



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*

Shalom NEWS

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2024



Believe and Be Baptized!

A commitment to walk in the ways of Jesus



LMC resource partner organization EXPO

Friday, September 27, 2024
Drop in between 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Learn about the mission and ministry of organizations that partner with LMC. This event is in collaboration with the LMC Fall Leadership Assembly.

The fun-filled evening for the entire family will include:

- LMC resource partner organization table displays
- An ice cream social
- A giveaway gift for all
- Door prizes
- A scavenger hunt for the children



Location: Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community
210 Weaverland Valley Rd, East Earl, PA 17519



July–September 2024

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ON THE COVER

Main photo: Deacon Rafael Martinez (left) and Pastor Hugo Garcia (right) baptize Leonel Choc.
Photo taken by Audio/Visual Media Ministry

Small photo: Baptism at Binh Thanh Mennonite Church by Pastor Khoa. Photo provided by Tuyen Nguyen.

Celebrating Believer's Baptism in LMC's Fellowship of Churches

SHERRI MARTIN AND WILLIAM HIGGINS

LMC, a fellowship of Anabaptist churches, is a living testament to our commitment to continue Jesus' mission on earth as a Spirit-led movement. The roots of the Anabaptist movement can be traced back to Zurich, Switzerland, in 1525, when Conrad Grebel baptized George Blaurock in Felix Manz's house. This act of baptism, followed by George Blaurock baptizing several others who confessed their faith, symbolizes our belief that baptism is a personal yet communal act that signifies a confession of faith in Christ and our covenant pledge to walk in the way of Jesus. By aligning our lives with Jesus as the Lord of everything, we are united in our perspective of the world through God's reign.

According to the 1995 Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, baptism is a powerful sign of new life in Christ that calls us to fully commit our lives to following Jesus. Water baptism is celebrated in the community for those who have reached the age of accountability. It signifies the cleansing of sin and the identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. Jesus requested water baptism at the beginning of His earthly ministry, and we follow in His footsteps. He sent His disciples into the world to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

Baptism is also a testimony of the gift of the Holy Spirit given to each follower of Jesus upon repentance of sin and confession of faith (Spirit baptism). It calls us to identify with Jesus in His suffering, with a commitment to loving our enemies, renouncing violence, and embracing peace even to the point of death (baptism of suffering). Like our Anabaptist predecessors, in some parts of the world today, participating in a believer's baptism carries the risk of sacrificing one's life.

During the baptismal services, whether held in a local church building or a body of water like a pond or swimming pool, a profound sense of joy and celebration fills the air. This is a time when we collectively praise God for His power and handiwork in regenerating souls. Many express their gratitude by glorifying Jesus' name and acknowledging the transformative power of His love. This celebration serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us of the beauty that can arise and the hope available to all seeking Jesus.

We understand that the baptismal service holds a special place in the hearts of many within LMC's community of churches. Each congregation has unique traditions and practices that make this occasion an unforgettable experience and cherished event. The following pages offer a glimpse into the wonderful and heartfelt baptisms within our fellowship of churches. ■

Vietnamese Translation

Cử hành Phép Báp-têm của Tín hữu – Cộng đồng Hội thánh của LMC

BỞI WILLIAM HIGGINS VÀ SHERRI MARTIN

LMC, một cộng đồng các hội thánh Anabaptist, là bằng chứng sống cho cam kết của chúng tôi trong việc tiếp tục sứ mệnh của Chúa Giêsu trên đất với tư cách là một phong trào Do Thánh Linh dẫn dắt. Nguồn gốc của phong trào Anabaptist bắt nguồn từ Zurich, Thụy Sĩ, vào năm 1525, khi Conrad Grebel làm phép báp-têm cho George Blaurock tại nhà của Felix Manz. Hành động làm phép báp-têm này, sau đó là việc George Blaurock làm phép báp-têm cho một số người khác đã tuyên xưng đức tin của họ, tượng trưng cho niềm tin của chúng ta rằng phép báp-têm là một hành động cá nhân nhưng mang tính cộng đồng, biểu thị sự tuyên xưng đức tin vào Đấng Christ và lời cam kết của chúng ta theo giao ước là bước đi theo con đường của Chúa Giêsu. Bằng cách gắn kết cuộc đời của chúng ta với Chúa Giêsu là Chúa của mọi sự, chúng ta hiệp một trong quan điểm của chúng ta về thế giới thông qua sự cai trị của Chúa.

Theo Bản Xác nhận Đức tin của Giáo hội Mennonite năm 1995 (1995 Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective), phép báp-têm là một dấu hiệu mạnh mẽ của cuộc sống mới trong Đấng Christ, kêu gọi chúng ta phó thác hoàn toàn cuộc đời mình để theo Chúa Giêsu. Phép báp-têm bằng nước được cử hành trong cộng đồng dành cho những người đã đến tuổi chịu trách nhiệm. Điều đó tượng trưng cho sự thanh tẩy tội lỗi và hiệp nhất với Đấng Christ trong sự chết và sự sống lại của Ngài. Chúa Giêsu đã yêu cầu phép báp-têm bằng nước khi bắt đầu cuộc vụ trên đất của Ngài và chúng ta đi theo bước chân của Ngài. Ngài sai các môn đồ đến thế gian để "dạy dỗ muôn dân, nhân danh Đức Cha, Đức Con, và Đức Thánh

Linh mà làm phép báp-têm cho họ" (Ma-thi-ơ 28:19).

Phép báp-têm cũng là bằng chứng về ân điển của Đức Thánh Linh được ban cho mỗi người theo Chúa Giêsu khi họ ăn năn tội lỗi và tuyên xưng đức tin (báp-têm Thánh Linh). Phép báp-têm kêu gọi chúng ta hiệp nhất với Chúa Giêsu trong sự đau khổ của Ngài, với cam kết yêu thương kẻ thù, từ bỏ bạo lực và đón nhận hòa bình cho đến chết (báp-têm của sự chịu khổ). Giống như những người tiền nhiệm Anabaptist của chúng ta, ở một số nơi trên thế giới ngày nay, việc tham gia vào phép báp-têm của một tín đồ có nguy cơ hy sinh mạng sống của mình.

Trong các buổi lễ báp-têm, dù được tổ chức trong nhà thờ địa phương hay ở vùng nước như ao hay bể bơi, một cảm giác vui cùng hân hoan và vui mừng tràn ngập trong không khí. Đây là lúc chúng ta cùng nhau ca ngợi Chúa và quyền năng và công trình của Ngài trong việc tái sinh các linh hồn. Nhiều người bày tỏ lòng biết ơn bằng cách tôn vinh danh Chúa Giêsu và thừa nhận quyền năng biến đổi của tình yêu của Ngài. Buổi lễ này đóng vai trò như một ngọn hải đăng của niềm hy vọng, nhắc nhở chúng ta về vẻ đẹp có thể nảy sinh và niềm hy vọng dành cho tất cả những ai đang tìm kiếm Chúa Giêsu.

Chúng tôi hiểu rằng lễ báp-têm giữ một vị trí đặc biệt trong trái tim của nhiều người trong cộng đồng các giáo hội của LMC. Mỗi hội thánh có những truyền thống và phong tục đặc đáo khiến dịp này trở thành một trải nghiệm khó quên và một sự kiện đáng trân trọng. Các trang tiếp theo mang đến một cái nhìn thoáng qua về các phép báp-têm tuyệt vời và thành tâm trong cộng đồng hội thánh của chúng ta. ■

BAPTISM IN

Vietnamese Mennonite Churches

BY BISHOP TUYEN NGUYEN

Baptism is a very important event for the Vietnamese Mennonite Church in the United States and Vietnam. To us, it is a commitment and a sign that a believer becomes a part of the community of Christ. It is a demonstration of a new life, submitting to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is also a picture of becoming one with Christ, to die to sin and to live with Christ. Usually, a new believer is asked to take the baptism class, which covers all the basic doctrines.

Some churches use the Confession of Faith, others use a short form of the Confession of Faith condensed by the pastor or a church leader in charge of the training. In the early days, our church in Philadelphia would have a six-month class.

But now the training time is shorter, and after being baptized, a person will keep on learning; “baptizing” goes first and then “teaching” as we read in the gospel of Matthew: **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 NIV)

Many early leaders of the Vietnamese Mennonite churches came from the background of Christian and Missionary Alliance churches, so we tend to use the immersion procedure. But we also practice water pouring as a sign of the Holy Spirit pouring out onto the new believer. We use both forms to baptize new believers in Vietnam. ■

The Mennonite Churches in Vietnam are the mission fields of Upper Darby Mennonite Fellowship located in Philadelphia, Pa. Upper Darby Mennonite Fellowship is part of the Philadelphia District of LMC. Bishop Tuyen Nguyen serves as the “mission director” of this collaboration and maintains regular contact with the leaders in Vietnam and the US.



Baptism at Tra Bong Mennonite Church by Pastor Cao.
Below: Baptism at a Camau Church by Pastor Quyen.
Photos provided by Tuyen Nguyen.



Amari Tinsley and Emi Rohrer dry off after their baptisms.
Photos provided by the author.

Bottom right: Zayah Espinosa is baptized by her grandfather, Bishop Freeman Miller, and Pastor Lynn Parks.

BAPTISM AT Oxford Circle Mennonite Church

BY PASTOR LYNN PARKS

At Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, we love to celebrate and share stories. Our practices around baptism reflect this. For several years, we offered a yearly class to middle and high school students, teaching them the contents of the Confession of Faith. This teaching is presented through the story of Jesus and church history. At the end of this class, the students would be invited to consider if they were ready to follow Jesus as a disciple and join the church. The last year we held this class was just before the pandemic. Several young people were ready to make a public commitment to following Jesus. However, the pandemic shutdown began before we could schedule a baptism service.

By the summer, the youth reached out to know when they could be baptized. They wanted an outdoor baptismal service to bring the congregation back together. These young people also wanted to be dunked, not sprinkled. We borrowed a portable baptismal pool from another church and set it up on the front lawn of our building. We had a great outdoor service, led

Each person being baptized shared their faith story and then climbed in the pool for their dunking.

by our youth group, with worship music that the neighborhood could hear, and with extended family and friends of these young people coming to celebrate. Each person being baptized shared their faith story and then climbed in the pool for their dunking. After worshipping virtually for months, this was a great celebration of life for our congregation. ■

Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, located in the heart of Philadelphia, is a shining example of a multiethnic community that is empowered by the Holy Spirit. With a mission to share Christ's message of love through both words and actions, they work tirelessly to reconcile individuals to God and their neighbors. Under the leadership of Pastor Lynn Parks and Pastor Ron Tinsley, this congregation is a beacon of hope and inspiration. Learn more at ocmcphilly.org.



BAPTISM AT

Iglesia Nuevo Amanecer of Evangelical Garifuna Church of Boston

BY PASTOR RICARDO ORDENEZ

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. — Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

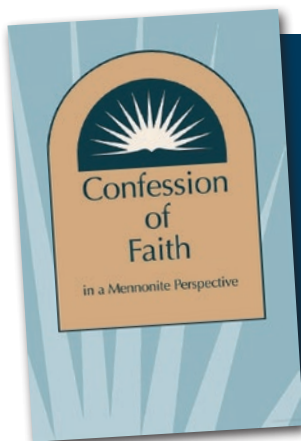
Jesus Christ, in His divine authority, delegates the power to all his disciples, who are born again. Each person who chooses to be baptized does so as a profound symbol of dying to sin and receiving the Holy Spirit. The word baptism means submerged; it refers to the purification of someone who is submerged in water, transformed by receiving God's Holy Spirit, reborn, and changed into a new creation.

When we become believers in Christ and are baptized, we must change. In the congregation that God has allowed us to lead, Iglesia Nuevo Amanecer, we give the person an explanation of what is about to happen. Then, on the day of the baptism, we perform a ceremony with everyone from the church present. We pray and sing with joy together with the newly baptized brothers and sisters.

We baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is given a certificate with the person's full name, the date of their rebirth, and their entrance into the family of God. We have baptized many people, and we are thankful to the Lord Jesus, who gives us the authority to make disciples, who make more disciples, who baptize new believers of Jesus to share the gospel with all nations. ■

For the past two years, Pastor Ricardo Ordonez has been serving as the lead pastor of Iglesia Nuevo Amanecer in the Evangelical Garifuna Mission District of LMC. The congregation is located in Boston, Massachusetts.

Baptisms at Camp Deepark on the weekend of July 4, 2022. Photos by Jeremias Blanco.



The Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995)

LMC holds this confession as our statement of faith and encourages its use for teaching and nurturing in our midst. While the confession is clearly subject to the authority of Scripture, it provides our best corporate understanding of what Scripture teaches on matters of faith and practice. As such, it provides a foundation for unity among us and a helpful summary for others interested in our Christian faith.

Read about baptism in the Confession of Faith at bit.ly/COF1995



BAPTISM AT

Yorks Corners Mennonite Church

BY PASTOR SARAH LEHMAN DEMSTER

For our rural congregation, baptism is both unique to us, and carries a worldwide thread seen among Anabaptists. It begins when someone has demonstrated their walk with God and voices an interest in being baptized. From there, we have a multi-week class that defines the importance of salvation, discipleship, and what baptism means both personally and in the community of believers. There are portions of the class that touch on history, doctrine, and maintaining one's walk as a disciple who makes disciples.

During our Baptism service, the people who will be baptized make a confession of faith before those gathered and share their stories that brought them to this momentous occasion. Some choose to be baptized by pouring, while others choose immersion. In years past, our baptisms have taken place in backyard pools and farm ponds. Most often, though, on baptism Sunday, which is usually on a

warm summer day, you will find our congregation walking the half mile down the road to the Genesee River. Lining the banks and looking over the rails of the bridge, the baptisms take place surrounded by family, friends, and God's magnificent creation. There is a very real sense of solemnity along with celebration when believers choose to make this declaration. As they follow the example of Jesus, symbolically being buried and resurrected to abundant and eternal life, songs echo through the valley as the baptized and the community rejoice together. ■

Lining the banks and looking over the rails of the bridge, the baptisms take place surrounded by family, friends, and God's magnificent creation.

Yorks Corners Mennonite Church is situated in the heart of Wellsville, New York, and is part of the North Penn District of LMC. The church is home to a friendly and authentic community that engages in vibrant worship and receives messages from God's Word. They offer various activities for children and youth and are a caring faith community where Jesus transforms lives. Pastor Sarah Lehman Demster serves as co-lead pastor along with Pastor Matt Havens. Learn more at yorkscorners.org.

Sarah and Tim Demster baptizing Isaiah Scott in the Genesee River in Wellsville, New York. Photo provided by the author.



BAPTISM AT

Manantial de Vida Evangelical Mennonite Church

BY PASTOR HUGO GARCIA

God bless you. My name is Pastor Hugo García, and with my wife Ivania, we lead the Manantial de Vida Evangelical Mennonite Church in Camden in southern New Jersey. Recently, we celebrated thirty years of ministry. As pastors, my wife Ivania and I, along with the entire congregation, can say that since we responded to God's call to this beautiful ministry, we have carried it out with great joy.

Throughout this period of service in the Lord's work, we have seen many people responding to Jesus' call to be saved. It is a profound and sacred moment when these individuals obey the ordinances established by God through the sacred scriptures, including fulfilling the ordinance of baptism, established by Jesus in The Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20 and also as established in article 11 of our Mennonite Confession of Faith.

For this, we have established in our congregation to celebrate baptisms three times a year. We baptize during Holy Week (usually on Easter Sunday), which we celebrate in our church. In July, we perform another baptism service, which we do in a public place, such as at a lake. The year's final and third baptism

service is celebrated on December 24, making it easy for those baptized to remember the date.

Before baptisms, we announce to the congregation the upcoming baptism service, and pre-baptismal classes are taught to the candidates. The minimum age to baptize a believer is 13 years old. We always baptize by immersion, except in special cases where we will baptize by sprinkling. If a person lives in a free union with his or her partner, we first encourage them to unite in marriage and then proceed to baptize them. We give glory to God for all who have responded to the call to be baptized. ■

Before baptisms, we announce to the congregation the upcoming baptism service, and pre-baptismal classes are taught to the candidates.

Manantial de Vida congregation is a vibrant and diverse church located in Camden, New Jersey. Pastors Hugo and Ivania García lead the church, which offers various ministries to cater to the needs of its members and the community. As an Evangelical Mennonite Church, Manantial de Vida is committed to spreading the gospel and serving the people around it. The congregation is part of the Concilio Iglesias Evangélicas Shalom (CIES) District of LMC.



Pastor Hugo García (right) and Luis Lopez (left) baptize Pastor Hugo's mother-in-law, Mercedes. Photos taken by Audio/Visual Media Ministry.



Deacon Rafael Martinez assists Pastor Hugo Garcia in baptizing Josué Mendoza.

Bautismo en la Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Manantial de Vida

POR PASTOR HUGO GARCIA

Dios les bendiga, soy el pastor Hugo García y junto a mi esposa Ivania, hemos pastoreado la Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Manantial de Vida en la ciudad de Camden en el sur de New Jersey. Recientemente estuvimos celebrando treinta años en el ministerio pastoral, junto a toda la congregación y puedo decir que desde que respondimos al llamado de Dios a este hermoso ministerio lo hemos realizado con mucho gozo.

Durante todo este periodo de servicio en la obra del Señor, hemos visto muchísimas personas respondiendo al llamado de Jesús para ser salvos, y disfrutamos mucho ver a estas personas obedeciendo las ordenanzas establecidas por Dios a través de las sagradas escrituras, entre ellas, cumplir con la ordenanza del bautismo, establecida por Jesús en La Gran Comisión de Mateo 28: 16-20 y tal como lo establece también el artículo 11 de nuestra confesión de fe menonita. Para ello hemos establecido en nuestra congregación celebrar bautismos tres veces al año, los cuales hacemos durante la semana santa (por lo regular el domingo de resurrección), lo cual lo celebramos en nuestro templo, otro culto de bautismo lo hacemos en un lugar público (lago) durante el mes de Julio y el tercer culto de bautismo lo celebramos el 24 de diciembre, lo hacemos en ese tiempo para que sea fácil a los que se bautizan, poder recordar la fecha. Para ello primero lo anunciamos con anticipación a la congregación,

y se le imparten 12 clases pre bautismales a los candidatos al bautismo. La edad mínima para bautizar a un creyente es a los 13 años, siempre bautizamos por inmersión y solo en casos especiales bautizamos por aspersión, si una persona vive en unión libre con su pareja, los animamos primero a que se puedan unir en matrimonio y solo después de eso, procedemos a bautizarlos. Damos gloria a Dios por todos los que ha respondido al llamado de bautizarse. ■



Pastor Hugo Garcia baptizes Ingrid Ramos in the temple baptistry. Photo taken by Audio/Visual Media Ministry.

The Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (pt. 1) An Anabaptist Faith and Practice Class - Starting in September!

You are all invited to register for the seven-week Anabaptist Faith and Practice Class. The class will begin on Tuesday evenings, starting September 10, from 6:30 to 8:05 p.m. It will be held in person and via Zoom. Additionally, a second class will be offered on Thursday mornings, beginning September 12, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:05 p.m., conducted via Zoom only.

The class will cover the basic theology found in our confession of faith (1995), including an introduction to theology, a detailed examination of the first twelve articles of the confession, and a more in-depth look at various theological topics related to these articles. The class will be taught by William Higgins (PhD), LCM staff. For more information or to sign up, please contact William at whiggins@lmchurches.org or call 717-293-5246 extension 121. The class is free, but a \$20 donation toward a STEP study award would be appreciated.



Did your wallet get baptized?

BY LMC STEWARDSHIP TEAM

The story is told of Sam Houston, a hero of Texas history, who gave his life to the Lord in the later years of life and asked to be baptized. He was taken down to a little country stream, and the pastor said, "General Houston, you should take your glasses off because I am going to immerse you in water." There also were some papers in General Houston's pocket, so he took those out as well.

Then, just as he was getting ready to go into the water, the pastor noticed that General Houston still had his wallet in his pants. He said, "Well, General, you might want to take that wallet out of your pants. It is going to get wet."

Houston responded, "If there is any part of me that needs baptizing, it is my wallet." So Houston was baptized, wallet and all.^(a)

Perhaps we could say baptizing the wallet can be a sign of a total commitment to be Christ-like. A way for an individual to demonstrate repentance from the way they use to live before they met the Lord Jesus. When a congregation makes the decision to tithe

Let's keep this equality in Christ—this sharing willingly out of the gifts we have so generously been given.

to LMC, it could be one sign of a congregation's renewed commitment to be a more active part of the body of Christ.

When Paul was teaching the church of Corinth to excel in the

grace of giving (1 Corinthians 8:7-15 NIV), he used the need of Jerusalem to inspire the Corinthian congregation to demonstrate the sincerity of their love for Christ and for others by giving from their heart - from the desire to do so. The year before this letter was sent to them, the church of Corinth gave generously. However, Paul wanted them to show the consistency of their commitment by continuing to send an offering. The action of giving and of receiving is a true image of sojourning together as a people of Israel and as the family of God. Like the collection of our daily bread, manna from the Lord, Paul said "At the present

time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little." (v. 14-15).

Let's keep this equality in Christ—this sharing willingly out of the gifts we have so generously been given. If you have given to LMC, thank you for your commitment to helping support the LMC mission – A Spirit-led movement to: *Make disciples of Jesus, Mobilize every member as a missionary, and Multiply faith communities locally and beyond!* If you have not yet given to LMC, please prayerfully consider doing so.

May we excel in the grace of giving. Let us baptize our wallet! ■

(a) Laurie, G. (2014, June 18). *The Third Conversion*. harvest.org/resources/devotion/the-third-conversion-2/

WAYS TO GIVE



MAIL

Write checks to LMC at:
P.O. Box 1635
Lancaster, PA 17608



ONLINE

lmcchurches.org/donate



BECOME A MONTHLY PARTNER

Set up automatic monthly giving at
lmcchurches.org/donate



ADD LMC as part of your congregational giving plan

If you have questions about other ways to support LMC, contact Mindi at mhoover@lmcchurches.org.



NEWS NOTES

LMC CREDENTIALING REPORT

In recent months, the following men and women were licensed, ordained, or installed:

Elias Adinew (*Seim*) was issued an ordination credential as pastor at the Ethiopian Evangelical Church in Lancaster, Pa.

Jonathan & Cora Brown were issued ordination credentials as co-lead pastors at Church Without Walls in Elkhart, Indiana.

Timothy Eash (*Malinda*) was issued an ordination credential as associate pastor at First Mennonite Church of Middleburg in Middleburg, Indiana.

Chadwick & Monica Neufeld were issued ordination credentials as pastors at Harbor Fellowship in Lancaster, Pa.

Morgan Newswagner (*Carisa*) was issued an ordination credential as associate pastor at Parkview Mennonite Church in Stevens, Pa.

Matthew Peterson (*Christiana*) was issued an ordination credential as lead pastor at Midway Mennonite Church in Columbiana, Ohio.

Ethan Meyers (*Debra*) was issued a license toward ordination as associate pastor at Mercersburg Mennonite Church in Mercersburg, Pa.

MENNONITE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF LANCASTER

The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster places great importance on fostering a sense of community amongst its members. As part of their annual activities, the MCCL choirs participate in local tour days every spring. On April 4, 2024, they held a special chapel at Eastern Mennonite Missions and LMC during their walking tour in Lancaster City. The event was attended by around 60–70 middle and high school singers, talented student accompanists, and ten adult chaperones. The choirs delivered a beautiful and inspiring choral performance that left a lasting impression on the audience.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER DELEGATE DAY

On April 12, 2024, the International Partner Delegates (IPD) of LMC held a gathering to reflect, share, and provide resources for one another. During the meeting, it was noted that IPDs are discovering new ways to connect people from their congregations and districts to the world. This is seen as a positive development. For instance, a group of women from the Belize Evangelical Mennonite Church will visit Lebanon District churches in July to hold a summer camp outreach for children in Lebanon.

Furthermore, President Desalegn Abebe from Meserete Kristos Church of Ethiopia is expected to visit this summer.

CHAPEL AT HUB450

April 30, 2024, was a day to remember at EMM and LMC. During a morning Chapel service, Bishop Keith Blank ordained Lorri Bentsch, EMM Mission Director. The ceremony was filled with beauty, meaning, and inspiration as Lorri reflected on God's presence throughout her life and ministry. All were uplifted by the anointed prayers and fellowship.

LMC SPRING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

On Friday, May 3, 2024, over 200 leaders gathered at Mellinger Mennonite Church for LMC's Spring Leadership Assembly. The day's theme was "The Kingdom Where Jesus Is King!" The Mellinger worship team, led by Mackenzie Campbell, created a heartfelt and uplifting worship experience that resonated with everyone throughout the day and truly brought people into the presence of God. William Higgins held a session on the Lord's Prayer, followed by a panel of young adults sharing their stories about the coming of God's Kingdom through mission trips and ministry opportunities. The group then offered prophetic prayers over regions, districts, and leaders.



STEP GRADUATION

Fifteen students, along with their family and friends, celebrated their graduation from STEP on May 18, 2024, at Byerland Mennonite Church. As the graduating class speaker, William Higgins, instructor of the STEP program and LMC theology teacher, called the students to a life-long commitment to being an apprentice of Jesus: being with him, learning from him, and then putting this into practice. To learn more about STEP, visit LMCchurches.org/ministries/step/ or scan the QR code. Questions may be directed to Marcia Mylin, STEP Director, at mmylin@lmcchurches.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available 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

Mennonite Life – Rare and Used Book Auction

July 12, 2024 at 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Mennonite Life Community Room
mennonitelife.org

LMC/EMM Quarterly Prayer Meeting

July 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

West Community Room, Landis Homes,
Lititz, Pa.
717-293-5246 ext 102

Amish Gardens of Lancaster County – Author Beth Oberholtzer

July 25, 2024 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Mennonite Life Community Room
mennonitelife.org

Mennonite Life – Annual Storytelling Night

August 5, 2024 at 7:00-9:00 p.m.

More details at mennonitelife.org

LMC Resource Partner Organization Expo

September 27, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community
LMCchurches.org

Fall Leadership Assembly

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community
LMCchurches.org

Eastern Mennonite Missions – Kairos Course

October 19 – November 19, 2024

Registration required
emm.org/events/



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EMM ADVANCE



September 10-14, 2024
Events support our Caring Fund
which assists residents whose cost of
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-  Live Quilt & Online Auction
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GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

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