



EMPOWER

LIFELONG LEARNING

BRIDGES
MAGAZINE

LANCASTER MENNONITE / SPRING 2025

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTING WRITERS!

Dr. Michael Badriaki, Kate Grieser, Aubrey Kreider, Bekah Thrush, Luis Torres, and Philip Warner

Bridges Designer: Aubrey Kreider; Cover Design: Greg Yoder

The Fall 2025 edition of BRIDGES will focus on lifelong friendships developed at LM. If you have a suggestion for alumni, faculty, or students we should feature, please email: KreiderAL@lancastermennonite.org

ABOUT THE COVER: A COLLAGE MADE UP OF LANCASTER MENNONITE ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS FEATURED IN THIS EDITION OF BRIDGES, WHO ARE EMPOWERING LIFELONG LEARNING. THE ICONS SYMBOLIZE THE VARIOUS FACETS OF LEARNING: FAITH, MUSIC, READING, AND HOBBIES THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION.

TOGETHER WE WILL

SEEK JESUS
Wholeheartedly

LIVE
Compassionately

BUILD
Bridges of Peace

CULTIVATE
Global Citizens

NURTURE
Curiosity & Creativity

EMPOWER
Lifelong Learning

CHANGE THE WORLD



LANCASTER
MENNONITE

FAITH • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

EMPOWER *LIFELONG LEARNING*



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: LIFELONG LEARNING ROOTED IN CHRIST AT LM

In this spring edition of *BRIDGES* we highlight stories of our core value, Empower Lifelong Learning. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest foundation of lifelong learning, offering us truth, salvation, divine reality, and the eternal gift of love through grace (Ephesians 2:8-9).

At LM, we believe a Christ-centered education guides students to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual maturity. Christian discipleship invites us on a continuous journey of learning and transformation in a deeper relationship with Jesus. While we strive for academic excellence, our passion is spiritual formation, helping students embrace the transformative power of Jesus's love, grace, forgiveness, and peace.

Our school community—faculty, staff, parents, and supporters—works together to ensure each student understands they are deeply loved by God and created in His image. As image-bearers, we are designed for a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, lived out in community. Just as Jesus grew in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:52), we seek to develop students that are anchored in the Word of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and are growing intellectually, socially, and spiritually.

We prepare our students not just for graduation or careers, but for purposeful lives as ambassadors of God's mission. Rooted in the Anabaptist traditions of peace, service, and reconciliation, our mission permeates our classrooms and beyond. We celebrate curiosity, creativity, and strategic thinking as gifts from God that enrich both learning and living. However, without Christ's redemptive work and focus

on discipleship (Matthew 28:18-20), education loses its true purpose. True learning is joyful and compassionate, grounded in the pursuit of Christ-likeness.



As you read this edition of *BRIDGES*, you'll find stories of alumni, teachers and students who embody lifelong learning. You'll meet graduates who are educational travelers, exploring new cultures and gaining fresh perspectives. Others connect with God through creation while serving as veterinarians, or through their love of bicycling. We also celebrate alumni involved in peacebuilding efforts, reconciliation, and those serving as worship leaders, creating spaces for others to encounter God. These stories reflect the continuous learning journey that our students embark on, both at LM and beyond, for the glory of God.

In Christ Our Peace,

Dr. Michael Badriaki
Superintendent



THE TRUE FRUIT OF LIFELONG LEARNING



BY: PHILIP WARNER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Lancaster Mennonite empowers lifelong learning by fostering a Christ-centered educational environment that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and personal growth throughout a student's entire life. The school's diverse academic programs and extracurricular activities provide students with opportunities to develop skills that prepare them for both higher education and meaningful careers. **By integrating faith with learning, students are equipped to approach challenges with resilience and a commitment to serving others.** This is not only important for their future careers but also for brain health, well-being, personal relationships, growing in their faith, and actively participating in the community.

In the elementary school, students engage in inquiry-based learning, hands-on science experiments, and collaborative projects. These activities spark curiosity and build critical thinking skills, encouraging a love of learning from a young age. Programs like "Readers Workshop" develop a passion for reading, while technology integration helps students build digital literacy.

At the middle and high school levels, students are empowered through

project-based learning and personalized academic tracks.

Middle schoolers work on interdisciplinary projects that challenge them to connect their learning across subjects, such as creating sustainable ecosystems or designing service projects for the community.

High school students have access to Advanced Placement courses, internships, and dual enrollment with

local colleges, allowing them to explore specific interests and future career paths.

Faith formation is woven into all aspects of learning at Lancaster Mennonite. Bible and faith formation classes encourage students to explore the Bible and seek Jesus together. Chapel services provide space for worship and reflection, with guest speakers sharing insights that help students deepen their faith. Teachers also incorporate faith into everyday



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, PHIL WARNER WORKING WITH HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA STUDENTS.

coursework, helping students see God's presence in all subjects and contexts. Volunteer service is another important part of the LM experience, encouraging students to integrate faith into action by serving others. These experiences set a strong foundation for students to carry their faith with them throughout life.

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**THIS IS THE TRUE FRUIT
OF LIFELONG LEARNING:
DISCIPLES OF JESUS
SHARING HIS LOVE AND
GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF
THE EARTH.**

- PHILIP WARNER

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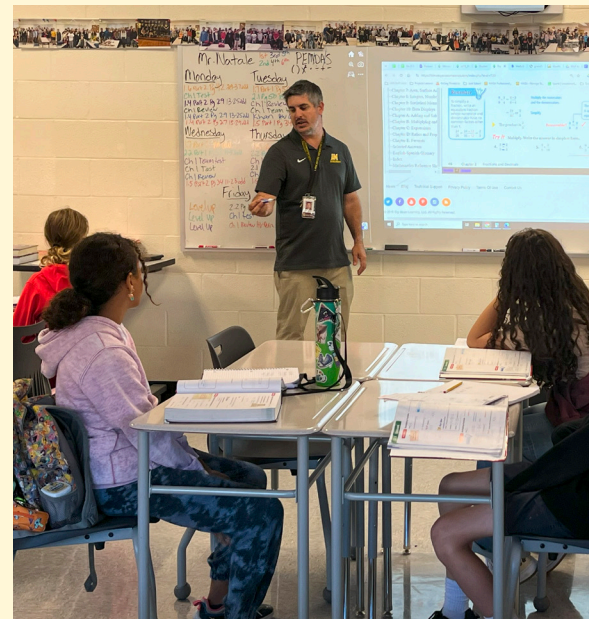
A personal example of this integration can be seen in my experience as Assistant Superintendent this past year. One unexpected opportunity was teaching our orchestra students in the fall before our new string instructor, Ms. Ziegler, arrived. Drawing on my background as a music teacher, I led the students through rehearsals, which reminded me of the valuable life skills developed in a music ensemble. When making great music together, one key ingredient is irreplaceable: time.

Creating excellent music together requires time and patience—there's no shortcut to mastering techniques, rhythms, or dynamics. Students must practice over and over before they reach their full potential as a group.

This process mirrors the journey of lifelong learning. Just as musicians cannot fast-track their way to musical excellence, students must dedicate time and effort to grow in valuable skills and wisdom.

Here at Lancaster Mennonite, we strive to help students understand that the ultimate goal of lifelong learning is becoming Jesus' disciples. All our other learning is meant to flow from this core foundation of knowing and becoming like Jesus. Like the first followers of Jesus, this journey involves spending time with Him—listening, watching, and learning. It's a daily process that builds over time. This results in biblical wisdom, habits, and skills contributing to God's kingdom.

For our students to grasp this lifelong learning, it will take more than simply learning the right content. It is learning to think like Jesus, talk like Jesus, live like Jesus. As parents, teachers, and mentors who lead students, the best way for us to lead them in becoming disciples of Jesus is for us to keep growing in our own apprenticeship of Jesus as we keep spending time with our students - whether in the orchestra rehearsal room,



MR. NATALE TEACHING MATH TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

in math class, on the soccer field, or wherever we are leading.

My heart is filled with joy every time I get to perform music with students in a concert. We get to share, as a gift, the fruit of all the many hours of intentional learning that led to that performance. As wonderful as those moments are, how much deeper a joy there is when I see our students and graduates sharing the way of Jesus in their schools, families, careers, churches, communities, and lives. This is the true fruit of lifelong learning: disciples of Jesus sharing his love and gospel to the ends of the earth.



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

JARED NISSLEY, MD '03

BY: AUBREY KREIDER, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



This year's Alumnus of the Year, **JARED NISSLEY, MD '03**, is a physician with Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health in Family Medicine. He has come to love family medicine because of how it is oriented toward helping patients achieve overall health. Dr. Nissley's medical interests include HIV care, addiction, and improving health care access for the uninsured and underinsured. He shares, "most of all, I appreciate the privilege of being part of people's lives during some of their most joyful and difficult moments."

He also is an instructor in the family medicine residency program, and finds that to be an exciting and stimulating place to work alongside inspiring minds.

He worked collaboratively with family medicine residents the past few years to launch a street medicine practice. What started as volunteer work a few times a month has grown into something Jared and his team of three (including a nurse and nurse practitioner) do two to three days a week. "As it became clear the need was much bigger, it became a formal program and a larger part of my job over the past year. That means seeing folks and taking services to parks, day centers, community meals and soup kitchens, and shelters. We try to provide a consistent presence where people can expect us and they can get physical or mental health support."

Jared studied biology in college, but it wasn't until after college, during a year of service with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) in the West Bank, Israel, that Jared started thinking about how to integrate his interests in science and caring for others into a career where he could focus on the whole person as a family physician.

"LM was a very important part of my journey," related Jared Nissley '03. "I learned that God cares about our spiritual wellness and also our wellness

as human beings. I also learned that Jesus wants his followers to work toward a world that reflects the values of his kingdom. I eventually chose a career as a family doctor because I thought it was a way to live out those values."

"More important than anything I learned at LM were the friendships I developed there. The classmates that I met at LMH remain my closest and most trusted friends. The friends I found were the reason I looked forward to school each day."

"When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my wife and kids, watching baseball, and reading. I try to read 40-50 books a year." His kids keep him curious.



JARED WITH HIS FAMILY AT A BASEBALL GAME

He shared, "my son is six and is very into the outdoors and nature so he is pushing me to learn things about the natural world. He wants to fish, hunt, and bird watch, so I am re-learning old hobbies and getting to learn some new ones."

In addition, the residency students he teaches also push him to keep learning, "I can't hide behind a topic I don't know about, so I have to be on my toes to keep learning. I enjoy that about my work. I have also developed a willingness to say 'I don't know', and then try to figure it out together."

Jared thinks it's important that lifelong learning is embedded in the LM curriculum, because, "we live in a rapidly changing world. The biggest skills that are needed are responding to ideas, quickly assessing the solution, and then thinking creatively about solving problems. Things I learned about in physics, chemistry, and history have been helpful in having the ability to take different ideas, develop your thoughts, and discuss them with colleagues. Those are skills that I use on a daily basis. The world will look different in 10 years, so you have to be able to engage and do so in a moral way and reflect God's values."

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR AMAZING ALUMNI!

To learn more about our Alumni of the Year, please visit our website:

lancastermennonite.org/alumni



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

FRANK ALBRECHT '76



"Frank was a wonderful person, not perfect, but he did everything out of a desire to follow Jesus and to live out kingdom values." These beautiful words were spoken by Frank's wife, Elizabeth Soto, as she remembered him five months after his death. And they capture perfectly why **FRANK ALBRECHT '76** was nominated and selected to be one of Lancaster Mennonite's Alumni of the Year.

Known by many as Brother Frank, he was a lifelong educator, community leader, and servant of Jesus. After serving with Mennonite Central Committee in Colombia, he spent much of his life working with young people. He established and implemented mediation

programs for schools throughout Lancaster County, helping students to learn and practice peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and reconciliation.

Frank was also known for his acts of kindness in his neighborhood, church, and family. In June of 2023, Frank was diagnosed with ALS and he passed away in August of 2024. We are so grateful for the impact Frank made in so many of our lives, and for the ongoing impact he has left on his students and the broader Lancaster community. He is being honored as an Alumnus of the Year in memoriam because he embodied the LM core values of Seeking Jesus Wholeheartedly, Building Bridges of Peace, and Living Compassionately.

It was a gift for Dr. Michael Badriaki, LM Superintendent, to have the opportunity to present Frank with a framed painting of Lancaster Mennonite's Iron Bridge during Frank's retirement party, in recognition of the significant impact he has made on the world.

Frank was featured in the article "Peacebuilding in Schools and Communities Locally and Globally" in our 2023 Fall edition of *BRIDGES*. You can read more of his story by visiting the alumni page on the LM website.





WHAT'S SOMETHING NEW

JANET EBERLY '58

AVID GARDENER



My lifelong love of gardening began at our farm, then in the woods and now continues at my retirement cottage. I earned a Master Gardener certification

later in life, and more recently, I'm learning to overwinter my foxtail fern and an "Escargot" begonia in the greenhouse near my home. Years ago at LM, J. Irvin Lehman's Bible class was always an inspiration for me.

MICHAEL GEORGE '97

HIGH SCHOOL SS TEACHER



In the Social Studies classes I teach, I help students develop critical thinking skills that they can use to evaluate different information sources, especially in the

digital age of social media and 24-hour news cycles. I enjoy teaching because I'm constantly learning more about History and Social Studies as I develop curriculum and interact with my students.

JAMES ACOSTA-DAVIS '04

LAWYER & STARGAZER



I've found a new passion in stargazing. Learning to identify constellations, planets, and celestial events has expanded my sense of wonder and connected me to the vastness of the universe.

Stargazing has been a humbling and enriching way to keep exploring and learning outside of my daily routine. At LM, my curiosity was cultivated by educators, and I am thankful that continues to positively impact and shape me.

MOLLY HORVATH '26

11TH GRADE STUDENT



In Bible classes, I've had opportunities to learn more about my faith as I reflect, share, and learn from others.

A new skill I am learning is cooking and baking. I've been making new dishes like: pasta, cookies, and soy-free options for my brother who has food allergies. It's fun to experiment and share the final product with others!

JARED PEIFER '99

PROFESSOR & SOCIOLOGIST



As an LM student, I developed a curiosity about the social world and our place in it. This put me on a path to becoming a sociologist where I am able to explore

and write about social issues that interest me. I've recently been exploring whether artificial intelligence can help us identify more ethical corporations.

DOROTHY YODER '52

CROCHETER & READER



I am currently learning to crochet. I also volunteer and participate in Pathways Institute to keep learning.

Reading and being in a book club is fun and stimulating. Reading was encouraged by the English teachers. LM offered the classes that I needed to prepare me to realize my childhood dream of becoming a registered nurse. This dream also became a tool for me to educate others.

YOU ARE *LEARNING?*

TRINITY PANTOJA '26

11TH GRADE STUDENT



I really enjoy the community at LM. I was new this year, and the students and teachers have been kind and helpful. It's so

different than my previous school!

I am currently learning karate. I've been doing it for five years, and I'm still learning.

RHODA LONGENECKER '60

BICYCLIST & MORE



I have many things that I have learned to do, and the most recent is bicycling. I also enjoy gardening, book group, quilting, church partic-

ipation, volunteering, and learning classes at Landis Homes. Daily chapels at LMH were faith building in my teenage years - learning new hymns and singing were highlights, as well as meeting my husband, Edward!

THATCHER PATTERSON

5TH GRADER



I am currently learning to play basketball. I've been playing for a few years, and I like playing forward.

STEVEN LANTZ '84

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST



I've recently joined IU13's deaf, hard of hearing program as the school psychologist. I'm learning about the challenges students

experience when they have limited access to language and miss out on the incidental learning that most children experience. The teachers I work with help me learn and better understand deaf culture.

ZION KIMBLE

KINDERGARTEN STUDENT



I am learning A LOT of new words in Spanish, since I am in Spanish Immersion kindergarten. I am learning the words "manzana" (apple), "español"

(Spanish), "agua" (water), and lots of other Spanish words.

LESLIE SPURRIER

HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER



In the classroom I encourage my students to embrace mistakes. The act of learning involves trial and error, practice and refinement.

In my own life I am learning to create a better work-life balance. Learning to set healthy boundaries allows me to give more of myself to students during school hours and my family when I am at home.

FAMILIES CARRY ON TRADITION OF LIFELONG LEARNING BEGINNING AT LM

BY: KATE GRIESER, DIRECTOR OF DONOR GUIDANCE & DEVELOPMENT

In this edition, we are celebrating the core value of Lifelong Learning, this idea that we are never done growing and learning, being transformed by Christ, and developing new skills and talents. Generations of students have developed a love of learning through their time at LM, and it has been especially meaningful to see alumni choosing to give their own children the opportunity to learn and grow at LM as well. In fact, some families now have third and even fourth generation students! We selected a few of these families to share their reflections on how LM has shaped them and why they wanted their children and grandchildren to also become lifelong learners here.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF KREIDERS



JOHN WITH HIS FOUR CHILDREN AND SIX GRANDCHILDREN

JOHN KREIDER '82 grew up as a farm kid who loved school. He admits that studies perhaps were not at the top of his priority list, but in his time at LM, he was given responsibilities that developed character and talents that shape his daily experience. He also developed deep friendships that have lasted to this day. Even now, a group of 16 couples that were students at LM together, gather monthly for dinner, friendship, discernment, and lots of laughter.

John's four children attended Locust Grove and LMH, and now two of his

grandchildren are current students at LM, making them the 4th generation in this Kreider line to attend the school. John shared that LM reinforced the values and faith that his parents, **JOHN '47 AND BETTY (BOOK) '52 KREIDER** were modeling for him and instilled a faith foundation in his own children that have influenced their choices and values as adults. As he thinks about his lifelong friends from LM, John is excited to think about the friendships his grandchildren are starting now in PreK and 1st grade that will impact them the rest of their lives.



When reflecting on the core value of Lifelong Learning, John shared about his service through the Witmer Fire Company, which he has been a part of since high school. Now the president of the fire company, John fights fires and does

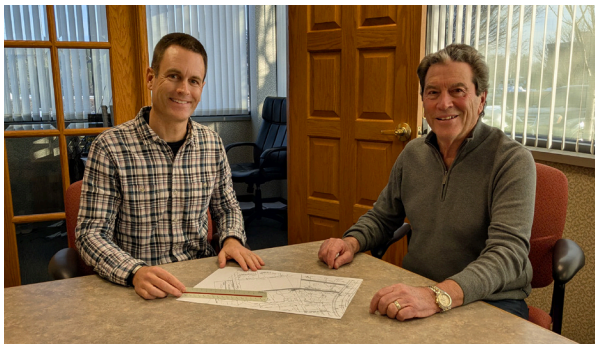
fire prevention training for students in a variety of schools. He said, "Things were so different when I first started fighting fires. We'd drive down Rt 30 hanging off the back of a truck. I'd never do that now! But I go to 'school' twice a month to learn about how new building materials affect the way fires burn, how technological advances like safety equipment and electric cars require different awareness, and so much more. In fire fighting, learning is life or death."

I am excited to think about the friendships my grandchildren will make at LM that will impact them for the rest of their lives.

- JOHN KREIDER '82

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THREE GENERATIONS OF HORSTS



GERRY AND HIS SON, KYLE WORK TOGETHER AT THEIR FAMILY BUSINESS

GERRY HORST '65 attended LM for 11th and 12th grade. He remembers faculty Myron Dietz and Arnold Moshier as influential in those years, and named that relationships with classmates were one of the most lasting things he received from LM.

After attending EMU and Goshen College, he and his wife Linda returned to Lancaster and decided to send their three children to Lancaster Mennonite. They wanted their kids to experience the community and camaraderie that he had at LM, and also named the Anabaptist peace position as something that is very important to teach.

Now a successful home builder, Gerry works closely with his son **KYLE '98** in the family business, Horst & Son Home Builders. Kyle and his wife **MARTA (WISSLER) '98** now have daughters in 5th and 8th grade at LM. Kyle's experience is that, "the teachers really care and are attentive to each student's needs."

One way Gerry continues to learn is by

adopting new hobbies. He has gotten into biking as a way to remain active and has found it to be something he really enjoys, which is clear by the 5,000+ miles he biked last year!

THREE GENERATIONS OF LEAMANS



NANCY WITH HER FOUR CHILDREN AND SIX GRANDCHILDREN

NANCY (GEHMAN) LEAMAN '68 looks back on her time as a student with fondness and gratitude. She deeply valued the growth that came from living in the dorm and the Bible teaching and chapel which set LM apart from her prior public school learning.

She also developed a love of learning about culture and history through travel. Nancy reflected that, "now, many years later, my husband John and I enjoy planning tours to various countries and building bridges of peace through meeting people around the world."

