

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2013**

### **LIBERTYVILLE COVENANT CHURCH**

250 S. St. Mary's Road - Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Phone: 847-362-3308 - [www.libcov.org](http://www.libcov.org)



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## INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

As the title of this report indicates, I have had the honor of being your interim pastor for the past four months, which has been a positive experience for me. Four months is not a long time, but it is enough time to know that Libertyville Covenant Church is a congregation of loving, generous and God-centered people. Judy and I have greatly appreciated your welcoming us into the life of the congregation and, personally, into your lives.

In writing to the church in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul prays for the church in this manner: *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16-19)* In this time of transition between pastors, this is a prayer that I hold for you—to have the strength of Christ in being the church together in your continuing and growing ministry rooted in the extravagant love of Christ. It is being “rooted” in Christ that we have focused on, beginning in September. Our worship themes have been “Rooted in the Word, Christ and Worship,” Entering 2014 we continued the “rooted” theme with “Rooted in Prayer,” and through the Lenten season we will continue with “Rooted in Joy” and “Rooted in Grace.”

As an emphasis in worship, we engaged in seven Sundays which focused on the ministries of the congregation as each ministry highlighted their service both within and outside the church. The culminating event was letting the Word, heard in worship, move us to an act of expressing our faith in service with 115 people moving from worship to packing food pouches at Feed My Starving Children. What a powerful expression of the church in ministry!

I have had the opportunity of leading an adult Bible study on Wednesday evening which has generated good discussion with a video series called “That the World May Know.” It is a series filmed in the Holy Land and takes us to the physical locations that coincide with the biblical text. This study will continue during the season of the Wednesday Church Family Nights. Speaking of Wednesday nights, it has been inspiring to see how so many people have invested themselves in meal preparation and serving, and in staffing the various activities.

Church membership increased by 2 members in 2013, as the Deacon Report indicates. This increase is reflected with 6 members received, 2 members transferred and 2 members withdrawing. I mention this to note that there will be a new members' class on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. If someone is interested in exploring this opportunity, please talk with me.

This time of transition is a time to celebrate what has been, how God has provided, and

how the congregation is working together. It is also a time for continued self assessment with asking the questions that help in understanding the direction in which God continues to call the church forward. There is a West African word, Sankofa, which means “looking back to move ahead.” That is a good word for transitioning as this is a time to both look at where the congregation has been and at what the congregation is now learning about itself that gives insights in shaping the future. I see some evidence of this and I want to encourage the congregation to continue to be intentional in its moving forward.

In closing, I express my thanks to the Council for helping me with my orientation and for their dedication to their particular ministries. I thank Maria and Brian for their dedication to their ministries of mentoring the children and youth of the congregation and their parents. To the music team, Kris Nikkel as choir director and the choir, Eric Sawyer and the worship team, Linda Krueger at the organ and Linda Baumann at the piano, who concluded her ministry in December, I say thank you for helping to lead us in worship. Thank you Dan and Ron for keeping the building in good order and for doing that with a smile. Thank you Ann for giving the young children a safe, loving place to be while their parents are in Sunday School and worship. I express my thanks to Marti, who is not only the church secretary but the person who has been indispensable, on a daily basis, with helping me to know what I need to know and where I need to be. Marti is not only the church secretary and helpful to me, she is also the one I would call "the vice-president of first impressions" as she gives a wonderful and positive impression of the church to everyone who comes into the office. To my wife, Judy, I express my thanks for her support, insight and encouragement in this new chapter of interim ministry in our "retirement." Both of us are grateful for this opportunity to be with you. We know that God has led us here for this time. We trust that you are receiving us as much from us as we are receiving from you.

Speaking of God's leading, I pray for God's leading in your search for a permanent pastor. God's Word reminds us that as we "trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding and in all your ways acknowledge him, he will direct your path." So, we actively and prayerfully wait to see where this directing of God will lead. Judy and I look forward to the next months and, again, we thank you for welcoming us into the life of Libertyville Covenant Church.

Robert Tenglin, Interim Pastor

## **PASTORAL ACTS IN 2013**

### **BAPTISMS**

Kajsa Elizabeth Dalton, daughter of Joe and Andra Dalton August 4, 2013 at Libertyville Covenant Church Libertyville, Illinois (Pastor Dwight A. Nelson)

Corban Chang, August 4, 2013 Libertyville Covenant Church at Lake Minear, Libertyville, Illinois (Pastor Dwight A. Nelson)

### **DEDICATIONS**

Makayla Ramas, Daughter of Mike and Debby Ramas, May 19, 2013 at Libertyville Covenant Church Libertyville, Illinois (Pastor Dwight A. Nelson)

Jonah Zahasky, Son of Brian and Maria Zahasky, September 15, 2013 at Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville, Illinois (Pastor Robert Tenglin)

### **CONFIRMATION**

Corban Chang, Libertyville Covenant Church (Pastor Dwight A. Nelson, May 19, 2013)

### **WEDDINGS**

Lisa Hjelm and Paul Cousineau, Saturday June 15, 2013 at Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville, Illinois (Rev. Brian Zahasky, Rev. Bill Fish)

Kate Anderson and Kevin Reilly, Saturday, October 5, 2013 at Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville, Illinois (Rev. Brian Zahasky, Rev. Bob Anderson)

### **FUNERALS - MEMORIAL SERVICES**

Walter White, Saturday, February 23, 2013 at Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville, Illinois (Pastor Dwight A. Nelson officiating)

Mary Zeagler, Monday, February 18, 2013, at Ahlgrim Funeral Home, Lake Zurich, Illinois (Pastor Dwight A. Nelson, Rev. Charles Johnson officiating)

Fritz Lansky, Saturday, October 26, 2013 at Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville, Illinois (Rev. Robert Tenglin, Rev. Charles Johnson officiating)

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

It was at the end of the summer of 2003 and I was working as a roofer to raise funds for seminary and to stay near Maria during our engagement. I had just carried my last bundle of shingles up to the roof when I received a call from Libertyville Covenant Church asking if I would be interested in being the interim youth pastor. It's hard to believe that was ten years ago! 2013 has been one of the most transformative years of ministry that I have had and I am grateful for all that God has done in our church during this past year. Here is a snap shot.

**Retreat:** As many of you know, leading retreats is an important part of my call to ministry. In 2013 I went on or led seven retreats from middle school/high School fall and winter retreats, to youth pastor retreats, summer leadership trips and the church family retreat. I love the time away and the space that is created for God to meet with each of us! A special thanks to the Lundstedt's for letting us use their lake house for many of those retreats this past year! What a blessing it is to have space like that.

**Intern:** Brad Rosengren stepped in as youth ministry intern at One Life 2013. He has jumped in and done a great job connecting with students, leading authentically and creating an inviting and warm place for students each week. I am grateful for him and his leadership over this past year and am excited to see how God continues to develop him as a leader and pastor.

**Leaders:** This year we had a great group of leaders investing in the lives of students. From our faithful and ever present Dave and Darilyn Anderson, and Becca Rosengren working with our High School students, to student leaders Rachel McLinden, Cindy LaPradd, Dave Truskowski, Kirsten Reid, and Sarah Blackwell, to our new leaders Brad and Meghan DeJong who have stepped in to lead our junior high ministry on Wednesday nights. A special thanks to Chris and Twyla Becker who came on the summer trip and demonstrated service, organization, and camping experience!

**Sticky Faith:** This has been a year of "Sticky Faith" for LCC. I along with a great team made two trips to Pasadena to partake in what is known as the "Sticky Faith Insider Cohort". We were challenged, equipped and encouraged by our time in Pasadena and have worked diligently over the past year to develop the following values in our church; Grace based gospel, intergenerational relationships and partnership with parents. One of the biggest elements of "Sticky Faith" to affect our church was the Sticky Buddy initiative. Thanks to the space on the church family retreat in August we did a soft launch of this initiative with great success. At this point at least 90% of our students have adults in the church that are praying for them and looking to find ways to invest in their live. We are continuing to work on developing "God First thinking" in our church as the next step of "Sticky Faith."

**Summer Trip:** We listened for a long time about the best way to go deeper in faith this summer with students and adults. I prayed about and wondered if this was a year to do a mission trip. I felt like a mission trip never gained traction but what did gain traction was a remake of a discipleship trip I created two years earlier. The result was a discipleship trip to South Dakota with the simple intent of helping young people develop deep roots of faith. This was a fantastic trip and it also included five students from our Mexican Sister church! This was a tremendous learning opportunity for everyone involved and a great next step in the development of our relationship with our sister church.

**Change:** With Dwight and Kathy leaving we have all had to re-shift some of our focus to new areas to cover the vacancies left by their departure. This was also a new season for us to try new things, develop and clarify our identity as a church and focus on what it means to be a rooted church. I enjoyed the challenge of preaching more often and leading in different capacities around the church. One person said when reflecting on the change in the church...”I thought it was going to feel like a time of transition when in reality it feels much more like a new beginning.” We continue to develop this idea of being rooted this year as we prepare for the new beginnings with a lead pastor. Many thanks goes to Pastor Bob for coming in and helping us listen better and prepare ourselves for the new season ahead.

**Looking Forward:** Here are some of the things I am looking forward to in 2014

Seeing “Sticky Faith” continue to grow and develop in the church.

Seeing this current class of seniors graduate.

Putting together the confirmation service for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Building more opportunities for intergenerational engagement.

Put together the pieces for a cross cultural learning and ministry experience in Mexico this summer with our sister church.

Continue to lead and serve this great church!

Thank you for your partnership and I am looking forward to 2014!

Brian Zahasky, Associate Pastor



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

In 2013 we focused a lot of our time and energy on Sticky Faith and understanding what Sticky Faith looks like in our children's ministry, in our homes and in the larger church. Throughout the year we had great conversations, started some new programs and made changes to existing programs. There is still much progress to be made but it is wonderful to see some of our Sticky Faith initiatives flourish. I am always filled with joy on Sunday mornings as I witness adults taking time to spend a few minutes catching up with their young sticky buddies. We pray that these relationships will bear much fruit in the lives of our children and the adults taking the time to invest. As we look ahead to 2014 we hope to continue working on our Sticky Faith initiative by turning our attention to how we can better equip parents and on revisiting our summer ministry opportunities for children and families. Keep your eyes open because new opportunities will be coming your way!

**Sunday School and Kids Club:** We continue to enjoy using the Orange curriculum for both our Sunday School and Kids Club programs. This allows us to have the same Bible story and themes for both Sunday and Wednesday programming. The continuity helps kids really grasp the ideas and concepts we are wrestling with and allows us extra time to focus on four "faith skills." Our Sunday School classes work on God Sightings (learning to see God at work in their life and the world around them) and prayer, while our kids club classes focus on understanding how to use the Bible and scripture memory. Both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening programs have experienced great energy this year and our Wednesday night kids club groups are growing by leaps and bounds. Many nights we are stretching the limit of what our space can handle! It is a wonderful blessing to be able to welcome friends and neighbors to our classes on Wednesday evenings.

**Children's Church:** In May we concluded our year of learning about worship with the children leading the Mother's Day worship service. This was truly one of my favorite moments of children's ministry this year. It was such a blessing to see the kids read scripture, serve as ushers, lead in prayer, offer special music and sing and play the chimes with all their might! Preparing for this experience was a wonderful way for us to review all that we had learned about the different pieces of the worship service. The loving and supportive response from the congregation helped our children feel that our worship service is a place where they belong and are welcomed. During the summer we focused on a short series called "Soul Shift" and had some great conversations on how God can change our hearts and our minds. In September we began our three year rotation anew and are now journeying our way through the Old Testament.

**Preschool VBS:** In June we had a great week of preschool VBS as we headed to the ranch for a roundup. Each day we journeyed the trail to learn more about the life of Moses. We had 38 preschoolers attend VBS. In addition to our regular preschool crew we had preschoolers who are a part of our Mom to Mom group attend, a group from Redeemer Life Covenant Church attend, and quite a few grandchildren of LCC members join us for a fun week.

**Summer Adventures:** We had three summer adventures for grade school kids this summer, a craft adventure, two cooking classes and a game/water day. Between the three adventures we had a total attendance of 84 kids. Summer Adventures are a fun way for us to stay connected to kids during the summer and allows LCC kids an opportunity to invite friends.

**Family Retreat:** We enjoyed a wonderful weekend at Conference Point Center in Williams Bay, WI, for our annual family retreat. 76 people from 23 different families joined us this year as we explored the theme of “Sticky.” The retreat was a wonderful time of relationship building and was a great springboard for our Sticky Buddies initiative.

**Special Events:** Throughout the year we had opportunities to gather together as a young families group for special events such as the Ash Wednesday family night, interactive Last Supper, end of year kids club party, summer Wednesdays on the hill, night of service, and family Advent night.

Maria Zahasky, Director of Children’s Ministry

As the children’s ministry of Libertyville Covenant Church our mission is to help children:

**To know God, learn His story, and discover how they can be a part of that story.**

We will accomplish this through:

**Solid Biblical Teaching**—Children need a solid foundation of Biblical truth on which to build their relationship with God. Children need to know God’s story so they can discover how God has equipped them to join his work in our world.

**Empowering and Equipping Parents**—Parents have the best opportunities to disciple their children. As a church we need to encourage parents and equip them to be disciplers.

**Intergenerational Relationships**—Belonging to a community helps children experience, explore and understand what it means to have a relationship with God. As a church we need to provide opportunities for children to have meaningful interactions with adults and older youth through intergenerational activities and intentional relationships.

*“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”*

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NIV)

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES REPORT**

During 2013, 14 children were cared for in our two nurseries. On a typical Sunday morning, there are four children who regularly attend the infant nursery and ten children in the preschool nursery. We continue to have a core group of approximately 40 volunteers to cover nursery care throughout the year. Joel and Hannah Dillon, Brad and Meghan DeJong, Mayumi Aaberg and Linda Lee were added to the volunteer roster.

Four babies were born during 2013. Jonah Gabriel Zahasky, son of Brian and Maria, was born on January 10. Jonah Andrew Dillon, son of Joel and Hannah, was born on January 18. Kajsa Dalton, daughter of Joe and Andra, was born on March 23. Maren Elizabeth Palmberg, daughter of Ben and Sarah, was born June 22. Makayla Ramas, daughter of Mike and Debby, was Dedicated on May 19. Kajsa Dalton was Baptized on August 4. Jonah Zahasky was Dedicated on September 15.

Nursery care is provided during Sunday School, the 10:30 Sunday Service, and Wednesday evenings. Caitlin Bethancourt provided Wednesday evening care with me during the Spring and Cindy LaPradd worked Wednesday evenings during the Fall. Donna Lindley assumed my duties during my absence for five weeks in March. Both nurseries are also utilized every other Friday morning for Mom's Group. Karin Anderson continues to coordinate nursery care for that program. In addition, nursery care was provided during VBS in June, the Annual Meeting in January, Good Friday Service, Thanksgiving Eve Service, Family Advent Night and the Christmas Eve Family Service.

I would like to once again thank our dedicated volunteers who are willing to give of their time to nurture and care for our young ones.

Ann Frost, Director of Early Childhood Ministries

## **PASTOR TO SENIORS REPORT**

*"How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony." Psalm 131:1 GNT*

The above scripture verse is certainly true for us as Seniors in our relationships with one another and with members of our congregation. We have a place where friendships begin, build and bless!

The primary area of attention and effort that I have is coordinating the Fireside Dinner Fellowship ministry. We participated in the Ministry Fair with a display table along with a power point presentation during the worship service. A newly created pamphlet defines our ministry.

"We are a seniors and friends ministry of Libertyville Covenant Church. While we have our monthly meetings September through May and summer SPIN activities, these times do not define who we are. What defines and draws us together is whose we are and who we are becoming by our being devoted to fellowship in Christ. Our fellowship is then our inner spiritual connection to Christ lived out in outward devotion to one another for the glory of God.

We believe each person in our fellowship has special gifts that encourage, nurture, and support one another in our walk with Christ. Having been embraced and loved by God in Jesus Christ, we embrace and love all those who would be companions with us in this journey of faith!"

Our calendar of events is listed below. We have moved to some noon time meetings to avoid the night driving as well as to take advantage of more economical menu prices. We are grateful for the support and participation of many of church people sharing their talents with us in our activities.

January 10, 1:00 p.m. Barb Schafer presented "A Visit from Esther" at China Court

February 14, 1:00 p.m. Pastor Brian and Jeopardy at Elly's Pancake House

March 14, 1:00 p.m. St. Patrick's Day food at the Avalon Restaurant

April 11, 6:00 p.m. Pizza and the movie, "Unconditional" at LCC

May 9, 6:00 p.m. Steve Barg presented "Natural Resources" at Whitney Street Cafe, Grayslake

### SPIN Events

April 27, 7:30 p.m. Dinner/Lecture/Messiah Concert at North Park University

June 13, 10:30 a.m. Racine Art Museum with Docent Neale Murray as our guide and meal.

July 25, 12:00 p.m. Miller Park Baseball Game hosted by Dick Fehlberg

July 28, 5:00 p.m. Mozart Concert at Ravinia and Picnic

August 20, 10:00 a.m. Chicago Harp Quartet at Botanic Gardens and lunch.

Multi generation group attending Concert in Chicago and eating out. Hosted by Dick Fehlberg

September 13, 6:00 p.m. Tom Engstrom presented "The Starbucks Coffee Way" at Saddlebrook Potluck

October 13, 3:30 p.m. Michael Gagne presented an organ concert for church and community and wereceived \$230 for PADS.

November 14, 6:00 p.m. John Couleur presented the work of "Illinois Shelter and Recovery". We had a light soup supper and received \$650 for this work.

December 5, 6:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Smorgasbord at LCC with a power point Christmas program involving FDF members.

The steering committee members for Fireside Dinner Fellowship are Gene and Bev Sparks, Dick and Eileen Fehlberg, Carl and Barb Zienty, and Chuck and Vonnie Johnson.

Another area of ministry is with the Winchester House Worship Service held on the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. (During the Ministry Fair we also had a table depicting this ministry.) I am grateful for the regular involvement of Kari Reid, Linda Baumann (now in Nashville) Maggie Johnson, Nancy Borkman, Nancy Elaine, Barb Hermann, Phil and Jane Nelson, and Vonnie Johnson. They are a great team! We have had the Sunday School children provide music with the chimes under the direction of Maria Zahasky and Maggie Johnson. The care and attention given to the residents before and after the services are very heart-warming. Thanks again to all who helped.

Ongoing attention was given to visitation in conjunction with Pastor Dwight. I have continued the meeting and greeting people before and after the services. The impromptu Sunday lunch conversations at local restaurants are wonderfully enriching times.

I had the privilege of participating in the funeral services for Mary Zeagler and Fritz Lansky. We thank God for them and for their now being at rest and peace.

I have had the opportunity to plan and speak at the Saddlebrook Farms Easter Sunrise Service of about 110 people.

We have had another year of experiencing God's faithfulness and I have been fortunate to have worked with Pastor Dwight, the Diaconate, Marti, and with the much appreciated support of Vonnie.

Pastor Chuck, Pastor to Senior Adults

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### **“A Year of Celebration and Challenges”**

In 2012's annual report Dan Frost wrote that he saw a year ahead of “celebration and challenges” and that is indeed what occurred in 2013.

For me, it started with the challenges. Within the first week of my appointment, we heard the news that Dwight would be leaving us in August. The gears were set in motion to celebrate his ministry and start to prepare for a new pastor. This led us to the voting, formation and approval of a pastoral search committee, which has been working diligently this year. (See Beth's report for more information).

Also during this time much planning, work and funds went toward the retirement picnic for Dwight and Kathy and the farewell service and program. This was a moment of true celebration for the church and I felt we did an excellent job of celebrating Dwight and Kathy and their many years of service and ministry.

Within the same time we were working behind the scenes to find an interim pastor. By September we had interviewed, hired and installed Pastor Bob Tenglin as our new interim and we have been truly blessed by his leadership and presence.

The next challenge of the year was combining our resources and moving to one service. With much discussion, prayer and discernment we moved to one service in the fall of 2013 and have really come together as a church body. To stretch ourselves again, with Pastor Brian's leadership we did something “radical” as we put our service into action and continued church at Feed My Starving Children. It was a service moment I will not soon forget as I am still touched by my church family serving together in that way.

