



In the Spirit

A newsletter for the Libertyville Covenant church community about local happenings and Christian issues.

September, 2021
Volume 28, Issue 7

CONTENTS...

- 2 Worship in September
- 3 Small Group
Financial Summary
- 4 Central conference
- 5 Bible Studies
Worship Team Update
Leadership Contact Info
- 6 PADS
Renew Community
EST upcoming events
- 7 Youth Ministry
- 8 Youth Ministry
(Continuation)
- 9 Children's ministry
- 10 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 11 Who are We?
- 12 Calendar

Together

by Pastor Steve Larson

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” – Eph. 4:11-12

During COVID, our house was full to the brim. All 4 of our kids were home, we were hosting 2 other kids from Isaac’s school, and so on any given day, we had 8 people doing school or work online. This many people living together has its joys and its challenges, one of which is scheduling the chores. With everyone home, everyone had to pitch in to do the work of running the household. Cooking, dishes, laundry, yard work, trash, cleaning... there is more of everything to do and more hands to do it. When someone was gone, their work had to be picked up by the others. This is what living in community is like.

Living in Christian Community is not much different. The Early Church used everyone in all of their work. Worship included a host of people bringing songs, words of wisdom, readings from

the scriptures or Paul’s letters, and even prophecies. Leadership involved speakers like Paul and Timothy, but also elders, deacons, and those serving in other ministries. And the main leadership – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers – understood that their role was to equip everyone to do ministry. This what living in Christian Community is like.

Our church has faced this same reality throughout our history, but it has been made clearer during COVID. We are a



Christian Community who has ministry we want to - and are sent to - accomplish. Like a family, we all need to pitch in to this work, not just because it is what Jesus has sent us out to do but because it is what it means to be part of a community. We have seen a significant drop in the ministry of our church during

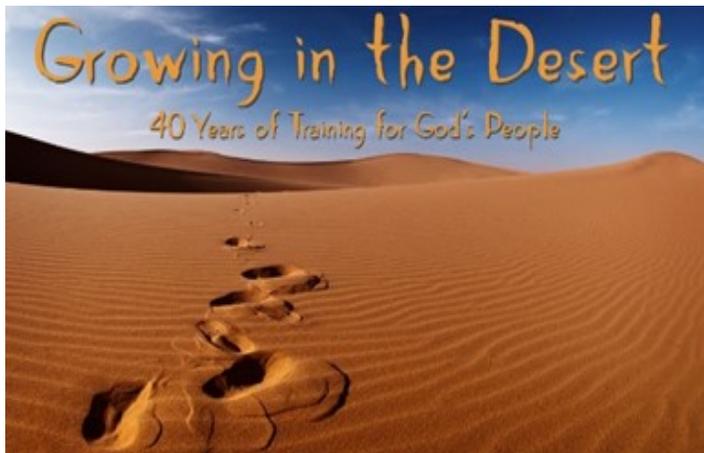
Continued on page 2

COVID with everyone required to stay home and distanced, yet ministry has continued. Worship, small groups, racial righteousness discussions, youth ministry, stewardship, trunk-or-treat and Feed My Starving Children outreaches, Vacation Bible School... these have continued if in different forms over the past 17 months. But overall, our ministry, like that of most churches, has diminished greatly.

As we approach the fall, we hear the news about the Delta Variant spreading once again. Businesses and even our own church have asked people to return to wearing their masks, though hopefully only temporarily. And yet we are moving quickly back to a normal life – going to work, to restaurants, to school, to family, to camps. And as we do, it is time to move back to full ministry here at LCC. It is time to get back to worship with all the COVID precautions in place. It is time to get back to serving this world in Jesus' name through PADS, Love Inc, Matthew Homes, and Jill's House. It is time to get back to sharing the good news through Fall Fests and intentional relationships. It is time to get back to discipleship through Sunday school and Kids club and small groups.

Some of us have specific health issues that require us to keep serving and worshipping from a distance. We both recognize this and appreciate your care for your bodies and families. Yet we also recognize that this is not the case for the vast majority of us. So as we ramp up to full time ministry this fall and winter, we need everyone involved. Take some time today to consider what ministries God might be leading you to, some to serve in and some to be served by. And then let us know what you hear. And praise God that He gifts, calls, and sends us out into this world to join Him in His mission, to grow disciples, grow the church, and grow the Kingdom of God.

WORSHIP in September . . .



For many, COVID time has felt like wandering in a desert. So this fall as we resume our regular ministry schedule, we take a look at what we learned in the desert with Moses and over the last 18 months.

Join us every Sunday at 10:30am in person or on our [YouTube channel](#) for worship.

Sept. 5	Safety	Ps. 46
Sept. 12	Where It All Begins	Ex. 15:1-13
Sept. 19	Bread for the Journey, and Quail, and Water, and...	Ex. 16:2-18
Sept. 26	In It Together	Ex. 17:8-13, 18:13-27



The most effective way to grow spiritually over time is through small groups. And while every small group has its own personality

and focus, being together in a group of 8-12 other friends all sharing the same journey gives us the tools we need to grow together. Small enough not to intimidate but large enough to be a community, small groups allow us to build relationships, ask questions, and care for each other. Currently we have 8 formal small groups meeting throughout the school year:

- Sunday School, Sunday mornings at 9:15am – Paul Hawkinson
- Larson Small Group, Monday evenings at 7pm – Pastor Steve Larson
- Women’s Bible Study, Wed. mornings at 9:30am – Claudia Nauman
- Prayer Group, Wed. 6:00pm – Pastor Steve Larson
- Women’s Bible Study, Thur. 9:15am – Pastor Bruce Thorson
- Racial Righteousness Small Group (in person), Thur. 6:30pm – Teresa Anderson
- Racial Righteousness Small Group (on Zoom), Thur. 6:30pm – Paul Hawkinson
- Men’s Bible Study, Fri. 7am – Paul Nauman

We also have other informal groups like our choir, our book club, and even our ping pong players. Small groups come in many shapes and sizes, but all have one focus – to grow on the journey of faith together.

Our goal at LCC is to have 70% of our people involved in a small group. That means forming new groups and adding to our groups already meeting. We have dreams of a Parenting Support group meeting on Wed. nights, another virtual (Zoom) small group or two for those who cannot travel, be in groups, or live a distance away, and a mission-based work group.

Zachs Gaiya is overseeing this aspect of our LCC ministry. And while we do not want to run the groups in terms of meeting times, places, or curriculum, we do want to resource and support all of the groups. If you are interested in starting another group or are looking for a group to join, please contact him or Pastor Steve at your convenience.

We all are responsible for our own spiritual growth, but LCC wants to support you along the way. Please consider joining or starting a small group this fall. And may we all find partners for the journey toward Jesus.

Financial Summary thru July

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$ 325,459
Actual Expenses YTD	\$ 302,493
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$

GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$ 306,691
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$ 325,459
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (18,768)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$ 306,691
Expenses YTD	\$ 302,493
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 4,198

LINK to online giving

Checks mailed to the church will also be received and processed on a regular basis. If you have questions, contact Caren & Lee Vollrath at caren-

The Leadership Team thanks you all for your continued generous support of the ministries of LCC. We thank God for you and His good work that can be accomplished through your faithfulness. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our finances, please contact our



Treasurer, “Kansas” Dave Anderson at 847-910-1696 or danderson@proactiongroup.com.

Thanks, Dave for your work on our behalf!



CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF THE
CCECC
EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Dear Friends of the Central Conference
(CCECC),

I am inviting you, the people of God, to join the Central Conference for **a time of fasting and praying on Mondays** in the month of September. You will find prayer requests in the flyer shared in this email.

We will conclude our time of fasting every Monday, with a short time of prayer, which we will do in community. Through September 27, we will gather online **on Monday evenings at 5:00 p.m. (CST)** for those who can join us.

Below is the Zoom meeting information to participate in this time of prayer. You are welcome to share the link with your congregation. I am also sharing a [downloadable flyer](#) (in English) and another in [Spanish/Espanol](#), which you can also pass along to the members of your church.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening.

