

**MISSION**

*Freedom. Fullness. Family. You?*

**ENDS STATEMENT (We win if we can say…)**

*In Christ, the LCA family is so free and so full that Lake Country itself*

*experiences greater order, beauty, and abundance.*

**BOARD UPDATE**

***Sandy’s Sabbatical.***In January, the Board approved Sandy’s request for a sabbatical leave from October to December 2019 (3 months). We are making preparations for LCA’s first sabbatical season and are looking forward to what God will do in the Coleros and in the LCA family during that time. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare.

***Education.*** The Board completed its study of a book on church leadership: [*Unfinished Business: Returning the Ministry to the People of God*](https://www.amazon.ca/Unfinished-Business-Returning-Ministry-People/dp/0310246199) by Greg Ogden. This book opened up discussion whether the church is to be understood as an institution or an organism, and it looks into how much local churches have become overly dependent on Lead Pastors. Ogden suggests churches need to become less institutional and less dependent on the Lead Pastor. LCA Elders seem up for exploring “church as organism” and less pastor-dependant, which will require the LCA pastors to focus on equipping the saints for ministry and for members to be actively serving according to their gifts, calling, and authority in Christ. This is a different view of church leadership and is very likely unfamiliar to some in our church.

***Annual Finance Meeting (AFM).*** The Board held the AFM February 24th in the sanctuary, preceded by a potluck. The 2018 budget was reviewed, the 2019 proposed budget was presented and accepted by the membership, and Michael Blackman presented a rationale for and update on the new (but not yet adopted) bylaws. Names of candidates for The Nominating Committee, which finds and presents candidates for eldership, were collected. The 2019/2020 Board of Elders will be voted in / affirmed at the Annual Ministry Meeting (AMM).

***Financial Oversight.*** For personal reasons, Bonnie Derksen stepped down from the roles of Treasurer and Elder. Dori Hewitson agreed to step into the role of Treasurer for the remainder of the ministry year. To assist the staff and the Treasurer, the Board formed the Finance Committee. This committee is comprised of Dori Hewitson (Chair), Michael Blackman, Sam Cameron, Kevin Robinson, and Aaron Caleb and will help to vet financial statements and work towards improving budget formation and financial reporting.

***Bylaws.*** It was mentioned at the AFM that the Board might call a Special Meeting of the Members in April in order to vote upon the new bylaws. It has since been determined by the Policy and Bylaw Committee (comprised of Michael Blackman, Sandy Colero, and Aaron Caleb) that we need more time to edit and complete the new bylaws. In view of this, the Board has decided to vote to accept the new bylaws at the AMM.

***Annual Ministry Meeting****.* The AMM will occur Sunday, June 2nd following the service. This is an important time of membership contribution and celebration of what God has done and is doing in our midst. The Elders hope all members will plan to be there!

**MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

***Kids’ Day Camp (KDC).*** KDC was nothing short of a God-inspired, impactful, and joy-filled experience for campers and personnel alike. We had about 65 people helping out both before and during camp (including some from Creekside), and about 100 campers in attendance. Many seeds were planted throughout the week--and a number were watered as well! It would take many pages to record all the wonderful stories related to this camp; if you haven’t already, we encourage you to listen to the testimonies found [here](https://www.lakecountrychurch.com/media/2019-03-31-kid-s-day-camp-celebration-and-god-sightings), and/or track down and chat with one of the many saints who made this camp possible. LCA, thank you for your prayers and your service in bringing God’s Kingdom to Lake Country. You’ve made a difference--and God gets the glory!

***Discovery and Development Sessions.*** On Thursday nights from January 24th to March 7th, Sandy spearheaded a time of discovery through the [APEST](https://5qcentral.com) (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher) and spiritual gifts tests, followed by development sessions in which participants explored possibilities of what God might have in store for LCA and for the community of Lake Country. The number one take away from this is that God is calling us to focus on prayer. A prayer training workshop open to all is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th following the worship service.

***Youth.*** Youth ministry is alive and well in Lake Country, with a weekly Tuesday drop-in from 3:30p-6:30p called Simple Space (which includes dinner) followed by an evening youth group which is running in partnership with Young Life and Creekside. RUSH--the largest annual event for youth in the area--occurred February 22nd-24th and was, by all accounts, an incredible, challenging, and uplifting time for the 38 teens from Lake Country who attended. Pray as we continue to discern the shape of youth ministry for years to come...(maybe a short-term missions trip to Mexico City??!!).

***Young Adults.*** We are actively exploring ways to foster community among our young adults, some who have been a part of our church for a while and others who are newer. Sandy and Brita are hosting a Young Adult Shabbat dinner on Friday, May 3rd where Steve and Heidi Maskell will be exploring some seeJesus material (see below).

**INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

The Hieberts are establishing well in Mexico City as they settle in and seek the Lord for next steps. If you’d like to learn more about the Hieberts, please visit our [website](https://www.lakecountrychurch.com/news/newsletter-from-the-hieberts) or sign up for [the Hieberts’ newsletter](http://thehiebertfamily.com). They really appreciate our prayers in these early stages, so let’s pray that God continues to reveal His will to them.

While Steve and Heidi Maskell have settled back into life in the Okanagan, their ministry has taken them to many places around BC and elsewhere as they share their experiences with Samuel House and as they develop their calling to bring people closer to Jesus through the [seeJesus](https://www.seejesus.net) initiative. Steve and Heidi join us weekly at our Tuesday morning staff meetings and it has been great to see them reconnecting with their children, LCA, and Lake Country friends. And congratulations on the new daughter-in-law!

Kendra Peter has had a powerfully transformative time in her Discipleship Training School at the YWAM base in Lausanne, Switzerland (read more about this [here](https://www.lakecountrychurch.com/news/kendra-peter-ywam-update)). She is now on her outreach project in North Africa--please continue to pray for her!

**FACILITIES**

***Parking Lot.*** We anticipate that the resurfacing and line painting will occur in the next month or two.

**STAFF**

***John Canby.***We were sad to see John (our Sanctuary Coordinator) and his family end their chapter with us in March. John has moved on to full-time work as a Corrections Officer closer to their home in Kaleden as they anticipated the birth of their second child. Rosalie, a beautiful baby girl, has now arrived and they are doing really well. God bless you, Canbys!

**NEW BEGINNINGS**

***Membership.*** Seven folks have become members and three have reinstated their membership, for a total of 102 members on the roster. New: Sam & Rebecca Cameron, Rob & Debra Hooykaas, Donna Groth & Elaine Long and Blossom Turner. Reinstated: Terry French, Ellen Terry & Mike Taylor

***Births.*** We celebrated with Josiah and Alicia Black as they welcomed their first child, Peyton Black into the world on February 26th.

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT** ( Year To Date - as of April 11th)

GIVING

Budget: $110,246

Actual: $102,775

Difference: ($ 7,471)

SPENDING

Budget: $107,436

Actual: $110,149

Difference: ($ 2,713)

ACTUALS

Giving: $102,775

Spending: $110,149

Difference: ($ 7,374)

**NEEDS**

***Kids’ Day Camp.*** While it was wonderful to have so many people willing to lend a hand with KDC, and even though a few stepped into leadership roles, more leaders are needed if we are to continue to offer this camp in healthy, sustainable ways. Over the next few months, Aaron would like to assemble a core leadership team that would meet regularly throughout the year in order to grow together as disciples of Christ, pray for families and Lake Country, and plan and prepare for camp. A big part of discipleship is about leadership development, so we are encouraging folks to step up and be challenged in this way. Please talk to Aaron for more details.

***Futureland Kids.*** We’ve lost some teachers and leaders in this area and would therefore appreciate it if more folks could take up this opportunity to serve (ages 0-12). We’re looking for a one year commitment (Sep-Jun) , about one Sunday a month. You can talk to Aaron or specifically to Flo Kronstal (Nursery, ages 0-2) or Dori Hewitson (Class 1, ages 2-3).

***Media + Sound.*** We’re always on the lookout to add more people to these rosters (We have a solid crew that we are looking to add to so that the workload is spread out). We will provide patient, grace-filled training to all who are willing to serve in these areas, so no experience is needed! Contact Sue or Aaron for more details.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

***Emotionally Healthy Relationships (EHR).*** As you may recall, EHS was offered in the fall of last year and focused on developing one’s relationship with Jesus. [EHR](https://youtu.be/z0s6twbhin4?list=PLzEyTQ-t6M0UUwCTOydRZefd56QaPMnSW) is the next step in the process towards emotional health and spiritual maturity, as it provides tools for people to improve the quality of their relationships with those around them. We have begun a pilot version of this course with a few couples and intend to offer this to the whole LCA family this fall. Keep your fall Thursday evenings free and stay tuned for more details!

***Lake Country Playoffs (LCP).*** After some discussion, we’re thinking that this community-based event may have greater local draw and more impact if we hold it mid-September. LCP is an all-ages community engagement event that is about play and building connections. We hope you will prioritize this event in September and plan to invite your neighbours. Last year, Winfield took the Cup; this year, which ward will win?...

In Christ and for His glory,

Aaron Caleb on behalf of the LCA Staff