



In the Spirit

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

November 2022

Volume 29 Issue 10

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“Alice has COVID.” The news sent ripples through the group as we sat together in a circle in the lounge. We had gathered like this every day of our pilgrimage, 20 people sitting in a hodgepodge of chairs in a rough approximation of a circle. We gathered at 5:30pm every day to share how we had encountered God that day – through art or animals, nature or nourishment, prayer or praise. But today, the ripples of concern for Alice, worry for our own health, and fear about the very existence of the rest of our trip spread from that central point where the news had dropped. Stillness gone, peace replaced, and the all-too-familiar flutters of anxiety we thought we’d left at home were suddenly with us once again.

After so many days of stillness, REAL stillness before God, these 3 words were even more unwelcome than usual. We had heard from the Holy Spirit in miraculous ways, had shared our wisdom and our peace with each other,

and were growing real relationships between us. And now this. And the next day, another diagnosis. And then another, and another. And with each successive Positive – oh, how ironic that word felt each time we heard it and felt the Negative emotions grow – our fear, worry, and concern grew. We were in one of this world’s “thin spaces”, where the veil separating heaven and earth is unusually thin due to the constant rubbing of prayer for centuries. We were away from the success-driven, hectic-paced, divided and divisive culture of home. We were supposed to be protected here! And so with the fear and anxiety, a small seed of resentment began to grow.

We stopped sharing table-space for our meals, instead eating outside with good distance between us, or alone with God. We were constantly distracted by concern for our sick friends who had become so close in the last few days. We were asked not to be indoors except for our lodging called “The Bishop’s House”, including the Abbey where we had been worshipping twice each day. The Iona Community was kind and sympathetic, but understandably cautious around us now. And so our trip changed, morphing from a time away from the world’s worries to yet another place unprotected from the ravages of illness, solitude, and fear.

I spent much time alone those last days. Hikes to the beaches, the peak of Dun-I, the solitude of the graveyard chapel, these became my trip. And even an introvert like me longed to be close to our group, because physical distance cannot help but become emotional distance as well. My resentment grew, not toward those with COVID on our trip – they and the other millions were not responsible for getting sick – but toward God. How could He let this happen? This was a literal once-in-a-lifetime chance for all of us, and now it was ruined. Thanks a lot, God.

And then the Spirit finally got through the resentment-blocked ears of my heart. “Ruined? How has this ruined your trip, Steve?” It was a gentle word, not scolding or angry. In it was a Father’s care for a wounded child, and I welcomed the words like bread after a long fast. “Your trip’s false perfection is ruined, it’s true, but that was never from Me anyway. I am not giving you a perfect story to bring home to others. I am giving you experiences, relationships, opportunities to see Me more clearly than usual, to be Me to those around you, and to experience just a taste of the Kingdom of God. None of that has changed because of COVID. In fact, this change in your trip is just another opportunity for worship, for loving others, and for reflection. Don’t lose the opportunity in your resentment that your plans have changed. Those weren’t mine in the first place.”

And just like that, gratitude became real in my heart, in our group, and in our discussions. We began identifying things we were grateful for rather than what was going wrong. And I learned a valuable lesson. Gratitude truly is independent of our circumstances. Whatever comes to us in life, no matter how hard, sad, scary, or joyful, is just another opportunity to love God, and love others, and watch God work. It is the contemplative way, the Celtic way, and the Christian way – to see God in all things, no matter what, and to love Him, love others, and grow.

Pastor Steve

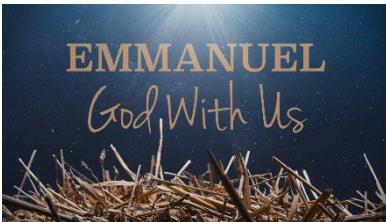
November Worship



Having finished our series on Tov culture, we take a break in November to celebrate. We begin with All Saint's Sunday where we will remember those who have died, celebrate Communion and dedicate our new Columbarium. We will hear from our supported missionaries the Petersons who will lead our Sunday school, bring the Word in worship and join us for lunch. We will take a look at the book of Revelation and its themes, and then celebrate Thanksgiving together with a special evening service of thanks to God. Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

