



In the Spirit

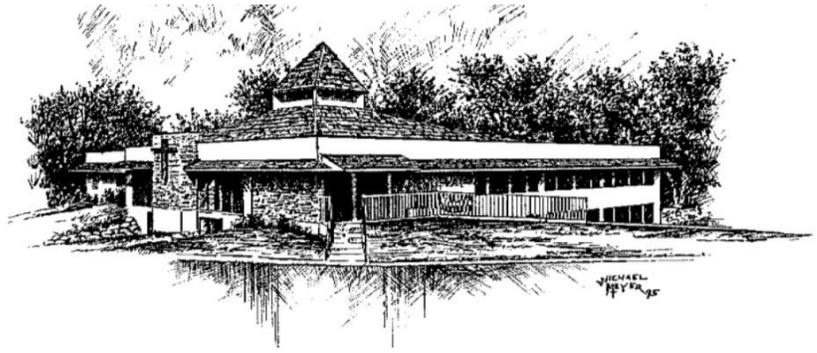
A newsletter for the Libertyville Covenant church community about local happenings and Christian issues.

October 2021

Volume 28 Issue 8

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State of the Church Update

Pastor Steve Larson

As we continue our journey through uncertain times, it is important for us to keep our perspective and look at the world around us to see how we are faring in this long COVID desert march. In the midst of a global pandemic, anxiety is high and fear floats in the wind around us, so we must continually remind each other that God is truly with us as we journey.

Theologian Phyllis Tickle has written that every 500 years, the church goes through a fundamental change. Jesus began this process 2000 years ago. Around 500AD, with the fall of Rome and the beginning of the Dark Ages, the church had to go underground to preserve itself. Along with this, the rise of the monastic traditions saw monks and nuns starting formalized abbeys, convents, and priories. The Great Schism, the split of the church into East (Orthodox) and West (Catholic) happened around 1000AD, and in 1500AD we witnessed the Protestant Reformation, another major split in the church. Tickle calls these “the 500 year rummage sale”, where the church cleans house and begins anew.

As we sit at the beginning of the 21st century, we see what might be the beginnings of this process again. Young people and families are leaving the church at an alarming rate, but this time they are not returning when they have children. The Pandemic is forcing churches everywhere to get

back to basics as a lack of volunteers and a lack of participants hone down the ministries to the bare essentials. Churches are seeing huge drops in their giving, their volunteering, and so their mission offerings.

In the midst of this, the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) is going through its own reckoning. With the excommunication of both a church and a pastor at the 2019 Annual Meeting, the ECC is seeing churches, pastors, and church members leave the denomination. With the rise of “potluck pietism” over the last 50 years, where we can choose a church that fits our style, theology, and political bent, this flight is easier than ever. With the national divide between the left and right sharper than ever, the church seems to be following suit and so we are at a turning point as a denomination. As our ECC Presidential Nominating Committee beginning its work to find a new president to present at the 2022 Annual Meeting (current president John Wenrich has decided not to serve for a second term), we need to be praying for our denomination.

With this background, we can see that our church’s current struggles are not unique. We are continuing a solid ministry with worship in person and online, 8 small groups meeting with the hopes of more, high attendance and good leadership in our youth ministry, Sunday morning ministry for our children both during Sunday school and worship, and monthly opportunities to minister both to each other in fellowship and to our local neighborhoods through Matthew Homes, Jill’s House, Love Inc, PADS, and many opportunities to share what we have with others in need. We have an amazing new Church Administrator in Debbie Tometz, and our attendance is rising as people return to our worship services.

Our primary focus right now is on our Children’s Ministry. With the resignation of Mark Dewall in August, we are left without strong leadership in this area though many are stepping up to help coordinate, from Ann Frost in the nursery to Jim Gillette and Pastor Paul with Sunday school. We have most of our leaders for nursery and Children’s Church through the end of the year, but like most every church I speak with, we are not finding people willing to teach children’s Sunday school. Without leaders we will have to join so many other churches in our area and either get creative for Sunday mornings or simply not have a Children’s offering during that hour.

This is a huge opportunity for us to lead the way and possibly even gain some young families who are looking for a strong Children’s ministry at a time when most churches do not have volunteers to staff one. The resources are there for a powerful ministry to our kids, and God is faithful. So please consider joining the ministry of LCC in our Children’s ministry.

All is all, we have to recognize that this is a difficult time in our global history and we do not know what God has in store for us. But we are seeing God’s faithfulness at LCC, and His call to share the Good News has not changed. Please prayerfully consider joining us at church for worship, for small groups, for outreach and fellowship, and for service to one another. God is ready for us to reunite for ministry – are we ready for him?