In Christ,

Pastor Danny

Zoom Meeting Information

CCECC Fasting and Prayer 2021

Every week on **Monday evening at 5:00 p.m. (CST)**, through Sep 27, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83719851015?
pwd=UDRjS3FpZHpwREVXNisvOTNhMVhNdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83719851015?pwd=UDRjS3FpZHpwREVXNisvOTNhMVhNdz09)

Meeting ID: 837 1985 1015

Passcode: 192634

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83719851015#,,,,*192634# US (Chicago)

Worship Team Update !

As We are excited to share some changes in the Worship Ministry Team (WMT) happening this fall. We are very thankful for Sarah Larson's service over the past few years and excited for her as she starts the next phase in her life. So, with Sarah's departure, we are very thankful that Noah James has agreed to lead the Tech Team on a weekly basis which includes scheduling a team of volunteers for the online video streaming, preparing all the slides that need to be projected (call to worship, song lyrics, bible passages, etc.), working the soundboard during the service and keeping all the connections operating so no matter where we are viewing, we are all connected. Noah has a great list of new volunteers that have agreed to participate but there is always room for more if you are interested, talk with him. We are very thankful to have such a responsible, gifted group of high schoolers stepping up! Next, we are thankful that Pastor Steve and Kris Nikkel layout the weekly service and Kris has agreed to continue to organize the worship team participants as well as a plethora of other responsibilities to make the weekly worship meaningful. Finally, we hope to fit in some fun ways for our children to participate as well!

In case you were wondering, the responsibility of the WMT is to design the special services each season, so we are currently working on two services:

Reformation Sunday - 10/31
All Saints Sunday - 11/7

The WMT plans on participating in the "all church" survey this fall, and we always appreciate congregational input, so we are representing the opinions of all our members!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you,
Michelle



Thursday Morning Bible Study - ACTS 1-12 LCC beginning September 16 at 9:15am

Do you ever feel powerless? Believers in the early church discovered what true power looks like. Power that transformed their lives—and

changed the world! The book of Acts is the extraordinary record of what these early Christians disciples did through God's Spirit. The power of God's Spirit at work in the early church is the same power that can transform our lives today.

As author, Phyllis J. Le Peau leads us through the first half of Acts in this twelve-session LifeGuide® Bible Study, we will discover what the Spirit can do in the world today. Questions: Contact Pastor Bruce.

LCC LEADERSHIP

*Please pray for the church **LEADERSHIP TEAM, COUNCIL & STAFF.** Contact them if you have questions, ideas or would like to get involved in a particular ministry.*

STAFF

Pastor: Steve Larson (815/508-4450)

Associate Pastor to Youth:

Paul Couleur (847/331-3640)

Pastor to Senior Adults:

Bruce Thorson (847/421-2732)

Office Coordinator:

Debbie Tometz

Worship Music Coordinator:

Kris Nikkel (847/543-8861)

Custodian: Dan Doherty (847/223-4971)

LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Church Council Chair:

Paul Lundstedt (847/612-6237)

Church Council Vice Chair:

Church Council Secretary:

Karin Lundstedt (847/340-5247)

Treasurer:

Dave L. Anderson (847/362-2569)

LT Members at Large:

Jill Heath (847/989-7089)

Kirk Johnson (847/573-8010)

OTHER COUNCIL POSITIONS

Financial Secretary:

Lee & Caren Vollrath (847/549-6906)

(CED) Christian Education &

Discipleship Team:

Deacon Team:

Wes Lindahl (847/680-1018)

Evangelism & Service Team:

Trevor James (847/986-6677)

Worship Ministry Team:

Michelle Pas (224/213-5729)

Finance & Properties Team:

Kerry Monson (847/302-4089)

Evangelism and Service Team (EST) update for September 2021

Upcoming EST events to serve together this month:

Feed My Starving Children Packing Event

Date: October 6th at 7 pm.

Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat? Due to the continuing effects of the COVID epidemic, we will be postponing our Fall Fest until 2022. We are sensitive to the amount of volunteer hours we are asking for and want to bless and encourage our congregation rather than wearing them out. Once we are back on our feet after the pandemic, we look forward to a wonderful Fall Fest '22.

Outdoor Worship Team – We are always looking for helpful hands to help set up or take down outdoor worship each Sunday, if you would like to join our team, please contact Trevor James (tjames@northpark.edu). Typically, it only takes about 20 mins or so each Sunday.

PADS – Housewarming Project



During August Maggie Johnson told us about the

need to help families who are transitioning from homelessness into a home but often need supplies to ease the transition. Therefore, we handed out laundry baskets and a list of items and asked folks to choose items from that list and return them (in the basket) to the church. On August 15th, we had collected over 15 baskets and prayed over them during the service they were delivered to the PADS facility in Waukegan. This was a wonderful way to serve others in our community and help people make a fresh start. If you didn't get a chance to participate this time, stay tuned as we hope to do this again in the future.

Renew Communities – “Matthew Homes”

During the August 15th church service, we heard a special mission moment from Dan Frost and Paul Hawkinson. We learned how the Renew team works with residents and city leaders to encourage home ownership and community, block-by-block, until they reach a “tipping point” where community enrichment grows organically and exponentially. Specifically, how in North Chicago Matthew Homes teams are seeking to increase home ownership by 15%, primarily by providing opportunities for low and moderate income families renting or working in North Chicago to own a home. The name "Matthew Homes" comes from the Bible in Matthew 5:14-16. Jesus had just encouraged his listeners to live out the Beatitudes. Next, he encouraged them to actively shine God's love and kindness to those nearby because this glorifies God. Thus, Matthew Homes were launched as a tangible expression of God's love for all. The hope of the EST is to collect names and get them connected to the volunteer coordinator through Dan Frost and hopefully serve together during a weekend or serve as a group and gauge interest for future larger long-term commitments in the upcoming months. There are also opportunities for Jr. High/Sr. High to get involved on a specific day or as needed with the other volunteers. Please contact Dan Frost danf1954@gmail.com if you would like to serve individually or as a family.



LIBERTYVILLE COVENANT YOUTH MINISTRY

Snr High School Ministry

Sept 19th & 26th: 5:00-7:00p.m. Senior High Youth Group at LCC.

Oct 15-16- Senior High Retreat - Covenant Harbor. This retreat was designed by Northwest Covenant Church, Anchor Covenant Church, and Libertyville Covenant Church as a model for all of the central conference churches to enjoy throughout October. Three churches will come together for a retreat hosted in the brand new Kishwauketoe Camping accommodations for three weekends in October. Details are being finalized and I will pass them along to you as soon as they are availa-

Middle School Ministry

Sept 12 Kick Off Sunday

Sept 15- Middle School Ministry-

Wednesday Evenings 6:00-7:15p.m.

Covenant Point Retreat Registration

<https://www.cpbpc.com/jhfallretreat/>

JR. HIGH FALL RETREAT: Oct 8-11, 2021



2021 Jr. High Fall Retreat (Grades 6/7/8): October 8-11

We're planning for fall 2021! Save the date!

If it becomes apparent that we cannot run a retreat as planned due to COVID-19 considerations, we reserve the right to make changes to capacity, program, or calendar as necessary. Prior to each retreat, we will be in communication with participants regarding instructions and policies to reduce health risks for our participants

and staff. Any cancellations related to COVID-19 will be refunded in full.

To register:

Students: Please see your youth leader to register for this retreat. You can Download/ Print the Registration form below.

[Download and Print the 2021 Fall Jr High Retreat Registration Form](#) – to be filled out and turned in to your Youth Leader by Friday, Sept 17, 2021.

Payment should be made to your church, and the church will make payment to CPBC.

Dear Parents and Students,

It is time to kick off another year of Youth Ministry at Libertyville Covenant Church!! My hope is to invite your support and grace for youth ministry as conditions and approaches demand mobility and change almost daily. At this time, we have tentative plans in place for an entire year of ministry, all of which are subject to change. With many moving parts, I invite you to continue to pray for the year together, and for those interested in seeking active ways that you as parents might support our ministry, please be sure to seek me out for ways you might do so.

Continued on p.8.

Much has been planned and prepared, and we just can't wait any longer to deliver an update regarding what is in store. Each week there will be opportunities to plug into something going on, and we want you to know that we are excitedly anticipating you being with us.

As we start a new year of programming at LCC, here is what **Middle School students and families** can be anticipating. We will continue our traditional meeting times Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:15 p.m; starting September 15th. On those nights, we will be coming together as a community of leaders and students with the mission of growing in our relationships with each other and with our relationship with Jesus Christ. How will this take place? Glad you asked. We will be playing games, listening to short devotionals, and small group times where we will get to know each other through intentional conversations.

In addition to weekly gatherings, we will head to Covenant Point Bible Camp for a retreat October 8-11th. Take notice of the Covenant Point posting, which shares more content regarding this retreat. Throughout the coming year, we all invite our students and families to attend service events selected with students in mind, such as FMSC packing events. These are important parts of the faith journey and ways you can serve alongside your student as well. Surely I can't give away all the details as there is much to come. Your next step is to come and experience it for yourself.

On Sunday, Mornings Confirmation will occur during the Sunday school hour, starting at the kick-off on September 12th. Led by Pastor Steve, warm and inviting times for learning about God and His Word will take place. Throughout the year, you will have a chance to experience more fully what it is that followers of Christ believe and how that transforms our lives.

Senior High Students and families, we are off and running as we kick things off September 12th and Kick off Sunday. I look forward to familiar rhythms for ministry as we will enjoy gathering for Senior High Youth Group Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. starting September 19th. We will enjoy meals together (outside), great discussions, fun games, worship, and growing in our walk with Christ. For our first evening together, we invite parents to join us as we roll out new ministry offerings that require immediate response and actions. Please save the date as many new ministry offerings will be shared that night.

Sunday Mornings starting September 12th, students and youth leaders will gather together to study God's word. This year will be another year of what I call "Chunky Bible Reading." In a world full of sound bites, Ted talks, and rushed conversations, I invite our students to do something completely different. God's word is a letter written to each of us to be read in larger sections rather than as stand-alone segments; not doing so leaves out content and meaning. After a wonderful and most fruitful immerse bible study last year, we will continue to read in larger sections. Continuing last year's approach, we will invite students to be reading and studying sections of the Bible before they arrive, as this enriches our discussions and time together. Please be sure to encourage their reading and maybe even consider reading together as a family.

"The Village" Senior High retreat will take place at Covenant Harbor Bible camp October 15th-16th. We will travel to Lake Geneva for a newly designed retreat put together as a model for Central Conference Churches to come together. At camp, we will be staying in the newly remodeled campgrounds with Northwest Covenant Church and Anchor Covenant Church. We need to move quickly and register as we are almost a month away. This retreat was just finalized and agreed to by church and the camp this past week, so we are hoping to move forward as quickly as we can to make this happen. The cost for the retreat will be \$100, and I will be providing a more formal registration form in the days ahead. For now, here is a [waiver form](#) to be filled out and please save the date as we look forward to having a great retreat together.

LIBERTYVILLE COVENANT CHURCH KIDS



We just wrapped up an exciting week of VBS just a couple of weeks ago! 52 kids joined us for days filled with games, food, and learning from Moses himself! Most importantly, we learned how the Israelites had to trust God as he led them through the wilderness after leaving Egypt. Just like the Israelites, it's important for us to trust God too! It isn't always easy, but God will guide us when life gets tough. We can trust God because he provides for us and he gave us a chance to be saved! Our kids participated in raising money to buy Alpacas for other kids in Ecuador. With the church's help, we raised \$308.10 to help buy an alpaca!

Once again, thank you to every person who helped make VBS possible this summer! Please continue praying for all the kids who attended and that they

would walk with God or begin to follow him for the first time.



Mark DeWall
2065 Half Day Road T575, Deerfield, IL 60015
815-291-6470

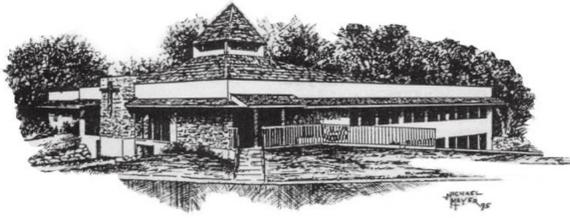


September Birthdays

- 2 John Bethancourt
Larry Cholewin
Annika Hawkinson
- 3 David Hinz
- 4 Lisa Kindstrom
- 7 Hannah Barg
Nancy McLinden
- 8 Lilian Johnson
Sarah Palmberg
- 9 Brian McLinden
- 11 Dana Hartnett
- 13 Jerome Johnson
- 12 Bob Sorensen
- 14 Kristin Hawkinson
- 18 Lukas Beckstrom
Kevin Reilly
- 20 Gene Sparks
- 21 Cali Lichter
- 22 Darilyn Anderson
Linda Youngman
- 23 Lars Dahlberg
- 24 Judie Duba
Laura Nordgren
- 26 Grace Glader

Anniversaries

- 12 Kerry & Brenda Monson
(1981)
- 14 Ken & Arlene Werner
(1974)
- 15 Bill & Chris Anderson
(1979)
- 17 Ryan & Mallory Steinhofer
(2016)
- 18 Jeff & Earleen Johnson
(1976)
- 19 Craig & Colleen Sparks
(1998)
- 26 Chris & Lilian Johnson
(2008)
- 27 Dave & Beth Enquist
(1980)
Jim & Michelle Pas (1997)
- 28 Bob & Lori Hartnett (1985)



Libertyville Covenant Church

250 S. St. Mary's Road, Libertyville, Illinois 60048
(Corner of Route 176 and St. Mary's Road)
Pastor: Steve Larson
Church phone: 847/362-3308 Fax : 847/362-3310
www.libcov.org

Our Mission is...

to grow disciples, to grow the church, and to grow the Kingdom of God.

Our Vision is...

We grow disciples as we praise and learn together
We grow the church as we love and give together
We grow the Kingdom of God as we serve and share together

Our Core Values are...

Community: everyone is welcome to join us on the journey
Authenticity: being real people with real issues before our real God.
Relationships: with God, each other, and the world around us
Engagement: all are gifted, all are called, all have a place in the ministry



The Evangelical Covenant Church affirms the centrality of the scriptures, with emphasis upon the grace of God. Covenanters also have a tradition of freedom that accepts a diversity of backgrounds and doctrinal positions, while maintaining a common unity in Christ. The Covenant has often been called a Family of Faith. Our congregational life indicates that this is an apt description.

Smile.amazon.com donates to LCC!



If you shop through Amazon.com, use Smile.Amazon.com instead and designate LCC as the charity on the opening screen. Then, at no extra cost to you, a small percentage of all you spend will be donated back to LCC to support our youth! LCC recently received a check of \$87.14 from AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile's Impact: \$562.46 to LCC

\$241,928,506.19 to all US charities
\$266,896,659.48 to all worldwide charities

Where is our Staff? On Tuesday mornings you will find us "together" sharing prayer requests and concerns as we work through the details of caring for each other, our congregation, facilities and the community at large. Thank you for your patience as we navigate these times and learn new ways of working and serving. Please contact any one of us as questions arise. 847-362-3308

To contact Pastor Steve:
Phone or Text: 815-508-4450
Email: steve@libcov.org
For late night emergencies
please call: 815-508-4450
For family emails:
halfadozenlarsons@gmail.com



The April/May/June issue of the Covenant Home Altar devotional book is available at the church. Please let us know if you would like a copy delivered to you. Thank you.



September 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 8 a.m. Furniture Ministry
5 10:30 a.m. Worship	6	7 10 a.m. Staff	8	9	10	11
12 Kickoff Sunday! 9 :15a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 12 noon Picnic	13 7 pm Lar- son's Small Group	14 10 a.m. Staff 7 p.m. WMT	15 6 pm MS Youth Group Prayer Group (all are invited)	16 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study	17	18
19 9:12 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	20 7 pm Lar- son's Small Group	21 10 a.m. Staff 6:30 p.m. LT	22 6 pm MS Youth Group Prayer Group (all are invited)	23 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study	24	25
26 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	27 7 pm Lar- son's Small group	28 10 a.m. Staff 5:30pm Council 7 p.m. Deacons	29 6 pm MS Youth Group Prayer Group (all are invited)	30 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study		