Other items the Council addressed in 2013 included:

- Veritas and Church Vitality groups
- Sticky Faith – Supporting Sticky faith ministry
- Capital improvements - drain repair, parking lot improvements, Bike rack, etc.
- Ministry fair- new design and format
- Wednesday night dinners – finding new folks to help the cooking, cleaning and serving
- Online giving and the creation of an endowment fund
- Budget and giving concerns

The year had its fair share of challenges, but also so many blessings. Since coming to this church, I have not felt more connected and energized for the future at LCC. I am blessed to be your chair during this past year and work with such great volunteers and committees. I look forward to 2014 and the “celebrations and challenges” it promises to bring.

Trevor James, Church Chair

## Mission statement of Libertyville Covenant Church

As we have received Jesus Christ through faith by grace, our vision for Libertyville Covenant Church calls us to respond by putting God's Word to work in our lives. It is our mission:

To **worship** by regularly participating in the corporate fellowship of the church responding to God's presence, communing with Jesus, and uniting with the Holy Spirit;

To **build relationships** by sharing one another's joys, growth, and needs;

To **nurture** our faith through study and application of the Bible and Christian principles, seeking to become mature believers who reflect the character of Christ;

To **use our resources** to meet each other's needs, develop and use the gifts of the Spirit, and put our material blessings to work for God; and

To **proclaim the Word** through evangelism, discipling, and serving the community and society.

In all these ways, we seek to serve God by growing in faith and welcoming others to grow with us.

The Council has accepted the following statements as a first edition revision of our current Mission and vision statement, we plan to continue to revise and edit this in 2014.

**Proposed Mission Statement:** *As a community of real people with real issues who believe that Jesus came to save the lost and bring new life; we worship, pray, share our faith, study and give together.*

**Proposed Vision Statement:** *We look to God's word for guidance and rely on the Holy Spirit for power to live out our call to serve our community with a transforming message that inspires and draws people closer to an intensely personal God who loves and invites us to live in rhythm with Him!*

**Our core commitments include:**

1. *Worshiping our Lord and God with blended and unified reverence.*
2. *Developing relationships that are centered in Jesus Christ.*
3. *Pursuing a Biblical witness that includes compassion, mercy and justice.*
4. *Instruction and nurture rooted in the Word of God.*
5. *Integrated Christian Formation for children, youth and adults.*
6. *Articulating, teaching, advocating and modeling a lifestyle that is inconvenienced for the sake of the Gospel.*
7. *Witnessing to a contagious view of the Gospel.*

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT

It's been several years since we changed the name of the *Christian Education* Committee to the *Christian Formation* Committee. I know that after calling it one thing for so long it's tough to change – I know it is for me. I still get mail addressed to the Christian Educations Chair. Many LCC members still refer to it as the Christian Education Committee. Even after a year of chairing the committee, I'll call it Christian Education. I know it doesn't seem like much of a change for most, especially because one of the major parts of this committee's charge is to facilitate adult Sunday School and to coordinate with Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry. However, I feel like it has become so much more. When the churches learn together something beyond knowledge acquisition takes place. We grow and transform – striving to be people that seek God's heart and be a church that carries out His will.

### **Adult Sunday School**

Paul Nauman continued with his leadership role in Adult Sunday School throughout the past year. In September, we were blessed to have Ken Greenfield come on board to help facilitate and lead. They, along with teacher/facilitators Steve Pointer, Steve Hall, Jay Phelan and Caren Vollrath brought us through some great studies and even better conversations. It has been these conversations that have been the lifeblood of Adult Sunday School and a key facet in strengthening our churches fellowship.

### **Sticky Faith**

Over the past year, our Sticky Faith initiative has grown into something great. With the overall goal of making THE faith and interaction in the church “stick” to our children throughout their lives we seek to engage families in different and meaningful ways. Our team of Pastor Brian and Maria Zahasky, Paul Nauman, Caren Vollrath and Dave Anderson have helped guide LCC on this journey of strengthening our church family by focusing on the lives of our children by connecting each one of them to an adult outside of their immediate family, or *Sticky Buddy*. Parenting is rewarding, yet tough job. It's becoming more and more difficult for parents to have a perfect grasp on every facet of their child, or children's, lives. Through Sticky Faith we are sharing in the lives of families to help make sure The Church is a solid support for parents and kids alike.

### **Bible Studies and Small Groups**

The teaching ministry of the church includes a number of Bible studies and small groups. These groups provide solid teaching of the Word of God and truly are involved in the formation of our lives in Christ. Each group has a leader or leadership team that gives direction to the studies. In addition to solid Bible teaching they provide an element of group care for those who attend. We are always interested in beginning new groups as interest is expressed and leaders identified.

**MOM to MOM:** Two active Mom to Mom groups meet twice a month and provide a setting of love, affirmation and teaching for mothers of young children. Many of those who attend are not members of our church. While the moms are studying together upstairs, their children are involved in an excellent Bible learning program downstairs. This has been a very positive Outreach for our church this year. Larissa Greenfield coor-



dinated this ministry. The Friday morning section is led by Caren Vollrath and Karin Lundstedt. The Wednesday evening section of the Mom to Mom continues to be led by Carol Dieball and Twyla Becker. Karin Anderson coordinates a large group of childcare volunteers. Kathy Nelson coordinated the children's program the first part of the year and since September Ann Frost has taken over this important role.

**Small group Bible studies:** Groups meeting this year included:

Men's Study – This group is held on Friday mornings, led by Chris Becker, which follows different studies and guides throughout the year.

Women's Study – This group is held on Thursday mornings and is studying the books of James and Proverbs

Wednesday Evening Study – This group is led by Pastor Bob using the video series on "That the World May Know" and following each video presentation discussing the significance for the people of God then and now.

*Where is It Written* – This group meets every-other Friday night and is facilitated by Ken Greenfield and Joel Dillon. Discussions about pressing social and spiritual topics stem from exactly what scripture says about the matters.

**Young Families Small Group:** This fall we continued our small group for families with children fifth grade and younger. Teresa and Scott Anderson lead and host this group at their home the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The time together begins with a family devotion filled with interactive activities for kids of all ages followed by a time for adults to share prayer requests and pray together. The evening is concluded with a potluck dinner.

During this time of transition, it has been great to see that our church is not just standing still and waiting. We are working hard to make a difference in each other's lives and there is no place that is more evident than how we interact in times of Christian Formation. To that end, I would like to thank Ann Frost, Maria Zahasky and Pastor Brian for their energy and excitement for the children and youth of the church. Also, thanks to the Sticky Faith team for all they are doing to strengthen the faith of not just our children, but the entire family. Likewise, thank you to the leaders of the small groups. It is often tough to make the time not only to attend, but to lead these groups. We thank you for your contributions to LCC. Lastly, thanks to the Christian Formation committee of Pastor Brian, Maria Zahasky, Ken Greenfield, Ann Frost and Paul Nauman for all of their work over the past year. We are excited to see what 2014 has in store.

Ben Palmberg, Christian Formation Chair

## DEACON REPORT

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing...do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert...” Isaiah 43.19*

The Deacon Committee seeks to serve the spiritual needs of our congregation always in ways that are filled with grace and love. We love to celebrate the “new things” that God does in our lives and our ministry together. Our work includes that of overseeing worship planning, member support in time of crisis or need, and overseeing the church membership process.

This last year we offered *Streams and Pathways*, our fourth winter retreat with a focus on prayer practices and listening to God. We learned that there are many creative ways to pray and listen to God. Winter retreat has proven to be a special day for those who take part. Thanks to Dennis Dieball for his help in coordinating the retreat.



Special thanks to the Worship and Music sub-committee, led by Steve Pointer and currently by John Bethancourt (note their report elsewhere). Thanks to Carol Dieball who serves as liaison member to this committee from the Deacons. Also, thanks to Linda Youngman for her role in coordinating monthly communion. Thanks to Kris Nikkel, who not only directs the choir, but meets with the Pastor to discuss and help plan meaningful Sunday worship.

At our monthly meetings we always make sure we talk about member care for those who need prayer, encouragement, visitation, transportation or meals. In addition the Deacons manage the Benevolent fund which has been used to help a number of church families over the years. Easter lilies are delivered to those who are unable to attend services and poinsettias are delivered to members who have lost loved ones in the past year. Starbucks gift cards are sent to college students before the Christmas break as a point of support and contact from the church.

The Deacons have the privilege of interviewing new member applicants, including this year, Marie Oppedahl, Kevin Reilly, John and Bev Hawkins and Matt and Julie Wojcik. We so appreciate having them as part of our church family!

Thanks, as always, to Marti for her work in coordinating many pieces for Deacons and Worship Committee, including the brochure layout for the Ministry Fair in October.

Deacon Committee: Owen and Linda Youngman, Dennis and Carol Dieball, Karin Anderson, Bonita Westerberg, Janis Carlson and Nancy Borkman.

Bruce and Merileen Thorson  
Co-chairs, Deacon

## ***CHURCH MEMBERSHIP***

Membership (12/31/12) 227

**Members Received** 6

John and Beverly Hawkins

Marie Oppedahl

Kevin Reilly

Matt and Julie Wojcik

**Members Transferred** 2

Dwight & Kathy Nelson (Bethany Covenant, Mt. Vernon, WA)

**Members Withdrawn** 2

Allison Alcorn

Willson Oppedahl

**Members Dropped** 0

**Members Deceased** 0

**Membership (12/31/13)** 229

## **LIBERTYVILLE COVENANT MEMBERS 12/2013**

Tim and Christie Albers	Britta Monson Cochran
Jennifer Anderer	Andra Hjelm Dalton
Rick and Lynn Anderer	Dennis and Carol Dieball
Anne Clausen Anderson	Dan Doherty
Beth Clausen Anderson	Wylie and Ardyth Douglass
Bill E. and Chris Anderson	Natalie Douglass
Bill K. and Marti Anderson	Paul and Rose Dowell
Bob and Cathy Anderson	Judie Duba
Dave and Barb Anderson	Caleb Enquist
Dave and Darilyn Anderson	Dave and Beth Enquist
Jacob Anderson	Matthew Enquist
Karin Anderson	Richard & Eileen Fehlberg
Kyra Anderson	Amy Frost
Matthew Anderson	Dan and Ann Frost
Nils Anderson	Sarah Frost
Scott and Teresa Anderson	Mary Gianaras (Palmer)
Stefan Anderson	Bill and Jenna Glader
Tim Anderson	Miranda Gomez
Thomas Anderson	Rob and Sarah Gomez
Heide Bain	Ken and Larissa Greenfield
Hannah Barg	Joan Groody
Steve and Susan Barg	Bob and Adrienne Gullberg
Linda Baumann	Brent and Lesley Gustafson
Chris and Twyla Becker	Greta Gustafson
Bobby Becker	Jay Gustafson
Timothy Becker	Kyle Gustafson
Caitlin Bethancourt	Alex Gutierrez
John and Kristen Bethancourt	Mike Gutierrez
Dwight and MaryAnn Bodine	Steve and Ellen Hall
Tom and Nancy Borkman	Bob and Lori Hartnett
Chris Bragg	John and Beverly Hawkins
Kent and Jean Carlson	Annika Hawkinson
Janis Carlson	Paul and Kristin Hawkinson
Mark and Christine Cederberg	Jill Heath
Larry and Marilyn Cholewin	Jean Heintzelman
John and Elizabeth Christian	Barbara Hermann
Anna Christian	Chris Hildebrandt
Forrest Christian	Erin Hildebrandt
Scott Christian	John and Beth Hjelm
Donna Clark	Tyler Holm
Chad Clausen	Pattie Horgan
Roger and Julie Clausen	Charlie & Jan Howard
	Britta Lundstedt Hundertmark

Trevor & Christy James  
Chuck & Vonnie Johnson  
Evan Johnson  
Jeffrey and Earleen Johnson  
Kari Nelson Johnson  
Katie Anderson Johnson  
Kirk and Carolyn Johnson  
Tyler Johnson  
Vern and Maggie Johnson  
Jerry and Marcia Junas  
Tobin and Jennifer Junas  
Brent Keller  
Mike and Ruth Keller  
Lisa Kindstrom  
Angela Kocinski  
Andy Krueger  
Jim and Linda Krueger  
Wes and Deb Lindahl  
Loren Lindholm  
Carl Lundstedt  
Paul and Karin Lundstedt  
John and Nancy McLinden  
John McLinden, Jr.  
Katie McLinden  
Paul & Elisabeth McMinimy  
Hanna Monson  
Kerry and Brenda Monson  
Neale and Marilyn Murray  
Mirielle Nauman  
Paul and Claudia Nauman  
Craig Nelson  
John and Suzy Nelson  
Al and Carol Nielson  
Art and Kris Nikkel  
Kevin Nikkel  
Sarah Nikkel  
Robert and Karen North  
Heather Lundstedt O'Neill  
David and Marie Oppedahl  
Ben and Sarah Palmberg  
Jim and Michelle Pas  
Pat Pearson  
Julie Thorson Peterson

Steve and Jackie Pointer  
Bethany Pointer  
Pauline Raia  
Kevin and Kate Reilly  
Eric & Jessica Sawyer  
Beverly Schmidt  
Dolores Sessler  
Marion Smith  
Robert and Tricia Sorensen  
Craig and Colleen Sparks  
Gene and Beverly Sparks  
Haley Spaulding  
Heather Spaulding  
Ryan Spaulding  
Benjamin and Armida Stephens  
Andrew Szabo  
Bruce and Merileen Thorson  
Jenna Tranel  
Kevin Vollrath  
Lee and Caren Vollrath  
Randy Vollrath  
Andrew Werner  
Ken and Arlene Werner  
Duane and Bonita Westerberg  
Matt and Julie Wojcik  
Anthony Wyatt  
Owen and Linda Youngman  
Brian and Maria Zahasky  
Barbara Zienty

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Fellowship committee is responsible for the establishment and growth of relationships among the members of the LCC congregation, strengthening our ties to one another as well as to Christ.

These are the 2013 events that the Fellowship committee helped organize:

Feb. 17	Baby Shower for Jonah Dillon (Hannah & Joel)
Feb. 23	Memorial service for Walter White
March	Wedding shower gift sent to Tyler Holm in Nebraska
Mar. 29	Good Friday service – combined service and fellowship with Redeemer Life
Mar.31	Easter Sunday – fellowship hour
April 18	Baby shower for Makayla Ramas (Debby & Mike)
April 27	Memorial service for Clarence Austin
May 18	Wedding shower for Lisa Hjelm & Paul Cousineau
May 19	Confirmation Sunday
June 2	All church picnic
Aug. 4	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for Phil & Jane Nelson
Aug. 18	Retirement celebration for Dwight & Kathy Nelson
Sept. 7	Wedding shower for Kate Anderson & Kevin Reilly
Sept. 8	All church fall kick-off picnic
Sept. 20	Wedding gift sent to Jon Anderson in Champaign
Oct. 26	Memorial service for Fritz Lansky
Nov. 15	Memorial service for Josef Schmidt
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving dessert buffet
Dec. 14	Progressive Dinner

In addition to the above events, Fellowship Committee took on the task of organizing a team of volunteers to continue the preparation and service of Wednesday night dinners. The tasks were divided into several categories and with many willing hands we have a very successful team. We fed record numbers of people (85-90 per week) and are very excited to have many new faces at the tables on Wednesday nights. It has truly taken “a village” to keep this ministry alive. We are very thankful to all who have stepped up to help.

All of these events help us grow together as a church family, especially in this year of transition and changes it is very important to us to keep our LCC family close. We would like to thank all of you that have helped in these events. Whether it is providing food, time or talent, “Thank You!”.

We look forward to another year of service.

Darilyn Anderson and Brenda Monson  
Co-chairs of Fellowship Committee

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In 2013, led by the Long Range Planning team, (sometimes known as the “Vitality Team”), Libertyville Covenant Church (LCC) continued to be involved in a denomination sponsored initiative called “Congregational Vitality”. Vitality is about thriving, growing, and depending on God to lead us deeper in Christ and further in mission.

With the help of Covenant leadership, LCC has used several tools to seek out ways of growing as a “missional church”. This includes a program called *Veritas* that explores where we are, and where we want to be. We have used surveys and workshops open to everyone to discover our strengths and areas of improvement. These steps toward building “vitality” included the ECCs aid in development of our “Covenant for Community Life” (our behavioral covenant); a *Veritas* workshop; and a survey of church health called *PULSE*.

Through *Veritas*, we’ve learned the four types are: Health/Missional, Stable, Critical Moment, and At-Risk. Through the *Veritas* workshop, and based upon the Pulse Survey, the consensus is that LCC is generally stable, but trending towards “Critical Moment” status. Our goal of course is for LCC to become a healthy & missional church and by “healthy” we mean pursuing Christ; by “missional” we mean pursuing Christ’s priorities in the world.

In the fall of 2012, LCC took part in a congregational survey called PULSE. PULSE is a survey which diagnoses the vitality of a church using Ten Healthy Missional markers (or constructs), and a number of other factors. One of the goals of PULSE is to stimulate conversation around key issues, not to solve every problem confronting our church. The answers are not in the data, the answers are in the conversations that the leadership and the congregation have regarding this data.

In April, 2013, key elements of the PULSE survey were shared with congregation, starting with a “kick-off” in the adult Sunday School program. After initial training from Peter Sjoblom, (from our Central Conference Office), on leading small group discussions, a series of home based discussions were held. In late April, May and early June, about 85 members attending at least one of these sessions. At these sessions, discussion focused on our LCC church life and reflections upon what the PULSE survey scores indicate. Notes from these discussions were consolidated, (at least a bit), and shared with the church council and the pastoral search committee. Based on the very positive feedback received from participants/members regarding these home based discussions, we envision more “home” events in the future. We expect to take the next step in our “Vitality” journey in the spring of 2014, and we’re looking forward to the opportunity to dialogue with you more fully as together we seek God’s Kingdom here in Lake County!

David Anderson – Long Range Planning Chair

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The following have served as members of our committee for some of this year: Christy Albers, Tim Albers, Susan Barg, Pastor Brian Zahasky, Pastor Dwight Nelson, David Enquist, Mary Gianaras, Jill Heath, Loren Lindholm, Tricia Sorensen and Benjamin Stephens. This list has changed significantly during the course of the year and members of the committee at this writing are; Christy Albers, Tim Albers, Pastor Brian, David Enquist, Loren Lindholm, Tricia Sorensen, and Neale Murray, Chair.

As committee chair I am grateful for the active involvement of all of these committee members and especially for the committed participation of so many members of our congregation in the ministries that the committee supports. This high level of congregational support is also visible in the significant part of our church budget that goes toward outreach.

Following are brief summaries of this year's committee activities associated with each of our ministries:

### **Cuernavaca**

This year we started our church planting support of Jesus Flores in the Xoxocotla community. This two year commitment of \$100 a month started in September. This summer we also hosted a group of young people from the Cuernavaca congregation. They went along with our young people on a trip led by Pastor Brian to North Dakota.

### **Missions and Conference**

Although we would like to be increasing the amount of our budget that goes to these denominational ministries that does not seem realistic at this present time. When, however, you factor in the amount we do give, through the private support of ministries such as Covenant Kids Congo and other denominational projects we are in fact a substantial denominational supporter.

### **Furniture Ministry**

This ministry lead by Dave Enquist has faithfully met the first Saturday of each month. This ministry which we do in partner with Love, INC. continues to meet often desperate living situation needs. It is staffed by eight to ten faithful regulars who are serving others with joy and compassion.

### **Starter Kits**

Our starter kit ministry led by Claudia Nauman and Tricia Sorensen, which is also a partner work with Love INC, has had a year of significant growth. This relatively new ministry is actively meeting some of the most basic living needs of those who move from homelessness to a new life in a home. The members of the Women's Bible Study have been active supporters of this ministry as well as others who have volunteered to assemble and deliver these kits.

### **Feed My Starving Children**

Dennis and Carol Dieball are now leading this ministry which is located close to our church. We have been active supporters of this ministry; sending food packing teams at least



twice a year and most dramatically having a substantial part of our congregation pack food on the last Sunday morning of our ministry fair.

### **Food Pantry**

With Kathy Nelson's leaving Ann Frost has taken over the planning of our congregations part of the food pantry ministry. We partner in this ministry with Community Christian Church where the pantry is housed, located in North Waukegan. Here again we have eight to ten faithful members who come at least once a month and spend from 9 a.m.—12 noon either packing food or registering clients. This year we have also been offering free new testaments to our clients which they have been eager to take and use. This is a ministry that we take a special offering for and our congregation gave over \$5000 last year to support this most urgent need.

### **Christmas Adopt-a-Family**

Joan Groody has actively organized and supported this ministry. This year the congregation bought Christmas presents for fifteen families whose names we received from Catholic Charities. We used a different format this year in having the families come to the church for their gifts where we had some light refreshment in the narthex hosted by either Marti, Pastor Brian or the Outreach chair.

### **Ministry Fair**

In the past ministry fairs have been held on a single Sunday and have occurred every four or five years. This year the committee changed the format to a multi-week one with two brief presentations given each Sunday in the Worship service. After the service there were also ministry displays in the narthex where members could sign up to join the ministry.

While the committee felt that this new format worked well, it is raising questions about future ministry fairs. Questions like should the fair be held every other year? Also, should presentations be longer and done in Sunday School? Should there be an online signup process? While the FMSC worship experience was a good one, are there other ministry experiences that we should offer on that final fair Sunday?

In conclusion, I am very pleased with this year's outreach work of the congregation and the committee. That satisfaction, however, does not stop me from asking questions about further service. Should we offer more ministries or less to the congregation? How do we effectively help the congregation move to a more directly evangelistic witness and what do we mean by evangelism in this context? Finally, how do we shape our ministries to more effectively connect to the hearts and lives of those we serve or should be serving?

Neale Murray, Outreach Chair

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee gives thanks and praise for the generosity of our congregation. Because of the generosity of LLC members and friends, we are happy to report that although we fell short of our original budget goal, contributions received in 2013 combined with a reduction in expenses have allowed us to meet our actual operating expenses for the year. Total giving towards the operating budget was \$466,096. In addition to the giving of time and talent, \$52,198 went to World Relief, PADS, Adopt-A-Family, Love INC, Food Pantry, Benevolence Fund, Youth Ministry, Capital Improvement, Building Fund, Camper Fund, and Children's Ministry.

On Sunday October 27, 115 members of the LLC church family participated in a Feed My Starving Children packing event. Donations from the larger church community amounting to \$5659 made it possible for us to serve and pack almost 25,000 meals!



The LCC Endowment Fund established at the beginning of the year with Covenant Trust Company currently has a balance of \$2500. The Endowment Fund is a way of providing our congregation with a perpetual source of income to complement and support of the church's ministries and missions, as well as providing our membership a vehicle through which to make legacy gifts to the church.

As a church we continue to implement good stewardship of God's creation as we expand our recycling efforts and the reduction of paper products.

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your continued support as we join in faith

and anticipation of a new pastor and ministry opportunities coming to us. We continue to trust in God to provide for the needs of His church. As we grow as faithful stewards we discover that one of the most joyous aspects of being a follower of Jesus is being generous with the provisions God has given to each of us.

*Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

*John Christian Wes Lindahl Roch Tranel Ken Werner*



## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

The Trustee Committee is responsible for cleaning, maintaining, repairing, protecting, and improving the church building, grounds and vehicles. Here are some highlights from each category.

### **Cleaning**

Volunteers worked hard at the annual All Church Spring Clean-Up Day targeting jobs that otherwise would be too big or hard to handle.

The day to day cleaning of the church building is handled by Dan Doherty and also Ron White.

The outside weekly landscape maintenance is handled by a professional landscape service. Parking lot snow removal and salting is also handled by a professional service as needed. The remainder of outside grounds keeping is done by volunteers.

### **Maintenance**

Dave Anderson completed work on buckthorn and brush removal.

The playground received new mulch and new sand for the sandbox.

### **Repairs**

The outside stairwell drain needed some extensive repairs to avoid flooding in the lower level.

The roof over the offices was repaired due to a persistent leak this year.

### **Protection**

Jerry Junas reviewed our insurance coverage and premium rates.

### **Improvements**

A new snow blower was purchased.

We have a new bike rack!

Two new outdoor faucets were installed.

The early childhood classroom was painted and received a wall mounted TV/DVD combo unit.

A donated play set was added to the playground.

Electricity was extended to the shed.

Humidifiers were added to the office and narthex heating systems.

I would like to thank all those who helped and volunteered this year, with special thanks to Dan Doherty, Dan Frost , and Marti Anderson.

William Glader, Trustee Chair

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR SENIOR PASTOR**

Since our first meeting in April 2013, we have been diligently working to find the person God has chosen for our next Senior Pastor.

The first several months of the committee's efforts laid the groundwork for our present work. One of our first duties was to create a job description. This is posted on the church web site and includes the following criteria: Ordained in the Sacrament and Word with eight years experience as a senior pastor preferred. The second task was to create a congregational survey to elicit feedback from members and friends. In addition, a sub-committee spent hours interviewing staff members to gain their perspective on the senior pastor position.

Once this work was completed, we were ready to receive candidate profiles from Reverend Jerome Nelson, Conference Superintendent. To date, we've received approximately 60 profiles. Some profiles were recommended by Reverend Nelson or other conference superintendents. Others we requested based on input from LCC members and friends or interested individuals. Because of the investment each candidate has made in the process, we are committed to praying for each person whose profile comes to us. We are also committed to making sure we give each candidate the time in review that they deserve.

Informal phone conversations have occurred with twenty pastors and we are about to enter into face-to-face conversations with some of these candidates at the Covenant's Midwinter Conference at the end of January. Following these conversations, we will begin listening to sermon tapes of those candidates we believe best match the needs of Libertyville Covenant Church.

Please continue to pray for our committee. Pray for clarity. Ask God to show us which person He has called to be our pastor. Pray for patience. Ask God to grant the committee an extra dose of humility and patience. Pray for good health. Ask God to watch over us and keep us from getting tired, sick and overwhelmed. Pray for the candidates. Ask God to grant peace to these men and women as they seek His wisdom for their next pastoral call. Pray with gratitude for the person who has been selected for us and will join us when the time is right.

We remain excited by the task before us and you have our promise that we are working diligently to complete a successful search.

Beth Hjelm, Co-chair, Kirk Johnson, Co-chair,  
Owen Youngman, Secretary, Janis Carlson, Dan Frost, Larissa Greenfield,  
Paul Nauman, Ben Palmberg and Merileen Thorson

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Worship Committee is a sub-committee of the Deacons. We assist the pastoral staff with planning the weekly worship services, plan special services and suggest worship policy and practices.

Scott Anderson had led this committee since August, 2012 (from the last annual report) followed by Dwight Nelson as an interim. I then started as the Chair in August, 2013. Carol Dieball serves as the Deacon's representative on this committee. The members of the committee are: Bob Tenglin, Brian Zahasky, Kris Nikkel, Karin Lundstedt, Eric Sawyer and Carol Dieball. I want to give a special thanks to Dwight and Kathy Nelson for their contributions to this committee over the past several years.

Some of the work relating to this committee during 2013 include:

- Planning worship services for Lent and Advent
- LCC's continued participation in worship services at Condell Hospital
- Transitioning of Pastor Dwight's retirement and Pastor Bob's leadership
- Updated procedures relating to scripture reading

I am thankful for this committee and others who give their time and talents for worship at LCC. Please pray for the members of this committee as we continue to enhance the worship experience at LCC in 2014.

John Bethancourt, Worship Committee Chair

**LIBERTYVILLE COVENANT CHURCH**  
**Year to Date Giving**  
**Through December 31, 2013**

Month		Budget Giving	Other Giving	Total
January	[4 Sundays]	28,547.10	487.00	29,034.10
February	[4 Sundays]	31,831.00	644.00	32,475.00
March	[5 Sundays]	34,753.78	7,184.00	41,937.78
April	[4 Sundays]	36,204.79	3,010.00	39,214.79
May	[4 Sundays]	39,760.01	12,077.50	51,837.51
June	[5 Sundays]	31,964.16	6,250.95	38,215.11
July	[4 Sundays]	32,655.36	8,377.00	41,032.36
August	[4 Sundays]	27,381.06	9,522.00	36,903.06
September	[5 Sundays]	28,789.04	6,143.97	34,933.01
October	[4 Sundays]	34,143.86	7,865.85	42,009.71
November	[4 Sundays]	39,437.94	6,986.63	46,424.57
December	[5 Sundays]	100,627.69	17,500.94	118,128.63
<b>Total</b>	[52 Sundays]	<b>466,095.79</b>	<b>86,049.84</b>	<b>552,145.63</b>

Other Giving Detail	MTD	YTD
Alaska Christian College	-	-
Benevolent Fund	3,569.00	9,851.00
CHIC	-	-
Building Fund	-	-
Camper Fund	-	1,600.00
Capital Improvement	910.00	2,845.00
Children's Ministry	39.56	692.48
Endowment	-	500.00
Food Bank	2,000.00	7,825.00
Love INC	-	1,125.00
Memorial Fund	1,390.00	1,690.00
LCC Mission Trip	-	-
Ministry Support	700.00	1,300.00
PADS	-	504.10
Rummage Sale	-	7,979.75
Scholarship	-	1,750.00
Silent Auction	-	2,099.00
Staff Gifts	4,025.00	11,665.00
Vacation Bible School	-	-
World Relief	3,343.38	5,286.01
Youth Ministry	-	1,500.00
Pass Through	1,524.00	22,178.50
Feed My Starving Children	-	5,659.00
<b>Total Other Giving</b>	<b>17,500.94</b>	<b>86,049.84</b>

