



# *In the Spirit*

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

**November 2021**  
**Volume 28 Issue 9**

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## **So Many Choices**

Many people equate freedom with choices. To be free means to have choices and with them the ability to choose. This has led us, living in a society rooted in freedom, to give ourselves as many choices as possible. From grocery stores where we have 9 choices of elbow macaroni to movie theaters that have to have 20 different screens to be worth going to, the number of choices we have every day is overwhelming. In

fact, many now complain about the number of choices they have to make!

In the last 19 months, the amount of choices we've had to make has grown even more. And now the choices carry a lot more weight. We've moved from "where should I go for lunch" to "do I risk going out for lunch". We've shifted from "which brand of chips should I buy" to "which vaccine should I take" or "should I take a vaccine at all". Our choices carry more power, politically, socially, and biologically.

So how do you choose? By what criteria do you judge which decision to make? We claim as Christians that we let the bible decide and follow God's path. Yet the most common question I hear is, "how can I honor God in my job/church/school"? Do you see the issue with this? By the time we get to this level, we've already chosen our job, our church, and our schools. We've chosen our neighborhood and our house, our habits and our diets, our political and denominational affiliations, what goes in to our eyes and ears, and what comes out of our mouths.

What might life look like for us if we were truly to let God make our choices for us? St. Ignatius (c.1500) formed an entire spiritual life around this concept. His Prayer of Self Offering says it all: *"Take, Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, my whole will, all that I have and all that I possess. You gave it all to me, Lord; I give it all back to you. Do with it as you will, according to your good pleasure. Give me your love and your grace; for with this I have all that I need."*

If you have already chosen a path, then you cannot let God choose for you, even at the most basic level. If we always choose what we want, from food to TV shows to friends, then we will not seek God in these decisions. If we always choose the way that leads to more money, or more prestige, or more comfort, then those decisions are already made without God. If we always seek the path of more health and longer life, then God cannot choose for us, even when His choice might conflict with these desires.

Before we claim that we choose God’s way, lets stop and think about how often we truly seek God’s will in our decisions. What might it look like to put your own desires aside, even the most basic ones, and seek God and His righteousness first?

## WORSHIP in November. . .



This November we finish up our study of Israel’s desert wanderings and begin to think about the holidays. This month we’ll talk about our Cloud of Witnesses, stewardship, gratitude and kick off our Advent Sermon series, “What to Expect When You’re Expecting.” It’s a busy month and one you’re not going to want to miss. Join us every Sunday morning at 10:30am, but also on Sunday evening Nov. 21 at 6pm for our Thanksgiving Eve Service. We welcome you all to our church or you can watch on our [YouTube channel](#).

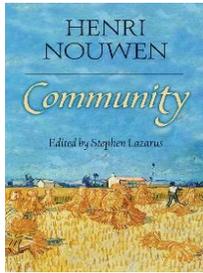
Nov. 7	All Saint’s Sunday, “Succession”	Num. 27:12-23
Nov. 14	Giving Ourselves	2 Cor. 9:6-15
Nov. 21	“More” or “Enough”?	Phil. 4:11-13
Nov. 21, 6pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service (bring a dessert to share)	
Nov. 28	What to Expect When You’re Expecting	Isa. 9:1-9

### THANKSGIVING SERVICE



There will be a Thanksgiving Service, in the evening at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21st with a dessert social to follow. We will need pies, other desserts, apple cider and whipped cream for the pies. If you would like to share your baking talents with us, please click on [Dessert Form](#) to register. Any questions, contact Jill Heath.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



We continue to discuss this series of essays that remind us of the importance of the role of Christian community in our faith journey. This is especially important as we come out of the last few years of isolation, and remind ourselves of the joy and necessity of being together. It is easy to join, as each week is a new and separate essay or writing. Contact Paul Hawkinson, if you have any questions.

## Upcoming Happening and Events



### We need your pictures!!

We are in the process of putting together a new picture directory. Many family pictures are outdated and we need new ones of your family. Please send your updated family photos to Debbie at [office@libcov.org](mailto:office@libcov.org). If you are unable to do this, we will have a person after a couple of services in November and/or December to take pictures of the congregation.

