



In the Spirit

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

February 2022

Volume 29 Issue 2

CONTENTS

1 Hope by Pastor Steve

2 Worship in February

Save the Date:

Unhurried

3-4 Small Groups

5-8 Youth and Children's

Ministries

9 Financial Summary

NEW Leadership

10 February Birthdays and

Anniversaries

Feb. Volunteer Schedule

11-12 February Calendar



"HOPE"

"Blessed are those who grieve, for they shall be comforted." - Matt. 5:4

Death, Burial, Resurrection. This is the natural path of things in the Christian life. Our hope is in the reality of this path, that death which feels so final, and burial which confirms it in our minds, always leads to resurrection which has the final word. In the past few days, and months, and years we have claimed this truth in our own church, as we've lost close fathers, husbands, and friends to death. We have claimed this truth that though they have died, and been buried, we know that their final destination is not the grave but the Resurrection life Jesus promised. And we claim that truth for ourselves as well, that death is never the end for us but only a step on the path to resurrection.

In our culture, we face the shock of death regularly. COVID has driven this home by taking over 5.5 million people off this globe in the last few years. In our church, we proclaim the hope of resurrection just as often. Our songs, prayers, and scriptures proclaim this every week. But we have a very hard time with the grief of burial. We all tend to want to build a bridge right from death to resurrection and bypass the grief of burial. But this is not the path, nor is it healthy, nor is it biblical.

When Jesus lost his close friend Lazarus to death, He of all people could have just jumped from death the resurrection. But instead, Jesus went to the burial of Lazarus, joined with Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, and

grieved. In fact, Jesus wept with them. Why? Jesus could have just rolled back the stone and resurrected Lazarus, a foreshadowing of His own resurrection we proclaim each week. But He didn't because that is not the path. Death, Burial, Resurrection. Even when we know that resurrection is coming, we still need to grieve.

In fact, when we try to build a bridge directly from death to resurrection, bypassing the grief of burial altogether, that grief will come to us anyway. But now it will show up in unhealthy ways like bitterness and resentment and numbing behaviors. Grief undealt-with is a very dangerous thing, because though it feels easier not to deal with grief, that is not the path.

As we face the death of many in our congregation recently, we can take the time to grieve together, for that is our path. And that grieving takes a while. So as we grieve Paul and Phil, Jeff and Dan, John and so many others we've lost, we have the gift of community where we can share our grief. So share your memories, shed your tears, and let yourself grieve. Grief is a healthy thing, especially when it is seen as part of the path to resurrection.

WORSHIP in February . . .



February marks the kickoff of both our 2022 Immerse Bible Reading Experience: Messiah AND our Year of Outreach. Together we will read through the whole New Testament in just 10 minutes each day. We'll share our experience in Immerse small groups (see elsewhere in this newsletter to join or start a group), and our sermons will reflect on the last week's reading. Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary (preferred) or on our [YouTube channel](#).

February 6	Immerse Week 1: Why We're Here	Luke 4:14-37
February 13	Immerse Week 2: Woe? Woah!	Luke 11:37-12:12
February 20	Immerse Week 3: Why Can't I Be Baptized?	Acts 8:26-40
February 27	Immerse Week 4: Sharing Life	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8



Save the Date: Men's Retreat February 25- 27

Come for a weekend of fun, fellowship, meaningful conversation, and worship. The Men's Retreat is a highlight for many each year at Covenant Point. Invite your friends for the excellent food, good times, and life-giving worship and message. Recreational opportunities include a broomball tournament, afternoon jam session (bring your own instrument), snowshoeing, cross-country skiing on our groomed trails, sauna and polar bear dip, or games and conversation in the dining hall.

Check-in begins at 7:00 PM on Friday, with our first gathering at 8:00 PM.

Save the Date!

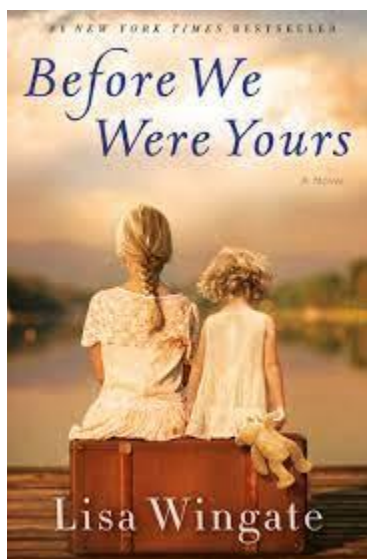
March 5th, 9am – 1pm



The Unhurried Retreat is a mostly self-guided time of quiet prayer and contemplation. With stations and activities all over the church, we have a rare opportunity to “be still and know that I am God.” Come to read, pray, walk, color, create, and maybe even get a massage! Registration will be available in January.



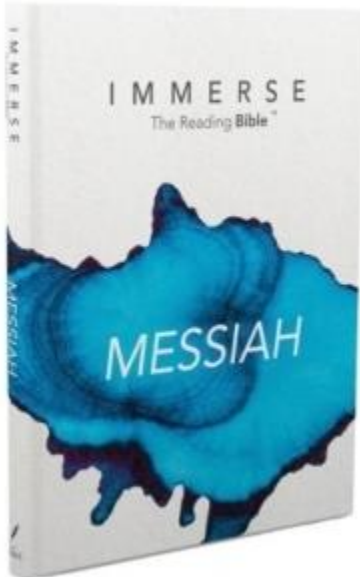
Each year we focus on a different aspect of our Vision Statement as a church. And though COVID postponed last year's focus, we are finally back and ready to grow together! We've had a year of Discipleship, and a Year of Fellowship. What will this Year be? You'll never guess. Stay tuned at our Annual Meeting on Jan. 30 for our Year of _____ Kickoff!



SENSIBLE LADIES BOOK GROUP

March 11th, Friday at 7:00 p.m.

This historical fiction novel traces what happens to children placed up for adoption through the Tennessee Children's Home Society in the late 1930s. Georgia Tann was the head of this orphanage and the novel is based upon her real-life experiences. Be prepared to have your heart broken for these children! But also be prepared to read a story of hope, tenacity and love!



Welcome to our Immerse Spring Program! This year, our Immerse reading program will run from *January 31st through May 22nd* (16 weeks). During this time, we will commit to reading the entire New Testament – Matthew through Revelation – together using the “Immerse: Messiah” books. Each week, there are 5 days (Monday-Friday) of readings (about 4 pages or 10-15 minutes a day) to be completed at your own pace. Click [here](#) for the sixteen-week reading plan.

We have three formats for reading Immerse:

1. Hard copy: You can purchase a book at church for \$15 (or less if money is a hindrance; we don’t want finances to be a factor). This year, we also have large print and Spanish copies available!
2. Free MP3 audio: Click [here](#) (once on Immerse website-click “view 16-week audio button)
1. E-book: Purchase through the following vendors: [Amazon](#), [Apple](#), [Christianbook.com](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), [Kobo](#), [Google Play](#)

If you choose to be a part of an Immerse Study Group, then your group will be between 5-12 people meeting weekly to discuss what was read. These meetings are less like a Bible study but more like a “book club.”

How Can I Participate In A Group?

1. Join an existing group – we have many already set to meet. Contact the church office to sign up.
2. Form Your Own “Immerse” Group – feel free to start your own group! Gather a group of 5 – 12 people—friends, neighbors, acquaintances, or colleagues. You can meet at your home, at a coffee shop, over lunch, wherever and whenever works for you. Hosting a group is simple: Immerse has a host guide [here](#).
3. Do Immerse as a family – A family guide is available [here](#) to use at home for parents, grandparents, or guardians to use with younger children.

Click [here](#) to sign up for Immerse and state your preference for a group. Please email Pastor Steve at steve@libcov.org your questions, or call the church office, 847-362-3308.

Immerse Groups Available: *To join a group, please contact a group leader.*

Sunday Morning Live with Paul Hawkinson
 Sunday Morning Zoom with Owen Youngman
 Monday Night Live with the Pastor Larson SG
 Wednesday Morning Zoom with Claudia Nauman SG (Women Only)
 Saturday Morning Zoom with Lisa Kindstrom SG (2nd/4th Saturday)

Youth and Children's Ministries

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY

The year has gotten off to a great start thanks to the One-Life retreat at Covenant Point Bible Camp. Departing Libertyville with a group of 25, we navigated the road in a Windstar Bus which made for a great ride to camp. With students and leaders overflowing with excitement and anticipation, connections were made along the way and upon arrival at CPBC acquaintances were already considered friends. Worship at camp was filled with dancing, clapping, shouts of praise, and singing God's praises led by our very own students and leaders. God filled our cups to the brim and living water was being poured out in plenty to each and all.

Our youth ministry welcomed some first time participants and some students from other Covenant Churches that have longed for a retreat like this to take place again. One of those parents took a moment to share what meaning this weekend had carried for her and daughter Hannah.

"I just wanted to reach out on behalf of my husband and myself to tell you how grateful we are to you and Libertyville Cov. for embracing Hanna and Ella as you did this past weekend. Hanna could not stop talking about what a great time she had and how welcomed she felt. It says a lot about your group of students, your leaders, and your leadership.

We have all felt the weight of this season as it has interrupted our God-given gift and desire for gathering and being in community. As parents, it has been a hard reality to experience but especially to witness in the lives of our children. Last weekend, for our daughter, part of that loss was restored, safely and powerfully and we couldn't be more thankful to those of you who helped make it happen. Please pass a special note of thanks to Angela, she deserves a medal for choosing to sleep in a room full of teenage girls!!

In deep appreciation,

Rev. Jill Lind -Director of Congregational Care- Central Conference of the ECC

Know that God has done marvelous things this weekend and it is worth naming that it isn't possible without the great support many have shown for youth ministry at LCC. We give thanks to Angela Kocinsky, Jim Gillette, David Anderson, Darilyn Anderson, and Mark DeWall for pouring into our youth ministry in countless ways this weekend. We are so thankful to CPBC for providing space for the body of believers to gather again and grow in their relationship with God and neighbor. We have come home with countless stories to tell. Some of them include winning the broomball tournament and others include victories experienced in faith. God has brought about healing and hope to students that sought out God in community and they have returned changed persons in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thank you again for your faithfulness. Many prayers

have been answered and I invite you to ask these students and leaders what took place at Covenant Point with time to listen to what great things were done. To God be the Glory.

Pictures:

Worship Leaders, Conquering the Slopes
The students and leaders ready for an adventure
Broom Ball Champions, Haniel and Evan relaxing
Hanging out together, Darilyn Rock Climbing

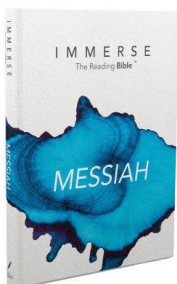






Weekly Senior High Happenings:

- **Sunday School, 9:15 am to 10:15 am. January 9, 23 and 30. We will meet in Fellowship Hall. Sometimes outside, weather permitting.**
- **Youth Group, Sunday, 5:00 pm. to 7:00 pm. January 9 and 23. Dress possibly for outside weather**



The Senior High Sunday Morning Group will be starting “Immerse” bible study at the end of January and goes thru May. The books will be available mid-January for purchase. The cost is \$15 per book. Contact Paul for more information or if a scholarship is needed. We hope that you will be able to join our group on Sunday mornings.

February 13th

The Senior High Youth will not be meeting on February 13th so that they may enjoy the Super Bowl with their family and friends.

SAVE THE DATES: March 30th (Middle School) and April 27th (High School)

Mission Project for our Youth ministry with PADS. Please save the date to join hands with the Presbyterian church to prepare meals and a place for the homeless to spend a night out of the cold and outside elements. If you are not familiar with PADS, click [here](#) and see how PADS impacts the homeless in so many helpful ways.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

Weekly Middle School Happenings:

- Confirmation/Sunday School, 9:15 am to 10:15 am. January 9, 16, and 23. There is no Confirmation class on the 30th.
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm. Youth Group begins again on January 12th.

Winter Retreat:

Our Junior High Winter Retreat has been postponed due to the passing of our beloved youth leader, Paul Nauman. After reaching out to Covenant Harbor, we have been put on the waiting list for the March 11-13 retreat. Please keep a look out for updated information in emails, bulletins and the newsletter.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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

Thank you to Jim Gillette and Ann Frost for their coordination of curriculum and volunteers so that Sunday School, Children's Church and the Nursery are available to our youth and congregation.

Financial Summary thru December 2021

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$566,379
Actual Expenses YTD	\$549,424
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$16,955

GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$550,582
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$566,380
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$15,798)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$550,582
Expenses YTD	\$549,424
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$1,158

[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)

Office Administrator: Debbie Tometz

Choir Director:

Kris Nikkel

Building Manager:

Dan Doherty

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Church Council Chair:

Paul Lundstedt

Church Council Vice Chair:

Trevor James

Church Council Secretary:

Karen Lundstedt

Treasurer:

Dave L. Anderson

LT Members at Large:

Julie Dahlberg

Kirk Johnson

Financial Secretary:

John Bethancourt

Christian Education and Discipleship (CED)

Angela Kocinski

Deacon Team:

Wes Lindahl

Evangelism & Service Team:

Teresa Anderson

Worship Ministry Team:

Michelle Pas

Finance & Properties Team:

Kerry Monson



February Birthdays		February Anniversaries
1 Olivia Pas	12 Chris Dallas	10 Dave and Darilyn (1985)
2 Dennis Dieball, Melissa Schau	16 Genevieve Couleur	16 John and Nancy McLinden
3 Evan Dallas	18 Otto Glader	
5 Steve Keller, Carlene Lichter	20 Jake Anderson	
9 Chris Becker	23 Arlene Werner	

February Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
2/6	Craig and Colleen Sparks	Kerry Monson	David and Marie Oppedahl	Bob Peterson & Lee Vollrath
2/13	Craig and Jackie Splinter	Heather Larson	Pauline Raia & Angela Kocinski	Bob Peterson & Lee Vollrath
2/20	Bruce & Merileen Thorson	Roger Clausen	Craig and Jackie Splinter	Bob Peterson & Lee Vollrath
2/27	Roch and Kat Tranel	Michelle Pas	Bruce and Merileen Thorson	Bob Peterson & Lee Vollrath
Date	Sunday School	Children's Church	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
2/6	Jim Gillette	The Palmbergs		Kat Tranel and Ann Frost
2/13	Jim Gillette	The Palmbergs		
2/20	Jim Gillette	Paul Hawkinson		Nancy Borkman
2/27	Jim Gillette	Paul Hawkinson		Kirsten and Karin



Recurring Weekly Events

Sunday: 9:15 Sunday School for all Ages
10:30 Worship
12:00 Choir
5:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday: 7:00 p.m. Larson's SG
7:00 p.m. NA

Tuesday: 1st Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. Youth Life Capenauum
2nd Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. Worship Ministry Team
3rd Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. Leadership Team
4th Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. Deacons

Wednesday: 9:30 Nauman SG
6:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Thursday: 9:15 Women's SG
6:30 p.m. Racial Righteousness SG
1st /3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m. Men's Ping Pong

Friday: 7:00 Men's SG

Saturday: 1st Saturday Furniture Ministry
2nd/4th Saturday 9:30 Kindstrom SG

February Special Events

2/25-2/27 Men's Retreat at Covenant Point

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

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

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm Youth Life Capenaum	2 9:30 Nauman SG 6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group	3 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Racial Righteousness 7:00 pm Ping Pong	4 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	5 8:00 Furniture Ministry
6 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5:00 Sr Hi Youth Group	7 7:00 pm Larson SG 7:00 pm NA	8 7:00 pm WMT	9 9:30 Nauman SG 6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group	10 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Racial Righteousness	11 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	12 9:30 Small Group (zoom)
13 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice	14 7:00 pm Larson SG 7:00 pm NA	15 6:30 pm Leadership	16 9:30 Nauman SG 6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group	17 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Racial Righteousness 7:00 pm Ping Pong	18 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	19
20 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5:00 Sr Hi Youth Group	21 7:00 pm Larson SG 7:00 pm NA	22 7:00 pm Deacons	23 9:30 Nauman SG 6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group	24 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Racial Righteousness	25 7:00 am Men's Bible Study Men's Retreat	26 9:30 am Small Group (zoom) Men's Retreat
27 9 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 5:00 Sr Hi Youth Group Men's Retreat	28 7:00 pm Larson SG 7:00 pm NA					