Outdoor Worship Update

Thank you to all who have helped make outdoor worship a reality this year, and provide another option to worship together safely as a church family! Due to the uncertainty of the weather and the changing of the seasons our last official outdoor worship for this year will be on **October 10th**. We hope to reassess next spring and evaluate if outdoor worship ought to continue in the spring/summer next year. For now you are welcome to join us out on the lawn (weather permitting) each Sunday as we safely gather outside to worship together. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to help set up the tents/equipment and be a part of the team please contact Trevor at tjames@northpark.edu.

WORSHIP in October. . .

Growing in the Desert

40 Years of Training for God's People



The story of Israel's desert wanderings is OUR story, and one from which we can learn a lot. We read it together last spring with our Immerse readings. We heard about it last summer during our Vacation Bible School. And many of us are in the midst of our own desert wanderings given the state of our world today. So this fall we are reading, discussing, and hearing again the lessons God has for us in the desert of our lives.

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

Oct. 3	Perspective	Num. 13:1-3, 26-33
Oct. 10	Consequences	Num. 14:1-24
Oct. 17	Looking to Jesus	Num. 21:4-9
Oct. 24	Love over Legality	Num. 27:1-11
Oct. 31	Still Work to Do	Num. 5:13 - 6:5

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

"Interested in becoming a member of Libertyville Covenant Church? Anyone 9th grade or older is encouraged to consider joining our community. Together, as we both give of our gifts and receive those of others, we seek to grow disciples, grow the church, and grow the Kingdom of God.

Our next Membership Class will be held on Oct. 10 from 12-3pm. We will begin with lunch together provided by our deacons, and then talk about membership from a biblical, denominational, and local perspective. Then before Thanksgiving, a few of our deacons will meet with a few of our new members to share faith stories and pray together, and then on Nov. 7, we will officially welcome you to our community during worship.

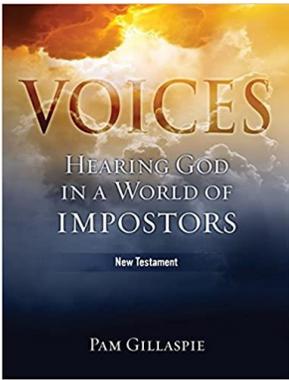
If you are interested, please [click here](#) to register for the class.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

From Paul Hawkinson & Michelle Pas on Adult Sunday School Offerings

9:15 - 10:15 Sunday Adult Sunday School

Hello friends! We have two invitations for Sunday School. In the sanctuary, Paul will continue our discussion on what we have learned through these "wilderness times" of 2020/21. There have been many ways in which we have been isolated and discouraged, so how can we encourage each other through sharing the practices, experiences and assurances from scripture that lead us closer to Christ.



Ladies - please join us in the traditional confirmation room as we explore - "**Voices: Hearing God in a World of Impostors (New Testament)**" by Pam Gillespie

Here is an overview on what we will study:

When so many voices claim to speak for God, how do you know what to do? Jesus and His Apostles spoke many times about false prophets and warned against those who disguise themselves as harmless sheep but are in fact wolves ready for the kill. They taught how to stand firm in truth in the face of these threats.

Lying prophets, fraudulent spirits, and false teachings threatened the early Church and they continue to do so today. Believers should constantly stand guard against those who cleverly "lie against the truth" (James 3:14).

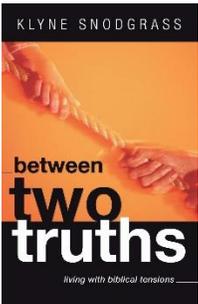
Considering the fact that the New Testament closed special revelation, we'll look at how God communicates to His people today so we can learn to differentiate the true and the false and stand firm in these last days.

We'll answer questions including:

- How has God spoken in these last days?
- What warnings does Jesus give about other voices?
- How can we know truth in this age of lies and deception?

For more information please contact Michelle Pas at michellepas315@gmail.com or just show up next week. If you would like to purchase the book, it is sold on amazon for \$21.99 (make sure it's the New Testament version) or if you need a scholarship, please let us know and we can order one for you.

Book Review By Pastor Steve



"Between Two Truths" by Klyne Snodgrass

As our small group pondered which book to study next, "Between Two Truths" came to our attention. Though written in 1990, it was written by Klyne Snodgrass, a Covenanter familiar to many of us from his teaching at North Park Theological Seminary and his lectures around the country. So we decided to give it a try. It turns out this book was a gift from God for us as we learned together how to live in the tensions of our faith.

With chapters focused on topics like "Grace and Law", "Faith and Works", and "Freedom and Responsibility", this book takes a biblical, honest look at the fact that often the bible often calls us to live in tension between two seemingly opposite ideas. This is the reality in which we often live and yet one with which none of us is comfortable.

We wound up taking 2 nights to cover the chapter titled, "Is God Active or Passive?" Dr. Snodgrass asks us to ponder how we deal with God's sovereignty and promised activity in the world in the face of such evil and pain we see in the news and in our lives every day. His response is a lot to discuss. He acknowledges that God is beyond our understanding, but also states that God is both active among His people AND yet is a hidden God. He assures us that God is not directly responsible for every event that occurs. And then ends the

chapter with the idea that when God works, He usually works in and through people and His creation rather than doing things TO people. Yup, a lot to discuss.

Each chapter is full of ideas, stories, illustrations, and the biblical evidence to back them up. And though 31 years old, “Between Two Truths” speaks directly to today’s issues and headlines. Filled with hope and humility, this book is a wonderful book for personal growth and group discussion. If you want a book that refuses to shy away from tough issues like these, balancing answers with further questions, pick up “Between Two Truths” from our church library and grow.



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:

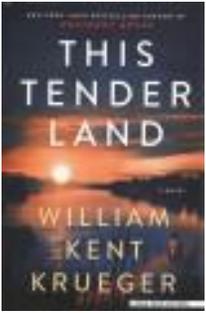
- Sunday School, Sun. mornings at 9:15am – Paul Hawkinson
- Women’s Small Group, Sun. mornings at 9:15am - Michelle Pas
- Larson Small Group, Mon. evenings at 7pm – Pastor Steve Larson
- Women’s Bible Study, Wed. mornings at 9:30am – Claudia Nauman
- Women’s Bible Study, Thur. mornings at 9:15am – Pastor Bruce Thorson
- Racial Righteousness Small Group (in person), Thur. 6:30pm – Zachs Gaiya, Teresa Anderson
- Racial Righteousness Small Group (on Zoom), Thur. 6:30pm
- 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 another virtual (Zoom) small group or two for those who cannot travel, be in groups, or live a distance away, and mission-based work groups.

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.



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 or 224-637-4422

Who's Coming to Dinner?



Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

There is only one decision for you to make, would you like to host a dinner or bring something for it? If you decide to host, you would provide space for 4 -10 dinner guests and the main meal, a fall harvest favorite or yours or you can ask for a recipe. If you choose to come as a guest, you would provide either a salad, bread or a dessert. After you have signed up, the fellowship committee will distribute the responsibilities. You will either find out where you are going or how many you are hosting! Sign up link: [Who's coming to dinner?](#)

OR contact Melissa Schau at mlongnec@yahoo.com



Columbarium Project

Deacons have been working to develop a columbarium proposal. Not all details are ready yet, however, here are a few basics. The details will be in a full proposal presented for congregational approval this fall.

What is a columbarium? A place to store ashes from deceased church members and family. Surrounding area should be a peaceful place for prayer and reflection on the lives of those departed. We plan to also have a memorial wall for names without ashes stored. The Deacons consider this a ministry to the congregation. The columbarium would be near the current garden and are working with a landscape architect to create a plan.

The costs would be covered by those planning to use the spaces for family members. Currently, we have around a dozen people who are interested. In the coming months, look for more information regarding this project. (Picture is only for example purposes.)

Evangelism and Service Team (EST)

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Packing Event this October!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP!! During this past year of COVID many of us have missed the opportunity to pack meals for FEED MYSTARVING CHILDREN (FMSC). We had a great packing Session on June, and we would like to do it again this Fall and give us another opportunity to serve together. Therefore the Evangelism and Service Team (EST) arranged for a packing day for us, on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021 at 7pm. The hope is that we would grab a bite to eat together at 6pm and then pack at 7pm. 60 spaces have been reserved for us in hopes that more of us will be able to join the LCC group for this service opportunity. If you have questions contact: Trevor James (tjames@northpark.edu)



Sign up at the LINK below and join us for this opportunity to serve & enjoy time together.

[LCC FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING EVENT SIGN UP FORM](#)

Welcome to America

Refugee families arrive with very few possessions. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ by providing them household basics to ease this transition and welcome them to the US. At the end of September, a list of new items, set by the US government that each family needs was emailed to everyone along with a sign-up sheet. Feel free to sign up for any items you wish to purchase; they need to be delivered to church by **October 17th**. If you'd rather give a monetary donation to purchase these items, please send a check to church with "Refugee fund" in the memo or donate online using "other giving" and put in the note "Refugee fund." Questions: Please contact Teresa Anderson either by teresa.deer1@gmail.com or 847/548-6125.

Youth and Children's Ministries

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY



Save the Date: Friday, November 5th through Saturday, November 6th

Make sure all Senior high students return payment and registration forms to Pastor Paul or the office by October, 17th.

