

The LCF Connection

September 2026

Ride for Missions 2026

By Mike Baker

This is my 5th year leading Ride for Missions (RFM), and it's by far my favorite year to date. I still remember the first year I led in 2022, which was a rough year full of rain, wind, big hills, and the shattering news of Erica passing. I questioned whether all this work was worth it. I am here today saying it is!

RFM is Rosedale International's best fundraiser, still going strong after 20 years—that is right, 20 years. This year we rode in Michigan, doing loops around Grand Rapids a whole week before Multiply, which was weird not to be connected or arrive close to the conference, but it was very relaxing for agency people to breathe in between.

As the coordinator/director of the ride, I see it through a whole different lens. What is the weather? Where is the closest bike store? How much food do we need, and what food? Did we make enough Gatorade? Who will break down? Well, you get the point. Your day starts at 6 am and finishes around 10 pm each day. It is five very long days, but it's so much fun and rewarding to watch the

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

Another is how we can bring a greater sense of reverence to our worship.

We enjoyed our time together and are so thankful to:

- LCF, for giving us the space to worship, pray, plan, fellowship, and connect.
- Our church family, for your prayers, support, and grace as we serve in leadership.
- Megan Wengerd, for her great meal organization.
- Jodi Traverse, for securing the location and handling logistics.
- Roger and Sharon Hazen, for traveling from Michigan to join and encourage us.

Elders Notes

By Brandon Wengerd

Saturday morning began with breakfast and a devotion on 1 Timothy 4:6-16 led by Rob. Afterward, we spent time praying together for our church family.

We reflected on several questions to guide our discussion throughout the day: What do you want LCF to be about? What is an area where you think LCF is doing well? What is an area that you think needs some focus and improvement?

Some of the things we came up with for what we want LCF to be about included the following: serving missionally, holding to scripture, exemplifying humility, centering on Jesus, embracing Anabaptist convictions, actively discipling others, worshiping reverently, and praying.

After lunch, we moved into what we think LCF is doing well. We are thankful for the solid preaching. It's exciting to see so many children and young people among us. We love the mixture of ages and having people from many different backgrounds. We strive to be a warm and welcoming place for guests and regular attenders. We are blessed to have such a variety of musicians and worship leaders.

Our final discussion of the retreat focused on areas where we think we need to grow or improve. One area we want to continue to consider is prayer in our service.



(Back) Jeremy, Mandy, Sharon, Vicki, Katie, Corin
(Front) Brandon, Megan, Roger, Reuben, Doris, Rob
(not pictured due to a sick child, Joel & Lara)

riders have fun and do hard things, and to watch the support crew care for them and provide for them. Both groups work hard in very different ways, and it all comes together to form a wonderful event that really feels, in many ways, like a family reunion.

Along the way, we have had riders come and go and even said goodbye to loved ones. This year was one of those tender goodbye years as Eileen Yoder, who helped start this ride, passed away in March after a very quick battle with cancer. It was special to see the different ways people rode to honor her, including her son and grandson, as well as things Jesus did that were so out of our control but touched the family and reminded us she was still with us. This year would have been Eileen and Harold's 50th wedding anniversary, and he had promised to ride 50 miles one day with her. Instead, he finished those 50 miles to honor her and celebrate what she loved: RFM.

Every year, I am inspired by Marcus, especially by how unashamedly he asks everyone he touches to support him in his ride. Although for the first time in many years, he did not raise the most, he had the most donors, having 80 more donors than 2nd place in that regard. That is a lot of touch points to share your passion and faith. Many people Marcus shares and talks with do not know Jesus or do not have a relationship with Him. We need to be more willing to trust and share with those around us, just as Marcus models.

Thank you, LCF family, for the cookies and other goodies you make every year. Thank you for the support you give RI via Marcus through donations and prayer. This year we raised over \$120,000 to help the general fund. If you ever want to join us for a ride, we would love to have you. Also, keep your eyes and ears out for something new next spring: RI's first-ever 10-40 run. Details coming soon!



Honoring the Sabbath: Pharisaical or Christ-Like?

A Message from the Pastor

By Corin Wenger

How do you find rest? Do you retreat inside yourself while the world around you seems crazy? Do you take little moments to pray or recite scripture? Do you just really like to sit with a cup of tea or coffee sometimes? What about a day of rest, full of life-giving things and no work? For myself, I'm still learning how to rest. It's one of those lessons that I don't think I learned in church growing up. I started to learn it in my college days, working hard on Fridays and Saturdays so I could rest on Sundays, but what I learned began to quickly fade away afterwards as I entered the workforce and seemed to trade what I knew about rest in exchange for laziness.

The gospels talk a lot about Jesus and the Sabbath. But what is the Sabbath? Simply put, the Sabbath is a day of rest. Look at Genesis 2:1-3: *"So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation."*

This isn't from the Law of Moses, or one of the judges or kings or prophets of Israel; this is from Creation. It's made that way. Why do we have six days of work and then a day of rest? Because God blessed the seventh day and made it Holy and made it for rest. Sabbath is a part of the goodness of creation. But if the Sabbath is so good, why did Jesus argue with the powers about it so much?

Let's look at a brief history of the Sabbath after Creation. The Law of Moses cemented the Sabbath in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11)—it wasn't just an example in Creation to follow, it was a rule that said you were not allowed to work, and if you broke it, the penalty was severe. But God's people didn't do a very good job of following the law. Later, after the nations of Judah and Israel had earned themselves punishment for ignoring the law and abandoning God, some of the religious leaders thought that if breaking the law was what had gotten them into the mess, then following the law would get them out of it. They developed a "fence around the Torah," an extra set of laws to make sure no one got close to accidentally or slightly breaking the law. So the law said one couldn't work on the Sabbath—the new rules established 39 categories of work, and each of those categories was further defined. While the written version (the Mishnah) wasn't solidified until after Jesus' day, in his time the oral tradition of these rules was already established and strong.

In Mark 2:23-28 we read about Jesus and His disciples walking through some grain fields and snacking on the heads of wheat as they go. To us, this sounds very casual, but the Pharisees are quick to point out the problem: they are technically harvesting grain, and harvesting is one of the categories of work. They're breaking the law! Jesus reminds them that technically David broke the law, too, but then seems to pivot and says something profound and fundamental for the Christian understanding of Sabbath: *"The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath."* In other words, the Pharisees had made so many rules about the Sabbath that what was supposed to be a day of rest had turned into a day of service. Service to what? Service to the very thing that was supposed to serve rest. It turns out that honoring the Day of Rest doesn't look like working to follow an absolute myriad of minute, rigid, and universal rules, but looks like... resting.

Getting to Know Wesley Miller and Megann Manske

By Jodi Traverse

If you've attended LCF for a few years, you should know at least a little bit about Wesley by now since he grew up here, but Megann is a relatively new face around here. We are excited to celebrate with both of them as they finalize their plans to get married the end of September! And we hope to continue to get to know them better as they set off on this new path together.



How did you meet?

We had both worked at a restaurant in Plain City when we started to get to know each other, and we got along well. By the time we started dating, we had been friends for two years!

What is something you like about the other person?

W: Her wonderful smile! Her bubbly personality makes her smile shine that much more!

M: He is so sweet, kind, and caring! His patience is something I admire, as well!

Who has been a big influence in your life and why?

W: My close friends and family have been a huge influence in my life, and chief among those now is Megann! She's encouraged me so much along our journey together, and she's helped me through so many hurdles in life.

M: My biggest influence in my life is Wesley! He showed me what love is supposed to be, and I'll be forever grateful for that!

What is a hobby or pastime you enjoy?

W: I enjoy video games as a pastime, but recently I've started to reintroduce time in the outdoors (as well as art making) into my life!

M: Singing, reading, and going on walks in nature!

What is something you love to talk about?

W: Video games, music, food, movies, and more... I just like talking in general!

M: I love talking about KPOP artists and music! In addition, I like to brag about Wesley from time to time.

What do you feel is something you are good at? Or at least enjoy doing?

W: I would like to think I'm pretty good with technology, and helping people better understand it! (even if there's parts of it I don't like either...)

M: I (and Wesley) think I am great with interacting with kids! I used to teach toddlers when I was younger, and went to school for it, too!

What is a goal you have for the next 5-10 years?

We would like to start a family together, and aim to further our careers to help with that process! Whatever form that takes within the next 5-10 years, we'll face it together!

What is something you do not regret doing with your life?

W: My commitment to follow God, and my commitment to support and love Megann!

M: Meeting the love of my life! I wouldn't have it any other way!

If you could vacation (or move) anywhere, where would you choose?

W: I'm looking to travel to Japan or New Zealand specifically! Both countries are beautiful in their own ways, and travel plans for those spots are long overdue!

M: I would love to move to Scotland! I've traveled to that country before, and I fell in love with its people and culture!

If money were not part of the equation, what would you want to do with your life?

W: I think I would enjoy picking up a career in music tech, for either producing or mixing music!

M: I would become a children's yoga teacher, or reading to kids!



Multiply Conference

By Jamison Miller

Multiply 2026 was full of life! It is a yearly conference held for the Rosedale Network of Churches (RNOC) conference. Multiply was held at Juniata College, and it lasted for three days. Interestingly, Juniata was the first college to be started by the Church of the Brethren, a fellow Anabaptist denomination. That was in 1876 however, and today it is considered a private liberal arts college. Nonetheless, it was a great time of fellowship and connecting with those who are in our conference. This is only my family's second time going, but I can honestly say that I've grown to appreciate the intentional time of togetherness. Seeing the different facets of our conference is quite meaningful. Being able to learn and grow from other congregations in RNOC is just one of the benefits of being in a conference. There is an accountability and a humility that can be appreciated when ideas slightly differ among people that you meet there. I encourage you all to take some time out of next year to come to Multiply 2027. It will be at Rosedale Bible College!

Council Update

By Russ Hauge

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

July income was \$17,390 which was more than our expenses of \$16,103 by +\$1,287. Our YTD income is \$140,576 compared to our YTD expenses of \$106,869, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$33,707.

The council discussed the potential of expanding the LCF scholarship program to other Christian colleges. The decision was made to continue our scholarship support for those attending Rosedale and hold off extending that offer to those that may be attending other Christian colleges at this time.

CPR and AED training for those that may be interested will be conducted on August 30th, after church, by the Summerford Fire Department.

Initial discussions were held related to the 2027 church budget with a goal to have that completed and reviewed by the congregation in December.

The remainder of the meeting continued to focus on maintenance projects both within the church and on the church grounds. We continue to work closely with the building and grounds team on topics such as handicap access to the playground, HVAC maintenance, carpet cleaning, and playground mulch, among other smaller budget items. In addition, the new climbing dome was installed during early July.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 8th, at 7 pm by video conference.

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But what is rest? What is work? Isn't that what the Pharisees were trying to define in the first place? A little later in Mark 3:1-6, Jesus is in the middle of another conflict over the Sabbath and He asks a couple questions; *"Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?"* He then heals a man. We shouldn't just take from this that doctors can still work on Sundays (they can), but maybe we should take from this that the Sabbath is a day for good and a day for life. We should step back from our good work and appreciate it, and take a breather. We should enjoy the fruits of our labor, the fruits of Creation, and the fruits of the Spirit. We should do things that honor and celebrate life: ours, our family's, and our neighbor's. And we should find ways to be refreshed by it, not stressed by it. (The author John Mark Comer has a lot to say about this topic, and I've been inspired by his work.) I fully believe that a life of following God should come with more rest than a life of not knowing Him.

As for work, if it feels like work, it's probably work. There's so much temptation to make more rules than that, but the more rules we make, the more we miss out on the rest being offered to us. Does the day of the week matter? No, but we should take one, just as God took one. People need rest. It's baked into Creation itself. Go ahead, build a fence around the Sabbath. Decide to take one each week. Be firm about setting aside your work. Set your phone down. Let your emails wait. Honoring the Sabbath can certainly become Pharisaical, but it can also be done in a Christ-like manner.

Hebrews 4:9-11 says, *"So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall."* Sabbath isn't about rules, it's about rest. Yes, I still have to change diapers. Yes, I should probably still make my kids brush their teeth. I'm still learning how to rest in my age of parenting. I'm still learning to rest in general. But as the writer of Hebrews says, let's do our best to enter that rest.



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We would love to hear your feedback. Email us at secretary@lcfweb.org.

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