use electricity, etc. etc.

Ghosts? I hope there remains in our discipleship a belief in lifestyles of simplicity and a witness against the rampant materialism of our world. I hope another trace says church is a community—a brother/sisterhood, and not aspiring to be a flashy entertainment venue pursuing all the glitzy trends of the modern church.

Shalom ghosts? Shalom is a rich word: well-being, good health, welfare, and often peace. I hope we're still a church that seeks the peace of the world where we live, and that extends a message of hope and healing, especially in this day when some of the church is barking like a mad dog. Peace in our tradition has also meant a rejection of violence, a willingness to turn the other cheek, and serious commitment to live by the Sermon on the Mount. I stand by those convictions.

I don't believe in living in the past, but its ghosts are still whispering. Our view of the past is never remembered perfectly. Memory is great, but it has been known to lie even when things are written down. We're here now, and that's our main concern. Who we are is more important than who we were, or thought we were. Yet I treasure the faith that has come down the line to us, and I think a few of its genetic embers could be fanned into a modern flame.

(Journey before Destination... continued from page 1)

I don't have space for all the relevant stories (Mark 12:41-44) or personal examples that I feel prove my point. I'll leave it to the original author and pretend that I'm not tearing up again while reading this: “The ancient code of the Knights Radiant says ‘journey before destination.’ Some may call it a simple platitude, but it is far more. A journey will have pain and failure. It is not only the steps forward that we must accept. It is the stumbles. The trials. The knowledge that we will fail. That we will hurt those around us.

“But if we stop, if we accept the person we are when we fall, the journey ends. That failure becomes our destination. To love the journey is to accept no such end. I have found, through painful experience, that the most important step a person can take is always the next one.” ~Brandon Sanderson, *Oathbringer*



Transition to Shiloh

BY ANNIKA MILLER

Some of you may have noticed that I have not been around LCF much the last several months. Many of you know I had been helping with the youth group, and, while my job at Rosedale Bible College does involve a lot of traveling which keeps me from LCF some Sunday mornings, I would still help with the youth and attend on Sunday mornings when possible. Over the last several months, Sunday mornings became more sporadic as I was dating Anthony Conte—the youth pastor at Shiloh Mennonite Church. On September 12th, we got engaged, and I have now officially made the transition to attending Shiloh full time!

While I will miss LCF and look back fondly on my time there and those of you I was able to get to know, I am looking forward to what is in store in this next stage of life. Thank you all for your support the last couple of years and thank you to C4 for the opportunity to serve in the youth group and get to know all of you.

Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

Attendance: Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, Zach Freer, and Russ Hauge by Google Meet video conference.

September income was \$14,780 which was more than our expenses of \$12,863 by \$1,917. Our YTD income is \$181,993 compared to our YTD expenses of \$172,817, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$9,176. The largest unplanned expenses were the replacement of 2 HVAC units. With multiple units still to be replaced at some point in time, we will start to set aside money during our budget cycle to assist in the monetary coverage of replacing those units.

Sarah sent an email to all committee chairs on October 1st asking for budget input for their areas. There are still some areas that need to respond during early November. With no response, the council will assume that there is no change expected for 2026 from what was budgeted during 2025. In addition, if any church member sees an area that needs to be added to the budget (few examples: playground improvement, interior painting, further HVAC replacement, etc.) please provide that information to any council member prior to November 14th.

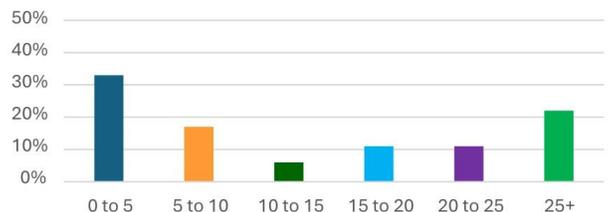
The complete council meeting focused on structuring the budget and filling in areas that had already been submitted. Once all areas are filled in, the next council meeting will focus on priorities that fit within the church vision and determine what can be included in the budget based on anticipated giving during 2026. Thank you all for your generosity.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 18th, at 7 pm by video conference.

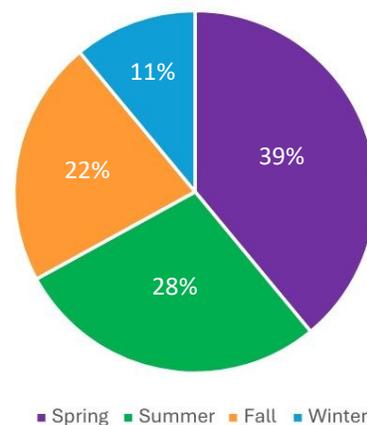
Survey Statistics

This spring, a survey was sent out to everyone to give feedback on The LCF Connection and share facts about themselves. Here are two of the questions that were asked and their responses.

How long have you been attending LCF?



What is your favorite season?



Elders Notes

BY BRANDON WENGERD

On October 28th, we gathered for our monthly elders meeting at the home of Rob and Doris. We began with reading and sharing reflections on scripture from 2 Timothy 4:1-8. Then, we spent time sharing—updates, prayer requests, and praises in our church family—followed by praying together about them.

We are developing a plan with the Benevolence Team on how to help compensate counselors for their time when individuals within the church use their services.

We revisited the idea of offering a short, simple prayer for children as they are dismissed to Sunday School each week. We would like to keep it informal and easy for children to participate in the prayer as well. We are continuing to develop this idea.

As we plan for a missions budget in the future, we will look for opportunities that we can engage with supporting local missions more.

This year, we had encouraged the church to read through the New Testament. We spent some time brainstorming how we would like to encourage people to read through scripture in this coming year. More details to be provided soon.

Rob has been asked if he would be willing to be an overseer for a local congregation. We see this as a way Rob can continue to use his gift in mentoring and encouraged him to move forward with the potential opportunity.

We will be highlighting Rosedale International and the missions work that they are doing over the month of November. We want to encourage the church because of the generosity that we have already been able to support Rosedale International.

We closed our time with prayer and set our next meeting for November 18th.



A Message of Appreciation for our Pastors

The following message was shared with the pastors at our pastor appreciation potluck on October 26th.

“This Pastor Appreciation Month, we as a church family want to take a moment to express our deep gratitude for you.

We are thankful for your faithful teaching of God's word and for the Christ-like example you set in your daily life. Whether it's the warm way you greet people on Sunday mornings, the gracious hospitality you show by opening your home, or the way you consistently reflect the love of Christ; your actions speak volumes to us.

We are grateful for your steadfast leadership and your sincere love for this church. You've helped make this congregation feel like a true family. From hospital visits to quiet moments of counsel, you reflect the heart of Christ and you've shown us that you genuinely care.

In Jeremiah 3:15, it says *'And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.'*

Rob, Reuben, Corin, and Mike: thank you! Your dedication to God's people has made a lasting impact. Your example in ministry inspires us to stand firm in our own faith. We hope you know how much we thank God for you. Thank you for walking with us, praying for us, and leading us with grace and truth. We are truly blessed to have you as our pastors.”



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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