



In the Spirit

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

May 2023

Volume 30 Issue 5

CONTENTS

1 Pastor Steve, article

**2 May Worship
Small Groups**

**3 Thank you note from
Libertyville Township**

**4 Love, INC
Upcoming dates/events**

5 Children's Ministry

6 Youth Ministry

8 Giving in February '23

9 Leadership

10 May Volunteers

**11 May Birthdays
Anniversaries
Recurring Events**

12 Calendar

This month Pastor Paul begins his sabbatical. For three months, he will reflect, learn, grow, and rest. And after seven years of leading our youth, our families, and our church, that time is much needed, gladly given, and gratefully received. Having just gone through it myself, I assure you we, your pastors, are grateful.



Sabbaticals are sometimes referred to as “super-sabbaths”. And while sabbaticals are sometimes hard to understand, sabbaths are not. Sabbath, a day of worship and spiritual reorientation on God, began with God Himself. But then it became a way for us to reflect God into this world and into our lives. While many see it as a matter of obedience, I believe it is more a matter of worship. We don’t rest because we are forced to under threat. We rest because God rested and our lives are to be a reflection of God in this world. Because God rested, we rest.



And indeed, God rested. On creation’s day 7, God rested from His work. On the Sabbath days in the desert, God rested and didn’t provide manna like He did the other 6 days. And even in the crucifixion, Jesus’ body “rested” in the tomb for the Sabbath (Friday night through Sunday morning). So, if God “sabbaths”, so should we as those committed to reflecting God in our lives.



And we can learn a lot about sabbath from God. Things like the fact that Sabbath doesn’t happen without a lot of intentionality. A friend recently commented that she studied Sabbath under a rabbi and was stunned by how much preparation went into it. If we don’t prepare for sabbath (marking our email as “busy”, getting coverage while we’re gone, preparing family duties like food and childcare beforehand), then we will work through our sabbath, making it anything but.

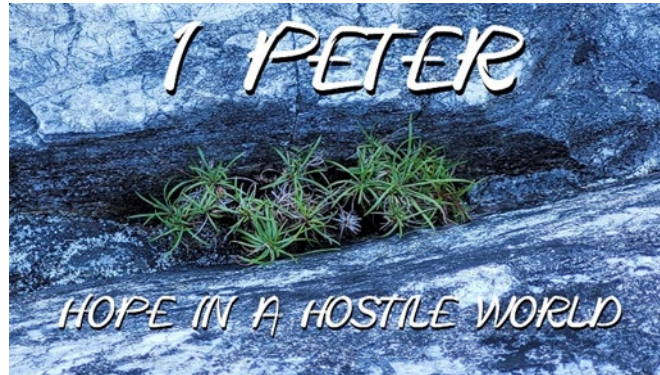


We can also learn that sabbath isn’t just nap time but time to worship... for a whole day! Naps as nice but so is resting as you ponder God in nature, or with family, or in an empty sanctuary. This isn’t a day for us to catch up on chores but to be with God every week to refresh our relationship, listen for His spirit, and just BE with Him. Sabbath is holy, which means “set apart” or “different from anything else”. If our sabbath just looks like a day off or a day of chores, we have missed our sabbath again.



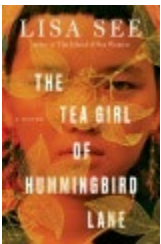
So as Pastor Paul preps for his super sabbath, could we all agree this summer to try out a true sabbath practice? That means we prepare and execute a day with God each week, without work or chores distracting us. How might we be different when Pastor Paul returns if we all have a new sense and experience of sabbath?

May Worship



This month we finish our study of 1 Peter begun in April. However, we also have a number of special services this month. We begin with our yearly Confirmation Celebration full of music, scripture, and testimonies from our three confirmands, Otto Glader, Saly Lichter, and Marleigh Schau. The third week is Ascension Sunday and the fourth is Pentecost. And our first Sunday in June will be Graduate Sunday. We are in for an interesting month of worship, so invite a friend and join us at 10:30 (9:30 beginning May 28) in our sanctuary or on our [YouTube](#) channel.

5/7	Confirmation Sunday	Matt. 5:13-16
5/14	Press On	Ps. 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22
5/21	Ascension Sunday	Ps. 47, Luke 24:44-53
5/28	Pentecost Sunday	Ps. 104:24-34, 35b, Acts 2:1-21
6/4	Graduation Sunday	



Our next book will be [The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#) by Lisa See.

Explores the lives of a Chinese mother and her daughter, who has been adopted by an American couple, tracing the very different cultural factors that compel them to consume a rare native tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations.

Our next discussion will be on Friday, June 2, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome for a good discussion and plenty of laughter! Questions? Contact Caren Vollrath carenvollrath@gmail.com 224-637-4422



LIBERTYVILLE TOWNSHIP

Kathleen M. O'Connor
SUPERVISOR

Anne Hansen
CLERK

Christine G. Feeney
ASSESSOR

Martin J. Neal
HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Carol A. August
Cathleen Dohrn
Matthew Kovatch
Terry A. White
TRUSTEES

Dear Friends,

The Township has a year-round responsibility to help eligible Township citizens meet their basic living costs through financial assistance and counseling referrals. However, many families also come to us for help with everyday household essentials. Our food pantry is open weekly to meet that need.

Your generous donation of food products to the Libertyville Township Food Pantry will assist these families. We are pleased to coordinate this effort and serve the needy in our community.

On behalf of the Township, and our recipients, we send our sincere gratitude for your contribution.

Cordially,

Kathleen M. O'Connor
Supervisor

KMO/kl

All gifts are tax deductible. Libertyville Township Gift Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

*Thank you for your
incredibly generous
donation! We are grateful*

359 Merrill Court, Libertyville, IL60048 • Phone: 847-816-6800 • Fax: 847-816-0861
www.libertyvilletownship.us

This letter is in response to our donation from LCC's Purim Collection.

Thank you to all that made this possible.

LOVE, INC. Spring Cleaning? Please consider donating your *very gently* used items to help our neighbors set up their homes. Our ministry is currently in need of: Toasters, Pots and pans (especially 2 or 3-quart saucepans and skillets) and full-size sheets and blankets. Check our website for other needed items and drop off information: <https://loveinclakecounty.org/share-your-items/>

Spring into service! Please join us at our next volunteer orientation to learn more about the many opportunities to share your God-given talents to help our neighbors in need. Sat. May 6, 9:30am- 11:00am at the Love INC office (339 Lakewood Ave. in Waukegan). RSVP at <https://loveinclakecounty.org/volunteer/>

Upcoming Dates and Events



MAY 21st SAVE THE DATE:

Plans are underway for the All Church Pot Luck after the worship service on May 21st. There will also be cans of pop and bottles of water available. If you prefer to bring your own lunch that afternoon, please join us (with your own lawn chair or blanket, of course)!

Junas Memorial Service

A memorial service followed by a luncheon will be held for Marcia and Jerry Junas on Saturday, June 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

Tobin Junas, 619 Buckingham Pl, Libertyville 60048

Cori Kline, 47 Ridgemoor Dr. Clayton, MO 63105



Graduation Sunday, June 4th Congratulations to our upcoming graduates!! It is an exciting time whether you're graduating from high school or college. Over the next several weeks, if you have family graduating, we would like to include them in the Graduation Sunday Bulletin. Please send the following information to the office at office@libcov.org NAME, GRADUATING FROM, and WHAT's NEXT.



Mirielle Nauman, daughter of Claudia Nauman will be married to Ben Fallon this summer. If you would like to participate in a group gift from the church, please send a check made out to LCC with "Mirielle Gift" in the memo section. Checks or Cash gifts can be given to Debbie in the office. Also, on-line giving is available at www.libcov.org/give. Be sure to designate what it is for.



Adam Cholewin, son of Larry and Marilyn will be married to Meg Howe on June 17th. If you would like to participate in a group gift from the church, please send a check made out to LCC with "Adam Gift" in the memo section. Checks or Cash gifts can be given to Debbie in the office. Also, on-line giving is available at www.libcov.org/give. Be sure to designate what it is for.

Children's Ministries

On Easter Sunday, the children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt downstairs in the dark! Flashlights were used to find the hidden eggs surrounded by glow rings! There was much excitement and laughter going on during the search. Some of the older kids were faster than the younger kids in finding their egg allotment. It was great to see them helping the younger ones find their eggs.

Jim Gillette told the story of the crucifixion and resurrection by drawing and afterwards the kids had a special snack. Happy Resurrection Sunday!!



Youth Ministries



REASONABLE DOUBT: A 4-WEEK STUDY FROM THE GOSPELS ON DOUBT & QUESTIONS

SERIES OVERVIEW:

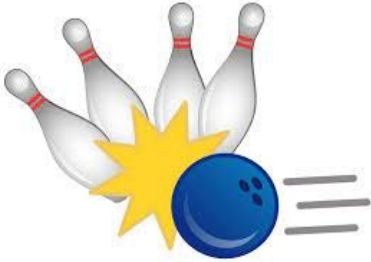
Have you ever heard someone say something that seemed unreasonable? Maybe they told a story or made a statement that was hard for you to believe. It's not always easy to ask questions or express doubt when other people seem so certain, and that's especially true when it comes to faith. If you ask hard questions about God or are honest about the things you're not sure about, what will people think? Will they judge you? Will they laugh at you? But in this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll see it really is possible to have questions and doubts while still having faith. Through Scripture, we'll discover that when we have doubts and questions, we don't need to ignore them or sweep them under the rug. Instead, we can **look to Jesus, look to the Holy Spirit, look to God's words, and look for God in unexpected places.**

Junior High Summer Programming

(Confirmation) Sunday School Dates and Times: 5/7, 5/14, 5/21(Last class) from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 5/3, 5/10 (Last One)

Confirmation Sunday is May 7th.



End of Year Party is Wednesday, 5/10

So glad that you can join us for pizza, bowling and laser tag. We will meet at Lakeside Recreation Center in Mundelein (900 S. Lake St.). Please bring \$10 which will include bowling, shoes, laser tag, pizza and soda. Monies can be given to Pastor Paul the day of or drop off in the office.

Summer Event Schedule: June 14th, July 19th, and August 8th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Time and dates are subject to weather and student participation. Stay tuned for more information.

Senior High Summer Programming

Sunday School Dates and Times: 5/7, 5/14, 5/21(Last Sunday School) 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: 5/7, 5/14 (Last YG) 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



End of year party, May 13th, Saturday

Please join us for dinner, games and movie night on an outdoor big screen at Pastor Paul's house (920 Knollwood) 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Dress for the outdoors.

Summer Event Schedule: June 21st, July 26^h, and August 11th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Time and dates are subject to weather and student participation. Stay tuned for more information.



Giving through February 2023

	<u>2023 YTD - Mar</u>	<u>2022 YTD - Mar</u>
EXPENSES VS. BUDGET		
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 142,561	\$ 131,580
Actual Expenses	<u>123,754</u>	<u>111,407</u>
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	✔ 18,807	✔ 20,173
INCOME VS. BUDGET		
Regular Giving	117,422	107,959
Special Income	<u>56</u>	<u>60</u>
Total Income	✔ 117,478	✔ 108,019
Budgeted Giving	<u>142,811</u>	<u>131,580</u>
Giving Excess / (Shortfall)	✔ (25,333)	✔ (23,561)
INCOME VS. EXPENSES		
Actual Income	✔ 117,478	✔ 108,019
Actual Expenses	✔ <u>123,754</u>	✔ <u>111,407</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	✔ <u><u>\$ (6,276)</u></u>	✔ <u><u>\$ (3,388)</u></u>

Actual expenses for the year are \$19K under budget and Giving is \$25.5k under budget through March, leaving us with a shortfall of ~\$6,000. As we start the new year, just a reminder that our new budget plan is 5.6% higher than last year. If you were giving \$100/week last year, are you able to give \$105.60 per week now? Or if \$500, can you increase to \$528? Many hands make light lifting!



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



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

Tech Coordinator: Noah James

Organist: Su-Yi 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

May Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
5/7	Confirmation Parents	Mark Cederberg	Dan & Ann Frost	Carol & Dennis Dieball
5/14		Owen Youngman	Bill & Jenna Glader	Same
5/21	NO Coffee Hour All Church Picnic	Jackie Splinter	Pat & Joan Groody	Same
5/28		Darilyn Anderson	Bob & Lori Hartnett	Same
	Sunday School	SS Nursery	Children's Church	Worship Nursery
5/7	Pre-K: Angela Kocinski, K-2 Paul & Karin Lundstedt, 3-5 Merileen Thorson & Lee Vollrath	Darilyn Anderson	Jim Gillette	Ann Frost and Kat Tranel
5/14	Pre-K: Angela Kocinski, K-2 Paul & Karin Lundstedt, 3-5 Merileen Thorson & Lee Vollrath		Jim Gillette	Caren Vollrath and Lori Hartnett
5/21	Pre-K: Angela Kocinski, K-2, 3-5 Merileen Thorson & Lee Vollrath	Nancy Borkman	Jim Gillette	Dallas Family
5/28	SUMMER SCHEDULE		Jim Gillette	Kirsten Peterson

HAPPY
MOTHER
DAY



May Birthdays/Anniversaries

Birthdays		Anniversaries
5/1 Olivia Dalton	5/16 Suzy Nelson	5/6 John & Elizabeth Christian
5/2 Andra Dalton	5/18 Karen Hinz	5/15 Al & Carol Nielson
5/3 Kelly Sawyer	5/19 Martha Peterson	5/22 John & Beverly Hawkins
5/5 Jessica Sawyer, Brooke Sparks	5/23 Mya Reynolds	5/29 Wes & Deb Lindahl
5/7 Vicki Herrick, Bonita Westerberg	5/24 Julie Clausen, Dave (Darilyn) Anderson	
5/8 Ben Palmberg	5/26 Teresa Anderson	
5/10 Brooke Dallas	5/29 Alan Hinz	
5/14 Brian Johnson	5/30 Henry Cederberg	
5/15 Christie Albers	5/31 Karin Lundstedt	

May

Recurring Weekly Events

Sunday	9:00 a.m. Immerse Online	Wednesday	6:30 p.m. Middle School YG
	9:15 a.m. Sunday School		
	10:30 a.m. Worship	Thursday	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
	12:00 Choir Rehearsal		4:00 p.m. 3 rd Leadership Mtg.
	5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group		7:00 p.m. Immerse Small Group
Monday	7:00 p.m. Monday Night Small Group		1 st /3 rd 7:00 p.m. Men's Ping Pong
Tuesday	7:00 p.m. 2 nd WMT Mtg./ 4 th Deacon Mtg 4 th CED Mtg. Zoom	Friday	7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m. Immerse online (2x a month)	Saturday	8:00 a.m. 1 st Furniture Ministry 2 nd /4 th Women's Small Group

May Events

7 Confirmation

10 Jr. High Youth Group (last one) end of year party

12 Sr. High Youth Group end of year party

14 Pastor Paul last day before Sabbatical

21 All Church Picnic

May

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 pm Small Group	2 7 pm Immerse (zoom)	3 6:30 Jr High YG	4 9:15 Women's Bible Study 7 pm Immerse 7 pm Ping Pong	5 7 am Men's Bible Study	6 8 am Furniture Ministry
7 Confirmation 9 Immerse Zoom 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir 5:00 Sr High YG	8 7 pm Small Group	9 7 pm Worship Team Mtg	10 6:00 LAST Jr High YG	11 9:15 Women's Bible Study 7 pm Immerse	12 7 am Men's Bible Study	13 10 am Small Group w/Lisa (last one) Sr YG Party
14 9 Immerse Zoom 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	15 7 pm Small Group	16 7 pm Immerse (zoom) last one	17	18 9:15 Women's Bible Study 4 pm Leadership 7 pm Immerse 7 pm Ping Pong	19 7 am Men's Bible Study (last one)	20
21 9 Immerse Zoom 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir All Church Picnic	22 7 pm Small Group	23 7 pm Deacons	24	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship	29 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	30	31			

Libertyville Covenant Church

250 S. St. Mary's Road, Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Pastor: Steve Larson Church phone: 847/362-3308 www.libcov.org