Also, for those of you who have a passion for pictures, we would like the ability to update our website's background. Pictures of landscapes, skies, sunsets, etc. are the type of pictures that we are looking for. Please send them to [office@livcov.org](mailto:office@livcov.org)

Save the date: LCC Christmas  
Smorgasbord, December 3,  
2021, 11:30 am.

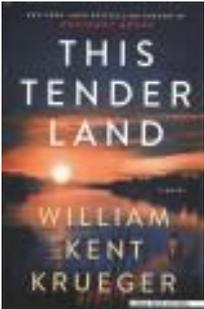
More information coming soon.





Pastor Steve 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 email 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.

## Sensible Ladies Book Group



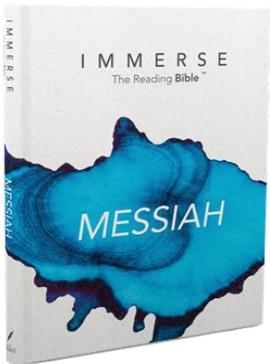
Our next gathering will be on November 12, 2021, 7:00 pm at LCC.

We will be discussing **This Tender Land** by **William Kent Krueger**. It takes place in 1932, Minnesota. The Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to an orphan named Odie O'Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a little girl named

Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. -- All are welcome! Questions? Contact Caren Vollrath [carenvollrath@gmail.com](mailto:carenvollrath@gmail.com) or 224-637-4422.

### “Finding Your Yes”

Lisa Kindstrom is hosting a ZOOM book study every other Saturday at 9:30 a.m. It started on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and will continue every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. The group started with the book, “Finding your Yes”, by Christine Wagoner. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at [lkindstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:lkindstrom@yahoo.com) or 815-354-4757.



## Spring Small Group Season

### Save the date

Spring sign up starts **January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**

Immerse Book Distribution starts **January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Immerse Kick off Reading starts **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

This Spring, we hope to read the entire New Testament-*Messiah* together using the Immerse Bible Reading Experience. This is an opportunity to immerse yourself in God’s Word for 16 weeks, to have simple conversations with others, and to let the Holy Spirit work the mystery of transformation in and through you. We hope that everyone would be a part of *Immerse!*

# Youth and Children's Ministries

## SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY

The Senior High will be attending the Village Retreat at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp November 5th and 6th. This retreat will bring together Northwest Covenant, Anchor Covenant, and Gladstone Covenant Church for a wonderful retreat.

### **Weekly Senior High Happenings: Sundays November 14,21**

- 9:15am-10:15am- Senior High Sunday School will take place outside weather permitting and, in the fellowship hall when it is not. Each week students are determining what we study based on the questions and wonderings they have. So far, their questions have been: Did Jesus believe he was God or tell people this is so? How are we to understand the Trinity? How might we respond to people that share hurtful comments aimed at Christians? Hope you will encourage your students to bring their questions and reflections each and every week.
- 5:00-7:00- Senior High Youth group meets to enjoy a meal together prepared and served by students. An evening full of fun experiences that included games, worship, discussions, small groups, and opportunities to simply be in community together. Students grow by showing up each week in their relationships with God and their friends. Hoping to see your student grow in faith and relationship with friends? This is a great time and place to see that take place.

### **Save the Dates: February 18<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>: One Life Retreat**

**More information will be coming in the next couple of weeks, so be on the lookout!!**



### **Feed My Starving Children Event**

The Senior High students doing their part at the FMSC event in October. LCC have over 40 people pack meals on Wednesday evening, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **A 4-WEEK SERIES ON FRIENDSHIP**

**What are we learning and teaching?**



Being a good friend is easy! As long as you make time to hang out, remember their birthday, and answer their texts, you're eligible for the Great Friend Award . . . right? Friendship might feel easy when life is easy, but it gets more complicated when your friends are hurting or struggling. What should you do? What should you say? What should you not say? When our friends need help, there are no easy answers, but in this 4-week series,

we'll follow the lead of a few people who've been there. Through the stories of Job, Ruth, Naomi, Elijah, and Eli, we'll see how God invites us to "be with" people when they're **grieving, lonely, in need, or feeling hopeless**, and how God is already with them.

**Tip of the Month**

Sometimes being a parent to a teenager can be difficult and in those moments our responses are highly important. The good news is that in tough situations you are never alone. There are strategies in place and a whole team here to help you and the teenagers you love whenever a situation becomes dangerous or scary. Please know that you can always reach out to us!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY**

**Confirmation/ Sunday School 9:15- 10:15a.m. November 7,14,21,28 in the Youth Room.**

**Middle School Midweek Ministry- Wednesday, November 3,10,17** - We gather from 6:00-7:30p.m. for students to dig deeper in faith together, and we will also have a lot of fun. Students are brought together for ice breakers, fun games, meaningful discussions, life giving devotions, and meaningful relationships with God and friends. Hope to see your students here each week.

The Covenant Point Middle School retreat was an outdoor adventure with God. Our Speaker for the weekend Natalie Swanson, Program Director at Covenant Pines Bible Camp helped us take a closer look at relationships and being in relationship with God. We enjoyed a weekend of fun and adventure with our youth group, complete with worship, high ropes, big games, and great messages. Be sure to check in with some of our students and ask them all about it.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Children's Ministries is launching a large once a month gathering for our children.

**At this time, we are in need of more volunteers to teach Sunday School and care for our children in the nursery. Please contact Jim Gillette for Children's Ministry and Ann Frost for nursery.**

While families are still leery of bringing their children to church each week, this fall we are planning for one large event each month for our children. This month's big event is...



We would like to invite our entire LCC family to join our children for an evening of songs, stories, crafts, games, and fun!

**Nov. 28 @ 5:30 pm**

Meet in the LCC Fellowship Hall, bring a mask and a friend, and get ready for some Advent fun! RSVP to [office@libcov.org](mailto:office@libcov.org) today or use the form that you will receive next week.

Every Sunday plan to experience offerings for children of all ages:

- Children's Sunday School (9:15 to 10:15)
  - Any age thru 4 years old (Drop off at Nursery by the Office on Main floor)
  - 5 years of age through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (Meets downstairs)
- Children's Church (Will be dismissed midway through the service. Meet teachers at back doors)
  - 5 years of age through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Scott, Luke and Max Anderson will be leading all of October.
- Nursery (On main level next to Church Office)
  - Offered during Sunday School and the Worship Service



### **ADOPT-A-FAMILY for CHRISTMAS**

This Christmas we are again providing gifts for 40 children, as part of the Love INC/Catholic charities "Adopt-a-Family" program. Names with gift suggestions are listed on the link below. Please sign your name next to a child's name and purchase a gift. **The wrapped gifts should be returned to church or to Joan Groody's home prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>.** The child's name and ID# should be on the package. If the request is expensive, please feel free to substitute another item. If you have any questions, or to arrange a drop off time, contact Joan Groody (847-573-8147) or Debbie Tometz (847-362-3308). Thank you for your generosity.

[Adopt-a-Family Sign-Up Sheet](#)

## Financial Summary thru September 2021

### EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$417,049
Actual Expenses YTD	\$381,769
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$35,280

### GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$398,387
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$417,049
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	\$(21,662)

### INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$395,387
Expenses YTD	\$381,769
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$13,618

#### [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 [carenvollrath@gmail.com](mailto:carenvollrath@gmail.com) or 847/549-6906

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](mailto:danderson@proactiongroup.com).

**Thanks, Dave for your work on our behalf!**

### 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)

**Offices\ Administrator:** Debbie Tometz

#### **Choir Director:**

Kris Nikkel (847-543-8861)

#### **Building Manager:**

Dan Doherty (847/223-4971)

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

#### **Church Council Chair:**

Paul Lundstedt (847/612-6237)

#### **Church Council Vice Chair:**

#### **Church Council Secretary:**

Karen Lunstedt (847/340-5247)

#### **Treasurer:**

Dave L. Anderson (847/362-2569)

#### **LT Members at Large:**

Jill Heath (847/989-7089)

Kirk Johnson (847/573-8010)

#### **Financial Secretary:**

Lee & Caren Vollrath (847/549-6906)

#### **Christian Education and Discipleship (CED)**

#### **Deacons 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)

# Finance and Properties

Thank you to all who came on a chilly Fall day and helped spruce up the church inside and outside. So much was accomplished and we are grateful. We were able to clean windows (inside and outside), clean the fireplace, replaced stained ceiling tiles, cleaned out closets and copier room in the office. On the outside, there were many Paul Bunyan's who cut down dead and dying trees, cleared brush from the edge of the parking lot and moved umbrellas into storage. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kerry Monson or Dan Frost.



November Birthdays		November Anniversaries
1 Paul Lundstedt	18 Marti Anderson, Dave Enquist, Mirielle Nauman	2 Zachs & Grace Gaiya (2002)
5 Caren Vollrath	21 Christine Cederberg	8 Bill & Jenna Glader (2003)
6 Kate Reilly, Jeff Johnson	22 Eleanor Hickcock	14 Paul & Rachel Couleur (2009)
7 Ellen Hall, Andrew Werner	25 Titus Couleur, Phillip Nauman	15 Andrea & Jason Reynolds (1997)
8 Kent Carlson	28 Janis Carlson	16 Wylie & Ardyth Douglass (1975)
10 Neale Murray, Dylan Schau Ryan Steinhofer	29 Beverly Schmidt	28 Roger & Julie Clausen (1981)
12 Cindy Traynor		
13 Twyla Becker		

# November Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
11/7/2021	John and Bev Hawkins	Owen Youngman	Roger and Julie Clausen	Bill(Marti) Anderson & Jim Krueger
11/14/2021	Paul and Claudia Nauman	Nancy Borkman	Bob and Lori Hartnett	Bill(Marti) Anderson & Jim Krueger
11/21/2021	John and Suzy Nelson	Trevor James	Ellen Hall/ Jill Heath	Bill(Marti) Anderson & Jim Krueger
11/28/2021	Al and Carol Nelson	Valerie Makkai	Dieter & Karin Hilderbrandt	Bill(Marti) Anderson & Jim Krueger
Date	Sunday School	Children's Church	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
11/7/2021				Christy and Grace James
11/14/2021				Kat Tranel
11/21/2021				Lori Hartnett and Ann Frost
11/28/2021				Kristen P and Karin H

Congratulations to Bruce and Merileen!! Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!





## 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](http://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

### **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 \$63.75 from AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile's Impact: \$732.20 to LCC YTD**

\$285,795,328.00 to all US charities

\$321,230,298.08 to all worldwide charities

**To contact Pastor Steve:**

**Phone or Text: 815-508-4450**

**Email: [steve@libcov.org](mailto:steve@libcov.org)**

**For late night emergencies**

**please call: 815-508-4450**

**For family emails:**

**[halfadozenlarsons@gmail.com](mailto:halfadozenlarsons@gmail.com)**

# NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA	<b>2</b> 7 pm Young Life Capemaum	<b>3</b> 6-7:15 p.m. Middle school youth 6 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	<b>4</b> 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Racial Righteousness	<b>5</b> 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study Sr. High Retreat	<b>6</b> 8 a.m. Furniture Ministry Sr. High Retreat
<b>7</b> <i>Daylight Saving ENDS</i> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 5 p.m. Youth Group	<b>8</b> 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA	<b>9</b> 5:30 p.m. CED 7 pm WMT	<b>10</b> 6-7:15 p.m. Middle school youth 6 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	<b>11</b> 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Racial Righteousness	<b>12</b> 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Piano Recital 5 p.m. Youth Group	<b>15</b> 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Leadership Team	<b>17</b> 6-7:15 p.m. Middle school youth 6 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	<b>18</b> 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Racial Righteousness	<b>19</b> 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 5 p.m. Youth Group	<b>22</b> 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA	<b>23</b> 5:30 p.m. CED 7 p.m. Deacons	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Thanks-giving</i>	<b>26</b> 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 5:00 Family Advent Night	<b>29</b> 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA	<b>30</b>				