



In the Spirit

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

October 2023

Volume 30 Issue 9

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Pray Where You Are

A long time ago in what feels like a galaxy far, far away, The Lost Dogs played at the Youth Worker Connection in Chicago. This event specifically for youth pastors came just before the annual MidWinter Conference (and still does!) and was a time of connection and worship as the youth pastors of the Covenant. That year, I fell in love with this group made up of the lead guitarists from a number of different Christian bands. Specifically, two of their songs, “Pray Where You Are” and “Breathe Deep” became anthems for my early youth pastor days and stick with me today.

“In the submarines and tanks, in the S&L’s and banks, in the cancer wards, the prisons, and the bars; On the earth and on the moon, in the closet, in your room, in the flophouses, the think-tanks, and the farm; To the salesman forever trying to sell; to the faithful daughter walking to the well – Pray where you are!”

This fall, as we look together at prayer, learning how to pray differently and hopefully more faithfully, we need to take a long, honest look at our prayer lives. While many of us are trying to live more healthy lives through diet or exercise, we can also be living healthier spiritual lives through prayer. And just as we can exercise anywhere, whether sitting at our desk, walking to get more coffee, or at the gym in the morning, so we can pray anywhere, from the car to the dinner table to the hospital. And we can pray WHILE we do the rest of life, whether in a meeting, in front of the TV, or lying in bed. Prayer is everywhere, and everywhen, and yet it can be so hard to pray.

Sometimes that’s because we see prayer as a duty, a requirement we must fulfill in order to punch our “good Christian” card for the day instead of a living

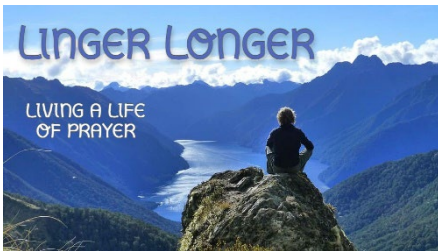
conversation with the One who loves us so dearly. When prayer gets dry and rote, it's a good sign that we have begun treating it as a duty.

Sometimes that's because we see prayer as a simple recitation of our current wishlist. It's like sitting on Santa's lap and telling him all we want for Christmas rather than a conversation, full of speaking and listening, with not topic too trivial or too personal. When prayer becomes a recitation, it's a good sign that we have begun treating it as a wishlist.

Sometimes that's because we see prayer as a waste of time that could be spent doing something more productive. We see it as an empty ritual with no real, tangible effect except perhaps a peace we could achieve much quicker with a slow, deep breath. When we stop hearing stories of effective prayer and do not stop to celebrate how prayer has connected us with God recently, it's a good sign that we have become "too busy to pray".

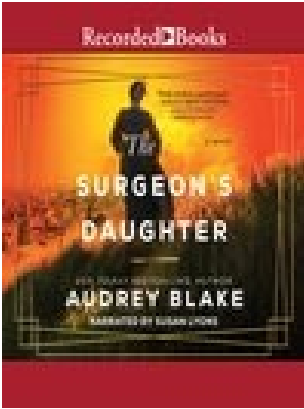
There is no "right" time to pray, regardless of those who tell you that you must get up early to do it. There is no "right" way to pray, for conversation should flow naturally if we are truly aware of the One we are conversing with. And there is no "right" place to pray, as we discussed last week in the sermon. The only wrong way to pray is NOT to pray at all. Because when our prayer life is rich and regular, we find a new mindset growing in us, a new energy for the things of God, and a new wisdom as we approach this world. So Pray Where You Are, when you think of it, as you wish. Just pray, and see what God might have in store for you!

October Worship



This summer, our denomination's president called us at our Annual Meeting to focus on prayer. Given the importance of prayer to our spiritual life, this call is a timely and important one, so we will continue to look at what it might mean to linger a bit longer in God's presence than we currently do through the month of October. Bring a friend and join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

Oct. 1	Linger Longer: When to Pray?	1 Thess. 5:16-18
Oct. 8	Linger Longer: What to Pray?	Matt. 6:9-13
Oct. 15	Linger Longer: How to Pray Lament	Hab. 3:17-18
Oct. 22	Linger Longer: How to Pray Persistently	Luke 18:1-8
Oct. 29	Linger Longer: How to Pray Intercession	1 Tim. 2:1-8



The next book to read for The Sensible Ladies Book Club will be The Surgeon's Daughter by Audrey Blake. Our next discussion will be on Friday, November 3, 7:00 pm in the narthex. Questions? Contact Caren Vollrath 224-637-4422 carenvollrath@gmail.com

Nora Beady, the only female student at a prestigious medical school in Bologna, is a rarity. In the 19th century women are expected to remain at home and raise children, so her unconventional, indelicate ambitions to become a licensed surgeon offend the men around her. When Nora allies herself with Magdalena Morenco, the sole female doctor on-staff, they develop new techniques to improve a groundbreaking surgery: the Cesarean section.

Upcoming Dates and Events

All Church Cleanup Day: Oct. 21

With projects inside and outside, we ask everyone of all ages to come join us as we clean up the church and get it ready for the winter. From washing windows to yardwork, the choices are as endless as the donuts. We gather at 9am and we finish whenever you need to be done. Good stewardship, good fellowship, good intergenerational discipleship, all with a shovel and a dust mop.



On All Saints Sunday (Nov. 5) we would like to honor those in our families who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday with an "In Memoriam" remembrance video. If you have a loved one who has passed away since Nov. 6, 2022, please submit their name and a picture, either digitally or by dropping it off in the office on or before Oct. 30. We will scan and return any photographs and then honor them during worship on All Saints Sunday.



LIBERTYVILLE COVENANT CHURCH

HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER:

847-558-7411

Fellowship



food.faith.fellowship - LCC FUN!

Coffee Hour: The following dates are still available for Sunday Coffee Hour.

October 15th, November 5 and 26, December 10, 24, and 31

Please contact Christy James, Heather Larson or the office to sign up.



Wednesday Night Together: has gotten off to a great start. There are over 11 children participating and 40 meals served each night. Groups of three are needed for set-up, meals and clean-up. When signing up for the meal, put your name next to #1 along with what you are making, so others can sign up to help you prepare. Click [HERE](#) to help out with Wednesday Night Together.

Mission

Love INC Lake County
Dinner & Auction and 30th Anniversary Celebration



Love, INC's annual Dinner and Auction is Friday October 6th. This evening will launch our 30th Anniversary celebration, "A Heartful Harvest." We will celebrate at a new-to-us venue -- the beautiful Cuneo Mansion & Gardens in Vernon Hills. For more information or how you can donate, please contact Dave Oppedahl or Scott Anderson.

Membership

Church Membership Class – October 15th After Church

Anyone interested in exploring membership at Libertyville Covenant Church is invited to a special class and lunch following the worship service. We will gather for a sub-sandwich meal and then proceed to the class session. If you are interested, please contact either me or one of our pastors – Pastor Steve or Pastor Paul– to let them know you are planning to attend. Welcome! *Wes Lindahl, Deacon Chair*

Christian Education Discipleship

There's a lot going on in the life of our church each week, so here are a few reminders from CED about what you can be part of at LCC!

- Sunday School: We have Sunday School each week at 9 for people of all ages!
- Wednesday Night Together: join us for dinner at 5:30 followed by programming for elementary & middle school students as well as adults.
- Small Groups: We have small groups that meet almost every day of the week! If you're interested in getting the chance to connect with people in a smaller group for meaningful discussions, email office@libcov.org and we can help you get connected.
- Prayground: Each week, we invite students in 5th grade and younger to be involved in our service through activities at the *Prayground*. We are always looking for shepherds to be with them during that time! If you're interested, email jeanette@libcov.org.



CED would like to call your attention to a new sign up sheet in the narthex for our Sunday Opportunities.

We are also sending out an email on a monthly basis to make sure that we have coverage for Sunday School and Worship Nursery. Click [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please call or email the office, Angela Kocinski or Caren Vollrath.

Youth Ministries



A 4-WEEK SERIES THE NEW AND OLD TESTAMENT ON LEADERSHIP SERIES OVERVIEW:

When you hear the word "leader," you might think about an influential artist or celebrity, or a famous politician, or a coach on a soccer field, or that kid who just got elected class president. And, sure, those people are definitely leaders! But these aren't the only ways to lead. Great leaders don't have to have official positions, titles, or people who report to them. With God, being a great leader is something anyone can achieve because leadership is simply about becoming the kind of person who's worth following. But how? In this four-week series, we'll look at the example of Jesus, plus ordinary people like Moses, Solomon, and the apostle Paul, who were all given opportunities to lead and make a difference in others' lives. Through their examples (both good and bad), we'll see how great leaders are the people most likely to follow through, choose to love, choose integrity, and follow God's lead.

Junior High October Programming

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

Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.



5:00 PM Departure from LCC Friday, Oct 6 – 4:00 PM Arrival Monday, Oct 9th

Here we are but a few days away from an amazing retreat up at Covenant Point Bible Camp. What is in store for the weekend? A weekend of fun and adventure with our youth group, complete with worship, high ropes, big games, and great messages. We will be arriving in the upper peninsula of Michigan late Friday evening.

Please be sure to send along some money for a meal that we will enjoy on our way up to camp and another one on the way home from camp. While at camp there is a store available to purchase tee shirts, sweatshirts, stickers, candy, drinks, and all sorts of camp swag if your student so desires. We hope to beat the Friday evening traffic in Milwaukee and so we invite you to bring your student to church as soon as possible after school with a hope of leaving no later than 5:00p.m. We will depart immediately after breakfast on Monday morning and hope to return somewhere between 3:00-4:00p.m. Please take note of the packing lists below of things to bring and not to bring along. If there are any concerns or questions you have please speak with me directly. Looking forward to a great weekend away!!

Covenant Point Packing List

Bedding
Clothing for all weather
Towel
Toiletries
Swimsuit for sauna
Bible
Notebook and pen
Camera
Flashlight

As a gentle reminder, **Do Not Bring:**

- Cell phones or electronic devices
- Knives / weapons of any kind
- Alcohol / tobacco / illegal drugs
- Personal sports equipment
- Valuable personal items

First Junior High Get Together



Senior High October Programming

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

Sunday Youth Group Dates: 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Village Retreat November 10 through 12th

November 10th-12th we have the opportunity to go up to Covenant Harbor for a Senior High Fall Retreat!!! Senior High Youth Groups will gather together to enjoy a fun weekend away at Lake Geneva, WI. We depart from Libertyville Covenant Church on November 10th at 5:30p.m. and return to Libertyville Covenant Church November 12th, 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.

Steps to Register

1. Go to Covenant Harbor's online registration site: [Registration log in](#)
2. Be sure they know to chose the Village Retreat 2023/**Nov 10-12 /Libertyville Covenant Church** (Choose Student / Adult Leader (Only 18 and older))
3. They will choose who they are registering for Village retreat and complete steps 1-5.
4. Do NOT use browser back and forward arrows to move through the process.
5. Complete all mandatory forms they will be marked with an asterisk.

First Senior High Get Together



Finance

Giving through August 2023

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 377,447
Actual Expenses	<u>352,078</u>
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	25,369

INCOME VS. BUDGET

Regular Giving	322,011
Special Income	<u>1,687</u>
Total Income	323,698
Budgeted Giving	<u>377,447</u>
Giving Excess / (Shortfall)	(53,479)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Actual Income	323,698
Actual Expenses	<u>352,078</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>\$ (28,380)</u>

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)

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

October Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
10/1	Kerry & Brenda Monson	Tom Borkman	Ken & Arlene Werner	Bob Peterson and Lee Vollrath
10/8	Angela Kocinski and Kelly Sawyer	Judy Tanzer	Owen & Linda Youngman	Same
10/15		Wes Lindahl	George & Kristie Burnett	Same
10/22	Rachel Couleur	Thor Papak	Kirk & Caden Johnson	Same
10/29		Kristy Miller	Heather Larson & Earleen Johnson	Same
Date	Sunday School	Prayground	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
10/1	Angela Kocinski, Karin & Paul Lundstedt, Merileen Thorson & Lee Vollrath			
10/8	Angela Kocinski, Merileen Thorson & Lee Vollrath	Angela Kocinski		Caren Vollrath
10/15	Angela Kocinski, Jim Gillette, Merileen Thorson & Lee Vollrath			Jenna Glader
10/22	Angela Kocinski, Karin & Paul Lundstedt, Merileen Thorson & Lee Vollrath			Ann Frost
10/29	Angela Kocinski, Karin & Paul Lundstedt, Merileen Thorson & Lee Vollrath	Angela Kocinski		Kirsten Peterson & Karin Hildebrandt

October Birthdays/Anniversaries

October Birthdays		Anniversaries
10/4 Steve Hall	10/14 Norm Johnson	10/3/1992 Dave and Barb Anderson
10/6 Cindy Johnson	10/15 Christy James	10/8/2016 Kevin and Chelsi Nikkel
10/9 Scott Dahlberg, Kerry Monson	10/18 Debbie Tometz	10/10/ 1969 Lee and Judie Duba
10/11 Jim Krueger	10/25 Bill Anderson, Bill Anderson, John McLinden	10/16/1971 Bruce and Merileen Thorson
10/13 Leanna Collins, Audrey Hawkins	10/29 Paul Hawkinson	10/18/1969 Norm and Sharon Johnson



Recurring Weekly Events

Sunday	9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Women's Small Group 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 week Worship Ministry Team 4 th week Deacon Mtg /4 th week Christian Education and Discipleship Mtg. (Zoom)
Wednesday	5:30 Wednesday Night Together 6:30 Jr. High Youth Group
Thursday	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4:00 p.m. 3 rd Leadership Mtg., 1 st /3 rd /5 th week 7:00 p.m. Men's Ping Pong
Friday	7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Saturday	8:00 a.m. Furniture Ministry (1 st Sat)

October Events

October 2-4	Central Conference Pastor's Fall Retreat
October 6	Love, Inc Dinner and Auction
October 6-9	Jr. High Fall Retreat CPBC
October 7	Love INC Furniture Moving
October 12	EST Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Anderson's home
October 15	New Member Class
October 21	All Church Work Day



ONLINE GIVING PORTAL: To give online, simply to go 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

Libertyville Covenant Church

250 S. St. Mary's Road, Libertyville, Illinois 60048
Pastor: Steve Larson, Church phone: 847-558-7411
www.libcov.org

October

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir 5:00 Sr. High YG	2 7:00 Small Group	3	4 5:30 WNT 6:30 Jr. High YG	5 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Ping Pong	6 7:00 Men's Bible Study JR HIGH FALL	7 8:00 Furniture Min. RETREAT
8 JR HIGH FALL 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir 5:00 Sr High YG	9 RETREAT CPBC 7:00 Small Group	10 6:30 WMT	11 5:30 WNT 6:30 Jr. High YG	12 9:30 Women's Bible Study	13 7:00 Men's Bible Study	14
15 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir 12:00 New Member Class	16 7:00 Small Group	17	18 5:30 WNT 6:30 Jr. High YG	19 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:00 Leadership 7:00 Ping Pong	20 7:00 Men's Bible Study	21 9:00 All Church Work Day
22 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir 5:00 Sr. High YG	23 7:00 Small Group	24 7:00 CED Mtg (zoom) 7:00 Deacon Mtg	25 5:30 WNT 6:30 Jr. High YG	26 9:30 Women's Bible Study	27 7:00 Men's Bible Study	28
29 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir 5:00 Sr. High YG	30 7:00 Small Group	31				