Nancy and John enrolled their children at LM, "because of my positive experience with Christ-centered education and my own spiritual growth. Each one of our children have had outstanding oppor-

tunities in leadership, spiritual growth, classroom learning and interaction, and lifelong friendships. Encouraged by their teachers, they were each motivated and inspired to continue their education into college and graduate school."

She goes on to say that, "we are extremely blessed to again be 'back on campus' through the lives of our five grandchildren who are excelling in the fresh new programming and leadership at LM. The Spanish Immersion Program is equipping young students to reach out beyond their English language and to learn of other countries and cultures. In a recent visit to Colombia, several of our grandchildren were able to engage in conversation with new Spanish speaking friends. I am truly grateful for lifelong lessons and opportunities our children and I have experienced through these many years and that our grandchildren are now thriving in their own journey of education at LM."

I am truly grateful for the lifelong lessons and opportunities our children and I have experienced, and our grandchildren are now thriving...at LM.

- NANCY LEAMAN '68

FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: EMBRACING LIFELONG LEARNING IN SCIENCE

BY: BEKAH THRUSH '17, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

There are advancements of technology and new discoveries happening every day in the sciences. Lifelong Learning is an important tool whether you work in medicine, research, or data analytics. Hear a few reflections from alumni in these fields.



SANJAY, A VET WITH ONE OF HIS PATIENTS

SANJAY DICK '07 is a small animal veterinarian and sees this first-hand. In his role he enjoys, "watching owners experience the joys of raising a new puppy or kitten, or saying goodbye to an old friend...it is incredible to watch cases come to a happy resolution." Lately, he has been exploring soft tissue surgery, a more complex technique to give his patients the best available treatment.

As a Lancaster Mennonite (LM) student he remembers support, encouragement, and an emphasis on servant leadership.

// Learning constantly provides the means to stay up to date with my field. The drive to learn has resulted in significant personal growth and the desire to connect with others through this journey.

- SANJAY DICK '07

His advice on lifelong learning is to, "step outside your comfort zone, challenge yourself, and don't let the pressure of success prevent you from having life experiences."

HEATHER (GOOD) NYCE '97 specializes in Medical Communications and Training for a pharmaceutical company. Her focus is on education around the best medications for cancer patients based on data from clinical trials.



// Our world is continually changing and the amount of information that we have access to is growing exponentially. I marvel at how God is the sovereign creator. It is amazing to see more details of His creation come to life with each new discovery.

- HEATHER NYCE '97

Heather shares, "when I was in high school, I never would have imagined that I would be in the career that I am now." Teachers at LM helped to influence her love for science and challenged her to grow.



HEATHER NYCE, ISMPP FACULTY

She recently had the honor of speaking for the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP). "I am continually learning and working to stay up to date on scientific treatment advances. Along with that comes the responsibility to convey accurate and reliable information to providers and patients." Her faith is also a driving force as she advances professionally and seeks "to work ethically and promote equitable access to healthcare information."



KAREN HOOBER PRESENTING RESEARCH FOR UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

KAREN (BRUBAKER) HOOBER '88 is the Associate Director for Graduate Education and Outreach at the University of Delaware, as well as an Adjunct Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. She has always been passionate about the "act of learning." To her, "science is a tool used in hand



It's something that God has asked us to do – seeking Him in all we do and being engaged in thought. He is the creator of all things and we as scientists are there to discover what He has created.

- KAREN HOOBER '88

with God." This was instilled in her at LM and has remained foundational.

Her Ph.D. research focused on isolating an unknown enzyme found in chicken egg whites. She has been recognized for her technique and for successfully characterizing a novel enzyme. She received the dissertation prize, and her findings have impacted cancer therapy.



KAREN HOOBER MENTORING STUDENTS AND SHARING RESEARCH

Now, she helps to run the graduate program for Bioinformatics and Data Science. She mentors students in the program, helping them select courses and meet requirements. She is, "constantly engaging in an intellectual thought process surrounded by high innovators, which drives me to be a better person and learn new things." To her, Lifelong Learning is about not giving up. "You never know what lies down the road, so use failure to catapult you forward and have confidence that God will provide the path for you."

JOURNEY OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH

BY: LUIS TORRES, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

RICHARD FREY '64, a retired Business Manager from Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, exemplifies lifelong learning. His passion for knowledge has fueled both personal and professional growth, and he continues to inspire others to pursue learning throughout their lives.

At Riverdale Presbyterian Church in the Bronx, where he was a member, Richard served as the Capital Campaign Project Director in the preservation of the church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. His dedication to learning is reflected in his interests, including researching the identity of an indigenous young woman from a family photo, who may have been a foster child from the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. Richard has a passion for understanding the history of the writing of the Bible.

//

Be curious! Be curious about yourself, your family, community, and the world.

- RICHARD FREY '64

Richard's journey toward lifelong learning began early, influenced by his mother's desire to teach, and by his music teacher at LMH, Arnold Moshier. Mr. Moshier encouraged Richard to participate in musical activities like the Men's Chorus and the LM Senior Class Chorus, experiences that helped develop his leadership skills and nurtured his love for music.

Curiosity is central to Richard's philosophy. He encourages young people to "Be curious! Be curious about yourself, your family, community, and the world." His own curiosity has led him to explore a variety of interests, from piano lessons to reading about historical figures and current events. This thirst for knowledge has kept him connected to the world and driven his desire to make a difference.

Richard and his wife, Janet have also pursued their passion for learning through educational travel. They have greatly enjoyed educational-focused tours, including an Anabaptist history tour in Europe with TourMagination, Rick Steves tours in Spain and Italy, and a Road Scholar tour, walking 100 miles of El Camino in northern Spain. They are pictured here on their Road Scholar tour to Hawaii. On this trip,



JANET & RICHARD FREY ON AN EDUCATIONAL LEARNING TRIP IN HAWAII

he shares, "I completed my goal to visit all the United States capitals." These experiences align with their commitment to learning and exploring different cultures.

During his time at LM, Richard was deeply influenced by the school's focus on service and volunteerism, which ignited his passion for research and community engagement. This led him to work in New York City's foster care system for 15 years. His belief in empowering students to engage with the world was shaped by these early experiences, which LM continues to encourage today.

Richard continues to advocate for lifelong learning and service. His story demonstrates the power of curiosity, growth, and the pursuit of knowledge, proving that learning never truly ends.

LEADING IN FAITH: A WORSHIP LEADER'S LIFELONG LEARNING



BY: LUIS TORRES, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

As a Worship Director at Keystone North Church in Harleysville, PA, **ESTEBAN NIEVES '14** is constantly searching for ways to improve upon what he knows about music and the corporate worship experience. "I continually strive to become better at music by constantly training."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ESTEBAN NIEVES

Putting in consistent hours of practice, rehearsal, research, and discernment is part of Esteban's quest for lifelong learning in the worship experience. Just as important as the musicianship and technological know-how in effectively leading a congregation in musical praise comes the desire to continuously grow closer to the Lord. "I read several books a month on the subject of worship." It is his com-

mitment to lifelong learning that drives him to find the right sound, song, and message for any given worship service.

"My parents always challenged me to keep growing and to continue learning, and that philosophy and work ethic were confirmed, supported, and strengthened at Lancaster Mennonite."

It was also at LM that Esteban was encouraged by choir director, Marcy Hostetler. "She challenged me to become better at everything, and that's when I added guitar to my trumpet and clarinet lessons."

Esteban credits former LM Bible teacher, J.W. Sprunger with fostering his desire to continue studying scripture.

When asked what advice he would give to a current student, without hesitation he stated, "Don't be afraid to mess up - it happens. You don't improve as much without those mess-ups. In my field, I had to audition plenty of times and I wasn't always successful, but I used that failure to serve as a catalyst for growth."

Among the highlights of his time as a student at LM, Esteban fondly remembers his choir trip to South Africa and his mini-course trip to Argentina. "Those were complete immersion experiences into two

very different cultures where I learned and incorporated new musical elements into my style of music and where I was truly able to grasp the immenseness of God's creation."

Esteban's lifelong learning journey has provided him with many unique opportunities and he is excited today that this empowering core value is still highly encouraged. "Lifelong learning happens naturally throughout our lives but I felt that LM prepared me to be receptive to those learning opportunities that happen in our lives and the importance of always learning even after graduation."



Don't be afraid to mess up - it happens. You don't improve as much without those mess-ups...I used that failure to serve as a catalyst for growth.

- ESTEBAN NIEVES '14

LANCASTER MENNONITE STUDENT AWARDS

ACADEMICS



Kay Beidler '25 and Simeon Spurrier '25 are National Merit Semifinalists, and Rachel Landes '25 has been named a Commended Student in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. Congrats to these scholastically talented seniors!



The 4th grade class competed in the L-L Elementary Reading Olympics! The LM team of 12 students scored 43 points overall to receive 2nd place.

ART

Participated in Scholastic LCYA: Rachel Fisher '27, Sim Spurrier '25

MUSIC

Participated in LLMEA (Lancaster Lebanon Music Education Association) HS County Orchestra: Antonio De La Rosa Ruark '26 (Violin), Donovan Stoltzfus '26 (Viola)

Participated in LLMEA MS County Orchestra: Olivia Bare '30, Joelyn Blessing '30, Asher Kenkelen '29, Noah Kenkelen '30, Charles Elliot Leaman '29

Participated in PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Education Association) District Festival: Jared Bowman '24 (Trumpet), Kate Metzler '26 (Choir), Tony De La Rosa Ruark '26 (Violin), Donovan Stoltzfus '26 (Viola)



Participated in LLMEA HS County Band: Olivia Zook '26 (Flute), Daniel Thomas '27 (Trumpet), Caroline Clement '26 (Flute), Haoxiang Wang '27 (Alto)

Qualified for LLMEA MS County Band: Jude Denlinger '30 (Alto Saxophone), Ethan Buckwalter '30 (Alto Saxophone), Rylan Lapp '29 (Trumpet)



WRITING

2024 Silhouette Literary Magazine - Won First Place award in the American Scholastic Press Association publications contest. **Maya Stauffer '24 earned recognition for Outstanding Art.**



PHOTO OF SILHOUETTE STAFF & WINNING MAGAZINE

ATHLETICS

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM Team Academic Award

Team Sportsmanship Award

1st Team All Stars: Aubrey Thurber '26, Molly Horvath '27

2nd Team All Stars: Calleigh Kauffman '27, Ava Wissler '27

BOYS SOCCER TEAM



PHOTO OF BOYS SOCCER TEAM; CREDITS KEITH NISLY

PIAA Class 1A State Champions District 3 Finalists

L-L League Section 4 Champions Section Player of the Year: Msafiri Amisi '25

1st Team All Stars: Msafiri Amisi '25, David Lapp '25, Ethan Bell '25

2nd Team All Stars: Jackson Harbaugh '25, Cooper Halvorsen '27

Academic All Star: Nikolas Martiny '25

Pennsylvania Class A Coach of the Year & 300th Win as Coach: Fred Winey '90, Head Coach

GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

District and State Quarter Finalists
1st Team All Stars: Adelyn King '25, Avery King '27, Macie Boyd '27, and Dakota Kraenbring '25



2nd Team All Stars: Leah Friesen '25, Lindsey Rychener '25

Academic All Star: Lena Hess '25
Section 4 Coach of the Year Award: Sean Boer, Head Coach

GIRLS TENNIS TEAM

Section 3 All Star: Allie Doutrich '26, Team No.1 Player

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

2nd Team All Stars: Azaylia Jenkins '25, Ella Binkley '26, Bella Fuller '26

CROSS COUNTRY



1st Team All Star and State Competitor: Teresa Lubber '26

District Competitors: Landon Nyveldt '26, Olivia Zook '26, Munira Siegrist '27, Teresa Lubber '26
Scholar Athlete: Jared Bowman '25

GOLF

Team Sportsmanship Award

All Star Honorable Mention: Jack Irons '27

League competitors: Jack Irons '27, Bill Rothwein '26, Cody Fisher '26 finished 12th in Class AA

BOWLING

Three bowlers went to leagues: Kyler Buckwalter '26, Connor Halliday '26, Lukas Stauffer '25



PHOTO OF THE BOWLING TEAM

CHESS

The team finished the Lancaster Scholastic Chess League regular season with a league leading 14-2 record.



PHOTO OF CHESS TEAM

BOYS BASKETBALL

3A District Finalists

3A Section State Playoffs

1st Team All Stars: Chase Hurst '26, Cody Fisher '26

Top Defensive Player: Chase Hurst '26

Coach of the Year: Jeff Hartenstine '99



PHOTO OF BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM.
PHOTO CREDITS: REIN WENGER

QUIZ BOWL

The team finished the year in 5th place out of 24 L-L teams. Simeon Spurrier '25 ended in 7th place; Owen Esch '25 was 34th individually out of 178.

The team will participate in the Small School's National



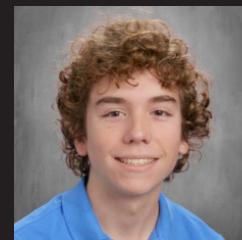
PHOTO OF QUIZ BOWL TEAM

Championship in Chicago in April. Sim Spurrier '25 will also compete at the Individual Nationals also in Chicago in April.

Watch their Brainbusters match that will air on WGAL on Saturday, April 26 at 12:30 PM vs. Cumberland Valley.

PARADISE ROTARY CLUB STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Four of our eleventh grade students were recommended by the school's guidance department, principal or faculty on the basis of significant achievement, as well as good character and citizenship to be the Paradise Rotary Student of the Month. Congratulations to these exemplary students!



CALEB BOWMAN
JANUARY



CAROLINE CLEMENT
FEBRUARY



KATE METZLER
APRIL



TONY DE LA ROSA RUARK
MAY

LITTLE WOMEN WINTER MUSICAL RECAP

"While many decide to dismiss *Little Women* as a story about girls getting married, we emphasized the growth shown by each of the girls in their relationships with each other and their family, as they evolve as people. This production included "legacy" students, students whose older siblings and other family were also heavily involved in the Drama Department, as well as seniors who have been involved in almost every production since the beginning of their tenure at Lancaster Mennonite. I am so proud of the cast and crew," said Katelyn Coryell, HS Drama Director.



We just can't fit it all!

**SEE ALL THE STORIES & NEWS
ON INSTAGRAM: @LMBLAZERS**

YOUR GIVING TOOLBOX: DONOR ADVISED FUNDS A TOOL FOR DONORS LIKE YOU

When you hear the words "Donor Advised Fund" (DAF), perhaps you immediately think that it's probably something that's not for you. Maybe it sounds like it's for someone older, or younger, or who has more complicated assets, or who gives way more than you do.

But that's not true! According to the National Study on Donor Advised Funds, at the end of 2021, almost half of all DAFs had less than \$50,000 in them. **25% of DAF Advisors are under the age of 55.** Donor Advised Funds may be a great tool for you!

A DAF is basically a charitable savings account that has the ability to grow over time, increasing your ability to give over the years.

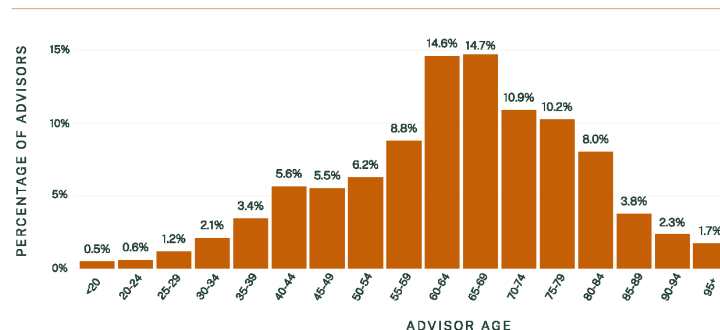
DAFs are one of the fastest growing tools for charitable giving in the US. Out of the 1.78 million DAFs in the U.S. in 2024, one in four were established since 2020. And it's easy to understand why:

- They provide immediate tax benefits
- They are simple to set up and use
- They grow and therefore enable larger gifts

If you already have a DAF, your gift to Lancaster Mennonite this year is an investment in students as they learn and grow here at LM, and prepare for the future beyond school.

Chart from The National Study on Donor Advised Funds 2024 by the DAF Research Collaborative

Age of Donor Advisors



Within this dataset, the age of the donor advisors varied widely. Figure 3.3A shows that the most common ages for donor advisors were between 55-80 years old.

HOW TO SET-UP A DAF THROUGH A DAF ADMINISTRATOR

1. **Make a one time gift** of cash, real estate, stock (especially great use for appreciated assets).
2. **Watch it grow** (most funds are invested and generate interest).
3. **Recommend gifts to your favorite charities** as you desire.

"We use a DAF for multiple reasons! First, we can alternate between the Standard Deduction and itemizing which benefits our tax situation. Second, for estate planning, updating beneficiaries is easier than with a will. And third, the DAF funds can grow allowing more non-profits to benefit."



- Anonymous LM Donors



OVER 275 GRANDPARENTS & GRANDFRIENDS CAME TO SCHOOL!

This fall we were glad to welcome over 275 grandparents/friends to visit our elementary students. Highlights of the morning:

- During chapel many students showcased their musical talents and Bible memory in both English and Spanish
- Grandparents/friends joined in fun classroom activities
- Photo booths and treats in the hallways

It's a joy to have grandparents and others come alongside us as we seek to nurture students to become followers of Jesus in this caring community!

WORLD CHANGER WEEK

In the past, students participated in a fundraiser called "Race for Education". Several years ago, we shifted to a week of service opportunities for students, using that as the central event for students to receive support and something that would more directly align with our unique values at LM. It has been a meaningful shift, and brings more attention to the values of service, compassion, and global citizenship. This year, World Changer Week was March 10-14, and students participated in collecting and sorting coins for My Coins Count, packing MCC school kits, planting native plants on campus, and volunteering at local organizations like Blessings of Hope, Woodcrest Retreat, and Parish Resource Center (PRC).



MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



DR. KIM PHIPPS

Member-At-Large

Dr. Kim Phipps is the President of Messiah College. She received her Ph.D. in Communication Studies (Rhetoric) from Kent State University, M.A. in Speech Communication from Morehead State University, and a B.A. in Biblical Studies, English and History minors, magna cum laude from Kentucky Christian College. She is married to David "Kelly" Phipps and her daughter, E. Brooke Phipps, is an LMH grad class of 2010. Dr. Phipps is a member of Grantham Brethren in Christ Church.



CHRISTINA PANTOJA WILLIAMS

Member-At-Large

Christina is the Director of Pre-College Programs & First Generation Student Initiatives at Millersville University. She has her B.A. from Millersville University, M.Ed from Temple University, Ed.D from West Chester University, a certificate in Workplace Diversity, Equity & Inclusion from the University of South Florida, and a certificate in College Student Well-Being, Trauma, & Resilience from the University of South Florida. She attends Journey Church, and has two children, Annalina and Maxum, who both attend LM.



JAMIE ROTTMUND

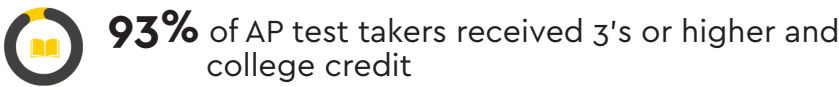
Member-At-Large

Jamie is the President of Clark Food Service Equipment. He received his B.S. in Computer Aided Product Design from PA College of Technology. He attends Lancaster Brethren in Christ with his wife Stacey and two children, Paige and Finn, who both attend LM. He is also on the board of Lancaster Conservancy and is a Scout leader for Finn's Cub Scout pack.

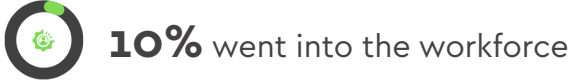
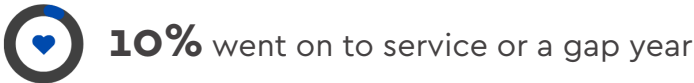
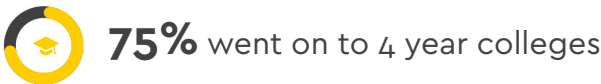
GRATITUDE AND IMPACT REPORT

Through the generosity of the Lancaster Mennonite community, students are receiving excellence in instruction and academic learning and are being formed to follow Jesus. Thank you for your part in this!

