



# *In the Spirit*

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

**March 2022**  
**Volume 29 Issue 3**



<b>CONTENTS</b>
<b>1 Giving Up</b>
<b>2 Worship in March</b>
<b>    Unhurried Retreat</b>
<b>3 Lenten Practices</b>
<b>4 Small Groups</b>
<b>    Sensible Ladies BG</b>
<b>    Immerse</b>
<b>5-9 Youth and Children's</b>
<b>    Ministries</b>
<b>    Senior High</b>
<b>    Middle School</b>
<b>    Children</b>
<b>10 Financial Summary</b>
<b>    Leadership</b>
<b>11 March Birthdays and</b>
<b>    Anniversaries</b>
<b>    Mar. Volunteer Schedule</b>
<b>12-13 March Calendar</b>

## **Giving Up**

Giving up is absolutely not allowed in our culture. From a Captain Marvel montage of all the times she's gotten back up after a fall to just about every story of an Olympic athlete, we celebrate the person who refuses to give up, and ignore anyone who does. Yet this is exactly what God has called us to do. In fact, it is not until we submit, give up trying to save ourselves through our tithing, church attendance, or any "good Christian behavior", that God can truly show us the overwhelming power of His grace. And only then can we begin to show grace to others. Check out Matt. 16:25 – "Any of you who try to save the life you have will lose it. But you who give up your life for me will find true life."

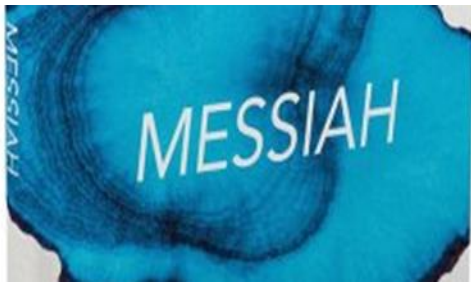
Giving up is absolutely not allowed in our culture. "More" is the main goal of most people in our society. Ask most people how much money, food, stuff is enough, and they will answer "just a little more", with their hearts if not with their mouths. Yet this is exactly what God has called us to do. In Luke 14, Jesus has these hard words for us as disciples - "those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples." And though we try to protect ourselves by declaring this to be metaphorical and

figurative – "we just have to be WILLING to give up everything; we don't actually have to do it" – this is not what Jesus said.

Giving up is absolutely not allowed in our culture. But it is one of the ways we can publicly proclaim the counter-cultural nature of our faith. When we give things up for God, it speaks loudly to our culture. From Mayo doctors who use only beat up used cars so they can give more to teachers who give up their summers to work at camp, when we actually give something up for God, people notice! But more than that, giving up our stuff helps us to give up ourselves to God, to submit to Him as He has commanded.

This Lent, what might you give up for God? What object, practice, or amount might you give up out of obedience to God, as a way to give up yourself to Him, or as an act of Evangelism? And when people notice your sacrifice, how will you respond? Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article spelling out how to Give Up this Lent, a practice we call Fasting. Take a look, and then choose something that you might give up for God this Lent, “and see if he will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

## WORSHIP in March. . .



As our year cycles once again and we enter the season of Lent for this year, we are 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](#).

March 6	Immerse Week 5: Giving Up “My Way”	1 Corinthians 12:12-31
March 13	Immerse Week 6: Giving Up My Pride	2 Corinthians 7:2-13
March 20	Immerse Week 7: Giving Up My Status	Philemon
March 27	Immerse Week 8: Giving Up My Barriers	1 Timothy 6:6-10



### We hope you will join us! 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!

Teresa Anderson will facilitate adults. And, your children are invited to their own special retreat, held in our church's lower level, while you retreat upstairs. Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 per child, (\$20 max per family). Bring your spouse or friend for only \$5. Lunch included. Optional walk, please bring winter attire. Reservations are still being accepted by clicking [HERE](#).



### Suggestions for Lenten practices.

Lent is a season with some specific practices associated with it, but also with room for creativity. This Lent, try one or a few of these activities that might help you prepare yourself for our celebration of Resurrection Sunday.

**Fasting:** giving something up for a period of time. Fasting helps our prayer life, humbles us, shows us what has superseded God in our lives, and can help us sense the Spirit's work more clearly.

Possible fasts: food, sweets, soda, alcohol, coffee; social media, television, streaming services; asking for things from God, complaining, busyness, gossip, creature comforts

**Reverse fasting:** adding something to your life for a period of time.

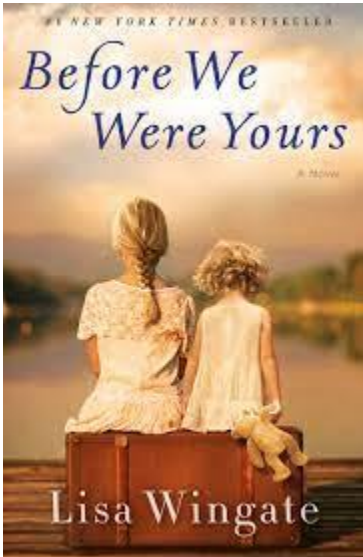
Possible things to add: bible reading, set prayer times, set prayer practices, connections with people, Sabbath time, join a small group, a Christian podcast, or daily journaling.

**Confession:** sharing the weight of your guilt with another trusted person. The effect of sharing a burden with someone else is immense, and so is the effect of hearing God's forgiveness spoken to you by another. Find a trusted person and ask them if they will help share your burden and remind you of God's grace. Then share your guilt with them and accept the words of God's forgiveness.

**Music:** We all have favorite Christmas playlists, songs, or albums. Develop a Lenten playlist with songs that help you reflect on Jesus' last days, death, and resurrection. I'm working on creating one that you can find by [clicking here](#).

**Giving:** It is traditional during Lent to give something more to those in need. Choose a ministry or person and give a little extra to them this Lent. Bonus: combine two and what you usually spend on coffee, give to the needy!

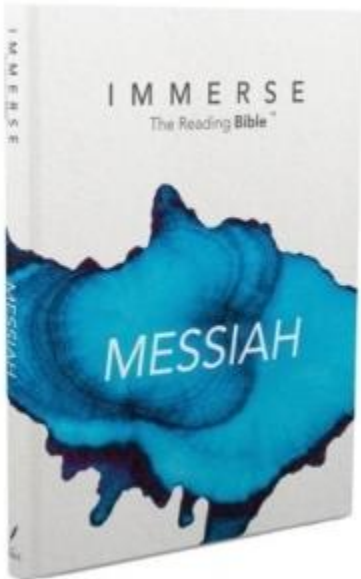
There are hundreds of sites with further suggestions about how to celebrate Lent. The key is not how you celebrate, but that you celebrate it.



**SENSIBLE LADIES BOOK GROUP**

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 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!



Our Immerse Program is underway. If you have just joined us we are on week 5. 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.

If you have been unable to secure a book, we have purchased more and can be found on the table in the narthex or contact the office to reserve a copy. Listed below are the current groups.

**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 (2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Saturday)

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.”

Please email Pastor Steve at [steve@libcov.org](mailto:steve@libcov.org) your questions, or call the church office, 847-362-3308.

# Youth and Children's Ministries



## SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY

### Weekly Senior High Happenings:

- Sunday School, 9:15 am to 10:15 am. We will meet in the Confirmation room.
- Youth Group, Sunday, 5:00 pm. to 7:00 pm. Dress possibly for outside weather. March 6, 13 and 20<sup>th</sup>. Due to spring break, there will be no Youth Group on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Sunday with the Senior High



What a wonderful site it is to see our Senior High Youth group growing by leaps and bounds. In recent weeks we have seen our youth group hosting 18-20 students. Praise God!! Simple invitations have brought about great growth in our youth group. We invite you to continue to pray for us. We gather together on Sunday morning for Sunday School and Sunday Evening for youth groups.





# SAVE THE DATE: April 27<sup>th</sup> (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.

## A Broomball Extravaganza



On March 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a night of broomball for the champions of both One Life Retreats. Mark your calendars for this all important date as we invite Northwest Covenant Church to join us here for a fun night together. Click [HERE](#) to register. Youth Group evening will include a pizza party and celebration.

Any questions, please contact Pastor Paul via text or email.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Senior High will attend both conferences this summer. Registration and details will be coming in the near future.**



**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. Sign Up to get the \$299 early bird rate.**

### **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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

### Weekly Middle School Happenings:

- Confirmation/Sunday School, 9:15 am to 10:15 am.
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.



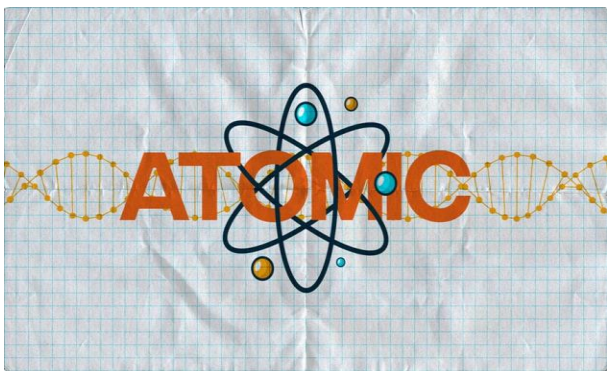
### Winter Retreat: March 11-13 retreat at Covenant Harbor

The Middle School students will be going on their winter retreat that was postponed from the end of January. Please pray for them while they are on their retreat weekend. The theme for the retreat is: *Panoramic: 2 Corinthians 4:18, "We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever."*

### Middle School Midweek Fellowship Fun: Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

For the month of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be here. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, we will be at a special serving event at First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville for PADS.

Throughout the month of March we will be diving into a 4-Week Series on Spiritual Habits.



### **SERIES OVERVIEW:**

Habits! We all have them, so let's talk about them. Whether you've got good habits (like getting enough sleep or remembering to floss) or bad habits (like biting your nails or checking your phone too often), most of your habits are probably small, tiny, hardly noticeable habits. But over time, those tiny habits can really impact your life, for good or bad. So what about your spiritual habits? What are the small things you do every day that either draw you closer to God or keep you at a distance? In this 4-week series, we'll discover some

principles from Scripture that have the power to help you develop tiny habits that can make a big impact — habits like **spending time with God, investing in your relationships, sharing your faith story, and worshiping with your life.**



### **Middle School PADS Outreach Activity**

On Wednesday evening, March 30th, our Middle 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](mailto:paul@libcov.org). Click [HERE](#) to register.



Each week we strive to make our Wednesday nights full of fun, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in faith. You will notice that we have hosted the winter Olympics during our middle school ministry. Some of the events that we hosted included moguls downhill skiing, two-person bobsled, as well as ice hockey.



## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**



**Children's Sunday School** (9:15 to 10:15)  
-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) *On March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 3 and April 10, our children will be preparing a piece to be sung on Easter Sunday.*





**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 20<sup>th</sup>, Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>..... skipping March 27<sup>th</sup> 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.” ...



God continues to bless our children's ministry with life giving experiences and opportunities to grow in faith. More volunteers are contributing to children's ministry including some of our youth and they have been very well received. Each week meaningful messages, crafts, and activities are prepared and the ministry is glowing. Please continue to pray for the children and volunteers that show up each week pouring into these precious little ones.

Hoping to see more and more little ones coming to see Jesus in and through this ministry as we continue to love God and neighbor together.

## Financial Summary thru January 2022

### EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$ 44,357
Actual Expenses YTD	\$36,857
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$7,500

### GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$40,493
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$44,357
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$3,864)

### INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$40,493
Expenses YTD	\$36,857
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$3,636

#### [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](mailto: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](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)

**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



March Birthdays		March Anniversaries
3 Saly Lichter, Niki Papak	18 Tina Gillette, Pauline Raia	2 Lee and Caren Vollrath (1991)
6 Steve Larson	19 Klara Cederberg	29 Mark and Christine Cederberg (2003)
10 Angela Kocinski	20 Caden Johnson	
12 Heather Larson	21 Scott Anderson	
13 Larissa Greenfield, Rachel Hickok, Kris Nikkel, Craig Splinter	23 Max Anderson, Kajsa Dalton	
15 Julie Dahlberg, Michelle Pas	28 Art Nikkel	
16 Kirk Johnson	31 Carol Nielson	

## March Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
3/6	Lee and Caren Vollrath	Jill Heath	Rock and Kat Tranel	Bill(Marti) Anderson/ Jim Krueger
3/13	Owen & Linda Youngman	Darilyn Anderson	Bonnie Wachta/Janis Carlson	Bill(Marti) Anderson/ Jim Krueger
3/20	Tim & Christie Albers	Judy Tanzer	Wes & Deb Lindahl	Bill(Marti) Anderson/ Jim Krueger
3/27	Bill & Chris Anderson	Dan Frost	Tom & Nancy Borkman	Bill(Marti) Anderson/ Jim Krueger
Date	Sunday School	Children's Church	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
3/6	Merileen & Bruce Thorson	Jim Gillette		Rachel Couleur
3/13	Merileen & Bruce Thorson			Angela Kocinski
3/20	Merileen & Bruce Thorson	Jim Gillette & Maggie Johnson		Nancy Borkman & Kat Tranel
3/27	Merileen & Bruce Thorson	Jim Gillette		Kirsten Peterson and Karin Hildebrandt



**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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. Worship Ministry Team  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. Leadership Team  
4<sup>th</sup> 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  
1<sup>st</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m. Men's Ping Pong

**Friday:** 7:00 Men's SG

**Saturday:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Furniture Ministry  
2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9:30 Kindstrom SG

**March Special Events**

- 2 Ash Wednesday Service
- 5 Unhurried Retreat
- 11-13 Winter Retreat for Middle School
- 30 Middle School Families: PADS

**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

**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)

# March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom) 6:00-6:45 Middle School YG <b>7:00 Ash Wednesday</b>	9:15 Women's SG 7 Racial Righteousness 7 Ping Pong	7:00 Men's SG	8:00 Furniture Ministry 9:00 Unhurried Retreat
6	7	8	9	10	11	
9:00 Youngman SG Zoom 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Broomball Event	7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 Larson SG	7:00 pm WMT	9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom)  6:00 Middle School YG	9:15 Women's SG 7 Racial Righteousness	7:00 Men's SG  Middle School Winter Retreat	9:30 Kindstrom SG  Middle School Winter Retreat
13	14	15	16	17	18	
9:00 Youngman SG Zoom 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth Group	7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 Larson SG	6:30 pm Leadership Mtg 7 Young Capernaum	9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom)  6:00 Middle School YG	9:15 Women's SG 7 Racial Righteousness 7 Ping Pong	7:00 Men's SG	
20	21	22	23	24	25	
9:00 Youngman SG Zoom 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Youth Group	7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 Larson SG	7:00 pm Deacon Mtg	9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom)  6:00 Middle School YG	9:15 Women's SG 7 Racial Righteousness	7:00 Men's SG	9:30 Kindstrom SG
27	28	29	30	31		
<b>Spring Break Begins</b> 9:00 Youngman SG Zoom 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice	7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 Larson SG		9:30 Nauman SG (Zoom)  <b>PADS Service Middle School</b>	9:15 Women's SG 7 Racial Righteousness 7 Ping Pong		

**NOTES:**

**NOTES:**