



In the Spirit

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

April 2022

Volume 29 Issue 4



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Crowns

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." - Rev. 4:9-11

What does it mean to wear a crown? Crowns symbolize victory – winners in the Games would receive a laurel crown, like today's gold medal. Crowns symbolize power – a king who overthrew another took his crown as a means of taking away his power. Crowns symbolize royalty – only royalty could wear a crown and anyone caught wearing one who shouldn't was killed. Crowns even symbolize achievement – Paul calls the Philippian church his crown, and we talk about someone's "crowning achievement". Crowns are immense symbols of worth.

So what does it mean to lay your crown before someone else? Imagine the statement it makes when someone willingly lays their own crown at the feet of another! It means giving someone else all your worth, your victories, your authority, and your achievements. It means humility to the greatest degree. It means acknowledging someone else as worth more than all you've achieved.

Which crown do we usually give to Jesus? As we live out our faith day to day, do we offer Him a parody of ourselves, a crown that is not really a crown at all? Or do we offer Him our very best, our very selves?

As we prepare ourselves this month to celebrate Resurrection Sunday, let's take a cue from the 24 Elders who worship eternally at the throne of God and lay our "crowns" before God in worship. How might you offer your victories, your power, your authority, and your achievements to God, both past and present? Whatever that may look like for you, give God all of who you are in every moment, not just in Lent but always.

WORSHIP in April. . .



This month we continue through our season of Lent, through Good Friday, and on to Resurrection Sunday and Eastertide. We continue focusing on the convergence of three themes: our Immerse readings, our Outreach theme, and Lent itself. “Giving Up” is our preaching topic, looking at both the Lenten practice of Fasting and the things we need to give up in order to follow God. Join us for worship every

Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our YouTube channel.

Apr. 3	Giving Up My Silence	Mark 8:27-38
Apr. 6	Service of Lament and Hope	
Apr. 10	Palm Sunday: Giving Up My Blindness	Mark 10:46 - 11:11
Apr. 15	Good Friday Service	
Apr. 17	Resurrection Sunday: Giving Up My Death	Matt. 28:1-10
Apr. 24	The Great Omission	Matt. 28:16-20

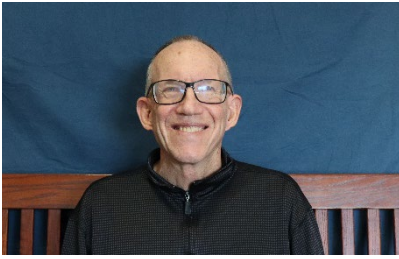


Holy Week Journey, April 6th thru April 17

This year during Lent, we will set up a Holy Week Journey trail on our grounds so that you, your family, and the neighborhood can walk through the last week of Jesus' life. The Stations of the Cross are based on the model of John Paul II but adapted by Dr. Christine Olfelt to fit context. They are designed to be accessible for all ages – written prayers, diverse pieces of art, and tangible objects to experience. We invite you to bring your neighbors and friends and experience this moving practice. Special thanks to Bob Peterson and Deb Lindahl for helping shape this wonderful journey.



Over the last 2 years we have all experienced global events that have changed the world and us fundamentally. As members of the Body of Christ, we need to take some time to process this together. To help us, we will gather on **Wed., April 6 at 7pm** at church for a Service of Lament and Hope. Here we will consider the losses we sustained from the pandemic, we will confess the sins we committed, begin the work of forgiveness and grace that is the core of our faith, and sit with God and each other as we contemplate moving forward in hope. Please join us for this important time in the history of our church.



Honoring Dan, April 3rd

After 22 years of service, Dan Doherty is retiring as our Custodian. We will celebrate Dan and his ministry here at LCC next Sunday after worship with a special coffee hour in his honor. Please plan to join us on Sunday, Apr. 3 to celebrate and thank Dan for his decades of ministry here and service to us all.



Women's Tea

Rachel Couleur and Heather Larson will be hosting a women's Tea at the Couleur home (920 Knollwood, Deerfield) on Saturday, April 9th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Food will be provided. To RSVP, please sign up [here](#).



Over the summer, Pastor Steve will be taking sabbatical leave from LCC.

What is a sabbatical? Sabbatical comes from the word Sabbath, a concept taught in scripture to remind us that we are not essential to ministry nor in control, but that God is both. Jesus modeled a pattern of ministry with periodic times of rest. A pastoral sabbatical is not vacation, nor is it study leave. Sabbaticals can include prayer, rest, study, travel, solitude, and family time. It embodies the idea that the teacher needs to become a student again and that professional clergy once again need to be simply worshippers.

How was this sabbatical granted? The Covenant denomination and conference support the use of sabbaticals as tools for reflection and revitalization for pastors. In the Letter of Call for each of LCC's pastors, a sabbatical is provided after seven years of ministry. (Steve's sabbatical was postponed a year because of the pandemic.) Sabbaticals need to be carefully planned, both for the pastor's time away and for the congregation in their absence. To this end, LCC has a sabbatical committee working with the pastors on this two-pronged planning. Pastor Steve will be sharing the details of his plans in an upcoming meeting which will include Q&A. The congregation is called upon to learn about Steve's sabbatical as details emerge so that they may pray for him through this important time.

How will Steve's sabbatical affect the congregation? One of the hopes for a sabbatical is that renewed energy, creativity, and perspective will be gained. This hope is not only for the pastor, but for the congregation, as it has opportunities to step into leadership differently and exercise different muscles as a community. Also, a temporary change in "how we do things" allows for fresh eyes on various aspects of the church's ministry, highlighting things that need improvement.

Ultimately, a sabbatical is an act of faith that God will guide both Pastor and congregation into new energy, spiritual vision and rediscovered zeal for shared ministry.

Mission of the Month

P
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D
S

Recap of 3/13/2022 Mission Moment

PADS has come a long way since they were founded in 1972 – with only a 24-hour telephone crisis hotline. Step by step they have managed to build an organization capable of giving hundreds of those in need either emergency shelter, temporary shelter or permanent housing.

All those who contact them meet with a case manager who teaches them how to utilize their emergency shelter system; assesses them for need and what programs and services would be appropriate for them; and provides access to basic needs – like a mailing address!

They also provide counseling services to support them in their journey OUT of homelessness and into housing.

Additionally, there is a Prevention & Diversion program which helps provide earlier intervention to those at risk of homelessness by working to keep them in their current housing.

A large car full of items from the PADS Wish List was delivered to their Waukegan office on Wednesday, March 23rd. Two very nice helpers happily unloaded everything and brought the items into the PADS building. They were excited when I told them everything was from a wish list provided to us. In addition, I received a voice mail from one of the managers who expressed immense gratitude for the generosity of our church. The LCC family was extremely generous (as usual) and I am SO grateful that we are quick to help those in need

Just another reminder - on Wednesday, March 30th with the help of Jr. High Youth, we will be setting up beds, serving dinner to PADS guests and providing lunches for the following day. On April 27th, the Sr. High Youth will provide the same services.

SEE SOMEONE OUT IN THE COMMUNITY?

Contact PADS at 847 616-5557

If you see someone who may be homeless (sleeping in a public space, panhandling with a sign claiming to be homeless, etc.) call our hotline! We'll send our Outreach Staff out to try and engage them in services.



A Big Thank You!!

Our first Jill's House camp of 2022 was a snowy one! 7 campers and their buddies enjoyed a fire and s'mores, played outside, bounced on the bounce house, performed in the talent show, and had an epic photo shoot. The wintry weather tied our weekend together, making it an unforgettable Jill's House time of fun and community. We are so grateful for our Libertyville volunteers, like Dave and Tina, who joined us in February.



The next Jill's House campout is less than a month away – April 8 – 10 in Lake Geneva. They already have 12 campers signed up (and 3 of these are new campers) – it is great to see this program grow and flourish. Unfortunately I will not be able to be there for this campout, but I know they are in need of Buddies. If any of you are available that weekend, it would be a huge help to them. If you're interested and available, please email kelly.elwell@jillshouse.org to sign up.

POVERTY SIMULATION

The Alliance for Human Services presents In partnership with CASA of Lake County, PADS of Lake County, Catholic Charities, Love INC of Lake County, and our host St. Joseph Catholic Church.

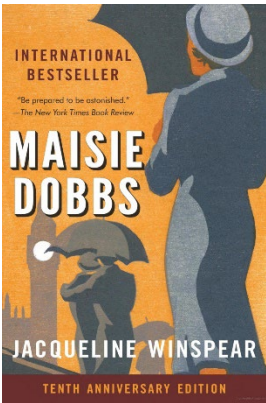
Date: April 30, 2022, 9:00AM-11:30AM

Location: St. Joseph Catholic, 121 East Maple Avenue, Libertyville

Register: <https://bit.ly/PovertySimApr30>

During this Poverty Simulation, participants will take on the identity of someone else and feel what it means to live a 'month' in poverty. Throughout the month you will face some of the daily stresses and challenges a person in poverty faces. You will have to navigate and cope using only the resources supplied to you. This simulation is not a game. It is based on the stories of real-life clients. The Alliance offers this opportunity to learn and better understand the needs of our neighbors experiencing trauma and how to best provide them with the resources they need to thrive.

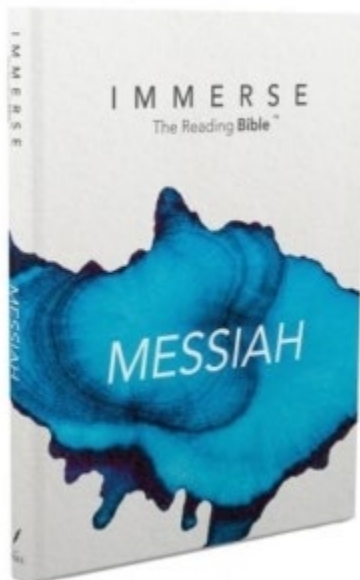
For more information visit our website at: <https://allianceforhs.org/events/poverty-simulation> Questions? Email: info@allianceforhs.org



Our next book selection is Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear

We'll be meeting on Friday, May 6, 2022. Questions? Call Caren Vollrath 224-637-4422

The book that introduced the world to the intuitive, intelligent, and resourceful heroine Maisie Dobbs—one of literature's favorite sleuths! Maisie Dobbs entered domestic service in 1910 at thirteen, working for Lady Rowan Compton. When her remarkable intelligence is discovered by her employer, Maisie becomes the pupil of Maurice Blanche, a learned friend of the Comptons. In 1929, following an apprenticeship with Blanche, Maisie hangs out her shingle: M. Dobbs, Trade and Personal Investigations. She soon becomes enmeshed in a mystery surrounding The Retreat, a reclusive community of wounded World War I veterans. At first, Maisie only suspects foul play, but she must act quickly when Lady Rowan's son decides to sign away his fortune and take refuge there. Maisie hurriedly investigates, uncovering a disturbing mystery, which, in an astonishing denouement, gives Maisie the courage to confront a ghost that has haunted her for years.



Our Immerse Program is underway. If you have just joined us we are on week 9. 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.

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



ACTIVITIES FOR BOTH SENIOR AND JUNIOR HIGH

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Holy Week Journey

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SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Weekly Senior High Happenings:

- **Sunday School, 9:15 am to 10:15 am.** We will meet in Fellowship Hall. Sometimes outside, weather permitting.
- **Youth Group, Sunday, 5:00 pm. to 7:00 pm.** Dress possibly for outside weather. There will be NO youth group on Sunday, April 17th, due to Easter.



Summer Unite Conference: July 14-17, 2022 Bethel University, Arden Hills, MN

A Covenant High School event gathering groups from across the Northern US and Canada for Worship, Connection and Fun. Even though students have missed the Early Bird Rate, there is still time to sign up for the Unite North Conference. Please email the office at office@libcov.org and Debbie will

send the paperwork to you to complete. The total cost for the conference, excursion and transportation is \$375. Scholarships or a \$50 rebate are available. Contact Pastor Paul.

What is it? It will be four days packed with:

- Evening sessions with dynamic speakers and worship
- Experiential learning experiences on and off-campus that will stretch you and your faith
- Tournaments and events for athletes and non-athletes
- Small group discussion and personal reflection
- Amazing meals prepped by professional chefs and bakers at the Bethel cafeteria
- And so much more!

A second conference, “**Gathering Together**” will be held at North Park University as a one day event on July 9th. This event is organized by the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. It will include two large worship gatherings, two service projects and a full day of fun, fellowship and food. The intention is for the central conference youth to gather together and discover what God is already doing in many ways, shapes and forms.



Senior High PADS Outreach Activity

On Wednesday evening, April 27th, our Senior High School families are invited to serve with PADS at First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville (219 W. Maple Ave.) We will meet downstairs at 5:00 p.m. and work until 8:00 p.m. Our assignments may

include setting up beds, serving dinner and making lunches for the guests. This is a great way to serve those seeking a warm meal, safe place to sleep, and reminders of hope. Year after year we have enjoyed participating in this ministry and look forward to our continued partnership. Following our time of serving together folks are welcome to enjoy a meal together at Culvers right up the street. Please RSVP soon. If you have any questions please connect with Pastor Paul at paul@libcov.org. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Graduation Sunday, June 5th



Congratulations to our upcoming graduates!! It is an exciting time of your whether your graduating for high school or college. Over the next several weeks, if you have friends or family graduating, please send the following information to the office at office@libcov.org

We would like to include them in the Graduation Sunday Bulletin. Please send: NAME, GRADUATING FROM, and WHAT's NEXT.

Upcoming Events through May 15th

4/6 Holy Week Journey
4/27 PADS Service Project
4/30 Homelessness Simulation
5/15 End of year party

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

Weekly Middle School Happenings:

- Confirmation/Sunday School, 9:15 am to 10:15 am.
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm.

Rising 8th Graders....Check out the Unite North Conference under Senior High Ministry. Any graduating 8th grader is eligible to participate in this exciting conference. If you are interested in attending, contact Debbie at office@libcov.org or Pastor Paul.

2022 Junior High Winter Retreat Highlights

Winter Camp 2022: "PANORAMIC"

2 Corinthians 4:18 "Because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."



All that gathered focused on the reality that God sees everything in the world, even that which we cannot see. God is everywhere, present with every single person, even when we can't see it. God also doesn't just see what is happening in the here and now, but sees things that have happened before us and things that are to come. However, oftentimes we get caught up in just what we can see in front of us and forget to see the bigger picture. We allow ourselves to live in the moment and fail to look beyond our limited perspective. Only looking at the things around us and the things we are experiencing limits us from seeing God's viewpoint is far greater than ours. Instead, when we set our eyes on God we can begin to learn about his complete and holy panoramic view of the whole world. Much like the pictures we look at, there is way more to a picture than what we first see. When we step back, the panoramic view comes more into focus. In doing so, our perspective was broadened in hearing from eight missionaries around the world as they shared how God was at work in their context. While students drew deeper in knowledge and

perspective of God they also grew in their relationship with one another. Students had all sorts of fun playing stump ball, "The Giant Swing", beating Pastor Paul in a game of horse, playing "the game", archery, eating all sorts of candy, and simply being together. We pray that the world will be a different place this week because of what God did through this weekend. And we pray each student leaves this place equipped and excited to pursue knowing God and his panoramic view.





Upcoming Events through May 15th

- 4/6 **Holy Week Journey**
 4/30 **Homelessness Simulation**
 5/1 **Confirmation Sunday**
 5/11 **End of year party**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



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

Children's Sunday School (9:15 to 10:15)

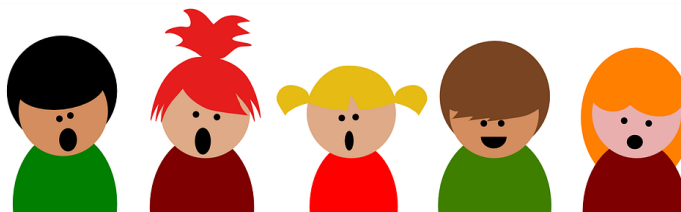
-Any age thru 4 years old (Drop off at Nursery by the Office on Main floor)

-5 years of age through 5th grade (Meets downstairs)

Children's Church (Will be dismissed midway through the service. Meet teachers at back doors)

Nursery (On main level next to Church Office)

Offered during the Worship Service



Easter is coming soon! And we are planning to have the kids in our church family sing during the Sunday morning service on that important Christian Holiday. The song that has been selected is "Jesus Is Risen" and will be sung with the adult choir. Rehearsal times will be during Children's Church on Sunday March 20th, Sunday April 3rd and Sunday April 10th..... **skipping March 27th** because of possible traveling during Spring Break. Please encourage your children to participate!! If you have any questions, please contact Maggie

Johnson. "God respects me when I work, but he loves me when I sing." ...



Financial Summary thru February 2022

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$ 91,054
Actual Expenses YTD	\$78,219
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$12,835

GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$71,055
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$91,054
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$19,999)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$71,055
Expenses YTD	\$78,219
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$(7,164)

[LINK to online giving](#)

Checks mailed to the church will also be received and processed on a regular basis. If you have questions, contact John Bethancourt, jbcovenant@gmail.com or 847/837-1690

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

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



April Birthdays		April Anniversaries
4/2 Karin Hildebrandt and John Nelson	4/17 Grace James and John McLinden	4/4/1987 Brian and Cindy Johnson
4/3 Tim Becker	4/18 Caitlin Bethancourt	4/5/1980 Steve and Ellen Hall
4/4 Joan Groody	4/20 Rachel Couleur	4/12/1974 Bob and Martha Peterson
4/6 Sarah Larson	4/23 Jill Heath	4/14/2007 Dennis and Carol Dieball
4/7 Ben Beckstrom	4/24 Kristen Bethancourt and Owen Youngman	4/28/1990 Chris and Twyla Becker
4/8 Hanamel Gaiya	4/25 Dave L. Anderson and Christy Beckstrom	
4/9 Ann Frost	4/27 Al Nielson	
4/12 Jim Gillette and Jackie Splinter	4/28 Tim Albers, Brenda Monson & Maddie Anderson	
4/15 Bennett Albers and Craig Sparks		

April Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
4/3	Bill and Marti Anderson	Wes Lindahl	Lee & Caren Vollrath	Bob Harnett & Al Nielson
4/10	Dave and Barb Anderson	Caren Vollrath	Ken & Arlene Werner	Bob Harnett & Al Nielson
4/17	Dave & Darilyn Anderson	Owen Youngman	Tim & Christie Albers	Bob Harnett & Al Nielson
4/24	Scott & Teresa Anderson	Nancy Borkman	Bill & Marti Anderson	Bob Harnett & Al Nielson
Date	Sunday School	Children's Church	Children's Church	Worship Nursery
4/3	Jim Gillette	Jim Gillette and	Maggie Johnson	Rachel Couleur
4/10	Jim Gillette	Jim Gillette and	Maggie Johnson	Kat Tranel
4/17	Jim Gillette	Jim Gillette		Nancy Borkman
4/24	Jim Gillette	Scott Anderson		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:** 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
- Thursday:** 9:15 Women's SG
7:00 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

April Special Events

- 3 Dan Dougherty Retirement Coffee Hour
6-17 Holy Week Journey
6 Service of Lament
9 Women's Tea
10 Palm Sunday
15 Good Friday Service
17 Easter Sunday
27 Senior High PADS Service Project
30 Homelessness Simulation

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 Men's SG	2 8:00 Furniture Ministry
3 9:00 Youngman SG Zoom 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth Group	4 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 Larson SG	5	6 9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom) Holy Week Journey 6:00 Middle School YG 7:00 Service of Lament	7 9:15 Women's SG 7 Racial Righteousness 7 Ping Pong	8 7:00 Men's SG	9 9:30 Kindstrom SG 11:00 Women's Tea
10 Palm Sunday 9:00 Youngman SG Zoom 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth Group	11 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 Larson SG	12 7:00 WMT Mtg 7 Young Capernaum	13 9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom) 6:00 Middle School YG	14 9:15 Women's SG Maundy Thursday	15 7:00 Men's SG Good Friday 7:00 pm Service	16
17 Easter Sunday 9:00 Youngman SG Zoom 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	18 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 Larson SG	19 6:30 Leadership Mgt.	20 9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom) 6:00 Middle School YG	21 9:15 Women's SG 7 Racial Righteousness 7 Ping Pong	22 7:00 Men's SG	23 9:30 Kindstrom SG
24 9:00 Youngman SG Zoom 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth Group	25 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 Larson SG	26 7:00 Deacon Mtg.	27 9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom) 6:00 Middle School YG PADS Service Senior High	28 9:15 Women's SG 7 Racial Righteousness	29	30 Homelessness Simulation (Jr/Sr High)

LCC ONLINE GIVING PORTAL: To give online, simply to go the LCC website (www.libcov.org) and click the “give” on the menu. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Libertyville Covenant Church

Our Mission is...

to grow disciples, grow the church, and 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



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 www.libcov.org