

The LCF Connection

January 2026



What Humans Need

A Message from the Pastor

BY REUBEN SAIRS

We have basic human needs that are deeper than even food, shelter and safety. These needs might be more important in the long run (apologies to Maslow, IYKYK). Without meeting these other needs we might begin to question the value of merely surviving. One writer suggested we have three such needs: **meaning, transcendence, and understanding.***

Meaning: we want to have purpose. We want to have lives that matter. In addition we want a purpose that is beyond us and makes our lives bigger than our daily grind. We want a meaning that is higher than we are, and makes us more than just machines.

We'll call that a need for **transcendence**. Human beings also seem to know that their safety, their growth, their ability to overcome problems and have a good life are tied to figuring things out and inventing solutions. That creates our need for **understanding**.

Those needs are holes inside of us, and we will fill them one way or the other. Through Christ Christians fulfil these needs.

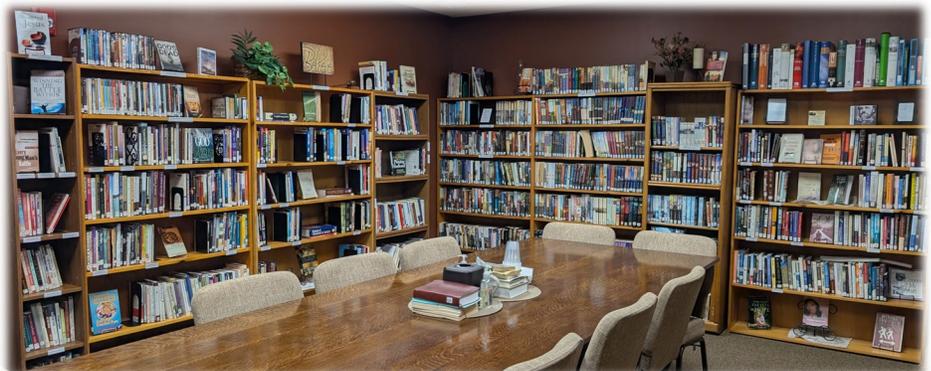
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LCF's Hidden Treasure

BY CASSIDY TROYER, SABRINA TROYER,
ADDA WENGERD, AND CALI WENGERD

LCF attenders, come and find new books that will encourage you! Cassidy and Sabrina Troyer and Adda and Cali Wengerd have recently started helping with the library duties. They are excited to help you find new titles recently added to the library as well as favorites that the library has to offer. "I want to have more people come to the library so that I can help them check out new books and get to know them better," says Cassidy Troyer.

There is a large variety of books, from fiction to commentaries and Bible studies, as well as a good selection of audio Bibles, CD's and DVD's. Adda, Cali, Cassidy and Sabrina are available on Sunday mornings to help. Come "check out" the library!



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255 US 42 NE London, OH 43140
(740) 490-2121 LCFweb.org

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

Snapshots of 2025



Easter Continental Breakfast



Sofia and Lucy's Baptism



Celebrate the Church Potluck



2025 High School Graduates



Games after the Outdoor Service



Weekly C4 Gatherings



2025 College Graduates



Gratitude Sunday - Men's Choir



Candice, Eliza, and Silas Mast
Sharing a Song



Children's Christmas Play

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New Year Compilation

BY JODI TRAVERSE

What was a highlight for you in 2025?

Audrey Maust - One of the highlights was seeing Grace Raber in church again.



Abraham and Naomi Ndungu in Plymouth

Abraham Ndungu - Visiting two places: Boston Tea Party Museum in Boston, Massachusetts, and Plymouth, also in Massachusetts, where Separatists made landfall via the Mayflower in December 1620.

Elisabeth Yoder - A highlight of 2025 was visiting St. Louis with my sisters and cousins.

Sandy Hauge - I feel like 2025 was a rough one for so many. God sure has tested us. I am looking forward to a slower, more intentional pace in 2026. It's a conscious decision to remove the physical and mental clutter from our lives and focus on what's important, God topping that list. And as every year, I hope for safety and good health.

Marcus Freed - The mission trip to

Brazil.

Karen Baker - A highlight from 2025 would be welcoming our second grandson into the world!

Mandy Hisey - My highlight of 2025 was definitely the family vacation to Florida that we just got back from. The kids were sick most of the time, but we made the best of just being together.

Rachel Troyer - We were able to take a trip to Oregon to visit Jeremy's sister. We flew this time, and that was a first for several of our girls. The look of wonder in their eyes as they looked down from the airplane window to the tiny world below them was such a special treat.

Dale Headings - The highlight of 2025 for me was Matthew giving his life to Jesus in July.



Hisey Family on Vacation

What are you looking forward to in 2026?

Austin Fox - Continuing to work on my cabin, a project that I started this past spring.



Reid Gates and His Fiancé Kayley

Maggie Gates - We are looking forward to Reid's wedding!

Alexa Miller - What I'm most excited for in 2026 is graduation! I will complete my bachelors program with a degree in Psychology in Human Relations sometime between November and December of 2026.

Marcus Freed - More mission trips in 2026.

John Shenk - The default highlight of every year for me is our Shenk family hangout in summer cottages in Virginia for a week.

Kelvin Snyder - A highlight of every year is the annual reunion of 5 (core group) Rosedale friends. It will be our 37th year. Along the way two spouses have been added. Also five kids have joined (and departed). I thank God for these friendships.

Elisabeth Yoder - My friend Petra from New Zealand will be visiting in August, and I am very excited!

(What Humans Need... continued from page 1)

Ephesians 3:16-19 describes this fulfillment:

“...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

To be fully filled with God doesn't leave space for competitors. Other sources are not needed. In prayer, in scripture, in calling our minds to the task, in cultivating an awareness of God's presence even in times of doubt or indifference, we nurture this relationship that fills us. We want the fullness of God. A Christian life that disconnects from that power of God is hollow at the core.

But it gets worse. We must fill the gaps in our soul, and other things are ready to do so. Christians of course struggle with vices, but sometimes it is an idol sneaking in. I'm concerned about Christians who start to find their identity in other allegiances whether they are social, political, intellectual, or vocational. I have made that mistake and don't want to repeat it. We seek identities, but our identity in Christ is the Christian's identity and we had better be careful about hyphenating it with other names.

We end up pasting God's name on our chosen yet lesser identity, but apparently it is what we really care about—the causes that are actually filling us. Clearly we can have a full life with diverse interests and satisfaction in different vocations. A life with many interests and aspirations is healthy, but sometimes it can get out of order. Our other interests try to do what they cannot do—take Jesus' space in our souls.

In times of personal worship and reflection, though, we can ask ourselves if a need in the soul is occupied by a lesser god, an idol. I sense something has been lost in our evangelical churches. I would like to see churches emphasize the practices of worship and Bible study that center us in Christ and cause us to reflect on God's presence in the “inner man” and woman. One suggestion is that we need space away from the glow of our phones, the racket on the radio, streaming messages, and the multitude of identities that lure us. How well do you do when you're alone with God and nobody else is talking? We need to regularly re-affirm our identity “in Christ alone,” as the song says.

*James E. Taylor, *Introducing Apologetics*.

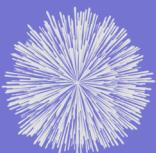
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LCF Family Christmas



Child Dedication



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.
Editors: Jodi Traverse, Jessica Gingerich, Doris Swartz