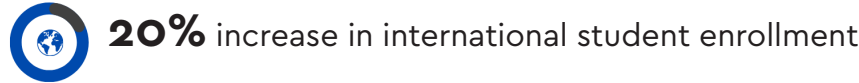
2023-24 STUDENT DATA



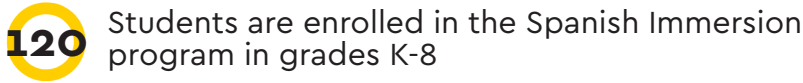
CLASS OF 2024



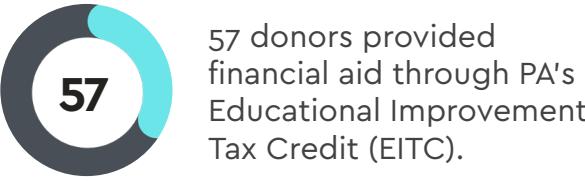
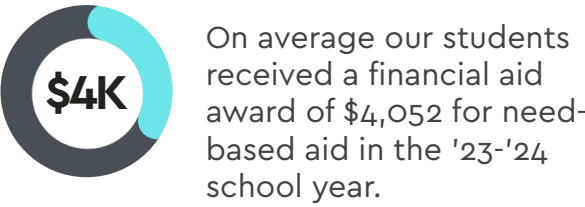
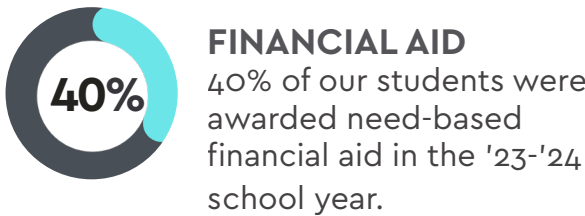
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM



STUDENT AID



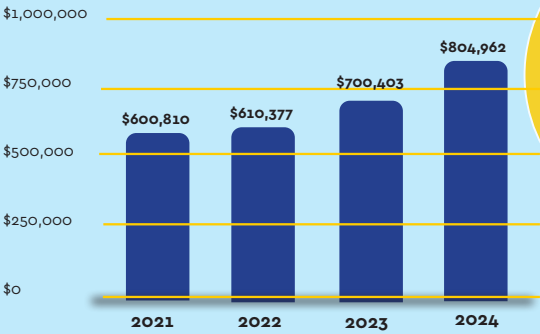
DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023-24 donors gave \$ 1,936,687 in support of LM students!

- These gifts included:
- Bequests - \$31,970
 - Booster Club - \$ 34,855
 - Grants - \$100,000
 - Church Partnership - \$184,852
 - Fundraising Events - \$192,204

EITC & SPE DISTRIBUTED AS NEED-BASED STUDENT AID

These state tax programs allow businesses and individuals to provide need-based aid to support LM students. We're excited to see this program continue to grow. Thank you so much!



15%
GROWTH
IN ONE YEAR!

Thank you to the individuals, businesses, churches and foundations who partner with LM!

FINANCIAL REPORT

By Lorri Hengst, LM Chief Financial Officer

Part of LM's three-year Strategic Plan for 2023–2026 is to continue to strengthen the financial position to allow for continued excellence in education. Some key practices that have been put into place to help reach this goal are the following:

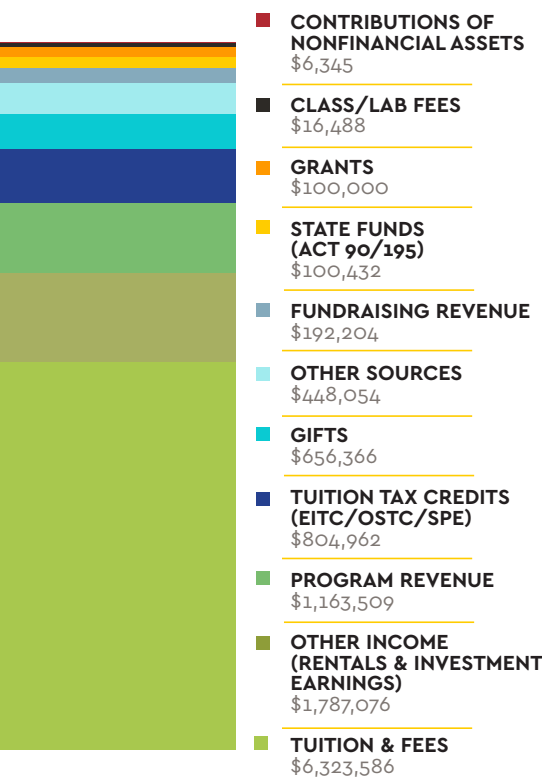
- Maximizing resources for student programming and school operation through effective fundraising
- Wise stewardship of all resources to meet instructional goals and support teacher needs
- Using both data and feedback to assess the success of funding and program decisions

LM is grateful for your generous support that allows us to provide a foundation of deep Christian faith and a well-rounded education for every student. This is a high-level view of our financials. If you are interested in more detail or have any questions, please contact me at: hengstlk@lancastermennonite.org or 717-740-2434.

REVENUE & EXPENSES

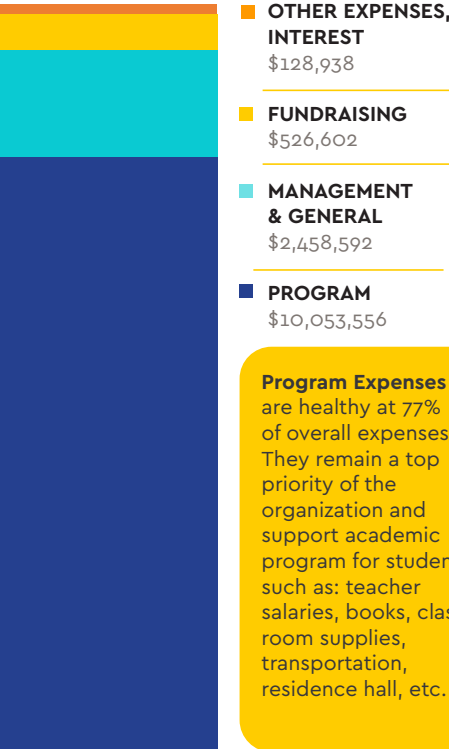
\$11,599,022

2023-2024 REVENUE



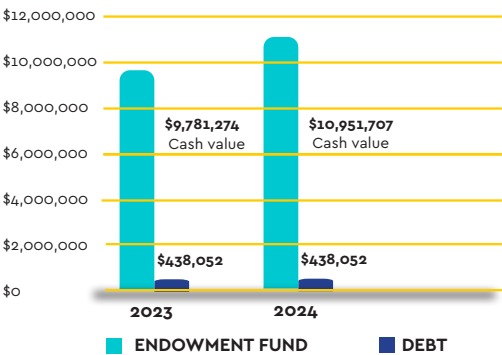
\$13,167,688

2023-2024 EXPENSES



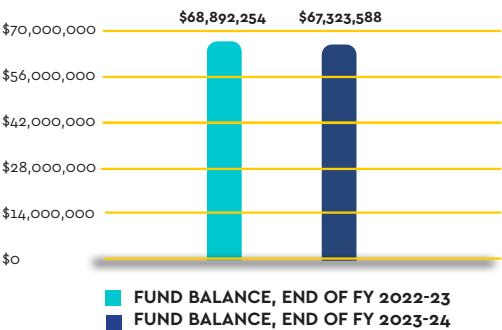
Program Expenses are healthy at 77% of overall expenses. They remain a top priority of the organization and support academic program for students, such as: teacher salaries, books, classroom supplies, transportation, residence hall, etc.

