



In the Spirit

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

November 2023
Volume 30 Issue 10

Offering

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Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. – 2 Cor. 4:1-9

“What do we at Libertyville Covenant Church have to offer our community?” This should be the first question any church asks of itself. What gifts, abilities, passions, resources, and people has God given us to share with the community in which we have been planted?

Our first answer, of course, must be, “Jesus Christ.” As Paul says in 2 Cor 4, God made the Light of Jesus shine in our hearts, yet placed it in “jars of clay” (that’s us) so people wouldn’t focus on our greatness but on Jesus. We have the knowledge of God’s glory, and this world desperately needs to hear it.

What else? We are a deeply generous church, with amazing financial resources to share with the community around us. Just four months ago, when Heather had hand surgery, our church shared their resources with us to remind us that we weren’t alone in that dark time. Whether food, finances, or heart-felt cards and notes, LCC showed one of its great gifts – generosity – to us for which we are eternally grateful. But I’ve seen us share our resources with camps, community ministries, missionaries, fellow Christians in need, and complete strangers.

What else? We have a long history of strong relationships with each other. This is harder, because those relationships get so tight that the community

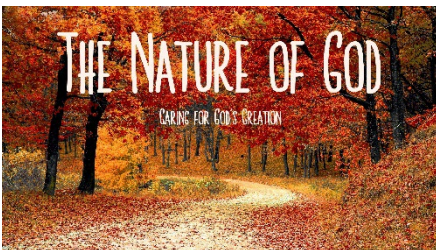
around us can see it as a closed circle instead of a welcoming relational invitation. 10 years ago when I candidated here, I had people come up and form a circle, and of course we formed it facing inward. I warned us then that this could be a problem, unless we hold our relationships both inward AND outward facing. And we have on occasion reached out not to help but to welcome. New Abbey has become a very important part of our relationships at LCC, a community that didn't exist when I first started serving here. God has blessed us with an innate sense of relationship and then called us to use it to reach out with it, not just in.

What else? A loyalty to our church, a denominational presence, strong leaders, good children and youth ministries, multiple small groups... God has blessed us with so very much, not so that we could become a megachurch or make a name for ourselves. God has blessed us to bless the community around us.

So rather than asking how we can pull the community in to LCC so we can have more children, more young families, more volunteers, more leaders, more offerings, more, more, more... what if instead every conversation we had at coffee hour asked the question, "What do we at Libertyville Covenant Church have to offer our community?"

In the words of 2 Corinthians, don't lose heart, people of God. We have a ministry, given to us by God, and we are doing it with integrity. Not everyone will join us, and in today's culture, that number may be fewer than ever because society, busyness, and cynicism is blinding them to the good news we have to share about Jesus. But keep offering yourselves in ministry to those OUTSIDE the church; keep offering them Jesus rather than seeing what we can get from them, and though we face hard times and hardships, we will not be defeated in Jesus Christ our Lord.

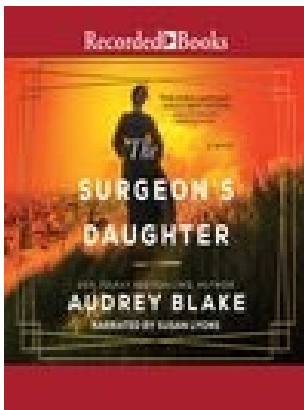
November Worship



God created this big, wonderful world and then entrusted it to us. Through it, He reveals Himself, and even the great gift of salvation. We will be looking at and celebrating these themes this November. Bring a friend and join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

Nov. 5	All Saints Sunday: For All the Saints	Heb. 12:1-3
Nov. 12	The Nature of God: Creation	Gen. 1:1 – 2:3
Nov. 19	The Nature of God: Revelation	Rom. 1:18-20
	Evening Thanksgiving Service, 6:30pm	
Nov. 26	The Nature of God: Salvation	Rev. 21:1-5, 22-27, 22:1-7

From the Office: So that I may serve LCC members more efficiently, please make me aware of new emails, addresses and phone numbers so that I can update the directory and our contact information. I wouldn't want anyone to miss important information. Also, I wanted to remind everyone that I am in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. So, if you send an email after 2:00 p.m., I won't respond for 24 to 48 hours depending on when it was sent. *Debbie*



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



Don't forget to change clocks November 4th at 2 a.m. Get that extra hour of sleep before church on Sunday!!