Nov. 6	All Saints Sunday	Heb. 11:1 – 12:3
Nov. 13	Guest Missionaries, Karl and Sue Peterson	
Nov. 20	A Festival of Lessons and Carols for the End Times	Readings from Revelation

Advent Series



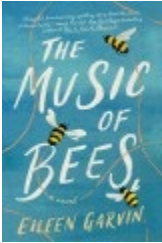
Though it only shows up twice in the whole of scripture, the title “Immanuel” has become one of the most beloved titles for Jesus, especially during Advent. It means, “God with us” and in these days of global loneliness, it is more important than ever to remember that Jesus is indeed “God with us”. So this Advent, we will focus on just what this means. Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

Nov. 27	Immanuel: God With Us in His Time	Matt. 24:36-44
Dec. 4	Immanuel: God With Us in Spirit	Matt. 3:1-12
Dec. 11	Immanuel: God With Us to Heal	Matt. 11:2-22
Dec. 18	Immanuel: God With Us in Spite of Ourselves	Matt. 1:18-25
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Worship	John 1:1-14



Thanksgiving Service

There will be a Thanksgiving Service, in the evening at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20th with a dessert social to follow. We will need pies, other desserts, apple cider and whipped cream for the pies. If you would like to share your baking talents with us, please click on [Dessert Form](#) to register. Any questions, contact Jill Heath.



Our next book club read will be The Music of Bees by Eileen Garvin.

Following three lonely strangers in a rural Oregon town, each working through grief and life's curveballs, who are brought together by happenstance on a local honeybee farm where they find surprising friendship, healing--and maybe even a second chance--just when they least expect it.

Please join us for a fun evening together discussing our book and anything else that comes up! Friday, January 13, 2023 at 7:00 at church. Questions? Contact Caren Vollrath carenvollrath@gmail.com 224-637-4422.

December Happenings for your Calendar



ADOPT-A-FAMILY for CHRISTMAS

This Christmas we are again providing gifts for 40 children, as part of the Love INC/Catholic charities "Adopt-a-Family program. Names with gift suggestions are listed on the link below. Please sign your name next to a child's name and purchase a gift. **The wrapped gifts should be returned to church or to Joan Groody's home BY November 27th.** The child's name and ID# should be on the package. If the request is expensive, please feel free to

substitute another item. If you have any questions, or to arrange a drop off time, contact Joan Groody (847-573-8147) or Debbie Tometz (847-362-3308). Thank you for your generosity. [Adopt-a-Family Link](#)

More Details to follow

***Smorgasbord for our Seniors, Dec 2nd**

Beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the narthex

It's Christmas Smorgasbord time! Please join us on Friday, December 2 at 11:30 am. around the narthex fireplace. We will enjoy our favorite Swedish Christmas foods, carols, and warm fellowship as we begin the season together. Please let us know you will join us now by signing up at this [link](#) or letting Debbie know. We will send out the sign-up list for the food we will need to bring soon. If you have questions or would like a meal delivered to you, please contact Kris Nikkel (847-543-8861) or kjnikkel@aol.com. See you there!

***Middle School Christmas Party, Dec 3rd**

Please be sure to mark your calendars and save the dates for our middle school and senior high Christmas Parties. The Middle school party will be December 3rd, from 12-4p.m. and we will be providing more party details as the date approaches. We will require an RSVP for the party so that we have enough food and transportation for the night.

***Senior High Christmas Party, Dec 4th** The Senior High Christmas party will take place following worship on December 4th from 12:00-4:00p.m. Details for this event will be delivered when we get closer to the date. We wanted to make sure everyone saves this time and date for the party as the end of the year is full of Christmas cheer. Looking forward to seeing our students gather for a Christmas Jamboree.

***All Church Progressive Dinner, Dec 10th** The annual Progressive Dinner will be held Saturday, December 10. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with appetizers all together held at one home, followed by dinner and dessert at 7:30 held at several host homes. Please join together for a very enjoyable evening! Sign up can be done online or on the insert in the bulletin mid November to early December.

Children's Ministries



PADS

Our first PADS event for this season will be on Wednesday, November 30th!! Young families will set up the beds before convening at church for an Advent activity. The dinner is already sponsored, but we will need to provide lunches for the following day. A Google Doc will be sent out the week before, listing items needed. We are looking forward to serving our less fortunate friends during what looks like it might be a very cold winter.



Top: Paul and Karin teaching Sunday School



Right: Scott Anderson teaching Children's Church

The Children will be singing with the choir (and playing chimes!) at the Thanksgiving evening service on November 20th. Rehearsals will be held during Children's Church.....dates to be determined.

Youth Ministries

NO PROBLEM: A 4-WEEK STUDY FROM THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENT ON LOVING OTHERS



SERIES OVERVIEW:

Apologies — they're hard to give, but they're sometimes hard to receive, too. When you're the one who has hurt someone else, saying you're sorry (and actually meaning it) takes work and practice. But when you're the one who's been hurt by someone else, things get even more complicated. What if you don't want to forgive them? What if they don't seem sorry? What if they won't even admit they're

wrong? What if they've moved on, but you're still not over it? In this 4-week series from the Gospels, we'll find out what it means to truly give (and receive) forgiveness. We'll discover that when you need forgiveness, **it's not enough to just apologize**. And when you've been hurt and need to forgive, we'll explore the importance of **shifting your perspective**, remembering **God forgave first**, and remembering **Jesus knows what it's like to be hurt**.

Junior High Fall Programming

Sunday School Dates and Times: 11/6, 11/13, 11/20 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30 (Advent Night/PADS)

Middle School Fall Retreat





Thirteen folks from Libertyville enjoyed a wonderful retreat at Covenant Point and have plenty of warm memories to share. Our speaker, Nick Rolsetn, focused on 1 Cor 12 and the importance of being one body, the body of Christ. Students were invited to wrestle with questions such as, "What does it mean to belong? (to the church, youth group, and to God) What does it feel like to belong? Why is belonging important? Students responded by naming for each other that a part of a group/body means your wanted, persons seen and heard, and a place where they are loved. When sharing how it made them feel to belong, they felt joy, safety, contentment, rest, and a warm place for friendships to take place.

The church or body to which we are a part reminds each of us that your life may be messy and that's okay. While going through hard times filled with challenges the church is there with open arms grateful you are a part of it. In Luke 15, we learn the Parable of the Lost Sheep where the good shepherd rejoices over lost sheep finding their way back home. What great rejoicing in heaven takes place over one sinner who repents (turns/returns) to God!!!

We were sent out with an invitation to be the body of Christ. An interdependent, intentional community of people that rely on each other. Body parts represent gifts and these gifts are intended to be shared in the community. What a wonderful invitation and these students are up for the charge!!! Thank you for your prayers and support for our middle school ministry and the wonderful time we shared at Covenant Point.

Senior High Fall Programming

Sunday School Dates and Times: 11/6, 11/13, 11/20 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Youth Group Dates and Times: 11/6 and 11/13 from 5 to 7:00 p.m., 11/20 from 4-6:00 p.m.



November 4th-6th we have the opportunity to go up to Covenant Harbor for a Senior High Fall Retreat!!! Four Central Conference Covenant Churches will gather together to enjoy a fun weekend away at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in Lake Geneva, WI. We depart from Libertyville Covenant Church on November 4th at 5:30p.m. and return to Libertyville Covenant Church November 6th, at 1:00p.m. The weekend will include big games, camp fires, meaningful messages & worship, a service project, big swing, and all sorts of camp adventures. The retreat is \$155 for the weekend and we invite folks to send along some money for a fast food meal on the way to camp. If folks are needing some financial assistance please feel free to reach out to me as there are \$50 rebates for anyone that requests it. Additionally, if

greater need arises please let me know and we can discuss further options so that everyone makes it on this fun weekend away. There is still time left for more students to come and join the fun. Please be sure to send an email to office@libcov.org simply naming your desire to come and we will add you to the list. For those that attend the retreat we will need you to sign the release of liability form for Covenant Harbor and we will be all set!!!



Our Senior High Youth Group spent the evening with North Park Covenant Youth Group. Over 13 people participated with games, meaningful music, small group discussions and Pizza. As two churches, but one body, we shared communion led by Pastor Paul and Jeanette Mottl.

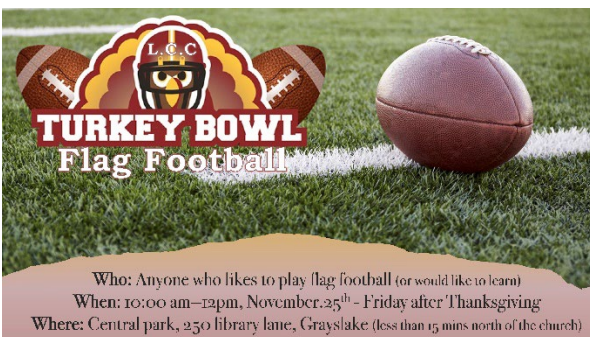
It's not too early to think about a summer job!!

Covenant Point Bible Camp in Michigan is looking for volunteers for upcoming winter retreats and summer staff.

- There are many opportunities to **VOLUNTEER** this winter at CPBC Retreats! See full schedule of volunteer retreat weekends [HERE!](#) (Bring your family, friends, church group, high school youth group, etc.)!
- **APPLY** to work at camp for SUMMER 2023! Online Applications open Oct 15! We're planning to increase Summer Staff wages this summer. More information is forthcoming, but see summer staff changes and schedule [HERE!](#)
- **Spread the word!** Share our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) posts, Put a note in your church bulletins, tell anyone you think would be a good fit on CPBC's staff!

Covenant Harbor Job Opportunities

Covenant Harbor draws people from their routines into opportunities to enjoy creation, recreation, and relationships, so that all may experience God through Jesus Christ. The mission of summer camp programs is to love kids and share Jesus. That's it! Staff members get to know kids, build relationships with them, roast marshmallows together, listen to their stories, play outside with them, and talk about faith in Jesus with them. What better way to spend the summer? There are many different positions available for a great summer job. Visit their website for more information and to apply. <https://covenantharbor.org/summer-staff/>



Do you like playing flag football? Join in the tradition at LCC and get some exercise after the stuffing and festivities of Thanksgiving. This is a multigenerational experience so anyone is welcome, please invite your friends, cousins and family to play too. This is always a great time of fellowship and fun for our church family and friends. For more information, if you need a ride or to RSVP contact Trevor James, tjames@northpark.edu. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

- **Who:** Anyone who likes to play flag football (or would like to learn)
- **When:** 10:00am—12 noon, November.25th - Friday after Thanksgiving
- **Where:** Central Park, 250 Library Ln, Grayslake (less than 15 mins north of the church)

Hope to see you there! Donuts and ibuprofen will be available!

COVENANT WORLD RELIEF and DEVELOPMENT



Refugees of Economic Crisis

A refugee crisis is often associated with war or natural disaster, but sometimes it is a socioeconomic situation that forces people to flee their home. Venezuela has suffered from hyperinflation for several years, the worst economic crisis for a country in peacetime in nearly a century. Severe shortages of basic food supplies, coupled with increasing crime and violence, have created a situation that is untenable for many citizens. More than 6 million Venezuelans have left their homeland under extreme duress, many traveling on foot to neighboring South American countries, including almost 2 million who have crossed into Colombia. Our partners in Colombia, the Covenant Social Foundation of the Atlantic (FUSPA), have witnessed this situation firsthand as entirely new communities of displaced Venezuelans are forming. Many arrive with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. Thankfully, the leadership of FUSPA sees these newly arrived neighbors not as a strain on their economy but as gifted people who have much to offer their new community. FUSPA has responded by creating a program to help equip the displaced people with the essential resources—from documentation to community understanding to material assets—to build on their existing skills to establish small businesses and thrive in their new setting. One group of 20 women have begun selling coffee as street vendors in the city of Barranquilla. They already possessed a deep knowledge of coffee, and in partnership with FUSPA they are now equipped to put their ability into practice and significantly increase their ability to provide for their families. For more information, click [here](#) for the entire quarterly CWRD newsletter.

Financial Summary thru September 2022

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$392,949
Actual Expenses YTD	\$364,452
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$28,497

GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$332,771
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$392,949
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$60,178)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$332,771
Expenses YTD	\$364,452
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$(31,681)

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



November Birthdays		November Anniversaries
11/1 Paul Lundstedt	11/21 Christine Cederberg	11/8 Bill and Jenna Glader
11/5 Caren Vollrath	11/22 Eleanor Hickok	11/14 Paul and Rachel Couleur
11/7 Ellen Hall	11/25 Titus Couleur, Phillip Nauman	11/15 Andrea and Jason Reynolds
11/10 Dylan Schau	11/28 Janis Carlson	11/16 Wylie and Ardyth Douglass
11/13 Twyla Becker	11/29 Beverly Schmidt	11/28 Roger and Julie Clausen
11/18 Marti Anderson, Mirielle Nauman		11/28 Jim and Tina Gillette

November Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
11/6	Rock and Kat Tranel	Judy Tanzer	Kirk and Gavin Johnson	Bill (Marti) Anderson and Jim Krueger
11/13	Lee and Caren Vollrath	Tom Borkman	Angela K. and Pauline Raia	Same
11/20	Owen & Linda Youngman	Wes Lindahl	John and Carlen Lichter	Same
11/27		Caren Vollrath	Deb and Wes Lindahl	Same
Date	Sunday School	Children's Church	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
11/6	Kansas Dave and Scott Anderson, Angela Kocinski, Jim Gillette	Jim Gillette		Caren Vollrath and Jenna Glader
11/13	Same as above	Jim Gillette	Ellen Hall	Christy and Grace James
11/20	Paul and Karin Lundstedt, Angela Kocinski, Jim Gillette	Jim Gillette		Kat Tranel and Nancy Borkman
11/27	Kansas Dave and Maggie Johnson, Angela Kocinski and Jim Gillette	Jim Gillette		Karin Hildebrandt and Kirsten Peterson

NOVEMBER

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.	2 nd WMT Mtg.
	6:30 p.m.	3 rd Leadership Mtg.
	7:00 p.m.	4 th 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
	1 st /3 rd 7:00	Men's Ping Pong
Friday:	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Saturday:	1 st Sat 8am	Furniture Ministry
	2 nd /4 th 9:30	Women's Group

November Special Events

11/20	Thanksgiving Service, 6:00 p.m. followed by fellowship
11/30	Advent Night
	PADS

Looking Forward to December

12/2	Senior Smorgasbord
12/3	Middle School Christmas Party
12/4	Senior High Christmas Party
12/10	All Church Progressive Dinner
12/24	Christmas Eve Service

November

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			5:30 Wed nites 6:30 MS YG	9:30 Women's bible study 6:30 Threshold Choir 7:00 Ping Pong	7:00 Men's Bible Study Village Retreat Sr. High	8:00 Furniture Ministry Village Retreat Sr. High
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 5:00 Sr. Hi YG	7:00 NA 7:00 M SG	7:00 WMT	9:30 PEO 5:30 Wed nites 6:30 MS YG	9:30 Women's bible study	7:00 Men's Bible Study	9:45 Lisa SG
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 5:00 Sr. Hi YG	7:00 NA 7:00 M SG	6:30 Leadership	5:30 Wed nites 6:30 MS YG	9:30 Women's bible study 6:30 Threshold Choir 7:00 Ping Pong	7:00 Men's Bible Study	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 5:00 Sr. Hi YG 6:00 Thanks.Ser.	7:00 NA 7:00 M SG	7:00 Deacons		Happy Thanksgiving	Office Closed	9:45 Lisa SG
27	28	29	30			
9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	7:00 NA 7:00 M SG		Advent Nite/PADS 5:30 Wed nites 6:30 MS YG			

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!



Sue's Pantry

The delivery was successfully made to Sue’s Pantry. She was very grateful and exclaimed “God works in mysterious ways!”

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: