



# *In the Spirit*

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

**February 2023**

**Volume 30 Issue 2**

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He hated the daily 2-mile hike to the river. Every the hut, hooked them to the yoke, and carried them the 2 miles to the river, the nearest drinkable water to the village. It was a long, hard tromp carrying the heavy pots, but it was even worse coming home. 2 pots were heavy – 2 pots full of water were heavier. But it was his job, and it helped the family, so he did it, though begrudgingly.

On a particular day, the sun was beating down and the weather had turned even hotter than usual. His sandal had a stone in it, his brother had mocked him that morning, and his mom was ill. His 2-mile tromp had become a nightmare, and when he arrived at the river, there was a beast drinking so he had to wait until it left. In a fit of anger and frustration, he threw the pots to the ground, and one cracked. It wasn't a large crack, but it wouldn't hold water all the way to the top. He got the water, and cursed his way home with a trickle of water seeping out of the right-hand jar. They couldn't fix it with the materials they had, so he just had to use the cracked jar. Day after day he walked to the river and day after day he trickled his way home.

One day, the village elder sat down next to him at dinner. "How goes the world, young man," said the elder. The boy shared his frustration at himself for cracking the jar and at the jar for being so weak and at the slow, trickling water that tortured him with guilt every day as he walked home. "Sounds like a hard time," said the Elder. "But tomorrow as you walk, rather than focusing on the jar, take a look at the path on which you walk and tell me what you see."

The next day the boy obeyed and saw a curious sight. Along the right-hand side of the path, the ground was bare and dusty. But along the left-hand side of the path, flowers bloomed in an explosion of color. When he reported this to the Elder that night, the Elder just smiled. "The cracked jar that you so quickly discount has a power you didn't see in your frustration. As the water trickles out on your way home, that side of the path is watered while the

other is not. Your cracked pot is creating beauty, life, and health without you even seeing it.”

Every one of us is a cracked pot. We have hardships, weaknesses, and scars from our pasts and our presents. But God can use these cracked pots to bring beauty, life, and health to the world around us, if we can just look beyond our cracks and let God’s love and grace trickle out of us as we walk this life’s path.

*“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”*  
– 2 Cor. 4:7

## February Worship



This February we have a number of unique ways to worship God. We begin by welcoming Superintendent Danny Martinez who will bring greetings from the Central Conference, a mission opportunity, a few songs, and the Word of God on Feb. 5. We have our Unhurried Retreat on Feb. 11, and we kick off our Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday service on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bring a friend and join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

*St. John's Cross on Iona's walking path*

Feb. 5	Superintendent Danny Martinez preaching	Luke 2:25-32
Feb. 12	Choices	Matt. 5:1-12
Feb. 19	Shekinah (Transfiguration Sunday)	Matt. 17:1-19
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday Service, Wed. 7pm	
Feb. 26	Pastor Paul preaching	



### **Rev. Dr. Danny Martinez will be speaking to our congregation on February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Reverend Danny Martinez was unanimously elected for a second term as superintendent of the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church for the ministries found in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan (Upper Peninsula), Eastern Missouri and Wisconsin. He is the first superintendent in our denomination of Latino descent. His parents emigrated from Guatemala to the United States, moving to Chicago, IL.

Danny has served in a number of leadership roles, including worship, youth and lead pastor. He has also been a church planter and served as President of ALIPE (Latino Association of Covenant Churches in the US). Danny moved back to Chicago, IL, from San Diego, CA, in 2017. This was truly a call from the Lord to leave San Diego!

Pastor Danny is an accomplished musician with several CD's in different genres of music including Latin Pop, Hard Rock, Contemporary Worship and Latin Groove. He recently released an album named “Colores,” which is available on all major streaming platforms.

Doctor Martinez is a graduate of C.H.E.T. (The Hispanic Center for Theological Studies, which serves Evangelical churches). He is also a graduate of Fuller Seminary with a Master of Divinity, and a Doctorate in Homiletics.

Danny has a sense of humor. He tells the truth in love, so laughing helps people better receive the message. Since Danny comes from a multicultural church, he really values church participation during sermons and sometimes he makes the congregation dance at no extra cost.

Danny has three children, Eric, Angelique and Alec. His children think he is old.

## LCC Coffee Hour & Wednesday Night Dinner



food.faith.fellowship - LCC FUN!

Fellowship is a big part of LCC as it gives up great ways to connect with one another. But, we need your help. Please consider serving on Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday nights. If you are willing to help please see the details below and click on the link to signup. Thank you! **-Christy James & Heather Larson**

### Sunday Coffee Hour

Responsibilities:

- Set up and clean up Coffee Hour
- Make coffee (regular and decaf) and hot water thermoses
- Provide snacks (or use the ones we will have available in the kitchen downstairs; see Christy James or Heather Larson for info.)

### Wednesday Night Dinner

Variety of Options (you don't have to do it all)

Set -Up Responsibilities:

- Put up round tables and chairs
- Put decorations in the middle of the tables
- Help the person making dinner to put out food & supplies

Dinner Responsibilities:

- Purchase meal items (or let Christy or Heather know what you need purchases at least 1 week in advance; reimbursement is possible)
- Make dinner
- Help with setting up and serving dinner

Like to bake? - Bring a Dessert to Share (you don't have to sign up for this)

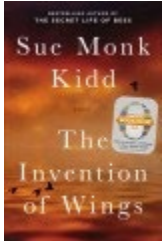
Clean-Up Responsibilities:

- Wash down tables and chairs then put them away along with the decorations
- Collect and store leftover food
- Do dishes and put them away
- Vacuum floor, if needed

Please click [HERE](#) to sign up.



Our next Book Club selection will be The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd



The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid. "The Invention of Wings" follows the next thirty-five years of their lives. Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke (a feminist, suffragist and, importantly, an abolitionist), Kidd allows herself to go beyond the record to flesh out the inner lives of all the characters, both real and imagined"

All are welcome to join the discussion about our next read. Guaranteed to be lively and fun! We will be meeting at church on Friday, March 10, 2023, 7:00 pm. Questions? Contact Caren Vollrath [carenvollrath@gmail.com](mailto:carenvollrath@gmail.com) 224-637-4422



## IMMERSE Yourself in God's Word Again

The books have arrived and sign-ups have begun. Our hope and goal is to have 70% of our adult congregation involved in an Immerse Bible Study Group. Join us on this journey, beginning Jan. 31, and see if your life doesn't change noticeably this year.

### The following groups will be studying KINGDOMS:

Sunday online with Wes Lindahl at 9:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School with Paul Hawkinson and Owen Youngman 9:15 a.m.

Monday Night Small Group at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Every Other Night online with Jill Heath at 7:00 p.m. (Feb 7 & 21, Mar 7 & 21, April 4 & 18, May 2 & 16.

Thursday Small Group with Paul Couleur & Joshua Hickok, 7:00 p.m. (Hickok's Home)

Saturday with Lisa Kindstrom, 10:30 a.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Saturday.



## 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, and create. Lunch will be provided by Picnic Basket. So that we can plan accordingly, please sign up [HERE](#). The cost is \$10 per person which can be paid either on line at [libcov.org/giving](http://libcov.org/giving) or by check. Any questions, please contact Teresa Anderson.



### 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)

## Children's Ministries

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 has passed. However, if you are** interested in sending your child or volunteer as a leader, please contact, Pastor Paul, Angela Kocinski or Jim Gillette.





# Youth Ministries



## ON THE FLIP SIDE: A 4-WEEK STUDY FROM THE PROPHETS & GOSPELS ON JUSTICE

### SERIES OVERVIEW:

When Jesus was on earth, he wasn't exactly known for telling people what they wanted to hear. Jesus' message was unlike any message people had ever heard before. He didn't give shallow motivational speeches or feel-good sermons. He didn't recycle the same messages other religious leaders were teaching. He flipped people's ideas about God, the world, and themselves completely upside down — usually in uncomfortable ways. And that's always how God's words have worked! In this four-week series, we'll compare Jesus' words in the Gospels with the words of the Old Testament prophets to see how God's words have always challenged our understanding of what's wrong or right, good or bad, and just or unjust. We'll talk about how, both then and now, God flips our **assumptions about who God values**, our **definition of righteousness**, our **understanding of what's good enough**, and our **definition of justice**.