Weekly Senior High Happenings:

- **Sunday School, 9:15 am to 10:15 am. Grab a chair from Fellowship Hall and meet us outside.**
- **Youth Group, Sunday, 5:00 pm. to 7:00 pm. Come prepared appropriately dressed for outside weather.**

****There will be NO Youth Group, October 10th. Pastor Paul will be on Jr. High Retreat.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY



This year's Fall Retreat is at Covenant Point Bible Camp in Iron River, MI. We will leave LCC around 5 p.m. on Friday, returning Sunday around 3:30 p.m.

Weekly Middle School Happenings:

- Confirmation/Sunday School, 9:15 am to 10:15 am.
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm, EXCEPT for October 6th!! It is the Feed My Starving Children outing.

FMSC: It is not too late to sign up for our FMSC outing. The hope is that we would grab a bite to eat together at 6pm at Culver's on 176, and then pack at 7pm. **Sign up at the LINK below and join us for this opportunity to serve & enjoy time together.**

[LCC FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING EVENT SIGN UP FORM](#)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Ministries is launching a large once a month gathering for our children. In October our event is Feed My Starving Children. Stay tuned for information regarding our November Event. **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.**

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 5th grade (Meets downstairs)
- Children's Church (Will be dismissed midway through the service. Meet teachers at back doors)
 - 5 years of age through 5th 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



Financial Summary thru August 2021

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET	
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$370,609
Actual Expenses YTD	\$342,729
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$27,880
GIVING VS. BUDGET	
Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$347,741
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$370,609
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	\$(22,868)
INCOME VS. EXPENSES	
Income YTD	\$347,741
Expenses YTD	\$342,729
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$5,012

[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 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.

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)
Church 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

Although much of the work has been behind the scenes our team has stayed busy this summer. We have focused most of our efforts on structural facility improvements, which are not always noticeable but are very much needed. It was hard to miss the new steps and railing at both the front and back of the Church. Dan Frost and Larry Cholwin did a great job coordinating the efforts. We also finalized plans for a new roof and have received congregational approval to proceed. We hope to complete the work in November, barring any additional delays in receiving supplies before Winter sets in. New siding near the roofline will be part of the project, with the remaining siding to be replaced in the Spring.

Nancy Borkman and her team put in countless hours this summer in the Memorial Garden; I don't think it has ever looked better.

We have two service opportunities this Fall and Winter open to all. There will be a fall work day on a Saturday morning this fall (date TBD shortly). We will have small projects both inside and outside the Church. No special skills are required; just a desire to see the building and grounds "spruced-up" a bit.

The second opportunity is to be part of a long range plan for the Church facility and grounds. It is important to hear views from a variety of folks; from newcomers to old timers, from younger members to seniors. Please let me know if you want to join us for what should be an interesting and important discussion. Questions: Please contact Kerry Monson.



October Birthdays		October Anniversaries
3 Carolyn Johnson	16 Luke Dahlberg (1998) Youngki Kim Sarah Nikkel (1991)	3 Dave & Barb Anderson (1992)
4 Steve Hall	23 Josh Albers	5 Kevin & Kate Reilly (2013)
9 William McMinimy (2000) Kerry Monson	24 Scott Christian (1995)	10 Lee & Judie Duba (1969)
11 Jim Krueger	25 Bill E. Anderson Bill K. Anderson John McLinden	13 Steve & Susan Barg (1984)
13 Audrey Hawkins (2001) Landon Johnson (2002)	29 Chad Clausen (1990) Paul Hawkinson	15 Paul & Claudia Nauman (1983)
15 Christy James		16 Bruce & Merileen Thorson (1971)



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 \$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
For late night emergencies please call: 815-508-4450
For family emails:
halfadozenlarsons@gmail.com

The October/November/December 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.

October 2021

						1 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	2 8 a.m. Furniture Ministry 9:30 LKindstrom small group
3 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 5-7 p.m. HS Youth	4 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA	5	6 Feed My Starving Children 7 p.m.	7 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Racial Righteousness	8 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study Jr. High Retreat	9 Jr. High Retreat	
10 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Membership Class Jr. High Retreat	11 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA Jr. High Retreat	12 7 p.m. Worship Ministry Team	13 6-7:15 p.m. Middle school youth 6 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	14 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Racial Righteousness	15 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	16 9:30 LKindstrom small group Swedish Glee Club 3-6 Sanc.	
17 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 5-7 p.m. HS Youth	18 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA	19 7 p.m. Leadership Team	20 6-7:15 p.m. Middle school youth 6 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	21 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Racial Righteousness	22 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	23 <i>Who's Coming to Dinner?</i>	
24 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 5-7 p.m. HS Youth	25 7-8 p.m. Larson SG 7 p.m. NA	26 7 p.m. Deacons	27 6-7:15 p.m. Middle school youth 6 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	28 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Racial Righteousness	29 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	30	
31 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 5-7 p.m. HS Youth							

