

**NEW**

**MEMBER**

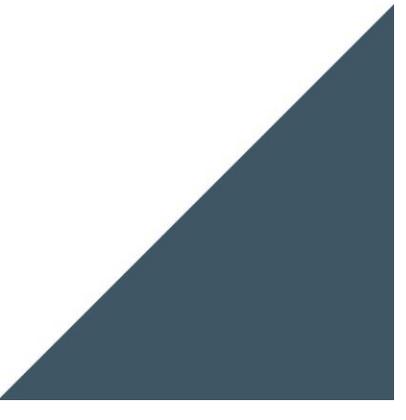
**CANDIDATES**

**NOV  
2021**



**LEFC**

LANCASTER EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH



# NEW MEMBER CANDIDATES – NOVEMBER 2021

Chuck and Emily Archibald  
Ed and Stacey Hansen  
Sarah Matteson



## CHUCK ARCHIBALD

I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home. Both sets of my Grandparents were saved and my parents raised me and my 2 brothers in the church.

I came to a saving knowledge of Christ at 5 years old at a vacation Bible School put on by a neighboring church. I was raised in a single church up until I was 18 when I headed to a college that was 8 hours away from home. With the absence of my parents direct influence I was challenged to make my faith my own during this time. This time is when I would say I started to really grow in my faith.

I met my wife Emily in college, and we have been married almost 19 years. In our marriage we have tried to make it a priority to get and stay involved in a local church. It is one my greatest joys to say that our 3 kids have accepted Christ. The local church has played a crucial part in raising our children and offered a place to serve and be served within the fellowship of other believers. Throughout the years and in many different settings we can see God's direction in our lives and our marriage.

God has shown me that even in times I can't see his direct hand in some aspects of my life he is constantly working to make us more like Christ, and is in total control while working to protect us from ourselves.

In the summer of 2020 amid COVID, we felt God leading us from our church of 9 years to LEFC. I questioned this calling in our lives especially during a time of uncertainty. We felt confident in the strong biblical teaching at LEFC, but leaving the familiar was unsettling for your family. Once again God's hand in leading our lives as a family and in our personal relationship with Him is evident in the relationships we have made in our short time we have been at LEFC.

## EMILY ARCHIBALD

I am Emily Archibald. I have been married to Chuck for almost 19 years. Chuck and I met at Cedarville University, in Cedarville, Ohio. We have 3 children: Olivia (14), Susan (11) and Declan (7). Throughout our marriage, we have always been active members of local churches in the area. We were members at our previous church for 9 years. During the COVID shutdown, we really had a strong sense that God was redirecting our steps.

We started watching LEFC's services online and then when LEFC opened in June 2020, we started attending in person. On one of those Sundays that summer, Pastor Tony noticed we were new and introduced himself to us. A couple months later, we received an email from Pastor Tony asking if we would be interested in being part of a life group with him, his wife and another couple. We all met as a group for the first time in early October to discuss the details of our life group. We mentioned that we were very excited to "do life" with each other. A week later, I received devastating news that I had breast cancer. I texted our life group asking if they were ready to "do life" with us because life was about to get real. Immediately, Kristen replied that she had been on a similar cancer journey (which I

did not know at the time). This was one of the many confirmations God provided as to why we sensed His leading us to LEFC—We desperately needed these new friends to walk a very dark journey with us.

We have been so blessed to be a part of LEFC for the past almost year and a half. We have appreciated the fellowship and teaching in our ABF and the solid preaching. Our life group has provided us with genuine friendship, fellowship, and incredible support during a difficult season. Our children have enjoyed being part of the youth group and children's ministry. We have been welcomed by so many within the church. We have made new friends and have been reacquainted with old friends. I have had the privilege of coming from a family of strong believers. My great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents all have walked faithfully with our Savior and been actively involved in the church. Honestly, I have never known a day where I did not know or love Jesus. At the age of 4, I distinctly remember asking my parents about receiving Jesus as my Savior. I remember fully understanding that I was a sinner and in need of a Savior. On a Sunday evening, my dad took me into the living room where we knelt at the couch and he led me in prayer to receive Jesus as my Savior. I have had seasons of growth and then seasons where I feel like I have taken a few steps backwards, but I have always desired to grow in my love and knowledge of the Lord. In college, my faith really became my own and I grew under the wonderful preaching in chapels and teaching in my Bible classes. I was baptized my senior year of college.

My cancer journey has been a growing season, where my faith has deepened. Although, it is still hard for me to say I am thankful for the journey, I can say that it has changed me. God has strengthened and deepened my faith and dependence on Him. He graciously allowed me to physically see the hands and feet of Jesus through the love of others. He brought people into my life at just the right time to minister to me when I was in my darkest moments. I am thankful for the spiritual growth I have seen in my life as a result of the cancer journey. God is good, all the time.



## **ED HANSEN**

My name is Ed Hansen, and I was born and raised in Northern California in a liberal mainline church. My parents were public school educators and regular church attenders and volunteers. Growing up, church activities were a major part of life and I was always very involved in youth group and even served as a deacon and on a pastor nominating committee during my high school years, but something was missing. God began convicting me about the truth of His Word during that time, even though the church leaders took a more skeptical approach.

