



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*
Shalom NEWS

JANUARY–MARCH 2023

GROW

Isaiah 55:12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;



SAVE THE DATE



MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS

LMC Celebration of Church Life

March 31 – April 1, 2023

Join others from across LMC for this missional conference that includes worship, equipping and fellowship as we seek to be
"A Holy Spirit-led movement to make disciples of Jesus"

Location: Petra Church, 565 Airport Road, New Holland PA 17557

Volunteers are needed! Opportunities to serve at CCL include children and youth ministry, food services, and on the prayer team. Please get in touch with Marcia Mylin at mmylin@lmcchurches.org or 717-293-5246 ext. 114.

Registration opens January 2023 at LMCchurches.org



January–March 2023

Issue 1 / Volume 43

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God Brings Growth

A Note from the Shalom News Editors

BY SHERRI MARTIN AND SANDRA GRANTHON-ROMAN

Welcome to the January 2023 “Special Edition” of *Shalom News*! The following pages are designed to show how God is expanding and equipping LMC to participate in the global story of redemption as a Spirit-led movement. As the Bishop Elders Team has been praying into a section of Isaiah 55, the entire chapter offers a beautiful poetic vision of restoration from exile for the nation of Israel. Everyone is invited to return to the Lord and consider His thoughts.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:9-11 (ESV)

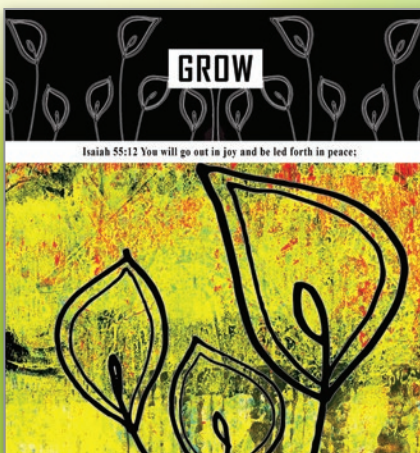
By its true nature, rain and snow falling from heaven cannot help but result in agricultural abundance, supplying the earth with food. We breathe deeply of the refreshing ‘after the rain’ scent. We see the green of the lush landscape. We taste the kneaded bread on our tongues, filling our mouths and stomachs. So God’s word goes forth into the world for eternal purposes that do not fail. Impactful. Refreshing. Abundant. Life.

The connections between Isaiah 55 and the Gospel reading Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23 are unmistakable. The texts are about God’s word and use agricultural imagery, including the

language of “sower” and “seed.” Unlike Isaiah’s vision, where God’s word goes forth unchallenged and returns without void, Jesus’s parable presents multiple scenes where the action of sowing does not achieve its desired end. This difference is a notable reality that should be faced without rose-colored glasses. The hardships and obstacles are substantial in our communities and world today. We only need to lift our heads and look around to see food insecurity, drought, economic hardships, sickness, isolation due to COVID-19, racism, war, injustices, and political divide, to name a few.

Nevertheless, growth happens in unexpected places as God’s word goes forth, and the seed falls on fertile ground. Juniper and myrtle trees choke out briars and thorns. In the damp soil of individual souls, germination in full bloom produces the fruit of the Spirit that multiplies, mobilizes, and makes disciples of Jesus. Refreshing. Abundant. Eternal. Life.

LMC is learning corporately to follow Jesus as Lord. We pray for Holy Spirit movement that goes out with joy and leads forth in peace—hoping that the mountains and hills will burst into song and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Go ahead. Turn the page. Taste and see the good things the Lord has done. ■



FRONT COVER ARTWORK BY SANDRA GRANTHON-ROMAN TITLED “GROW.”

The artwork is inspired by the LMC mission statement to be a Spirit-led movement to make disciples of Jesus, mobilize every member as a missionary, and multiply faith communities locally and beyond!

The artwork illustrates the importance that God places on the creation of family (the main three leaves represent the mother, father, and child oneness). The composition directs our eyes upward and outward (creating a visual “cross” movement). God’s Holy Spirit, omnipresent in abstract form, transforms us to multiply and share the joy of creation as ordained by our Father God. God’s people, the church, sent out in joy to share the good news, led forth in peace.

A Spirit-led movement of mobilizing every member as a missionary

BY THE LMC BISHOP ELDERS TEAM

Given Keith Weaver's plans to retire on October 1, 2022, LMC has been in a season of discernment related to LMC's governing structures. A supporting factor in this liminal season is our shared aspiration to become a Spirit-led movement, which suggests less institutional control and more nimble, organic ways of making decisions that offer space for LMC to become a disciple-making movement.

As part of this discernment, on April 8, 2022, the Conference Executive Council affirmed a team of spiritual elders who will provide executive leadership to continue the ministries of LMC and, at the same time, lead LMC in this season of change and transformation by:

- ▶ Helping LMC learn new ways of thinking and behaving as a Spirit-led movement multiplying disciples, missionaries, and faith communities.
- ▶ Ensuring that effective leadership is in place for LMC's governing board (CEC), the Bishops' Council, and the LMC staff team.
- ▶ Facilitating further discernment about new governing structures that best support a Spirit-led movement of multiplication going forward.

We have a shared sense that the Holy Spirit is inviting us to become a movement. Our God is always on mission and he has a church that must share that mission.

The Bishop Elders Team is in a season of discerning who is responsible for what tasks but we are united in our desire to live fully into our APEST functions, honoring and serving one another and the whole of LMC. In a recent meeting with the Board of Bishops, we shared a rough draft of the various tasks and responsibilities and how they are being divided.

A recent word we have been praying into comes from Isaiah 55:11-13:

"so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy

and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever." ■

A SNAPSHOT OF MISSIONAL MOVEMENT



257+ Congregations

16 new congregations joined in
the last 2 years

12 Languages

used in worship at LMC congregations

54% English language congregations

46% other worship language congregations



29,000+ People

9 LMC staff

4 Bishop Elders

28 Bishops

450+ Active Credentialed
Leaders

Un movimiento guiado por el Espíritu para movilizar a cada miembro como misionero

POR EL EQUIPO DE OBISPOS ANCIANOS

Dados los planes de Keith Weaver de jubilarse el 1 de Octubre de 2022, LMC ha estado en una temporada de discernimiento relacionada con las estructuras de gobierno de LMC. Un factor de apoyo en esta temporada de transición es nuestra aspiración compartida de convertirnos en un movimiento dirigido por el Espíritu, lo que sugiere menos control institucional y formas más ágiles y orgánicas de tomar decisiones que ofrecen espacio para que LMC se convierta en un movimiento de formación de discípulos.

Como parte de este discernimiento, el 8 de Abril de 2022, el Consejo Ejecutivo de la Conferencia (CEC) afirmó un equipo de ancianos espirituales que brindarán liderazgo ejecutivo para continuar los ministerios de LMC y, al mismo tiempo, guiar a LMC en esta temporada de cambio y transformación al:

- ▶ Ayudando a LMC a aprender nuevas formas de pensar y comportarse como un movimiento dirigido por el Espíritu que multiplica discípulos, misioneros y comunidades de fe.
- ▶ Asegurar que exista un liderazgo efectivo para la junta directiva de LMC (CEC), el Consejo de Obispos y el equipo de personal de LMC.
- ▶ Facilitar un mayor discernimiento sobre las nuevas estructuras de gobierno que mejor apoyan un movimiento de multiplicación dirigido por el Espíritu, con vistas en el futuro.

Compartimos la sensación de que el Espíritu Santo nos está invitando a convertirnos en un movimiento. Nuestro Dios siempre está en misión y tiene una iglesia que debe compartir esa misión.

El Equipo de Obispos Ancianos está en una temporada de discernir quién es responsable de qué tareas, pero estamos unidos en nuestro deseo de vivir plenamente nuestras funciones APEPM (APEST en inglés), honrándonos y sirviéndonos unos a otros y a todo LMC. En una reunión reciente con la Junta de Obispos, compartimos un borrador de las diversas tareas y responsabilidades y cómo se dividen.

Una palabra reciente por la que hemos estado orando proviene de Isaías 55:11-13:

“así será mi palabra que sale de mi boca; no volverá a mí vacía, sino que hará lo que yo quiero, y será prosperada en aquello para que la envié. Porque con alegría saldréis, y con paz seréis vueltos; los montes y los collados levantarán canción delante de vosotros, y todos los árboles del campo darán palmadas de aplauso. En lugar de la zarza crecerá ciprés, y en lugar de la ortiga crecerá arrayán; y será a Jehová por nombre, por señal eterna que nunca será raída.” ■



L. Keith Weaver symbolically transfers LMC leadership to the Bishop Elders Team by handing them a shepherd's staff at the Fall Leadership Assembly. Photo by Chris Landes.

Geographic Reach

16 states with LMC congregations

5 countries outside the USA with LMC congregations

20 resource partner organizations



Finances

\$984,507 operating budget in 2021

Education / Training

37 STEP students in 3 cohorts

10 STEP graduates in 2022

11 SEED students

4 Education Scholarship programs

30 Education Grants (\$26,040)



CENTRAL PENN DISTRICT

Bishop Alan Kauffman

Six congregations in Davidsville, Belleville, Hollsopple, Martinsburg, Mifflintown, and Thompsontown, Pennsylvania.

Love God, Love Neighbor



CONCILIO IGLESIAS EVANGÉLICAS SHALOM (CIES) DISTRICT

Supervisor Samuel López, Supervisor Adalberto Santiago, Supervisor Efrain Zayas

Twenty-three congregations in New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania; ten congregations in Mexico; seven congregations in Nicaragua; one congregation in Costa Rica; one congregation in Guatemala; one congregation in Republica Dominicana; one congregation in Uruguay; and eight congregations in Cuba.

Jesus is our Savior and Lord, "as for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." — Acts 4:20



CONESTOGA RIVER DISTRICT

Bishop Rodney Martin, Bishop Joseph Miller

Twelve congregations in Bird-in-Hand, Lancaster, Leola, Litzitz, and Mountville, Pennsylvania.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. — 1 Peter 2:9-10





EVANGELICAL GARIFUNA MISSION

Bishop Omar Guzman

Seventeen congregations and church plants throughout the USA including Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, New York; Miami, Florida; Boston, Massachusetts; Wilmington, North Carolina; and Houston, Texas.

As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled. — Mark 5:18-20

FRANKLIN DISTRICT

Bishop J. Allen Lehman

Fifteen congregations in Boonsboro, Bowie, Chambersburg, Greencastle, Hagerstown, Hyattsville, McConnellsburg, Mercersburg, Upper Marlboro, Warfordsburg, Westminster, and Willow Hill, Pennsylvania.

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! — Romans 5:10



GREAT LAKES EAST DISTRICT

Bishop John Miller

Seven congregations in Akron, Aurora, Holmesville, Millersburg, North Lima, OH; Alden, New York; and Corry, Pennsylvania.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. — Matthew 25:35-36



GREAT LAKES WEST DISTRICT

Bishop John Nissley

Eight congregations in Berne, Elkhart, Goshen, Leo, Middlebury, Indiana; Arthur, Morton, Illinois; and Pigeon, Michigan.

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ. — Colossians 2:2



GROFFDALE DISTRICT

Bishop Lloyd Hoover

Six congregations in East Earl, Ephrata, Leola, New Holland, Palo Alto, and Talmage, Pennsylvania.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age. — Matthew 28:19-20



LANCHESTER, NEW DANVILLE & WILLOW STREET-STRASBURG DISTRICTS

Bishop Robert Brody, Bishop Stephen Weaver

Fourteen centers of effort ranging from 300-year-old congregations to house churches and church plants in Atglen, Christiana, Coatesville, Conestoga, Gap, Kinzers, Lancaster, New Providence, Parkesburg, Quarryville, Strasburg, and Willow Street, Pennsylvania.

This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. — John 17:3



LANDISVILLE-MANOR DISTRICT

Bishop Keith Blank

Eleven congregations in East Petersburg, Landisville, Lancaster, Marietta, Millersville, Mountville, and Washington Boro, Pennsylvania.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. — Colossians 3:14-17



LEBANON & MANHEIM DISTRICTS

Bishop David Musser

Thirteen congregations in Bethel, Lebanon, Manheim, Pine Grove, and Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." — Mark 16:15





MARTINDALE DISTRICT

Bishop Daryl L Weaver

Five congregations in Ephrata, Honey Brook, Martindale, Reading, and Reamstown, Pennsylvania.

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

— II Timothy 2:2



NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT

Bishop Moises Angustia, Bishop Nicolas Angustia, Bishop Hyacinth Stevens

Fourteen congregations in Bronx, Brooklyn, Flushing, Manhattan, New York, Queens, and Ridgewood New York; one congregation in New Haven, Connecticut; and twenty-five congregations in the Dominican Republic

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

— Acts 2:43-47



NORTH PENN DISTRICT

Bishop Dale Rintelman, Bishop Timothy Darling (Agape Fellowship)

Four congregations in Jersey Shore, Milton, Trout Run, and Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. — Jude 22-23



PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT

Bishop Alvin Motley, Bishop Tuyen Nguyen

Eleven congregations in Brookhaven, Chester, Elkins Park, Philadelphia, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania; Honolulu, Pearl City, Hawaii; and Norma, New Jersey.

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. — Ephesians 4:1-7



SOUTHEAST MENNONITE CONFERENCE DISTRICT

Bishop Lee Miller, Bishop Eligio Nuñez, Bishop Juanita Nuñez

Ten congregations and one church plant in Apopka, Fort Myers, Homestead, Immokalee, Miami, Sarasota, and Tampa, Florida.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. — Isaiah 43:18-19



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER DISTRICT

Bishop Louis Kabamba

Nine congregations in Bainbridge, Camp Hill, Elizabethtown, Middletown, Newville, Steelton, and York, Pennsylvania.

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." — Mark 16:15-18



VALLEY-MOUNTAIN PA-EAST DISTRICT

Bishop Eric Marshall, Bishop Brian Martin, Bishop Jim Weick

Sixteen congregations and two church plants in Adamstown, Bethlehem, Denver, East Earl, Ephrata, Goodville, Lititz, Mountain Top, Nanticoke, Nazareth, Pen Argyl, Reading, Reinholds, Stroudsburg, and Wernersville, Pennsylvania.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. —Matthew 28:18-20



WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE DISTRICT

Bishop Glenn Kauffman

Five congregations and four church plants in Lanham, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Ellicott City, Poolesville, Silver Spring, Windsor Mill, Maryland; Alexandria, Virginia; and oversight of a new church plant in Portland, Oregon.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. — Matthew 28:19-20



WEST END NETWORK

Bishop Josef Berthold

Two churches and five church plants in Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Berlin, Germany.

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. — Ephesians 3:14-18



WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT

Bishop Earl Yoder

Five congregations in Accident, Cumberland, Grantsville, and Gortner Union, Maryland.

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. — Ephesians 2:13



UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at LMCchurches.org.

LMC/EMM Week of Prayer and Fasting

January 3-6, 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

450 N. Prince Street, Lancaster,
and Virtually
717-293-5246 ext. 102 for more
information

Merrill G. Freed Art Show

Through January 31, 2023

Landis Homes Retirement Community,
Lititz, Pa.
Call 717-293-524 for more information.

Spring Leadership Assembly

Friday, March 31, 2023

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.
Register at LMCchurches.org

Celebration of Church Life

Saturday, April 1, 2023

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.
Register at LMCchurches.org

LMC Women's Prayer Gathering

**Every first Friday of each month
8:00 a.m.**

LMC at 450 N. Prince St. Lancaster, Pa.
717-293-5246 ext. 114 for more
information

Everence Stewardship University

Saturday, March 18, 2023

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Calvary Church, Lancaster, Pa.
Register at everence.com/centralpenn



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Introducing youth to missions through discipleship and service.
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with discipleship training and regular mentorship.
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Para obtener información sobre los horarios,
tiempos de exhibición y entradas, escanea el
código o comunícate al 717.299.0954

LMC Winter Bible School

January–February 2023 • Studying Mark 8:27–9:50



We will meet seven times, for one hour each session. You can
attend by Zoom or in person at New Danville Mennonite Church.

- ▶ Tuesday mornings at 10:30 (starting January 10)
- ▶ Thursday evenings at 6:30 (starting January 12)

For more information or to sign up, contact William Higgins at
whiggins@lmcchurches.org or call 717 293-5246 ext. 121



GROW