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.

All Church Congregational Meeting, Nov. 5th

There will be a congregational meeting after church on November 5th. Please come to hear about some recent Council decisions and vote on a proposal for a Camp Staff Scholarship. At this time, new members will be accepted as well. If you have any questions, please contact Caren Vollrath.



Thanksgiving Worship Service, November 19th

Join with all creation in praising our God in a Thanksgiving worship service on **November 19th** at 6:30 p.m. that highlights the blessings associated with each day of creation in Genesis 1. In word and song and Scripture, respond to all the marvelous works of the Lord that have blessed us from the beginning and continue to surround us each and every day.

Who: Anyone who likes to play flag football (or would like to learn)
When: 10:00 am–12pm, November.24th - Friday after Thanksgiving
Where: Central park, 250 library lane, Grayslake (less than 15 mins north of the church)



Advent night at LCC!

Save the Date!! Wednesday, November 29th, 5:45 – 7:45 p.m.

This is an activity for the WHOLE CHURCH to prepare ourselves for advent!
More details to follow.

December Happenings for your Calendar



ADOPT-A-FAMILY for CHRISTMAS

This Christmas we are again providing gifts for 40 children, as part of the Love INC/Catholic charities “Adopt-a-Family program. Names with gift suggestions are listed on the link below. Please sign your name next to a child’s name and purchase a gift. **The wrapped gifts should be returned to church or to Joan Groody’s home BY December 3rd.** The child’s name and ID# should be on the package. If the request is expensive, please feel free to

substitute another item. If you have any questions, or to arrange a drop off time, contact Joan Groody (847-951-7533) or Debbie Tometz (847-362-3308). Thank you for your generosity [Adopt-a-Family Link](#)

More Details to follow



***Smorgasbord for our Seniors, Dec 8th beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the narthex**
It’s Christmas Smorgasbord time! Please join us on Friday, December 8 at 11:30 am. around the narthex fireplace. We will enjoy our favorite Swedish Christmas foods, carols, and warm fellowship as we begin the season together. If you have questions or would like a meal delivered to you, please contact Kris Nikkel (847-543-8861) or kjnikkel@aol.com. See you there!

***Middle School Christmas Party, Dec 1st** Please be sure to mark your calendars and save the dates for our middle school Progressive Dinner. The Middle school party will be December 1st, from 4:30 to 7:30p.m. and we will be providing more party details as the date approaches. We will require an RSVP for the party so that we have enough food and transportation for the night.

***Senior High Christmas Party, Dec 10th** Details for this event will be delivered when we get closer to the date. We wanted to make sure everyone saves this time and date for the party as the end of the year is full of Christmas cheer. Looking forward to seeing our students gather for a Christmas Jamboree.

***All Church Progressive Dinner, Dec 9th** The annual Progressive Dinner will be held Saturday, December 9. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with appetizers all together held at one home, followed by dinner and dessert at 7:30 held at several host homes. Please join together for a very enjoyable evening! Sign up can be done online or on the insert in the bulletin mid-November to early December.

Fellowship



food.faith.fellowship - LCC FUN!

Coffee Hour: The following dates are still available for Sunday Coffee Hour: November 26, December 10, 24, and 31. Please contact Christy James, Heather Larson or the office to sign up.



Wednesday Night Together: The last WNT for this session is November 15th. Click [HERE](#) to help out with Wednesday Night Together.

Mission



P.E.O. is a Christian philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement of women. We sponsor six projects, which include [Cottey College](#) (an independent, liberal arts and sciences college for women), and five programs that provide assistance to women seeking higher education (college and up): the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund, the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund, the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education, the P.E.O. Scholar Awards, and the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship. For the past few years LCC has allowed our local P.E.O. Chapter to use the Fellowship Hall for our monthly meetings. For this we are sincerely grateful. We are hoping to sponsor a candidate within our Church Community for any one of our Projects. I have left informational brochures in the Office. Please feel free to ask for a copy or contact Jackie Splinter at waz4179@aol.com. P.E.O. has clearly made a difference in the lives of women all over the world. We stand ready to make a difference in the life of an LCC woman too!

Christian Education Discipleship



Registration Opens
November 15th, 7:00 a.m.!!

Last year some weeks filled up within
7 minutes. Register early to get the
week of your choice.

cpbc.com and covenantharbor.org

BROCHURES ARE IN NARTHEX

Youth Ministries



OVER THE TOP: A 4-Week Series from 1 Thessalonians on **Generosity**.

SERIES OVERVIEW: Have you ever seen one of those random acts of kindness that tend to trend online? Maybe someone gives a stranger an envelope full of cash or the keys to a free car. Maybe they pay off all their bills or cover their college tuition. While these moments of "over the top" generosity can be inspiring, they're not things most of us will ever be in a position to give away. But if we can't give away any brand-new cars, what can we give that would make a difference in the world? In this four-week series, we'll see what the book of 1 Thessalonians shows us about loving others through what we can give. We'll discover how to make a big difference by being generous with our time, being generous by sharing the good news, being generous by caring for each other, and being generous with our encouragement.

Junior High November Programming

(Confirmation) Sunday School Dates and Times: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. No SS 11/26

Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 11/8, 11/15, 11/29 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. No YG 11/22

Junior High Retreat Recap

Twelve students and three leaders departed Libertyville Covenant Church with high hopes of a great time away at Covenant Point Bible Camp and we certainly had a blast. Rev. Dr. Bret Widman, Associate Professor of Ministry from North Park Theological Seminary was the speaker for our weekend retreat. Pastor Bret provided some powerful messages on Psalm 23 gleaned insights regarding the Good Shepherd and his sheep. In addition to meaningful worship students enjoyed all sorts of adventures including a boat trip to the island, a scenic hike to lake Ottawa, high ropes adventures, huge bonfires, free time-choose your own adventure, and some enjoyed time in the sauna followed by a dip in the lake!! Driving home from our retreat we happened upon the Menominee Reservation and were invited by a tribal elder to join them for a powwow. During the powwow we learned the meaning behind each item that was worn by those that danced and what the dancers were expressing and what inspires them to do so. We were so warmly received by this tribe and I am so grateful students and leaders had such a great opportunity. God moved in such wonderful ways over the weekend and I would like you to follow up with our students inquiring about it. Please ask them what they learned about sheep and the Good Shepherd, adventures at camp, the powwow, trip to Lambeau field, and or any other aspects they found meaningful about the retreat. Thank you LCC for supporting youth ministry in prayer, scholarships, and encouragement of all sorts along the way. God has planted many seeds of faith and the Good Shepherd continues to lead day after day.





Senior High November Programming

Sunday School Dates and Times: 11/5, 11/19 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. NO SS 11/12 and 11/26
Sunday Youth Group Dates: 11/5, 11/27 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Village Retreat November 10 through 12th

November 10th -12th we are going up to Covenant Harbor for a Senior High Fall Retreat!!! Hinsdale Covenant Church will gather with us to enjoy a fun weekend away at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in 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. Looking forward to a great weekend away!!

- | |
|---|
| <p>Covenant Point Packing List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

It's not too early to think about a summer job!!



Covenant Point Bible Camp Summer Staff Needed!!
Spread the word! Apply to join us for a summer of camp ministry!
Applications are now open!

Summer Staff: June 2 - Aug 10, 2024

* Applicants must be 18+ by June 16 and some positions require applicants to be 21+.

* Most leadership positions require earlier arrivals.

* Some positions require additional certifications. Details at www.cpbcc.com/staffopenings.

High School Volunteer Work Crew:

* Both **grounds** and **kitchen** positions are available

* Preference is given to applicants 16 years of age or older.

* We will accommodate second session work crew members to be out the week of July 14-20 for [UNITE 2024](#) if desired.

- Work Crew Session 1: June 9 - July 5 (4 weeks)
- Work Crew Session 2: July 6 - August 4 (4 weeks)

SUMMER STAFF AT COVENANT HARBOR APPLY NOW!!