### *Junior High January Programming*

**(Confirmation) Sunday School Dates and Times: 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26  
from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.**

### Senior High Winter Programming

**Sunday School Dates and Times:** 2/5, 2/12, 2/26 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. (We invite our youth to bring their Immerse Kingdom books each of the 16 weeks for the rest of the year.)

**Youth Group Dates and Times:** 2/5, 2/26 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. No YG 2/12 and 2/19 due to the Super Bowl and One Life Retreat.



HAVE YOU REGISTERED? If not, contact Pastor Paul to see if there are still openings.

**Step 1:** Go to Covenant Point's online registration at [cpbc.campbrain registration.com](http://cpbc.campbrainregistration.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

**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:

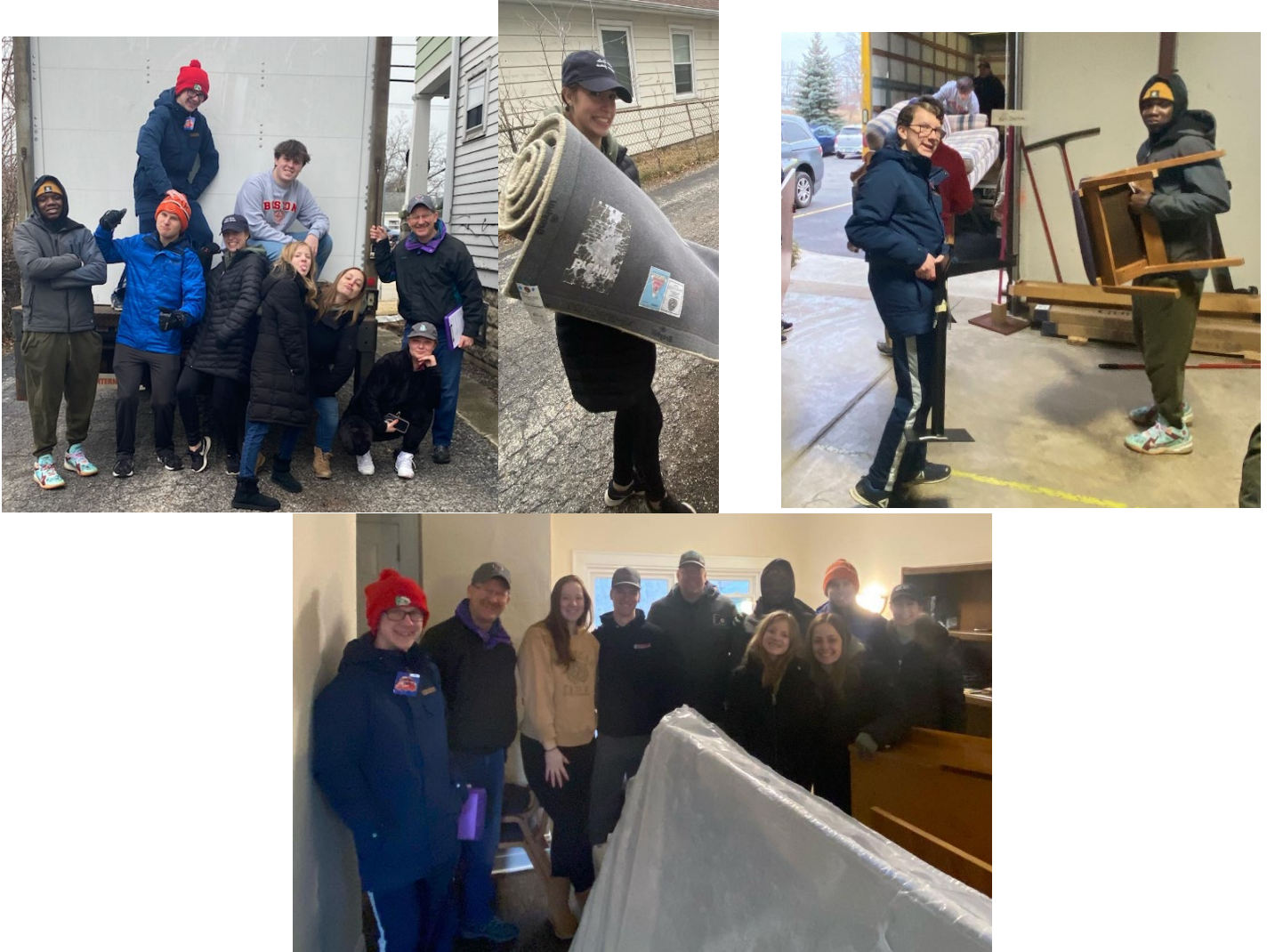
1. Retreat only: \$155
2. Retreat and ski pass: \$190
3. Retreat, ski pass and ski rental: \$205

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.**

## Senior High Youth Group helping out with Love, Inc. Furniture Ministry

Winter is usually a dark season for many people in Lake County, especially for those who don't have a bed or basic furniture and supplies. Our LCC Sr High youth joined the LCC Love INC furniture ministry team on January 7th to get to know some of our neighbors in Waukegan and to deliver much needed furniture to them. We first met a young couple who had moved to Chicago from Oklahoma and recently moved into a small apartment in Waukegan. Being new to the area, they were looking for a church family with a ministry for people in their early 20s. We were able to connect them with Vertical Encounter Church in Waukegan which is close to their apartment. They told us that making a connection to a church was even more important than the furniture we delivered. Next we met a young woman who was fleeing a domestic violence situation and "starting over" on her own. Angela, Kelly and Grace first met with this woman and introduced the group to her. It was a blessing to have 3 young women who follow Jesus make that first connection, as sometimes it can be difficult to have a group of men coming into an apartment of someone who has dealt with domestic violence. Before we left, this woman became our friend and wanted to have a picture taken with us. She said that our visit had made her day. Participating on the Furniture Ministry team is more than delivering furniture to people. The furniture allows us to come into our neighbors' homes and make a personal connection and pray with them. We welcome anyone to come serve with the LCC Love INC Furniture Ministry team. You don't need to be able to move furniture to participate. This is a great opportunity to be God's eyes, ears and hands and to get to know our neighbors in the Lake County area. The LCC team meets at the Love INC warehouse at 8:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month. Please let me (Scott Anderson) know if you are interested in serving.







[Scott Anderson](#) and I are so proud of Luke and his friend Haniel, son of our dear friends [Grace Gaiya](#) and [Zachs-Toro Gaiya](#), for preaching the word in church, under the careful and loving tutelage of our associate/youth pastor, [Paul Couleur](#). I cannot express how weird and wondrous it is to have our offspring give the gospel to US, when it has mostly gone the other direction up to this point. And I am so thankful for and blessed by the staff and congregants at our church, who value, encourage, and include students in every part of the service and in other parts of church life. Sometimes these things are too wonderful to even speak, yet the faithfulness of the Lord continues from generation to generation. I hope Haniel and Luke's message blesses and encourages you.

Teresa Anderson

## Financial Summary thru December 2022

### EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$523,617
Actual Expenses YTD	\$489,607
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	\$34,010

### GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD (Including spec)	\$507,038
Budgeted Giving YTD	\$523,617
Giving Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$16,579 )

### INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$507,038
Expenses YTD	\$489,607
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$17,431

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:**

Caren Vollrath

**Church Council Vice Chair:**

Dave Anderson

**Church Council Secretary:**

Karen Lundstedt

**Treasurer:**

Dave L. Anderson

**LT Members at Large:**

Julie Dahlberg

Dennis Dieball

Owen Youngman

**Financial Secretary:**

John Bethancourt

**Christian Education and Discipleship (CED)**

Angela Kocinski/Ann Frost

**Deacon Team:**

Wes Lindahl

**Evangelism & Service Team:**

Teresa Anderson

**Worship Ministry Team:**

Trevor James

**Finance & Properties Team:**

Kerry Monson

# February Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
2/5	John & Kristen Bethancourt	Kerry Monson	Beth Hjelm & Lisa Kindstrom	Bob Peterson & Lee Vollrath
2/12	Tom & Nancy Borkman	Michelle Pas	Janis Carlson	Same
2/19	Mark & Christine Cederberg	Dave Oppedahl	John & Kristen Bethancourt	Same
2/26	Larry & Marilyn Cholewin	Susan Samuelson	Terri & Mike Collins	Same

Date	Sunday School	Children's Church	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
2/5	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-2: Karin & Paul Lundstedt, 3-5: Sarah Palmberg & Lee Vollrath	Jim Gillette & Vicki Herrick	Darilyn Anderson	Caren Vollrath & Kat Tranel
2/12	Pre-School and 3-5 the Same, K-2 Dave & Barb Anderson	Same	Darilyn Anderson	Ann Frost & Lori Hartnett
2/19	Pre-School and 3-5 the Same, K-2 Dave & Barb Anderson	Same	Nancy Borkman	Nancy Borkman and Dallas Family
2/26		Same		Karin Hildebrandt & Kirsten Peterson



Birthdays		Anniversaries
2/1 Olivia Pas	2/16 Genevieve Couleur	Dave and Darilyn Anderson 2/10/1985
2/2 Dennis Dieball	2/18 Otto Glader	
2/5 Steve Keller	2/23 Arlene Werner	
2/5 Carlene Lichter		
2/12 Chris Dallas		

# February

## Recurring Weekly Events

<b>Sunday:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Immerse online
	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
<b>Monday:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Monday Night Small Group
<b>Tuesday:</b>	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.
	7:00 p.m.	Immerse online (twice a month)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	5:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Together
	6:30 p.m.	Middle School Youth Group
<b>Thursday:</b>	9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Immerse Small Group
	1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> 7:00	Men's Ping Pong
<b>Friday:</b>	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat 8am	Furniture Ministry
	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> 9:30	Women's Group

## February Special Events

2/11	Unhurried Retreat
2/17-2/19	Children's Retreat at Covenant Harbor
2/17-2/20	One Life Senior High Retreat at Covenant Point
2/22	Ash Wednesday
2/27-2/29	Men's Retreat at Covenant Point



# February

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:30 Womens SG 7:00 p.m Immerse 7 pm Ping Pong	3 7 Men's Bible St.	4 8 am Furniture Ministry
5 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh	6 7 pm MNSG	7 7 pm WMT 7 pm Immerse ZOOM	8 5:30 WNtogether 6:30 Mid Sch YG	9 9:30 Womens SG 7:00 p.m Immerse	10 7 Men's Bible St.	11 9:00 Unhurried Retreat 10:00 SG w/Lisa
12 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh 5 NO Sr High YG	13 7 pm MNSG	14	15 5:30 WNtogether 6:30 Mid Sch YG	16 9:30 Womens SG 7 pm Ping Pong 7:00 p.m Immerse	17 7 Men's Bible St. Children's Retreat ONE LIFE RETREAT	18 Children's Retreat ONE LIFE RETREAT
19 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh Children's Retreat ONE LIFE RETREAT	20 ONE LIFE RETREAT 7 pm MNSG	21 6:30 Leadership 7 pm Immerse ZOOM	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 5:30 WNtogether 6:30 Mid Sch YG	23 9:30 Womens SG 7:00 p.m Immerse	24 7 Men's Bible St. Men's Retreat	25 10:00 SG w/Lisa Men's Retreat
26 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 5 Sr High YG	27 7 pm MNSG	28 7 pm Deacons				

# GIVING

**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

## **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)

**NOTES:**