During my college years, God brought me to a defining moment when He brought me face to face with my sin. For the first time I understood personally my sin nature and God's sacrifice on the cross on my behalf. It was a very intense personal experience with God and the worst moment of my life melted away into the best. The key verse at that time was John 14:6 where Jesus says that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. It has continued to grow in meaning over the years as I first focused on the Truth, and later the Way, and finally the Life.

From the time of my conversion I began to read and understand scripture clearly and found my way into a believing church. I married and started a family and had thirteen good years in a small local church in the area I grew up in. Later we relocated to Lancaster County, PA, to attend a local church that promised to be a better place to raise our children. After fourteen years there we concluded that many of those promises were empty and relocated to Harrisburg to help with a new church plant that God led us to. In 2016 my first wife started a very difficult cancer journey that ended with her passing in 2019.

Later that year I met Stacey and soon realized what a precious soul she is. Based on our mutual commitment to the Lord Jesus, we formed a friendship and eventually decided to get married. As we considered where God would have us serve together in His kingdom, LEFC was our first choice to try and soon we were convinced that this is where He would have us tie in. We appreciate the combination of strong convictions about the Word and kingdom of God and the humility of admitting we don't have it all figured out. I currently work in human resources for a company that does construction, transportation, and manufacturing.

## **STACEY HANSEN**

I was raised in a home that went to church for the first few years of my life. Honestly, I don't remember much of it other than at some point, something happened with the church when my dad got laid off and my parents never went back regularly. However, they did continue to send me to confirmation classes. Fast forward to high school and I had a friend who I had known since I was 4 years old bring me to a retreat. I remember a lot of focus on me becoming a believer and a woman taking some time by herself to witness to me. I remember "accepting" Jesus as my savior at that time, but quickly returned to life as normal. Nothing had really changed in my heart. I spent the next two years pursuing acceptance from others through various activities; going to concerts, drinking, and partying. In the middle of my college career, I transferred to Bloomsburg University. My first week on campus I went to a fraternity party one night and Fellowship of Christian Athletes the next. It was there I decided to spend my time and it was there I developed friendships that have endured a lifetime. It was also the place I committed to Christ and decided to follow Him all the days of my life. Early on God put the verse Matthew 6:19-21 on my heart. In my infancy as a Christian, I didn't understand the verse for its full value, but now work to focus on those things that matter to God.

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)*

Most of my adult life was spent in a non-denominational church where I studied and served Christ. I made connections and had a strong community for 20 years. It was there that I learned how to grow in Christ and my faith became more mature. However, at a point in my late 30s I felt restless with my job as a public-school teacher and life in upstate NY. I began to question my career and staying in Vestal the rest of my life. It was then I started to pursue a master's degree in counseling through Messiah College. After 4 ½ years it was time to complete my degree through internships. I decided that to be successful at the internships, I would have to quit my teaching job. I took a huge leap of faith and trusted God would provide the next landing spot. On my last day of teaching, I was offered an internship at Messiah College's counseling center for the entire next school year. In August, I moved to Camp Hill and finished my degree that next spring. I was offered a job before I graduated and eventually met my husband. The verse that has had a huge impact on my life and speaks to me even more as I have watched the power of Christ in my life is Ephesians 3:20-21. *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

We mutually agreed to try LEFC as our church home last fall. I had been attending LEFC off and on when I would visit my best friend over the last 20+ years. I knew it was the place I wanted to connect with, but soon my husband felt the same. We have found that the vision of the church is something we want to align ourselves with and serve alongside the body of Christ here.



## **SARAH MATTESON**

Hello! My name is Sarah, and the very first thing I want you to know about me is that I love Jesus. I am only 18, but I have already seen the Lord move so heavily in my life and the lives of my family and friends. Allow me to tell you something about God that I have learned full well: He is faithful! During my childhood, my oldest brother Alex was diagnosed with epilepsy. This led to seizures, running away, constant trips to doctors, including Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Throughout my preteen to early teen years, I witnessed my brother experience surgery and be completely healed of this disease. He is a normal, functioning adult and you wouldn't know anything abnormal happened if you met him one day on the street. Our God is the healer!

As a teen, I dealt with mononucleosis multiple times which led to me being diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS for short). To make a very long story short, POTS caused me to be exhausted all the time, along with a rare collection of symptoms. That I had POTS made the fact that I was homeschooled stand out as a major blessing. Being able to do school at home at my own pace when I felt like I could was huge for me. As I have grown into a young adult (praise the Lord!), I have mostly outgrown POTS and I do not see its symptoms play a role hardly ever. The Lord was so faithful through this season of weariness, physical and emotional. His plan never fails and he always has our best in mind!

Recently in my life the Lord clearly was leading me away from a position I held as a Medical Assistant. As I made a quick exit for mental health reasons, I feared for my finances as multiple medical bills had added up on top of my monthly bills, and I wouldn't be starting with my new position for 3 weeks. And on the exact date, without my knowing, I resigned and the Lord still led the company to pay out their 3 month anniversary sign on bonus to me despite my departure. He is the Provider!

All my life I continue to see his all-knowing nature, faithfulness, and goodness. He is SO GOOD!!! I am incredibly blessed to be walking in relationship with the Savior. My hope and prayer is my personal testimony can lead others to see the wonderful love of the one I serve and will one day be made whole in the presence of. He is my whole reason for being, my best friend, my Lord, my Father, my Provider, the list could go on and on. I plan to pursue him all the days of my life until I am made complete in him. Trust in him. You will never regret it.