## Monthly Variances

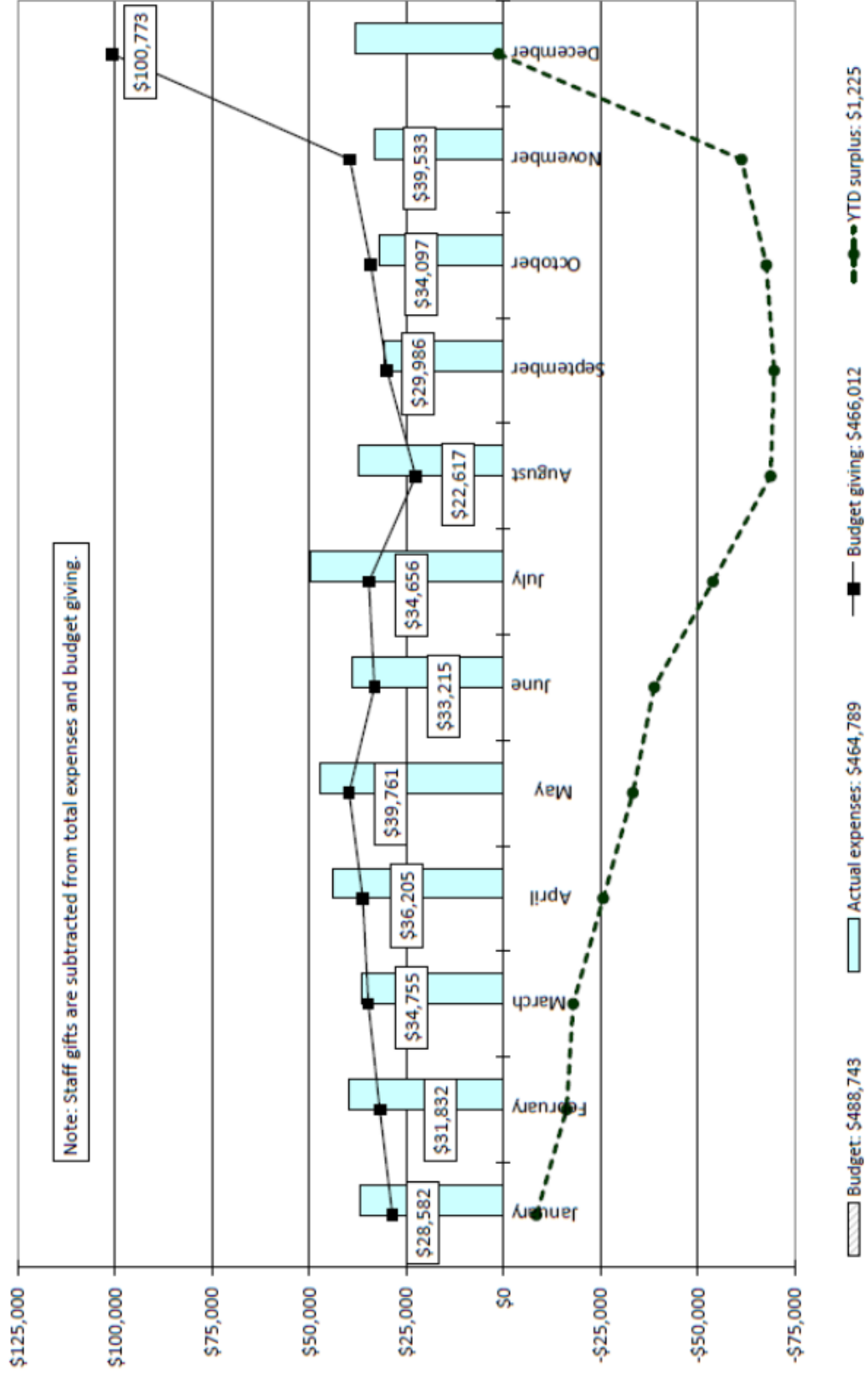
Month	Actual	Budget	Difference		Actual	Actual	Difference
	MTD 2013	MTD 2013			MTD 2013	MTD 2012	
Jan	28,547	39,687	(11,140)		28,547	30,550	(2,003)
Feb	31,831	40,814	(8,983)		31,831	27,919	3,912
Mar	34,754	40,814	(6,060)		34,754	34,741	13
Apr	36,205	40,814	(4,609)		36,205	46,115	(9,910)
May	39,760	40,814	(1,054)		39,760	34,456	5,304
Jun	31,964	40,814	(8,850)		31,964	31,406	558
Jul	32,655	40,814	(8,159)		32,655	36,179	(3,524)
Aug	27,381	40,814	(13,433)		27,381	23,561	3,820
Sep	28,799	40,814	(12,,025)		28,789	29,991	(1,202)
Oct	34,144	40,814	(6,670)		34,144	35,113	(969)
Nov	39,438	40,815	(1,377)		39,438	37,627	1,811
Dec	100,628	40,815	59,813		100,628	121,505	(20,877)
Total	466,096	488,643	(22,547)		466,096	489,164	(23,067)

## YTD Variances

Month	Actual	Budget	Difference		Actual	Actual	Difference
	YTD 2013	YTD 2013			YTD 2013	YTD 2012	
Jan	28,547	39,687	(11,140)		28,547	30,550	(2,003)
Feb	60,378	80,501	(20,123)		60,378	58,470	1,909
Mar	95,132	121,315	(26,183)		95,132	93,210	1,922
Apr	131,337	162,129	(30,792)		131,337	139,325	(7,988)
May	171,097	202,943	(31,846)		171,097	173,781	(2,684)
Jun	203,061	243,757	(40,696)		203,061	205,187	(2,125)
Jul	235,716	284,571	(48,855)		235,716	241,366	(5,650)
Aug	263,097	325,385	(62,288)		263,097	264,927	(1,830)
Sep	291,886	366,199	(74,313)		291,886	294,918	(3,032)
Oct	326,030	407,013	(80,983)		326,030	330,032	(4,001)
Nov	365,468	447,828	(82,360)		365,468	367,659	(2,190)
Dec	466,096	488,643	(22,547)		466,096	489,164	(23,067)



### 2013 Giving, Expenses and Year-to-Date Surplus / (Deficit)



**Libertyville Covenant Church  
2013 Year-End Financial Report**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>EXPENSES VS. BUDGET</b>			
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 476,757	\$ 472,095	\$ 488,743
Actual Expenses	<u>462,709</u>	<u>481,072</u>	<u>474,877</u>
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	14,048	(8,977)	13,866
<b>INCOME VS. BUDGET</b>			
Regular Giving	497,473	489,164	466,165
Special Income	<u>4,310</u>	<u>3,283</u>	<u>9,937</u>
Total Income	501,782	492,447	476,102
Budgeted Expenses	<u>476,757</u>	<u>472,095</u>	<u>488,743</u>
Budget Surplus	25,025	20,352	(12,641)
<b>INCOME VS. EXPENSES</b>			
Income	501,782	492,447	476,102
Actual Expenses	<u>462,709</u>	<u>481,072</u>	<u>474,877</u>
Operating Surplus	<u>\$ 39,073</u>	<u>\$ 11,375</u>	<u>\$ 1,225</u>

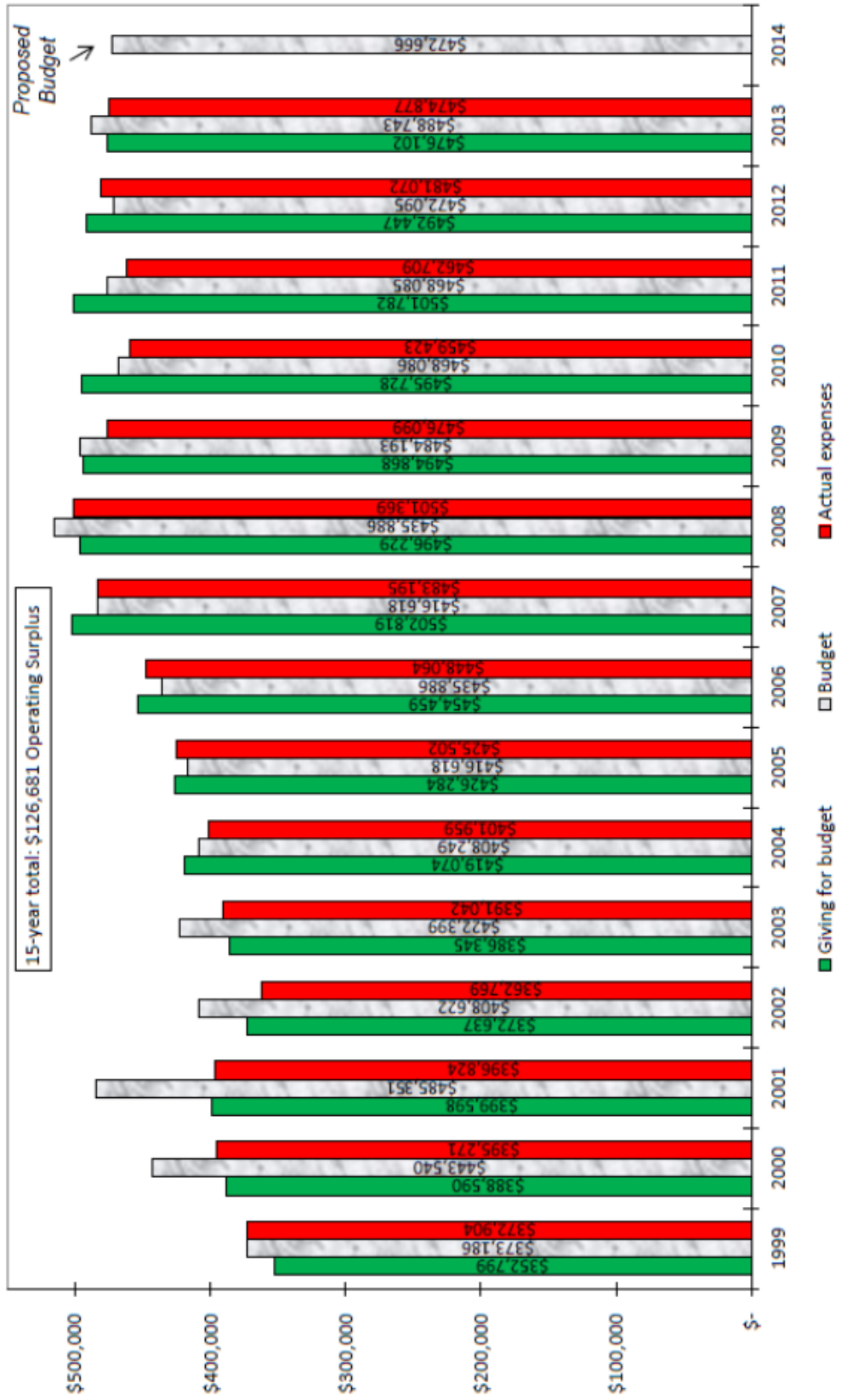
	<u>12/31/2013</u>	
<b>LIQUID ASSETS:</b>		
God's Plan Account (Morgan Stanley)	\$ 77,351	
<b>Endowment Fund</b> (Covenant Trust Company)	2,496	
Restricted Accounts	19,852	B
Pass Through Accounts	2,076	C
Payroll Withholding	5,895	D
Cash Available for Operations	<u>85,790</u>	E = A - (B+C+D)
Total Cash in Checking Account (Libertyville Bank & Trust)	<u>113,613</u>	A
<b>Total Liquid Assets</b>	<u>\$ 193,460</u>	
<b>Total Mortgage Note Payable</b> (National Covenant Properties)	<u>\$ 183,275</u>	

**Libertyville Covenant Church  
2013 Year-End Financial Report**

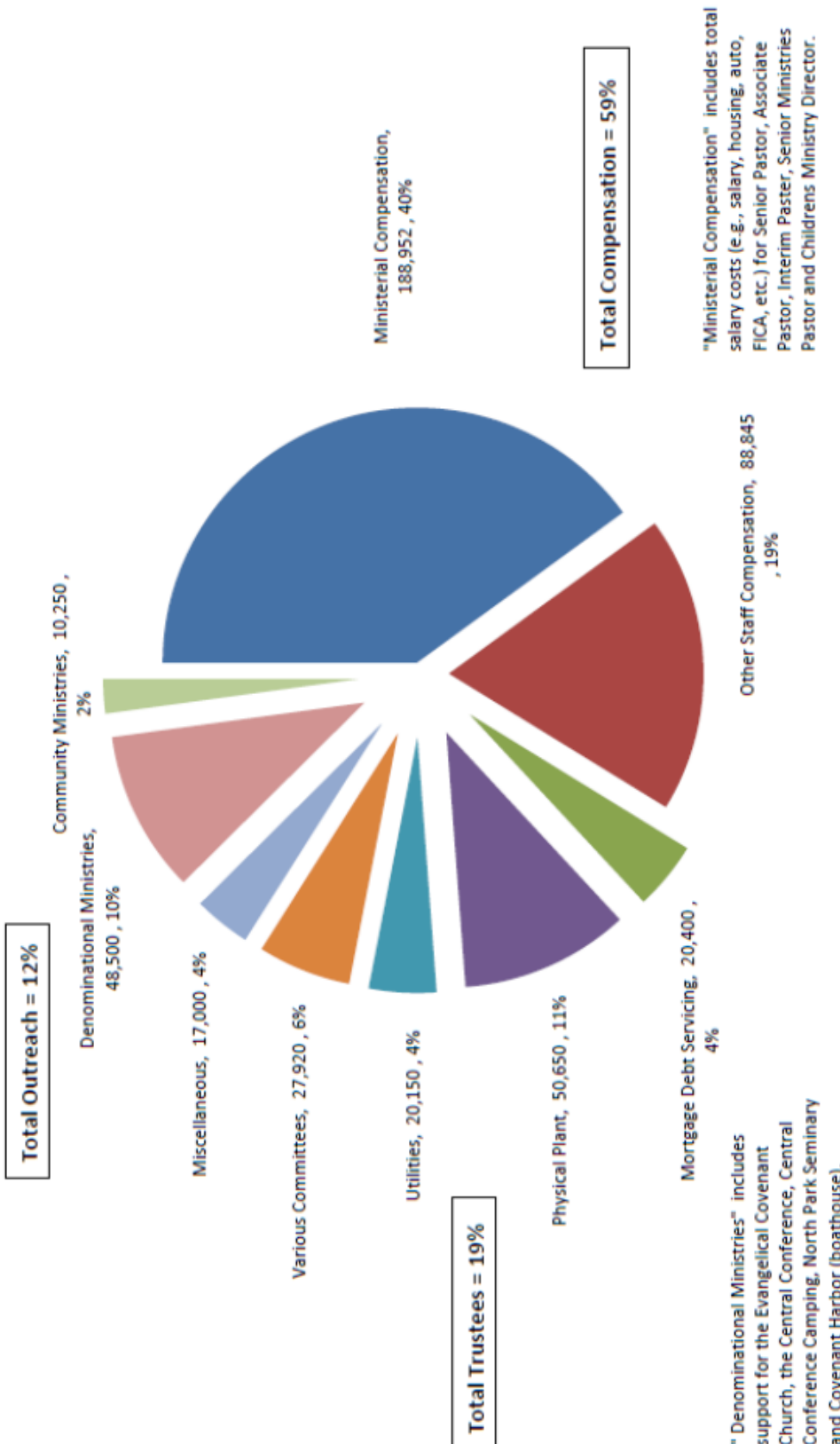
**Account Balances as of 12/31/2013:**

<b>Restricted Accounts</b>		<b>Pass Through Accounts</b>	
2011 Surplus For Outreach	\$ -	Adopt a Family	\$ 413
Benevolence Fund	2,717	Cook Book 2010	(1,492)
Camping Fund	5,926	Feed My Starving Children	524
Capital Improvements	(2,623)	Fireside Dinner Fellowship	-
CHIC	-	Junior High Deep Freeze	-
Childrens Ministry Donation	-	Media	(23)
Endowment Fund	-	Misc	1,508
Food Pantry	2,000	One Life 2012 - Conference	-
God's Plan - RESTRICTED	-	One Life 2012 - LCC	165
Love INC	240	Operation Christmas Child	132
Memorial Funds	8,017	PADS	(88)
Organ Fund	459	Summer Ministries	937
Scholarship Fund	(2,000)	<b>Total Pass Through Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 2,076</b>
Swanson Family Support	-		
World Relief	-		
Youth Ministry Donation	5,116		
<b>Total Restricted Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 19,852</b>		

**Historical Trends in Giving, Expenses and Budgets (\$ not adjusted for inflation)**



Libertyville Covenant Church  
 Allocations for Proposed 2014 Operating Budget  
 (Proposed Budget = \$472,666)



**Libertyville Covenant Church  
2013 Annual Meeting  
2013 Results and 2014 Proposed Budget**

	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	Proposed 2014 Budget Salary Increase 2%
<b>INCOME</b>					
REGULAR	497,473	490,152	466,165	488,643	472,656
<b>SPECIAL INCOME</b>					
SPECIAL INCOME:Interest Income	65	33	9	100	10
SPECIAL INCOME:Rental Income	895	-	-		
SPECIAL INCOME:Staff Gifts	3,350	3,250	9,928		
TOTAL SPECIAL INCOME	4,310	3,283	9,937	100	10
TOTAL INCOME	501,782	493,435	476,102	488,743	472,666
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>CHRISTIAN FORMATION</b>					
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Adult Ministry	600	435	1,108	1,000	1,000
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Bibles	-	-	27	120	120
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Child Ministry	6,246	2,823	5,647	5,800	<b>5,800</b>
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Confirmation	200	608	257	400	400
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Family Retreat	-	-	1,039	1,000	1,100
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Nursery	176	167	1,239	300	1,200
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Other	1,438	705	33	600	500
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Sticky Faith Initiative	-	-	4,445	7,000	1,000
CHRISTIAN FORMATION:Youth Ministry	6,351	5,372	5,488	6,750	6,700
TOTAL CHRISTIAN FORMATION	15,011	10,110	19,283	22,970	17,820
<b>DEACONS</b>					
DEACONS:Cov. Companion	2,071	2,071	2,017	2,200	2,100
DEACONS:Flowers	891	493	618	900	800
DEACONS:Music and Media	1,678	1,473	1,250	1,200	2,000
DEACONS:Other	550	1,612	240	1,600	1,000
DEACONS:Prayer Retreat	-	-	475	500	500
DEACONS:RecognitionGift	75	150			
DEACONS:Small Groups	945	520	670	1,000	1,000
DEACONS:Speaker-Program	1,230	1,290	450	1,000	900
DEACONS:Supplies	210	358	129	500	500
TOTAL DEACONS	7,650	7,967	5,849	8,900	8,800
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>					
FELLOWSHIP:Food	798	838	606	1,000	1,000
FELLOWSHIP:Supplies	244	1,056	419	300	300
TOTAL FELLOWSHIP	1,041	1,894	1,025	1,300	1,300
<b>OTHER</b>					
OTHER:Conf. and Other	3,899	4,414	3,202	2,500	2,500
OTHER:Office Supplies	2,107	3,078	1,959	2,800	2,500
OTHER:Pastoral Search Committee			436	12,000	11,000
OTHER:Postage	614	417	545	400	500
OTHER:Web Development			-	1,000	500
TOTAL OTHER	6,620	7,909	6,142	18,700	17,000

Category Description	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	Proposed 2014 Budget
OUTREACH					
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry					
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry:Christ Together	500	-			
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry:Feed My Starving Children	-	-	500	500	-
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry:Food Pantry	-	-	627	750	250
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry:Intervarsity	500	500	500	500	500
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry:LOVE,Inc	1,500	1,500	1,850	1,750	2,750
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry:PADS	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry:Recovery Services	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry:Young Life	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL OUTREACH:Comm. Ministry	4,500	4,000	6,977	7,000	7,000
OUTREACH:Evangelism	76	239			
OUTREACH:Regional Min.					
OUTREACH:Regional Min.:Boathouse	1,000	750	500	500	500
OUTREACH:Regional Min.:Conf. Camping	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
OUTREACH:Regional Min.:Conf. Support	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
TOTAL OUTREACH:Regional Min.	20,500	20,250	20,000	20,000	20,000
OUTREACH:Sem. Pres. Scholarship	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
OUTREACH:World Missions					
OUTREACH:World Missions:Cov. Ministries	27,500	27,550	27,500	27,500	27,500
OUTREACH:World Missions:Int. Missions (Mexico)	500	-	-	-	1,250
OUTREACH:World Missions:LCC Sponsored Mission - Ciccottis	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
OUTREACH:World Missions:Mission Team Expenses	40	-			
OUTREACH:World Missions:Missions Trip	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL OUTREACH:World Missions	29,040	27,550	29,500	29,500	30,750
TOTAL OUTREACH	55,116	53,039	57,477	57,500	58,750
SALARIES					
SALARIES:Associate Pastor					
SALARIES:Associate Pastor:Auto	1,715	1,783	1,725	1,725	1,725
SALARIES:Associate Pastor:FICA	3,009	3,076	3,544	3,626	3,674
SALARIES:Associate Pastor:Housing	13,228	14,122	14,052	14,052	14,052
SALARIES:Associate Pastor:Insurance	15,767	17,888	17,420	18,711	18,711
SALARIES:Associate Pastor:Pension	5,752	5,926	6,162	6,162	6,200
SALARIES:Associate Pastor:Phone Allowance	-	500	600	600	600
SALARIES:Associate Pastor:Salary	30,418	32,412	32,270	31,620	32,252
TOTAL SALARIES:Associate Pastor	69,888	75,706	75,773	76,496	77,215
SALARIES:Childrens Ministry Director					
SALARIES:Childrens Ministry Director:FICA	2,134	2,208	2,262	2,261	2,306
SALARIES:Childrens Ministry Director:Salary	27,968	29,817	29,684	29,556	30,147
TOTAL SALARIES:Childrens Ministry Director	30,101	32,025	31,946	31,817	32,453
SALARIES:Choir Director					
SALARIES:Choir Director:FICA	489	489	520	501	511
SALARIES:Choir Director:Salary	6,440	6,606	6,818	6,548	6,679
TOTAL SALARIES:Choir Director	6,929	7,095	7,338	7,049	7,190
SALARIES:Custodian					
SALARIES:Custodian:FICA	1,223	1,262	1,358	1,360	1,388
SALARIES:Custodian:Salary	16,076	17,266	17,948	17,784	18,140
TOTAL SALARIES:Custodian	17,299	18,527	19,306	19,144	19,527

<b>Category Description</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>Proposed 2014 Budget</b>
SALARIES:Interim Pastor					
SALARIES:Interim Pastor:Auto	-	-	764	900	2,000
SALARIES:Interim Pastor:FICA	-	-	125	648	2,173
SALARIES:Interim Pastor:Salary	-	-	10,741	13,648	26,400
TOTAL SALARIES:Interim Pastor	-	-	11,630	15,196	30,573
TOTAL SALARIES: Interim Pastor	-	-	-	-	15,196
SALARIES:Nursery					
SALARIES:Nursery:FICA	359	358	343	354	361
SALARIES:Nursery:Salary	4,730	4,498	4,871	4,632	4,725
TOTAL SALARIES:Nursery	5,090	4,855	5,214	4,986	5,086
SALARIES:Organist					
SALARIES:Organist:FICA	170	176	176	191	195
SALARIES:Organist:Salary	2,255	2,424	2,211	2,501	2,551
TOTAL SALARIES:Organist	2,425	2,600	2,387	2,692	2,746
SALARIES:Payroll Tax Adjustments	(81)	67	117		
SALARIES:Secretary					
SALARIES:Secretary:FICA	2,002	2,179	2,221	2,325	2,372
SALARIES:Secretary:Salary	26,244	29,509	29,057	30,394	31,002
TOTAL SALARIES:Secretary	28,246	31,688	31,278	32,719	33,374
SALARIES:Senior Ministries Pastor					
SALARIES:Senior Ministries Pastor:AUTO	1,247	1,248	1,248	1,250	1,250
SALARIES:Senior Ministries Pastor:FICA	735	743	787	805	819
SALARIES:Senior Ministries Pastor:Salary	8,442	8,998	9,052	9,268	9,453
TOTAL SALARIES:Senior Ministries Pastor	10,425	10,989	11,087	11,323	11,522
SALARIES:Senior Pastor					
SALARIES:Senior Pastor:Auto	4,500	4,673	3,115	3,000	1,400
SALARIES:Senior Pastor:FICA	5,090	5,099	5,865	3,872	1,989
SALARIES:Senior Pastor:Housing	24,000	24,923	16,615	16,000	8,000
SALARIES:Senior Pastor:Insurance	16,198	18,261	13,437	12,496	6,000
SALARIES:Senior Pastor:Pension	10,118	9,556	7,238	6,432	3,200
SALARIES:Senior Pastor:Salary	48,183	50,017	39,026	31,600	16,600
TOTAL SALARIES:Senior Pastor	108,090	112,530	85,296	73,400	37,189
SALARIES:Worship Team Leader					
SALARIES:Worship Team Leader:FICA	311	358	365	378	477
SALARIES:Worship Team Leader:Salary	4,088	4,803	4,783	4,947	6,240
TOTAL SALARIES:Worship Team Leader	4,399	5,161	5,148	5,325	6,717
SALARIES:Youth Ministry Support					
SALARIES:Youth Ministry Support:FICA	632	912	806	990	1,009
SALARIES:Youth Ministry Support:Salary	8,292	12,559	10,779	12,936	13,195
TOTAL SALARIES:Youth Ministry Support	8,923	13,471	11,585	13,926	14,204
TOTAL SALARIES	291,732	314,715	298,105	294,073	277,796



<b>Category Description</b>	<b>2011 Actual</b>	<b>2012 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>Proposed 2014 Budget</b>
TRUSTEES					
TRUSTEES:Copy Machine	6,194	5,934	5,051	5,500	4,000
TRUSTEES:Cov. Properties	20,316	20,316	20,316	20,400	20,400
TRUSTEES:Maintenance					
TRUSTEES:Maintenance:Inspections	1,151	1,864	949	1,400	1,400
TRUSTEES:Maintenance:Janitor Supply	2,290	2,520	2,653	2,750	2,750
TRUSTEES:Maintenance:Lawn and Snow	10,286	10,266	11,910	10,000	14,000
TRUSTEES:Maintenance:Rep-Equip-Clean	11,245	9,389	9,508	10,500	12,500
TOTAL TRUSTEES:Maintenance	24,973	24,039	25,020	24,650	30,650
TRUSTEES:Prop. Insurance	14,500	15,656	16,541	15,000	16,000
TRUSTEES:Utilities					
TRUSTEES:Utilities:Fire Alarm Line	1,452	1,014	1,008	1,050	1,050
TRUSTEES:Utilities:Electricity	9,185	9,033	8,550	9,500	9,000
TRUSTEES:Utilities:Gas	3,887	2,652	3,694	3,500	3,500
TRUSTEES:Utilities:Telephone	2,286	3,246	2,546	2,500	2,500
TRUSTEES:Utilities:Waste Disposal	1,726	1,706	2,058	1,700	1,900
TRUSTEES:Utilities:Water and Sewer	1,021	1,475	2,212	1,500	2,200
TOTAL TRUSTEES:Utilities	19,557	19,127	20,068	19,750	20,150
TOTAL TRUSTEES	85,539	85,071	86,996	85,300	91,200
TOTAL EXPENSES	462,709	480,703	474,877	488,743	472,666
OVERALL NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	39,073	12,731	1,225		

## AUDITORS' REPORT

We have reviewed the financial records of Libertyville Covenant Church as of December 31, 2013, as well as the related financial reports contained in the annual report. In our opinion the financial records and reports fairly present the financial position and the results of operations for the church as of December 31, 2013.

William K. Anderson

John Bethancourt

**LIBERTYVILLE COVENANT CHURCH**  
**Rotation of Church Officers**

**2011 Ballot**

Chair (two year term)  
Treasurer (two year term)  
Christian Formation (two year term)  
Long Range Planning (two year term)  
Fellowship (two year term)  
Trustees (two year term)

**2012 Ballot**

Vice Chair (two year term)  
Financial Secretary (two year term)  
Secretary (two year term)  
Christian Formation (two year term)  
Deacons (two year term)  
Outreach (two year term)  
Stewardship (two year term)

**2013 Ballot**

Chair (two year term)  
Vice Chair (one –year unexpired term)  
Treasurer (two year term)  
Christian Formation (two year term)  
Fellowship (two year term)

**2014 Ballot**

Vice Chair (two year term)  
Financial Secretary (two year term)  
Secretary (two year term)  
Deacons (two year term)  
Long Range Planning (two year term)  
Outreach (two year term)  
Stewardship (two year term)  
Trustees (two year term)



## The Evangelical Covenant Church

November 2013

To All Covenant Churches

Dear Friends in Christ,

Please receive my heart-felt thanks for the partnership we share in Christ. Together with you this movement called the Evangelical Covenant Church is impacting more lives in more places with greater diversity and global reach than at any point in our 128 year history. *You make that happen.*

Our vision in the Covenant is that together, we join God in God's mission to see more disciples, among more populations, in a more caring and just world. That is a big task. To accomplish it we have defined five mission priorities:

**Start and strengthen churches**

**Make and deepen disciples**

**Develop leaders**

**Love mercy-do justice**

**Serve globally**

In each of these priorities we seek to both serve our churches and unite our churches in service together. More information can be found at [covchurch.org](http://covchurch.org). In particular, watch the 2014 Mission and Ministry video entitled "Following the Heart of God." Indeed, the mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church is only possible because of the faithful efforts of all 850 of our congregations, working together to advance God's Kingdom.

Covenant people are generous people, and generous people make a difference in the world. On behalf of a grateful movement, thank you for your partnership in the increasing difference we make together throughout your region, the United States and Canada, and all over the world.

As you gather for your congregational annual meeting, please know of the prayers and support of the entire Covenant family. Be assured of our thanks for your faithfulness and prayers for your continued fruitfulness. The Lord be with you.

In It Together,

Gary Walter  
President

8303 WEST HIGGINS ROAD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631  
PHONE 773-784-3000 FAX 773-784-4366 WWW.COVCHURCH.ORG



December 31, 2013

Dear Churches of the Central Conference:

On behalf of the Staff and Executive Board of the Central Conference I greet you as you meet for your congregations Annual Meeting. We are grateful for your partnership in the gospel with our over 120 churches of the Central Conference. Which enables us to strengthen our existing churches, plant new churches, develop new leaders, make and deepen disciples, support ministries of compassion, mercy and justice and help to support ministries globally.

Two thousand thirteen brought with it some significant changes with the departure of Jolene and the hiring of David Swanson our new Director of Church planting. But at the same time it was a very good year for ministry. More churches were connecting with one another than ever before. We had more infinity groups gatherings than ever before, more churches coaching and assisting other churches than ever before, and more churches involved in renewal and/or revitalization efforts than ever before. I am thankful to God for guiding us through 2013, and, I enter into 2014 excited about what God has in store for us.

I do however, expect that there will be financial, as well as other, challenges that we must face. We will be introducing a new mission giving plan for our churches. We will be encouraging our churches to parent or partner with us to plant new churches. We will have to address the increasing need to assist our church in becoming more missional and healthier. We will be working in conjunction with Covenant Children's Ministries to increase the number of ministry grants to be given out to our churches for ministries to at risk children in our conference. In addition, the denominations annual meeting will be in Chicago next year, and since we will be the host conference, we have been asked to develop and implement a special ministry experience to proceed the meeting. I know for a fact that God is faithful and will give us everything that we need to successfully meet every challenge we might face.

As you prepare for your congregation's Annual Meeting, I ask that you remember to select delegates to our Central Conference Annual Meeting. It will be April 25-26 and hosted by Northwest Covenant Church in Mount Prospect, IL... Please make note of the dates and stay tuned for more information.

Please continue to pray for us and we promise to continue to pray for each of you.

Yours in Christ,

Jerome Nelson, Superintendent

