



# *In the Spirit*

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

**August 2023**

**Volume 30 Issue 7**

## **United in Mission**

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*“When Simon Peter saw this [miraculous catch of fish], he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken... Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.’ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.” – Luke 5:8-11*

The mission that God set at the beginning of time was to reveal the Kingdom of God to humankind. His plan for accomplishing that mission was set before Creation, and that plan was Jesus. When Jesus ascended, He revealed that His plan for that mission once He left was us. This means that our work as disciples is the continuation of the work Jesus did while He walked the earth, which was itself the continuation of the work God the Father had been doing since the beginning of time! That’s quite a legacy we have joined.

This has been our theme this summer. It has been our mission for the history of our church. And it is ultimately the Meaning of the Gospel: that the Kingdom of God is here because the King has come and invited you and me and all of us to be part of His kingdom. This is our mission, to invite people to join us in the Kingdom of God. And the good news is that we can’t accomplish this mission! Yay! We have been called to something too difficult for us, and that is good news indeed.

*“If ‘God is your co-pilot’, you’re in the wrong seat.” – seen on a bumper sticker this week*

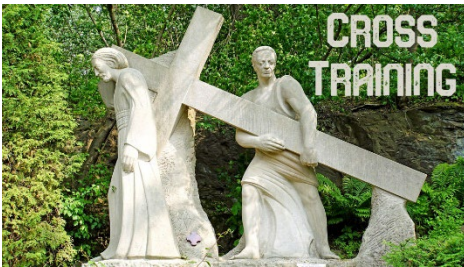
Really? The Good News is that we are destined for failure? This is hard for our success-driven culture to understand. It is hard for our results-oriented society to

accept. Yet it is the example set throughout the Old Testament, and the teaching given throughout the New. We are unable to entice, convince, or “win” people into the Kingdom of God. In fact, that’s not our job. We are way to flawed, cracked, and sinful to save souls, to grant people eternal life. But God isn’t. God is perfectly whole, united, and holy, and wholly able to entice, convince, and win people to the Kingdom. We are simply along for the ride, bringing the Holy Spirit who lives within us to the people around us, introducing the person to God, and then allowing God to do the work.

Once we accept that we are broken people, we begin to see that the light inside of us can only show through if there are cracks. When we coat ourselves with a veneer of “success” or “perfection” or “power”, we cover over the cracks that God wants to shine through. So as you go about your work of revealing the Kingdom of God to those God has put in your path, remember that it is You, the real You that God wants to use, not some mask or shell that looks successful. God doesn’t love our performances, our costumes, or our masks. He loves us, just as we are, and has plans to use us to accomplish His mission – just as we are.



# August Worship



This final month of summer, we have a lot of extra special worship opportunities. From missionary visits to FREE Sunday to our All Church Retreat, here are the opportunities to BE the church together. Jesus has a lot to teach us about this, and Matthew’s gospel is a great place to find it. And so in August we will wrap up our Cross Training as we look to the fall. So bring a friend and join us for worship every Sunday at 9:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

July 30	Karl & Sue Peterson Missionary Visit Weekend “The Lessons We Have Learned”	Mark 2:1-12
Aug. 6	FREE Sunday: Our Response to Human Trafficking	Isa. 61
Aug. 13	Doubt	Matt. 14:22-33
Aug. 20	All Church Retreat with Rev. Terry Cathcart Sunday at LCC: Great Faith	Matt. 15:21-28
Aug. 27	Identity	Matt. 16:13-20



**FREE SUNDAY, August 6<sup>th</sup>** Globally, an estimated 4.7 million persons are caught in sex trafficking today. Approximately 250,000–350,000 American children and youth are at risk for sex trafficking each year. People who have been marginalized are also being deemed disposable and thus usable for the demoralizing purposes of those with power and privilege. The exploitation of those targeted through sex trafficking continues to attack the Imago Dei; marring, and harming trafficking victims, the traffickers, and the communities where economies of sexual exploitation flourish. The Covenant’s core identity as Mission Friends is rooted in its desire to seek to respond to God’s call in Isaiah 1:17, “Learn to do good, seek justice, and encourage the oppressed” in our world. As a response to this call, Serve Globally and Love Mercy Do Justice are collaborating through FREE, an anti-sex trafficking initiative of the Evangelical Covenant Church that calls the global church to Pray, Learn, Give, and Act to oppose the evil of sex-trafficking both domestically and globally.



The Sensible Ladies Book Club's next selection is The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict. Our discussion will be on Friday, September 8th, 7:00 pm at LCC. If you have questions, contact Caren Vollrath, 224-637-4422 or [carenvollrath@gmail.com](mailto:carenvollrath@gmail.com)

*The Other Einstein* offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. This novel resurrects Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated. Was she simply Einstein's sounding board, an assistant performing complex mathematical equations? Or did she contribute something more?

Mitza Maric has always been a little different from other girls. Most twenty-year olds are wives by now, not studying physics at an elite Zurich university with only male students trying to outdo her clever calculations. But Mitza is smart enough to know that, for her, math is an easier path than marriage. Then fellow student Albert Einstein takes an interest in her, and the world turns sideways. Theirs becomes a partnership of the mind and of the heart, but there might not be room for more than one genius in a marriage.

### **Upcoming Dates and Events**



Join us on July 30 for a special Sunday with Karl and Sue Peterson, our supported Covenant missionaries in Mexico. Karl and Sue will bring greetings, stories, and updates from their work in Mexico and will bring us the Message. Our service will be followed by lunch with the Petersons so join us at 9:30am for a Sunday celebration of all God is doing around the world!



### **Women's Cooking Demonstration with Lori Hartnett!**

At 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 2, we will gather on the lower level of the church for a get-together where we'll enjoy some ice cream creations. Our featured guest will be Lori Hartnett, who will give us a demonstration for a delicious recipe for a culinary treat. This will be a great event for you to invite your family and friends to attend! Click [HERE](#) to RSVP.



### **Child and Youth Volunteer Training after Worship**

Immediately following the August 13<sup>th</sup> Service, there will be a mandatory training for new and experienced volunteers that will be teaching and working with our young people at LCC. Call Caren Vollrath if you have any questions.





We have over 30 people from our congregation that will be joining New Abbey Covenant on August 18-20<sup>th</sup> at Covenant Harbor for our ALL CHURCH RETREAT! Pastor Terry Cathcart will be our guest speaker and group leader, speaking on Spiritual Direction as a way of being in conversation with God.



**60 + Day at Covenant Harbor**

While the pandemic put Covenant Harbor's popular 60+ Day on hiatus, we are excited to announce its return on Tuesday, **September 12, 2023** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All adults age 60+ are welcome to register, whether or not they are members of our church. For \$39 your day includes Lunch, Worship Service in a tent and a one hour boat tour on Gage’s Lake. Registration is open on line through Covenant Harbor’s website.

**Church Membership Class – October 15<sup>th</sup> After Church**

If you’re interested in exploring Church membership at Libertyville Covenant Church, please save the date for our afternoon information session. Lunch will be served. Following the class, the Deacons will make arrangements to follow up with materials and review the process for joining our congregation. In the meantime, if you have questions, contact Wes Lindahl, Deacon Chair, at [wilindahl@northpark.edu](mailto:wilindahl@northpark.edu) or 847-680-1018.

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*An unexpected blessing.... Improving our gravel drive*

Nancy Borkman was preparing to work in the garden one Saturday in July when a contractor drove up and said he would love to donate used asphalt to the church to cover our gravel driveway and eliminate the dust we get from driving over it. He would need the church to pay for the spreading and rolling of the asphalt. Kerry Monson, Dan Frost, and Caren Vollrath had a brief conference call and agreed that it would be great to have this done! A real bargain! Paving our gravel drive has been on the “to do” list for many years, but other priorities have been more important. Because of this contractor’s generous thinking, we received \$7000 worth of materials and paid \$3000 to improve our long driveway. We are grateful to the Lord for this surprise blessing!

# Wednesday Nights Together!

Sept. 13 – Nov. 15

5:30pm – Dinner for everyone

6:15pm – Seussfest begins (K – 5<sup>th</sup>)

6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)

6:30pm – “The Chosen Season 3” Watchparty (9<sup>th</sup> – adults)

## Seussfest is Coming!



Jesus used parables all the time in His ministry, stories of common, everyday things (nets, fish, seeds, coins, sheep) that taught about the Kingdom of God. This fall, we will be using the stories of Dr. Seuss as parables to teach us about the Kingdom of God. Through games, music, and stories galore, our children will grow in their faith and have an amazing time doing it! Join with Pastor Steve, Drake, and plenty of guests as we explore our faith through the tales of Dr. Seuss.

## Middle School Youth Group

All youth 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades join together with Pastor Paul and His Merry Minions to learn about God, have some fun, and dig deep into life together. Invite your friends and join us every Wednesday.

A black square with a white border containing the white letters "YTH" in a bold, sans-serif font.



## “The Chosen Season 3”

### Watchparty!

Last year we gathered in the sanctuary to watch the first two seasons of The Chosen. This fall we begin Season 3, continuing the story of Jesus’ ministry. You can catch up on the first two seasons if you haven’t seen them, or just join us and jump in to Season 3. But invite your friends, spread the word, and join us for the WatchParty!



## Summer Events that kept us busy



### FMSC Packing and Dinner was a blast!



### Jill House BBQ was a success!!

Over 60 people (including 10 Jill's House families) enjoyed a beautiful night on our hill, complete with a bounce castle, tasty BBQ (home smoked brisket, ribs and pork), and lots of good conversation. What a treat it was to watch the kids having fun while the parents could relax and kick back. Jill's House continues to find ways to lift up these families and it is a joy that we can support them. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this night a huge success – we are making a difference in their lives!







Something to Praise about.....Over 250 people, from 7 different Covenant Churches attended the Potluck and Praise event. We listened to wonderful music from New Life Covenant; played on an inflatable brought by Northwest Covenant; enjoyed an inspirational service and delicious food made by everyone.





# Children's Ministries



The Pray Ground has been open for two months now! Thanks to Pastor Steve and Jim Gillette's creative collaborations, children get to participate with the theme of the message through an array of art materials and opportunities to share. Shepherds get to interact and enjoy a few minutes with our delightful children. Won't YOU be a shepherd and open yourself to a fresh way to enhance your church family relationships? Please sign up today! Caren Vollrath [carenvollrath@gmail.com](mailto:carenvollrath@gmail.com)

# Youth Ministries

Summer brings with it a much-needed change of pace for a lot of our lives; this is no different for the life of our youth ministry. Even though it might feel as though we are more disconnected and spread out in the summer, we've been able to come together, reconnect, and have lots of fun! From the high schoolers' beach day and game night to the middle schoolers playing water games and having a little movie night, we've had a great time being together here and there during the busyness of summer!



Junior High cooling off with some fun water games.

Senior High was treated to a homemade pizza dinner by Mike Collins

Our last events will be:

**Junior High August 8<sup>th</sup>: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Family Night! (bonfire, lawn games, snacks, etc)**

**Senior High: August 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Collab with North Park Covenant**

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



## Giving through June 2023

### **EXPENSES VS. BUDGET**

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 279,792
Actual Expenses	<u>257,407</u>
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	22,385

### **INCOME VS. BUDGET**

Regular Giving	236,397
Special Income	- <u>382</u>
Total Income	236,779
Budgeted Giving	<u>279,792</u>
Giving Excess / (Shortfall)	(43,013)

### **INCOME VS. EXPENSES**

Actual Income	236,779
Actual Expenses	<u>257,407</u>
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b><u>\$ (20,628)</u></b>



**ONLINE GIVING PORTAL:** To give online, simply go to 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**

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

Pastor: Steve Larson Church phone: 847/362-3308 [www.libcov.org](http://www.libcov.org)



## 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

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!**



# August Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Nursery	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
8/6		Caren Vollrath	Thor Papak	David & Marie Oppedahl	Bob Hartnett & Al Nielson
8/13		Christy James	David Oppedahl	John & Suzy Nelson	Same
8/20		No Nursery	Vicki Herrick	Craig & Colleen Sparks	Same
8/27		Kirsten Peterson	Mark Cederberg	Craig & Jackie Splinter	Same

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

August Birthdays		Anniversaries	
8/2 Lee Duba		8/4 Steve & Amy Keller	
8/4 Ryan Tanzer		8/5 Josh & Katy Albers	
8/5 Beverly Hawkins, Aly Lichter		8/14 Paul & Kristen Hawkinson	
8/8 Colin Hawkinson, Trevor James		8/17 Steve & Heather Larson	
8/12 Karin Anderson		8/19 Larry & Marilyn Cholewin	
8/13 Ardyth Douglas, Armani Tanzer		8/24 Owen & Linda Youngman	
8/22 Thor Papak		8/26 Dan & Ann Frost	
8/28 August Couleur, Hesed Gaiya			

### Summer Recurring Weekly Events

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m. Worship
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Small Group
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> WMT 4 <sup>th</sup> Deacon Mtg /4 <sup>th</sup> CED Mtg. Zoom
<b>Thursday</b>	4:00 p.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Leadership Mtg., 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Small Group
	1 <sup>st</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Men's Ping Pong
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 a.m. Furniture Ministry

# August

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 8:00 Furniture Ministry
		7:00 CED mtg (ZOOM)	7:00 Women's Social	7:00 Ping Pong 7:00 Small Group		
6 9:30 Free Sunday Worship	7 6:00 Small Group	8 6:00 Jr. High Event	9	10 7:00 Small Group	11 6:00 Sr. High Event	12
13 9:30 Worship 10:45 CED Training	14 6:00 Small Group	15 6:30 WMT	16	17 4:00 Leadership 7:00 Ping Pong 7:00 Small Group	18 All Church Retreat	19 All Church Retreat
20 9:30 Worship All Church Retreat	21 6:00 Small Group	22 7:00 Deacons 7:00 CED (zoom)	23	24 7:00 Small Group	25	26
27 9:30 Worship	28 6:00 Small Group	29	30	31 7:00 Small Group 7:00 Ping Pong		