ENDOWMENT AND DEBT



Endowment funds increased \$1.1M due to higher performance in the market and endowment giving. **The endowment funds provide financial support to programs** such as drama, athletics, academic support, music, FFA, and more.

OPERATING FUND BALANCES



The Operating Fund balance is the difference between the fund's assets and liabilities, and is a measure of the financial resources available to the fund. It is calculated by subtracting the total expenses from the total revenues over a fiscal year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

lancastermennonite.org/events

Spring Celebration: Auction & BBQ - April 26, 2025

Benefit Golf Tournament - May 13, 2025

Commencement & Graduation - May 31, 2025

Summer Open House - July 17, 2025

Fall Festival & Homecoming - September 27, 2025



Join us for our annual Spring Celebration including a chicken BBQ, live & silent auction, bake sale, plant sale, and lots of kids activities! **Pre-registration for BBQ meals will close on April 11th**, and the price will increase for day-of purchases.





LANCASTER MENNONITE
FAITH • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

29TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAY 13 2025

7:30 AM MORNING ROUND

1:30 PM AFTERNOON ROUND



SCAN ME



AT MEADIA HEIGHTS GOLF CLUB

REGISTER BY APRIL 25TH!

Register Here: lancastermennonite.org/events/golf-2025

EVENT GALLERY: FALL 2024

HOMECOMING & FALL FESTIVAL 2024

What a gift it was to be together at the 2024 Homecoming Celebration! The weather was beautiful, and the day was full of fun activities, connecting with friends, and celebrating LM students and alumni as a school community. There were many great highlights – being on the playground and listening to student music performances, sampling the food trucks while cheering on our teams at the soccer games, soaking teachers in the dunk tank, and playing at the carnival. **It was great to make memories together. We hope to see you next year!**



PHOTOS FROM HOMECOMING WEEKEND - CREDITS: KEITH NISLY PHOTOGRAPHY

EXTRAGIVE 2024

Thanks to your generosity to Lancaster Mennonite through ExtraGive, we raised over \$72,000! It was great to see those of you who visited us downtown at Neighbors Community Center. **We had an amazing day with lots of student and community excitement all day long! We are so thankful for your compassionate support.**



ALUMNI NEWS

REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1970, 55TH: September 20th at Stumptown Mennonite Church. Contact Jay Carpenter at jcarpenter52@frontiernet.net or (717) 341-7062.

CLASS OF 1965, 50TH: Save the date for October 4, 2025 for a reunion in LM's Alumni Dining Hall. More details to come! Contact Ruth Ann Martin with questions at cbramartin1978@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1974



50TH CLASS REUNION AT STUMPTOWN MENNONITE

DEATHS

Gladys I. (Wert) Yoder '50, Dover, DE, February 28, 2025
Lois (Ruth) Kennel '50, Rochester, MN, February 7, 2025
Evelyn Mae (Lehman) Shaar '58, Lititz, PA, January 25, 2025
Harold L. "Rocky" Bechtold '75, Elizabethtown, PA, December 15, 2024
Dr. Jacob Paul Clymer '57, Lititz PA, November 30, 2024
JoAnne (Campbell) Hershey '62, Willow Street, PA, November 25, 2024
Elaine L. (Landis) Hollinger '64, Lancaster, PA, November 13, 2024
Richard G. Stoltzfus '54, Harrisonburg, VA, November 11, 2024
Jerry (Gerald) V. Lapp '84, Lancaster, PA November 5, 2024
Ernest S. "Ernie" Mast '59, Lancaster, PA, October 7, 2024
Gloria (Weaver) Rissler '54, Columbia, SC, September 27, 2024
Dr. John Mark Rutt '55, Lititz, PA, September 15, 2024
Lois I. (Witmer) Good '53, Groghan, NY, September 7, 2024
Marie L. Snavelly '55, Bridgewater, VA, August 28, 2023
Ralph E. Weaver '49, Lancaster, PA, August 23, 2024
Brother Franklin D. Albrecht '76, Lancaster, PA, August 24, 2024
Paul S. Groff '59, Ephrata, PA, August 16, 2024
Lloyd E. Kreider '53, Lititz, PA, August 12, 2024
Benjamin Denlinger Hershey '51, Lititz, PA, August 8, 2024
Henry G. Shenk '52, Lititz, PA, July 30, 2024
Betty L. (Keener) Miller '57, Landisville, PA, July 29, 2024
Ernest M. Hess '60, Lancaster, PA, July 15, 2024
Daniel D. Wert '56, Lititz, PA, July 7, 2024
Susan E. (Frey) Steffy '76, Lititz, PA, February 28, 2024 **corrected from Fall 2024 Edition
Dr. Vernon A. Mast '56, Hillsboro, NM, January 16, 2024

MARRIAGES

Rodney L. Stoltzfus '19 & Sarah Pereverzoff, November 10, 2024
Zachary Neu 'HC '12 & Sarah Manske, July 14, 2024

BIRTHS/ADOPTIONS

Kelly (Kreider) '08 & Joshua Tucker, Thia Wren, February 26, 2025
Rebekah (Umble) '17 & Derek Thrush, Eden Charlotte, February 8, 2025
Ashley (King) '18 & Carter '18 Hurst, Ryan Harper, January 26, 2025
Hans Weaver '09 & Vanessa Hofer, Greta Lynn, January 28, 2025
Samuel '12 & Rebekah Stoner, Collin Berkeley, December 26, 2024
Joella (Garber) '04 & Tyler Neff, Dove Nannalyn, November 26, 2024
Rebecca (Shirk) 'HC '12 & Dylan Hrubochak, Nathan Judah, October 5, 2024
Kimberly (Nissly) '05 & Tim Henderson, Addalyn Malaika, October 1, 2024
Ryan '06 & Drew Keagy, Covey Ryan, September 30, 2024
Serena (Emory) 'HC '12 & Matthew Poganski, Luca Forest, August 27, 2024
Kristen (Groff) '05 & Alex Martin, Josephine 'Eponine, August, 22, 2024
Sophia (Mast) '14 & Dan '14 Zook, Edwin James, July 16, 2024
Alex 'HC '07 & Elena Sadowski, Olivia Grace, July 5, 2024
Angela (Stoltzfus) '10 & Benjamin '07 Morrison, Asher, May 24, 2024
Jacquelyn (Sauder) '07 & AJ Iannello, Rhodes John, December 19, 2023



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lancastermennonite.org/events/spring-celebration-2025



SCAN ME



Lancaster Mennonite Kids Summer Camps - Summer Fun!

Looking for great opportunities for incoming Kindergarten-9th grade students to explore LEGOS, science, nature, art, music, the Bible, sports, or Spanish this summer? Check out our summer camp options: lancastermennonite.org/summer-camps.

Camp Options:

- LEGO
- Science
- Bible & Sports
- Art & Music
- Spanish-English
- Garden-to-Table

Half-Day and Full-Day Options*:

- Half-Day: 9AM-1PM
 - Full-Day: 9AM-4PM
- *Discount for full-day option*

And much more! Visit our website to explore the options!