Summer camp begins June 9 and completes on August 7. Staff training is for about 10 days prior to the first day of camp depending on the position. Details at: <https://covenantharbor.org/summer-staff/>

Finance

Giving through September 2023

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 417,317
Actual Expenses	<u>385,635</u>
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	31,682

INCOME VS. BUDGET

Regular Giving	350,416
Special Income	<u>2,499</u>
Total Income	352,915
Budgeted Giving	<u>417,317</u>
Giving Excess / (Shortfall)	(64,402)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Actual Income	352,915
Actual Expenses	<u>385,635</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>\$ (32,720)</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

November Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
11/5	Marie & Dave Oppedahl	Owen Youngman	Norm & Sharon Johnson	Bill (Marti) Anderson & Jim Krueger
11/12	Colleen & Craig Sparks	Karen Hinz	Bruce & Merileen Thorson	Same
11/19	Bill & Chris Anderson	Trevor James	Maggie Johnson & Carol Nielson	Same
11/26		Jim Pas	Caren & Lee Vollrath	Same
Date	Sunday School	Prayground	Sunday School Nursery	Worship Nursery
11/5	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3rd: Jim Gillette, 4-5: Sarah Palmberg, Lee Vollrath	None Needed		
11/12	Pre-School: K-3: 4-5: Sarah Palmberg, Lee Vollrath			Caren Vollrath & Ann Frost
11/19	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3rd: Jim Gillette, 4-5: Sarah Palmberg, Lee Vollrath	Rachel Couleur		Kat Tranel
11/26	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3rd: Jim Gillette, 4-5: Sarah Palmberg, Lee Vollrath	Angela Kocinski		Kirsten Peterson & Karin Hildebrandt

November Birthdays/Anniversaries

November Birthdays		Anniversaries
11/1 Paul Lundstedt	11/22 Eleanor Hickock	11/8/2003 Jenna and Bill Glader
11/5 Caren Vollrath	11/25 Titus Couleur Phillip Nauman	11/14/2009 Rachel and Paul Couleur
11/7 Ellen Hall	11/28 Janis Carlson	11/15/1997 Andrea and Jason Reynolds
11/10 Dylan Schau	11/29 Bev Schmidt	11/16/1975 Wylie & Ardyth Douglass
11/18 Marti Anderson Mirielle Nauman		11/28/1981 Roger & Julie Clausen 11/28/2003 Jim and Tina Gillette
11/21 Christine Cederberg		



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)

November Events

November 3	Sensible Ladies Book Group, 7 p.m.
November 4	Furniture Ministry, 8:00 a.m.
November 5	All Congregational Meeting
November 10-12	Village Retreat for Senior High
November 14	Worship Ministry Team Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
November 15	LAST Wednesday Night Together
November 16	Leadership Team Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
November 19	Thanksgiving Service, 6:30 p.m.
November 23	Happy Thanksgiving
November 24	Office Closed
November 28	Deacon Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Christian Education and Discipleship Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
November 29	Family Advent Night



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

Libertyville Covenant Church

250 S. St. Mary's Road, Libertyville, Illinois 60048
Pastor: Steve Larson, Church phone: 847-362-3308
www.libcov.org

November

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 WNT 6:30 Jr High YG	2 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Ping Pong	3 7:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Book Group	4 8:00 Furniture Ministry
5 9 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh. 12:00 Cong. Mtg 5:00 Sr. High YG	6 7:00 Monday SG	7	8 5:30 WNT 6:30 Jr. High YG	9 9:30 Women's Bible Study	10 7:00 Men's Bible Study Sr. High Village	11 Retreat
12 Village Retreat 9 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh	13 7:00 Monday SG	14 6:30 WMT Mtg.	15 5:30 WNT (last) 6:30 Jr. High YG	16 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4 pm Leadership 7:00 Ping Pong	17 7:00 Men's Bible Study	18
19 9 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Reh. 6:30 Thanks. Ser.	20 7:00 Monday SG	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving!!	24 Office Closed	25
26 9 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Choir Reh. 5:00 Senior Hi YG	27 7:00 Monday SG	28 7 CED Mtg (zoom) 7 Deacon Mtg.	29 Family Advent Nite 6:30 Jr High YG	30 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 Ping Pong		

NOTES: