



# *In the Spirit*

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

**January 2023**  
**Volume 30 Issue 1**

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## **Anam Cara**

What is an Anam Cara? Ancient Egyptian deity? A nice café in Libertyville? Right forward on the Moroccan World Cup team? No, the idea of Anam Cara is a significant piece of Celtic theology I studied this past summer. An Anam Cara is a spiritual companion or “soul friend”. As an integral part of every person’s spiritual development, an Anam Cara is a person who walks with you on your spiritual journey, a guide and mentor and friend.

And at that, most of us just got nervous.

“But Pastor Steve, I’m growing just fine on my own. I read books, pray in my room, and attend church each month. But my spiritual growth is a private matter for me.”

“But Pastor Steve, I’m happy just going to church and seeing my friends, praising God with some good music, and hearing an interesting sermon. Why should I need a mentor?”

“But Pastor Steve, I’m too old to ask someone to mentor me. Besides, doesn’t it mean I’m not really mature in my faith? How embarrassing!”

When Jesus called us to the path of discipleship, He promised us that we would not be alone. But He also promised us that it would require humility. Asking someone to guide you, to teach and train and coach you in faith, is a humbling experience. But it is an essential one for growth. Alone, we only grow so far. Alone, we tend to only emphasize the parts of discipleship we like. Alone... well, we are alone.

In my life, I’ve taught myself how to juggle, how to play guitar, and have toyed with poetry. These I’ve done on my own. But to grow spiritually, we need an Anam Cara. We need a guide through the dark and gloomy paths of doubt and confusion. We need a companion through the frightening and

dangerous paths of spiritual conflict. We need a mentor through the glamorous and false paths of easy discipleship and pop-culture theology.

As we approach 2023 together, we do so in unprecedented times for the church. People are leaving churches – including pastors! – at alarming rates. Church leaders are falling left and right. And disillusionment is running high. As we consider new commitments for the coming year, I want to encourage you to commit to taking your spiritual growth up a notch. We will be working on developing a Spiritual Growth Plan for each person at LCC, and to accomplish these plans, we all need an Anam Cara, someone to challenge, guide, comfort, and hold us accountable.

Who might you trust enough to guide you on your spiritual path this year? Can you be humble enough to ask them? “A person without an Anam Cara is like a body without a head,” said Brigid of Kildare. Let’s not be headless any longer.

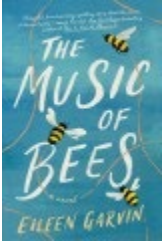
# January Worship



Sunset on Iona's northern beach

As we begin the new year together, we enter the Season of Epiphany, celebrating Jesus as the Light of the World, the Wise Men following the Star, and the Incarnation. This year, we have the privilege of hearing from different preachers, singing different songs in different styles, sharing prayers together in different ways, and all the while celebrating Jesus, the Light of the World. Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

Jan. 1	Jeanette Mottl preaching	Matt. 2:13-23
Jan. 8	Haniel Gaiya and Luke Anderson preaching	Matt. 2:1-12
Jan. 15	While You Are Waiting...	1 Cor. 1:1-9
Jan. 22	Camp Sunday!	
Jan. 29	What Does God Want?	Matt. 5:1-12
Feb. 5	Superintendent Danny Martinez preaching	



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](mailto:carenvollrath@gmail.com) 224-637-4422.

I M M E R S E: The Bible Reading Experience™



## IMMERSE Yourself in God's Word Again

One of our chief ways of knowing God is through the bible, and so every Spring we take part in the Immerse Bible Study together. From Feb. – May, our whole congregation gathers in groups to read, ask questions about, and discuss one particular section of the

bible together. Two years ago, we began in “The Beginning”, reading Genesis through Deuteronomy. Last year, we read the Story of Jesus together, from Matthew through Revelation. This year, we will look at the Kingdom of Israel by reading Joshua – 2 Kings together.

Our hope and goal is to have 70% of our adult congregation involved in an Immerse Bible Study Group. This means we need 125 of us taking part in a group. Our youth will, and many of our existing small groups will. Our Sunday school class will. But many of us aren't part of any of these groups. So we want to invite and encourage every one of you to be a part of an Immerse Small Group whether online or in person. The agreement is to read about 10 minutes each day (less time than we spend flipping through social media each day!), and then to gather each week with your Immerse Group to discuss what you've read and deepen each other's understanding of it. Our reading begins on Jan. 30 so click [HERE](#) to sign up. Join us on this journey, beginning Jan. 31, and see if your life doesn't change noticeably this year.



## Save the Date! February 11th, 9am – 1pm

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



**Registration now open! Men's Retreat at CPBC: Feb 24-26, 2023**

Invite some friends out for a weekend of fun, fellowship, excellent food, meaningful conversations, and life-giving worship. Recreation opportunities include a broomball tournament, afternoon jam session (bring your own instrument), snowshoeing, cross country skiing on our groomed ski trails, sauna and polar bear dip, card games and conversations in the dining hall, and more! If you are planning on coming, please contact Pastor Steve or the church office. We will drive up together in the church van. Scholarships are available. Pricing and details at [www.cpbcc.com/mensretreat](http://www.cpbcc.com/mensretreat)

**Congratulations and Welcome  
to our newest Libertyville Covenant Members**



Brian and Cindy Johnson



Brooke Sparks



Christy Miller



Grace James



Max Anderson



Norm and Sharon Johnson



Thor Papak



Barbara and Dave Schiebe

# Children's Ministries

**Wednesday Night Together begins again on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.**

February 17-19<sup>th</sup> Covenant Harbor is offering a Winter Camp for grades 3-6<sup>th</sup>. This camp gives elementary students the opportunity to have a fun and engaging weekend designed for younger students specifically. Just like our Jr. and Sr. High Winter Camps, this weekend includes all the details of activities,



food, lodging and the Christian speaker and worship leaders. Our goal is for students and leaders to leave the weekend knowing more about Jesus and feeling more connected to each other in community. **The registration deadline is Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in sending your child or volunteer as a leader, please contact, Pastor Paul, Angela Kocinski or Jim Gillette.

## **Colossians 1:3-14 – Thanks Giving and Prayer**

*We give thanks to God for all that he has done in our lives in the year of 2022. The Apostle Paul celebrates and reminds the Colossians, “we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love you have for God’s people.” He goes on naming that the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world, just as had been observed since they heard it. My prayer for our youth and our church is the same as Paul’s was. May God continue to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that he Spirit gives. We celebrate with Grace Glader, Thor Papak, Max Anderson, and Grace James as they will take a significant step of faith by becoming a member of Libertyville Covenant Church in the days ahead. May God continue to bear fruit in every good work, strengthening with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience. In looking to 2023, let us join with what God is doing and partner with the Spirit of God in seeking his Kingdom to come. Students are invited to join in for the retreats at Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor, weekly youth groups gatherings, immerse bible studies, and varied serving opportunities that are in place for each and all to take next steps of faith. Let us keep the faith, inspiring each other onward to Love God and Neighbor to the glory of God. Hoping 2023 is filled with blessings anew for each and all!! Looking forward to joining with you as we sojourn together. Free Coffee’s, French Fries, Ice Cream, and or a treat of your choice if you have read this far!!! Come into Paul’s office to set up a time to redeem your prize.*

***Pastor Paul***

# Youth Ministries



**NOT YET: A 4-WEEK STUDY FROM THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS ON IDENTITY**

## **SERIES OVERVIEW:**

Does life ever feel like a never-ending waiting game? Like you're always waiting to get a little older, to gain a little more freedom, or to find a little more clarity about your future? When you think about the person you're becoming and what your future holds, do you ever just want to skip ahead in your story to see how it all turns out, who you'll become, what you'll do, or what kind of difference you'll make? In this four-week series, we'll talk about all the questions, fear, frustration, and excitement that thinking about our futures can bring. As we explore passages from Ecclesiastes, Revelation, and more, we'll discover four truths about what God has in store for us: **we're all a work in progress, your purpose is to be like Jesus, God's plans for you are good, and your next step is to get closer to God.**

### ***Junior High January Programming***

**(Confirmation) Sunday School Dates and Times: 1/8, 1/15, 1/22 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 1/11, 1/18, 1/25 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.**



### **Winter Retreat Registration is now open!! January 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>**

The Junior High Youth Group will be returning to Covenant Harbor for their Winter Retreat at the end of January. We hope that you can join us. The cost for the retreat is \$181.

Scholarships and the \$50 rebates are available, just contact Pastor Paul. Covenant Harbor has implemented on-line registration directly through them by clicking [HERE](#). Payment can either

be by check or on-line to LCC. If you have any questions, please call or email the church office.

**Registration CLOSES DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Senior High Winter Programming**

**Sunday School Dates and Times: 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

**Youth Group Dates and Times: 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Furniture Ministry: January 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.**



**Love, Inc. Furniture Ministry:** On January 7<sup>th</sup>, all Senior High students and parents are invited to help with the Love Inc. Furniture delivery beginning at 8:00 a.m. Please meet at the Love Inc. of Lake County, 333 Lakewood Ave., Waukegan, 60085. One **MUST RSVP** by Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> to Pastor

Paul paul@libcov.org.



Exciting news: The fun begins for One Life #2 Retreat February 17-20, 2023! We are asking that our students register early, beginning **December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Step 1:** Go to Covenant Point's online registration at **cpbc.campbrain registration.com**.

**Step 2:** Log into your account, and select **One Life Winter Retreat #2 Full/Partial Weekend**. (February 17-20)

**Step 3:** Two choices are available: Click on Student, click on "Add to Cart" and the **name of your church group** will appear in a list with other churches attending. Clicking on the church group. There is no payment required to Covenant Point.

**Step 4:** Review and Submit Application

**Registration must be completed by January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**SKIING & SNOWBOARDING:** Spending Sunday skiing or snowboarding at **Ski Brule** is a program option for this retreat for an additional fee. CPBC gets discounted group rates for lift tickets and ski/snowboard rental. **This years' rates are \$50 for pass and rental and \$40 for a pass.** If any of your students plan to go to the ski hill, a chaperone must accompany them and provide transportation and supervision while at the hill. If some students remain at CPBC they also require supervision for an adult leader. As the retreat grows closer, we'll provide ski forms and a system for collecting numbers and payment (which should be paid to your church / youth group). Ski forms and payment are due to CPBC (from youth leaders) during Saturday morning of the retreat.

**PAYMENT:** Is made either online through LCC giving portal OR by check sent to office. Here are the three costs:

1. Retreat only: \$155
2. Retreat and ski pass: \$190
3. Retreat, ski pass and ski rental: \$205

If a scholarship or \$50 rebate is needed, please contact Pastor Paul

\*\*Depending on the number of students participating, an additional transportation fee might be added if a bigger van or bus is needed.



Holiday Fun at Libertyville Covenant

Advent Night

Smorgasbord



Jr. High Party





Progressive Dinner

## Financial Summary thru November

### EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$ 483,791
Actual Expenses YTD	\$440,699
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$43,092

### GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$424,391
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$483,791
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$59,400)

### INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$424,391
Expenses YTD	\$440,699
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$16,308)

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

**Worship Leader:** Jeanette Mottl

**Tech Coordinator:** Noah James

**Organist:** Suyi Su

### 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

# January Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
1/1	Bill and Marti Anderson	Sophia Pas	Tim and Christie Albers	Carol and Dennis Dieball
1/8	Dave and Darilyn Anderson	Maggie Johnson	Bill and Chris Anderson	Carol and Dennis Dieball
1/15	Dave and Barb Anderson	Paul Hawkinson	Dave and Barb Anderson	Carol and Dennis Dieball
1/22	Scott and Teresa Anderson	Kirk Johnson	Dave and Barb Scheibe	Carol and Dennis Dieball
1/29	Karin Anderson and Janis Carlson	Merileen Thorson	Bill and Marti Anderson	Carol and Dennis Dieball

Date	Sunday School	Children's Church	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
1/1		Jim Gillette		
1/8	Karin and Paul Lundstedt	Jim Gillette		Kat Tranel and Caren Vollrath
1/15	Dave and Barb Anderson	Jim Gillette		Ann Frost
1/22	Dave and Barb Anderson	Jim Gillette		Kirsten Peterson and Karen Hildebrant
1/29	Karin and Paul Lundstedt	Jim Gillette		Kirsten Peterson and Karen Hildebrant



January Birthdays		January Anniversaries
1/4 Jerry Junas	1/21 Chris Anderson	1/7/1984 Kris and Art Nikkel
1/7 Paul Couleur	1/26 Donna Clark	
1/11 Joshua Hickock	1/27 Dan Doherty, Deb Lindahl	
1/17 Bonnie Wachta	1/29 Jeanne Couleur	
1/18 Lennon Schau, Beth Hjelm	1/30 Kat Tranel, Sharon Johnson	
1/19 Marleigh Schau		

# January

## Recurring Weekly Events

- Sunday:** 9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. 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<sup>nd</sup> WMT Mtg.  
6:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Leadership Mtg.  
7:00 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Deacon Mtg.
- Wednesday:** 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Together (Resuming Jan. 11)  
6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- Thursday:** 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
1<sup>st</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 Men's Ping Pong
- Friday:** 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- Saturday:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sat 8am Furniture Ministry  
2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Women's Group

## January Special Events

- 1/8 Sunday School Starts Again  
Sr. High Youth Group begins
- 1/11 Wednesday Night Together Begins again  
Jr. High Youth Group Begin again
- 1/23-1/27 ECC Midwinter Conference
- 1/27-1/29 Jr High Retreat at Covenant Harbor
- 1/29 Annual Meeting and Lunch, 12:00 noon
- 1/30 Immerse "Kingdoms" Study Begins

# January

# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Worship	2	3	4	5 9:30 Womens SG  7 pm Ping Pong	6 7 Men's Bible St.	7 8 am Furniture Ministry w/Sr. High
8 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh  5 Sr High YG	9   7 pm MNSG	10   7:00 WMT	11   5:30 WNtogether 6:30 Mid Sch YG	12 9:30 Womens SG	13 7 Men's Bible St.	14 10:00 SG w/Lisa
15 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh  5 Sr High YG	16   7 pm MNSG	17   6:30 Leadership	18   5:30 WNtogether 6:30 Mid Sch YG	19 9:30 Womens SG  7 pm Ping Pong	20 7 Men's Bible St.	21
22 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh	23 Midwinter ECC  7 pm MNSG	24 Midwinter ECC  7:00 Deacon Mtg	25 Mid  5:30 WNtogether 6:30 Mid Sch YG	26 9:30 Womens SG	27 7 Men's Bible St.  Jr High Retreat CH	28 10:00 SG w/Lisa  Jr. High Retreat CH
29 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Annual Mtg  5 Sr High YG	30   7 pm MNSG	31				

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**LCC ONLINE GIVING PORTAL:** To give online, simply to go the LCC website ([www.libcov.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.smile.amazon.com) site so you remember! Here are the easy steps to designate Libertyville Covenant Church:

## 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](http://www.libcov.org)