The LCF Connection

November 2026

Another World

By Vicki Sairs

Reuben took me to the Grand Canyon for my birthday this summer. We parked in the area closest to the canyon and bolted across the empty lot to the path leading up to the rim.

I got there first.

Nobody else was there. Even as I type this, I catch my breath. I stood and stared and could not contain my thoughts or feelings because how could this be real? This beautiful canyon, these cliffs and gorges and standing rocks—I could see no end to it. Not across, not down, not to either side. Vast and lovely. Like God.

A young man came up on my left, about ten feet away. Brazilian, perhaps? Wearing a soccer jersey for the World Cup, looking pretty hip. He headed straight to the railing, stopped, caught his breath (like me!) and took a half-step back. Then he turned to his friend, who had come up behind him, and said in Portuguese, “We are in another world.”

And I thought, yes.

Our summer trip was complicated but beautiful. We’d planned to drive cross-country to celebrate Reuben’s retirement at the end of May, avoiding interstates, stopping along the way to see what caught our fancy, then spending several weeks with Reuben’s mother in Indio, California, before heading back home via Salmon, Idaho, where our son Isaac lives with his wife Becky.

It was a fine plan, but it took a difficult detour when Mom died in April. Our journey was altered by loss and sadness and grief we couldn’t process because we had so many

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At the Grand Canyon (above) and the London Bridge (below)

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More Than a Mountain: A Journey of Faith and Brotherhood

By Jeremy Hisey

On October 16, a group of six guys including Jeremy Troyer, Joel Swain, Zach Freer, Justin Newswanger, Gideon Eichorn, and myself set out for a weekend journey on the Appalachian trails. Our goal for the weekend was to hike Virginia’s Triple Crown Loop, spend some time as men getting to know each other better and to get away from the busyness of life for a reset.

The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather and some amazing views. There were great conversations during our hikes and especially in the evenings around the campfires. Sunday morning, Zach led us in communion around a fire, and we stopped for a break at 10:15 to join in praying for Tim and Pam Shay.

Just like in life, there were some ups and downs throughout the weekend. We had to adjust the plan because of some struggles I had on Friday. God used it as an opportunity to demonstrate what it looks like when His people live out their calling as the body of Christ.

There were many highlights to the weekend: the views, the peace of enjoying God’s incredible creation, the satisfaction of doing something that pushed us and especially the time bonding as men. It was special to share with one another our burdens, both those we encountered over the weekend and the ones from our daily lives.

When I reflect on the weekend, there are a multitude of verses I could share that would relate well. But the verse that comes to mind most to me is Romans 8:18, *“I consider that*

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Council Update

By Russ Hauge

We met on October 27th, and most of that meeting was spent working on the 2027 budget process. Following are some of the updates that have taken place since our September meeting.

September income was $20,570 which was more than our expenses of 11,700 by 8,800. Our YTD income is $191,330 compared to our YTD expenses of $135,225, which leaves a YTD balance of +$56,105.

As stated in the September minutes, Sarah sent emails to all group leaders during September asking for feedback on anticipated financial needs as we start work on the 2027 church budget. Our goal is to have the budget completed and reviewed by the congregation during December 2026.

There was a congregational affirmation vote for the next council member on Sunday, October 18th. Keith Scheffel was unanimously approved to be the next member of the LCF Council.

A huge thank-you to Phil Hostetler and those working with him on the following accomplishments within the church and on the church grounds over the past month:

- the improved access to the playground has been completed that will allow easy stroller and wheelchair access
- whole church carpet cleaning was completed during October
- a wireless keypad entry system has been installed that will allow easier access for those requiring church access that may not have access to a key, among other smaller maintenance items that were also completed.

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our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

The hike was difficult, we were all feeling some sort of pain by the end of the weekend whether it was our feet, knees, hips, shoulders, shins, or joints but when we stood atop that mountain at McAfee Knob, suddenly the pain didn't matter in the presence of God's beautiful creation. And the feeling I had when we finished the hike Sunday afternoon was one of the most amazing senses of accomplishment I've ever had. None of it would have been possible without the grace of our Heavenly Father.



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things to do: executing the will, making decisions about the house, navigating Mom's finances. Little time to cry.

We set off for Indio and were heartened by the presence of Indian Dhaba-style restaurants from Ohio all the way to West Texas. Strengthened by chai (the Indian kind, not mellow Starbucks fare) and samosas, we drove on to Albuquerque, where we ate green and red chiles in Old Town, saw artwork and dances at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, and were encouraged by the people's resilience and clear-eyed sense of purpose ("We're still here!"). We met a high school friend of Reuben's and stayed in a casita in the countryside, where roosters and goats woke us in the morning.

On to the Grand Canyon, and Lake Havasu City, where we walked across the (real) London Bridge. And we kept driving through the desert to Mom's house, which felt very empty, even with her two dogs.

Too sad. Ask me later. But God was close; Reuben found a lawyer who turned out to be a pastor, and he connected us with our wonderful realtor, Amy, also a believer. If we canonized saints, Amy would be the patron saint of real estate. She was kind, knowledgeable, funny, and a total California girl. Others stepped up and helped us carry the weight (Mom's old friend Emily, Reuben's cousin Tom and his wife Christine, Ramón, who took care of Mom's pool, and Marco, the gardener).

Our whole trip was sun-baked; the heat was like our grief and fatigue—unavoidable. But on we went, and at Zion National Park, we found rest under the shade of an ancient cottonwood tree. Mountains and cliffs stood all around us, strong coffee and the world's best hummus revived us, children ran about, making us laugh. It was another world, gentler than the Grand Canyon, but restorative too.

We came home through Idaho, where our son took us rafting on the Teton River, then led us through Grand Teton National Park and straight into Yellowstone. More healing. Too much beauty to describe, but a moose standing in the river with her two calves comes to mind, along with the Grand Prismatic Spring and its hot teal waters and rising mists. We were delighted to attend Tiny Salmon's Fourth of July parade (no marching bands, but many horses). The best part was watching young parents hold their babies up to greet Isaac, who knew them all because he had delivered them!

On the way home: Mt. Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and the Badlands. At the first two, we learned things that made us love our country and things that pained us deeply. And in the Badlands, we found ourselves once again in another world. Space to breathe. Park employees working on fossils and the geological details and beauty of time passing, sharing it with all of us.

These other worlds are all right here in this one. I see this when I'm still and know God is close.

Getting to Know the Schrock Family

By Jodi Traverse

You may have seen or gotten to know Lynford & Darlene as they have been at LCF a fair amount over the past few years. They are connected with and have children at several other area churches but also enjoy being at LCF whenever they have the opportunity to do so. We welcome them anytime they are able to be here and wanted to help you learn to know them a little better.

Where are you from?
We live in Unionville Center. Lynford grew up in Illinois, and Darlene grew up in Kansas. Rosedale Bible College brought Lynford to Ohio thirty-three years ago, and he has been employed there ever since. He brought Darlene to Ohio twenty-five years ago when we got married.

How did you meet?
Although we lived 1 ½ hours apart for about a year and a half in northwest Ontario and were sometimes at the same place, we don't remember each other from then. About ten years later a mutual friend played matchmaker, and we're forever grateful!

What is something you like about the other person?
Darlene: Lynford is excellent at asking good questions to get people talking, and is not afraid to ask about things that really matter.

Lynford: Darlene is very smart, loves to read, and loves to interact with people. There is no one else I would rather spend time with than her. We share so many things together.



How many children do you have?
We have five children. Jalisa, 24, is married to Hunter Tice; Jonathan is 22 and a student at OSU; David, 19, is at Columbus State; Tiana is 17, and Javon, 15.

Do you have any pets?
Crazy Daisy is a beautiful Golden Retriever we'd be happy to sell to someone who has time and desire to fill more of her craving for attention. Dirkie and Doogie are our big kittens, and Peaches and Cream are our calico babies.

Tell us about your job/career and why you are in that field.
Lynford: I'm very detail oriented by nature and I generally like numbers. Accounting seemed like a very practical job choice with lots of opportunities almost anywhere. I just passed the 40-year mark since becoming a CPA. I also like to work with my hands and engineering could have also been a great career choice for me.

Darlene: I got a degree in Social Work because I love working with people and was drawn to the variety of opportunities in that field. However, although I haven't worked for pay as a social worker since I'm married, a lot of what has occupied my time since is still people-related: being a stay-at-home mom, part-time teacher, mentoring, directing a kids' club with Lynford, etc.

What is a hobby or pastime you enjoy?
Darlene: I taught Spanish for eight years and thoroughly enjoyed it. This year I'm enjoying knowing that Kerry Molina took my place!

Tiana: volleyball and junk journaling

What do you feel is something you are good at? Or at least enjoy doing?
Lynford: I think I'm pretty good at fixing things myself in the most cost-effective manner. I would much prefer having things that don't need to be fixed, but when something does break, it is kind of fun to figure out how it can be fixed with things I already have.

What is something you do not regret doing with your life?
Darlene: getting married at 35. Okay, actually, it would have been nice to have had more time together before having kids and to parent when we were a little younger, but I am so grateful for all the many and varied experiences and relationships I got to enjoy before marriage, and that I still get the privilege of doing the marriage and family thing as well!

Lessons from the Life of Daniel

By Sarah Eichorn

This summer I enjoyed studying the book of Daniel and discovered valuable lessons along the way. The following are some attributes from Daniel's life in particular that resonated with me.

Firmly Rooted
In Chapter 1, Daniel's life takes a dramatic turn when he is plucked from his royal family and taken captive in Babylon. Even after three years of training before serving the king, verse 8 reveals Daniel's deep-rooted faith in Christ and his resolve to stand firm under pressure when he respectfully requests not to partake of the king's food and wine.

Unite in Prayer and Praise the Lord
Chapter 2 describes Nebuchadnezzar making an unreasonable demand, ordering the execution of all wise men, including Daniel and his friends, after his troubling dream goes uninterpreted. In the face of his imminent death, Daniel appears calm as he approaches the king to request additional time for interpreting the dream. He turns to his anchored faith in Christ, sharing the situation with his three friends and asking them to join him in prayer. Once their prayer is answered, Daniel immediately offers praise and gratitude in verses 20-23.

Forgive
In Chapter 4, Daniel is called upon to interpret another dream of Nebuchadnezzar's, which foretells of the king's humbling until he acknowledges God as his personal Lord and Savior. Daniel's response in verse 19 reveals that he harbors no animosity toward the king for conquering his homeland and shows a beautiful picture of forgiveness.

Speak the Truth
Chapter 5 describes Daniel again courageously interpreting a dream and revealing the consequences of King Belshazzar's wicked actions, earning the king's respect for his honesty, as noted in verse 29.

Bold Faith
Chapter 6 reveals jealousy directed at Daniel for his unwavering love for the Lord and his upright character. Even at over 80 years old, Daniel boldly prays to God, fully aware of the king's edict and the likelihood of him being thrown into the lion's den. Ultimately the lion's mouths are shut, and Daniel's life is spared while the malicious men and their families face are devoured, prompting the king to decree that all must revere the one true God. Through Daniel's faithfulness, the power and majesty of the Lord were witnessed by many.

Humble and Fervent Prayer
In Chapter 9, as the 70 years of captivity were drawing to a close, Daniel seeks the Lord in prayer. His humility shines through in verses 5 and 6, where he, a noble man, includes himself in confessing the sins of the people. Daniel's passionate and fervent prayer is inspiring to me, particularly in verse 18, where he pleads for mercy for his people—not based on their righteous acts, but out of God's abundant compassion.

Assurance of Faithfulness
Finally, verse 13 in chapter 12 reassures Daniel that his faithfulness will be rewarded, promising that at the end of his journey, he will inherit his portion in God's eternal kingdom.

I am encouraged by the life of Daniel who, like me, was human and imperfect, yet he strived to reflect Godly character no matter what trials came his way, and thousands of years later, his Christlike character is still speaking today. Through his response to experiences, I am reminded to do the following:

- Be firmly rooted in Christ so I am unshakable in trials
- Seek the Lord always
- Ask fellow sojourners to join in prayer and return an equal amount of praise over an answered prayer
- Hold no grudges and practice forgiveness
- Speak the truth always
- Practice bold faith that preaches to many
- Be humble and fervent in prayer
- Remain faithful to the end

By striving to live these qualities, we too can shine brightly and, in doing so, perhaps lead many towards righteousness, and ultimately become an eternal star as described in Daniel 12:3.

Elders Notes

By Brandon Wengerd

The elders gathered together on October 21st at Rob and Doris's home. We opened our time with prayer. Then Reuben led a devotion on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. We reflected on elements within the passage that apply to elders and how well we do them or may struggle with them. Next, we spent time with updates and prayer for the church body and giving thanks for the ways God is working.

We discussed a variety of upcoming events that include: a women's soup supper swap, the president of RI coming to share at LCF on Sunday morning, an evening worship service, a preaching class, LCF 101, Gratitude Sunday, MCBDD Christmas Cabaret, and LCF children's Christmas program.

We continue to evaluate where we are at in leading the church and in what ways we can prepare for the future.

We are thankful for the variety of people that contribute to being a part of the worship service on any given Sunday.

We closed our time with prayer. Our next elders' meeting will happen on November 17. If you have any thoughts, comments, or concerns, please share with any of us on the elder team.



The LCF Connection

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