



In the Spirit

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

October 2022

Volume 29 Issue 9

CONTENTS

- 1. Pastor Steve Letter**
- 3. Oct. Worship**
Church Membership
Book Group
- 4. Guess Who's Coming**
to Dinner?
Children's Ministry
- 5. Youth Ministry**
- 10. Treasurer's Report**
Leadership Team
- 11. October Bdays &**
Anniversaries
Volunteer Schedule
- 12. Oct. Regular and**
Special Event Listing
- 13. Oct. Calendar**
- 14. LCC Giving and**
Amazon Smile
- 15. LCC information**
- 16. Notes**



The God Who Goes Before

As I walked the mile path across the Isle of Iona, I pondered God's generosity. I had my hiking boots laced, my backpack full of a gifted lunch - sandwich, chips, water, and banana - and I healthy and ready to hike. Each day I was stunned again by a gorgeous sunset, a beautifully fluffy lamb frolicking in the pasture I passed, or a huge bumblebee sipping from the flower beside me. And each day I enjoyed the gifts of the Iona Community, from meals to a gentle hello to a simple smile. Each day I sat on a sandy

white beach on the North Side, or a warm pebble beach on the South Side, or a quaint small pub in the heart of the village, and I ate my lunch – chips first, then my salmon sandwich, then finally my banana so I could tuck the peel in the chip bag to save either littering this Eden or getting banana all over my journal. God had provided so much for me this trip, I couldn't help but gratefully smile.

Yet as we lived on this Island, we became possessive of it. After three days, we began to think of it as “our island” and grow resentful of the “heathen tourists” who would come on the hourly ferry and return with the next. These were people here not for the holy pilgrimage we were on (we would think while shining our haloes) but as “tourists” (we would think with a sneer on our mind's lips). And sure enough, as I walked the mile path across Iona that day, a group of tourists passing the other way callously dropped a shopping bag on the path. With a grumble and a grimace, I swooped it up and pushed it into my backpack pocket to be thrown away later (“the way it should be if you just had some respect for the Holy Island!” I thought haughtily.)

Deuteronomy 31:8 – “The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Today was a hike not to a beach or along a pasture but up the high point of the Isle called Dun-I. From there I would see the entire island, visit the Well of Ages (a pool rumored to have healing properties! See it in the picture), and a monument to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Anniversary. And as I hiked, trying to get my mind back on God's beauty and out of the Holy resentment distracting me, my heart began to stutter. With A-fib, this is not an unusual occurrence, but also not a welcomed one. I knew I would have to sit and rest and eat something before climbing to the top, so I sat and pulled out my banana, thanking God for the hands who had blessed me with it day after day. My little snack did the trick, but I suddenly realized the trap God had place me in. Having not eaten my chips first as was my custom, I could either throw the banana peel on the ground, littering in a way I had just spent so long resenting, or put it in my pack and get banana on my journal, walking shoes, and rain jacket.

And suddenly, God smiled. I closed my eyes and smiled ruefully back. You see, God had given me both an answer to my conundrum and a lesson already. The shopping bag so carelessly dropped turned in my mind from unholy litter to a gift of God place for my And the dropped it loudmouthed conduits of provision, knew I needed it. And so I sat and arrogance, my hauteur, and for yet again providing for me long before I knew I needed anything. Like with the CPAP machine, and the rare single-room (ask me about these sometime).



For more information about Pastor Steve's Sabbatical, please join us after church on Oct. 30 for an all-church Soup lunch provided by our Sabbatical Team. While we eat, we will have an opportunity to hear a few more stories and reflections from Pastor Steve and have a time of Q&A. Join us for a warm meal with good friends.

– the perfect banana peel. people who turned from “tourists” to God's even before I confessed my thanked God

God refuses to work on our schedule, and by our rules. But He is always working for us as much as through us, and He always provides what we need, often before we know we need it.

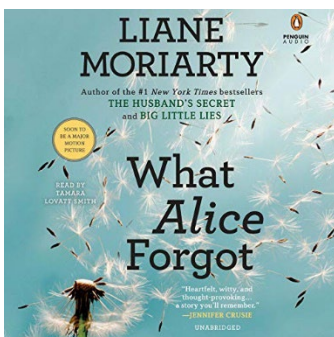
October Worship Series

October 2	Grace is Tov	Luke 15:11-32
October 9	Honesty is Tov	Proverbs 12:17-22, Ephesians 4:17-25
October 16	Justice is Tov	Isaiah 1:11-18, Luke 11:37-42
October 23	Service is Tov	Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Mark 10:32-44
October 30	Christoformity is Tov	1 John 2:3-6, Luke 5: 27-32

Church Membership

Church Membership Class – October 16th After Church

Anyone interested in exploring membership at Libertyville Covenant Church is invited to a special class and lunch following the worship service. We will gather for a sub-sandwich meal and then proceed to the class session. If you are interested, please contact either me or one of our pastors – Pastor Steve, Pastor Paul or Pastor Bruce – to let them know you are planning to attend. Welcome! *Wes Lindahl, Deacon Chair*



Our next book club read will be What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty

Alice Love is 29, crazy about her husband, and pregnant with her first child. So imagine Alice's surprise when she comes to on the floor of a gym (a gym! She HATES the gym) and is whisked off to the hospital, where she discovers the honeymoon is truly over - she's getting divorced, she has three kids, and she's actually 39 years old.

Alice must reconstruct the events of a lost decade and find out whether it's possible to reconstruct her life at the same time. She has to figure out why her sister hardly

talks to her, and how is it that she's become one of those super skinny moms with really expensive clothes. Ultimately, Alice must discover whether forgetting is a blessing or a curse, and whether it's possible to start over....

Our next meeting will be on Friday, October 14th, 7:00 pm at church. Everyone is invited to join the discussion and fun we share! If you have any questions, please contact Caren Vollrath at 224-637-4422 carenvollrath@gmail.com

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER? Saturday, October 22, 2021 at 5:00pm



Something special happens when we open our homes to others. We are able to engage in conversation on a more intimate level and enjoy the company and fellowship of friends. It's a time to create new relationships and enjoy the company of old friends. Everyone will be split up into small groups and won't know who will be joining them for dinner. This small, more relaxed setting is a great place to invite new friends! We would love for you to join us in a church-wide dinner event! To sign up, please click on this link [Guess Who's?](#) or contact the church office at 847-362-3308. For more information, contact Melissa Schau.

Children's Ministries



Kick-Off Sunday

A Conga line during our kickoff.

Thank you to everyone who made our Kick-Off Sunday one to remember.

Thank you to Deb Lindahl and Janis Carlson for decorating our classrooms.



Our First Wednesday Night Together!
Thank you to Kris Nikkel who provided a delicious meal



Youth Ministries

October Curriculum: A 4-week study from 2 Timothy on WISDOM



We all make exchanges — all the time, in fact! Whether you're shopping, texting your best friend, swapping snacks at the lunch table, or returning a wave to a neighbor, most of the exchanges we make aren't very memorable. But the exchanges that stick with us are the exchanges we have with people who impact our lives for the better. Maybe you've exchanged meaningful advice, wisdom, or encouragement with your friends, family members, heroes, coaches, pastors, or younger people you've invested in. Those exchanges are what this series is all about. In this four-week series from 2 Timothy, we'll explore some advice the apostle Paul gave to Timothy, a guy he was mentoring, because we can learn from Paul's wisdom too. Through it, we'll see how we can all exchange wisdom with each other (no matter our age) by helping each other **discover our gifts, develop discernment, get equipped, and find strength.**

Junior High Fall Programming

Sunday School Dates: 10/2, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30

Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26



Middle School Fall Retreat

**5:00 PM Departure from LCC Friday, Oct 7 –
4:00 PM Arrival Monday, Oct 10th**

Here we are but a few days away from an amazing retreat up at Covenant Point Bible Camp. What is in store for the weekend? A weekend of fun and adventure with our youth group, complete with worship, high ropes, big games, and great messages. We will be arriving in the upper peninsula of Michigan late Friday evening.

Please be sure to send along some money for a meal that we will enjoy on our way up to camp and another one on the way home from camp. While at camp there is a store available to purchase tee shirts, sweatshirts, stickers, candy, drinks, and all sorts of camp swag if your student so desires. We hope to beat the Friday evening traffic in Milwaukee and so we invite you to bring your student to church as soon as possible after school with a hope of leaving no later than 5:00p.m. We will depart immediately after breakfast on Monday morning and hope to return somewhere between 3:00-4:00p.m. Please take note of the packing lists below of things to bring and not to bring along. If there are any concerns or questions you have please speak with me directly. Looking forward to a great weekend away!!

Covenant Point Packing List

Bedding
Clothing for all weather
Towel
Toiletries
Swimsuit for sauna
Bible
Notebook and pen
Camera
Flashlight

As a gentle reminder, **Do Not Bring:**

- Cell phones or electronic devices
- Knives / weapons of any kind
- Alcohol / tobacco / illegal drugs
- Personal sports equipment
- Valuable personal items



FMSC: On October 26th, this will be our first FMSC Junior High Youth Group packing event!! We are excited that North Park Covenant Middle School Youth who will be joining us for this event. Stay tuned for more information.

First Middle School Youth Midweek gathering looks like it was a sweet success!!



Senior High Fall Programming

Sunday School Dates: 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30

Youth Group: 10/2 @ 4:30 p.m., 10/16, 10/23 @ 4:00 p.m., 10/30

The senior high will be meeting together with NPC - North Park Covenant Church Sunday Oct 23. We will depart from LCC at 4:00p.m. and will head to North Park for an evening of fun with NPC. We will return to LCC and finish our night together at 7:45p.m. More details to come.



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Senior High reached out to their neighbor with a noodle. An ice breaker games at the Senior High You Group get together.

Lots of exercise and laughs were had by all.



SAVE THE DATE: November 4th – November 6th
for our Village Retreat at Covenant Harbor.
Stay tuned for more information

Financial Summary thru August 2022

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$ 355,110
Actual Expenses YTD	\$ 332,605
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$ 22,505

GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$ 298,116
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$ 355,110
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$56,994)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$ 298,116
Expenses YTD	\$ 332,605
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$(34,489)

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

Worship Leader: Jeanette Mottl

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



October Birthdays		October Anniversaries
10/3 Carolyn Johnson	10/16 Luke Dahlberg	10/3/1992 Dave and Barb Anderson
10/4 Steve Hall	10/18 Debbie Tometz	10/10/1969 Judie and Lee Duba
10/9 Scott Dahlberg, Kerry Monson	10/23 Josh Albers	10/16/1971 Bruce and Merileen Thorson
10/11 Jim Krueger	10/24 Scott Christian	
10/13 Audrey Hawkins	10/25 Bill E. Anderson, Bill K. Anderson, John McLinden	
10/15 Christy James	10/29 Paul Hawkinson	

October Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
10/2	Trevor & Christy James	Susan Samuelson	Ben & Christy Beckstrom	Bob Peterson & Jim Krueger
10/9	Kirk Johnson & Dennis Dieball	Dan Frost	Pat and Joan Groody	Bob Peterson & Carol Dieball
10/16	Andrea Reynolds & Carol Dieball	Darilyn Anderson	Dave and Karin Hinz	Bob Peterson & Lee Vollrath
10/23	Judy Tanzer & Jackie Splinter	Owen Youngman	Brian and Cindy Johnson	Bob Peterson & Lee Vollrath
10/30	Bruce & Merileen Thorson		Joshua and Rachel Hickok	Bob Peterson & Lee Vollrath
Date	Sunday School	Children's Church	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
10/2	Angela K., Paul & Karin Lundstedt, Sarah Palmberg, Christy James	Scott & Luke Anderson	Ellen Hall	Christy and Grace James
10/9	Same as Above	Scott & Luke Anderson		Ann Frost
10/16	Same as Above	Scott & Luke Anderson		Caren Vollrath & Nancy Borkman
10/23	Same as Above	Kristin & Paul Hawkinson		Kat Tranel and Ann Frost
10/30	Same as Above	Kristin & Paul Hawkinson	Ellen Hall	Kirsten P. & Karin H.

October

Recurring Weekly Events

- Sunday:** 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
12:00 Choir Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group
- Monday:** 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Small Group
- Tuesday:** 7:00 p.m. 2nd WMT Mtg.
6:30 p.m. 3rd Leadership Mtg.
7:00 p.m. 4th Deacon Mtg.
- Wednesday:** 9:15 a.m. Women's Small Group
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Together
6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- Thursday:** 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
1st /3rd 7:00 Men's Ping Pong
- Friday:** 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- Saturday:** 1st Sat 8am Furniture Ministry
2nd/4th 9:30 Women's Group

October Special Events

- 10/2 Hymn Fall Festival
10/7-10 Middle School Retreat



10/15 All Church Cleaning Day

We hope you can join us from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

If questions, please contact Kerry Monson or Dan Frost.

- 10/16 Membership Class
10/21-23 Jill's House Weekend
10/22 Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?



10/26 Feed My Starving Children

We hope that you can join our middle school youth group and North Park Covenant youth for an evening of fellowship and community service. More information will be forthcoming.

October

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 Furniture Ministry
2 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Rehearsal 5 pm Sr High Youth	3 7:00 NA 7:00 Mon Small Group	4	5 5 pm Wed Eve	6 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 Threshold Choir 7:00 Men's Ping Pong	7 7:00 Men's Bible Study	8 Jr. High Retreat (CP) 9:30 Kindstrom SG
9 Jr. High Retreat 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Rehearsal	Columbus Day 10 Jr. High Retreat (CP) 7:00 NA 7:00 Mon Small Group	11 7 pm WMT Mtg	12 9:00 PEO 5 pm Wed Eve	13 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	14 7:00 Men's Bible Study	15 9:00 ALL CHURCH CLEAN
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Rehearsal 5 pm Sr High Youth	17 7:00 NA 7:00 Mon Small Group	18 6:30 Leadership	19 5 pm Wed Eve	20 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 Threshold Choir 7:00 Men's Ping Pong	21 7:00 Men's Bible Study Jill's House	22 9:30 Kindstrom SG Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? Jill's House
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Rehearsal 5 pm Sr High Youth	24 7:00 NA 7:00 Mon Small Group	25 7:00 Deacon Mtg	26 5 pm Wed Eve FMSC	27 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	28 7:00 Men's Bible Study	29
30 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Rehearsal Sabbatical Lunch 5 pm Sr High Youth	31 7:00 NA 7:00 Mon Small Group					

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

[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

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

An easy way to support LCC financially is through Amazon’s Smile program, where they donate a portion of your purchase total to our church. While the % we receive is fairly small (0.5%), it adds up - since the inception of this program, LCC has received over \$750! You just have to set up LCC as your designated charity of choice, and then use the <https://smile.amazon.com/> website (versus <https://www.amazon.com>) – when making all of your purchases. Bookmark the www.smile.amazon.com site so you remember! Here are the easy steps to designate Libertyville Covenant Church:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and log into your account
2. Under “Account and Lists” choose “Account”
3. Towards the bottom right of the next page will be a box titled “Other programs” – click on Change your AmazonSmile charity
4. On the next page, there will be a section that says “Or pick your own charitable organization” – type in Libertyville Covenant Church and hit “Search”
5. Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville IL should pop up – hit the “select” button to the right
6. That’s it! Just remember to always go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> when making purchases as only those purchases will earn the donation. Bookmarking it is a good way to remember.

Thanks for your help, and especially remember this option during the holiday season if you do any Christmas shopping at Amazon! Thank you!

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

NOTES: