



In the Spirit

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

March 2024

Volume 31 Issue 3

Loved, Cared for, Redeemed

- 1 Pastor Steve Article
- 2 March Worship Fellowship
- 3 Anchor Covenant Upcoming Events
- 4 Small Groups
- 5 Mission of the Month Membership
- Board Elections
- 6 Children's Ministries
- 8 Youth Ministries
- 10 Finance Leadership
- 11 March Volunteers
- 12 March Bdays/Anniversaries
- 13 March Events
- 14 March Calendar

Last month in our Immerse readings, we read the book of Hosea. This Minor Prophet was commanded by God to marry a prostitute named Gomer, whose unfaithfulness to Hosea would mirror Israel's unfaithfulness to God. She would run off with another man just as Israel had run off with other gods, idols they worshiped instead of God. Yet when her world fell apart due to her unfaithfulness, Hosea was commanded to ransom her from the men she ran away with and to make her once again his wife, to love her and care for her again. This was God's promise to His people that, when their worlds fall apart due to their own unfaithfulness, when they were exiled to foreign and hostile lands, God would ransom them and bring them back to their land and to Him, to be loved and cared for; to be redeemed. But the people did not listen to God's warning and promise through Hosea.

Some 750 years later, after God's people had been under the oppression of countless empires from Assyria to Babylon to Egypt to Rome, God once again spoke to His people, but this time not through a prophet. God came and spoke to them Himself through Jesus. He showed them His ways, taught them, demonstrated a life of worship and praise and love and welcome, and called them to follow Him once again. And when the people wandered off to follow other idols, to seek other treasures than God, He promised once again to ransom them and to bring them back to Him to be loved and cared for; to be redeemed. And when Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified, God Himself hung on a cross, He did it to show us what it means to be loved – so much so that God Himself would die for us. He did it to show us what it means to be cared for – so much so that God continues our caring relationship forever. He did it to show us what it meant to be redeemed – that Jesus would pay the ultimate price, giving His very life, for us so that we don't have to pay that ultimate price for our own sin.

Some 3 days later, when Jesus rose from the dead, He defeated death once and for all, for all of us. Now as followers of Jesus Christ, we live lives

where we are loved, cared for, and redeemed, forever. And in thanksgiving for this, we can live lives where we love, care for, and proclaim God’s redemption to those around us.

Notice what Gomer the prostitute had to do in order to be redeemed by Hosea. Notice what God commands us to do in order to be redeemed by Him. This Lenten season, when we are talking with people whose lives have fallen apart, let our message be one of the free grace given us by God, redemption without cost, and then let gratitude lead us to lives of worship, love, and justice.

March Worship



As we continue our Lenten journey together, we look at the life of the Apostle Peter and his Wandering Heart. Through the words of the hymn, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”, we will explore Peter’s story of his discipleship journey, which took him from his fisherman nets to Jesus’ side, to the cross and on to the empty tomb. How do our wandering hearts identify with Peter’s?

Our Holy Week remembrances will begin with Palm Sunday, continue on Good Friday as we join with our fellow Lake County Covenant churches, and finally lead us to the empty tomb on Resurrection Sunday.

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

Mar. 3	Praise the Mount	Matt. 16:13-20
Mar. 10	I’m Fixed Upon It	Matt. 16:21-23
Mar. 17	Teach Me	Matt. 18-15-22
Mar. 24	Songs of Loudest Praise (Palm Sunday)	John 12:12-16
Mar. 29	Good Friday	Luke 23:44-49
Mar. 31	Streams of Mercy (Easter Sunday)	John 13:1-20

Fellowship



food.faith.fellowship - LCC FUN!

Coffee Hour: The 2024 Year Sign Up sheet through May is available in the narthex. We need help with many Sundays! Please contact Christy James, Heather Larson or the office if you have questions.

Also, the signup sheet was sent out a couple of weeks ago for Wednesday night meals. Please consider signing up to help with a meal, set-up or clean-up.



Thank you for your generous love offering to Anchor Covenant church to help them rebuild after their recent fire. \$2700 was collected. Your love expressed in deed will be an encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Lake Geneva.
Caren Vollrath

In support of Anchor Covenant Church and their recent fire, Pastor Paul will be preaching there on March 10.

Upcoming Events!!



Senior High Youth Group Oak Wood Firewood Sale

The Youth Group will be selling, delivering and stacking firewood as a fundraiser for their Unite 2024 Conference. Currently, we have sold just over \$1,000 towards our fundraising goal. To fully fund our conference, we need to raise an additional \$2000. Let your friends and family know of this great opportunity to have wood delivered and stacked for these low prices!! Payment can be made by check in the office or time of delivery or on-line making sure that in the memo section designate "Firewood Fundraiser". Tips Welcome!

Quantity	Price
¼ of a cord is approximately 160 pieces	\$100
Face Cord	\$200
1 Cord	\$400

Click [HERE](#) to place your order!!



Hear ye, hear ye, it is time for you to register your questionable talent acts! Be Christ-like in your entries, that is, creative, joyful, and caring. No "roasts." If you don't yet have a name for your act, you can list it TBA (to be announced) and complete that later. If you have tech needs, please note those, but keep in mind this event is designed to be more "unplugged" or low-tech, though we will absolutely have mics so that everyone can hear. Those who cannot be with us in person can submit a video in advance; this works best if the recording is done in landscape mode as opposed

to portrait mode. Thank you and invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives! Any questions, reach out to one of the EST members. [Click HERE for Talent Show Sign Up](#)



Wednesday Night Together Wednesday April 3rd we will have an all-church event to celebrate the end of year. Event will take place between 5:30-7 pm. Details to come!

SEDER: Save the Date April 20th, Saturday

We hope that you can join us as we celebrate a Seder lead by Boaz Johnson. More information to follow.

All Church Clean Up: April 20th from 9 am to noon!!



The Sensible Ladies Book Club has decided to read a lighthearted classic!

Emma by Jane Austen is a sparkling comedy of love and marriage. With its imperfect but charming heroine and its witty and subtle exploration of relationships, *Emma* is often seen as Jane Austen's most flawless work. All are welcome to join in the fun when we discuss *Emma* on March 1, 2024,

7:00 pm at LCC. Questions? carenvollrath@gmail.com



Immerse: Prophets

Our small groups available to join are...
Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m. via Zoom, Wes Lindahl
Monday Night 7:00 p.m. In Person, Pastor Steve Larson
Monday Night 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, Jill Heath
Wednesday Night 6:30 p.m. In Person, Pastor Steve Larson

In the Covenant Church, we do our theology together in community because we need each other to grow in our faith. So please buy a book (discounts available for the asking) and choose a small group to join this year. Please call the small group leader listed to sign up for the group, and they will give you details.

We are all in need of being immersed in God's Word, and in need of each other. We can't do this as well without you, and you can't grow as well without each other. So please set the natural excuses aside, step out in faith and try something new. And just see how God blesses you this Spring with hope and peace through His word and His community.

UPDATE ON PADS!!

LCC has generously supported the PADS organization in many ways over the past 25-30 years. Things have changed a lot in those years. This year, provided Funding has given PADS the opportunity to house their homeless clients in hotel/motel rooms.

This change has meant that we are longer setting up mattresses for beds or serving hot meals for dinners. However....it still gives us the opportunity to provide food for these people in need.

Early in March, we will be asking for donations of food and other items that will be delivered to our homeless friends and families.

More information (and lists of needed items) will be available on Sunday, March 10th (YES....the Spring ahead Sunday

position. We are happy to say that Karin Lundstedt and Angela Kocinski have graciously offered to co-chair this position for a two-year term. Thanks Karin and Angela!

Thanks also to the following members who are stepping down from their leadership roles - Wes Lindahl (Deacon Chair), Julie Dahlberg, (Leadership Team, At Large) and Karin Lundstedt (Secretary). Our heartfelt thanks for your service over the years.

Finally, we congratulate Kris Nikkel on her 25th anniversary as LCC's choir director. Thanks Kris, for so many years of beautiful music and thoughtful worship planning. We look forward to what you may have for us in the future!

Children's Ministries

Wednesday Nights Together

5:30pm – Dinner for everyone

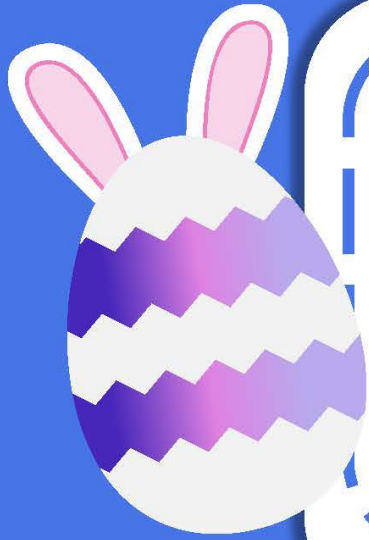
6:15pm – Veggie Tales Kids Fest (K – 5th grade)

6:30pm – Middle School Youth Group (6th – 8th grade)

6:30pm – Immerse Bible Study (9th grade – adults)

Over the weekend of February 16-19, Chelsi Nikkel and I were able to take 7 girls to the children's retreat at Covenant Harbor. The weekend focuses on God's "movements". Our speaker, Jenn Anderson, talked to us about the ways God moves from ordinary to extraordinary through prayer, an ordinary lunch of bread and fish, the Good News, and in the ordinary events in our lives. We sang worship songs, played "The Game", which we won by the way, and the girls all went on the giant swing. It was a wonderful weekend of encountering God and having a lot of fun! Feel free to ask Chelsi, Genevieve, Marin, or myself about all the fun we had.
Rachel Couleur



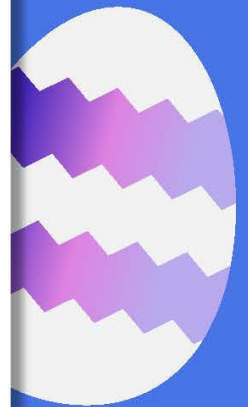


EASTER EGG HUNT

2-3:30 PM

250 N St. Marys RD
Libertyville, IL
60048

MARCH
30



RSVP | OFFICE@LIBCOV.ORG BY MARCH 23RD

Youth Ministries



JUSTIFIED: A 4-Week Series from the New Testament on **Anger**.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Anger is such a big, powerful emotion. When we're angry about things that matter, our anger can lead us toward action. Anger can even inspire us to make the world a better place! But other times, our anger can lead us to make choices that are harmful to ourselves or others. There are no escaping situations or people who make us angry, but how we respond when we're angry is up to us. So, if we can't completely avoid getting angry, what can we do? In this four-week series, we'll explore four passages of Scripture from both the Old and New Testaments that might challenge our view on anger. We'll learn practical skills like when we feel angry, pause to ask God why. We'll see how, when we're angry, Jesus shows us how to respond. And in our anger, we'll be challenged to show grace and not get hurtful.

Junior High March Programming

(Confirmation) Sunday School Dates and Times: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 (No SS 3/31)

Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 (NO YG 3/27 due to Spring Break)

March 20th: PADS Service Project. We will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. for dinner then load the van to deliver LCC's collection to PADS.

After Spring Break, our NEXT Youth group will be on April 3rd, Wednesday, **beginning at 6:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.**

Senior High March Programming

Sunday School Dates and Times: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. (No SS on 3/31)

Sunday Youth Group Dates: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 at 5:00 p.m. (No YG on 3/31)



Covenant Point provided a retreat for those in attendance focused on the theme of Shalom-- Peace of God. John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." In a world that seems filled with uncertainty and tension, this weekend was a refreshing time focused on the peace only Christ can provide. Students enjoyed fun and adventure: complete with worship, broomball tournament, polar bear dip, winter relay race, downhill skiing, silly games like happy salmon, night time tubing, and shared all sorts of meaningful times simply being together. Christ is the Prince of Peace. Christ has and will win victory over all the troubles that face us this day and I pray our students and leaders rest with this assurance. Students took steps of faith in all sorts of ways this weekend and thank God for his faithfulness in the weekend we shared. Please be sure to ask our students about their time away. What is Shalom? What is late night tube bowling like? What was the prayer room like at camp? How might we encourage you in your walk with Christ? These questions just might prime the pump for some great conversations about our time away. Thank you for investing in the youth ministry, entrusting them to my care, and prayerfully supporting our ministry here at LCC.



Finance

Giving through January 2024

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 46,054
Actual Expenses	<u>46,876</u>
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	(822)

INCOME VS. BUDGET

Regular Giving	41,973
Special Income	<u>2,243</u>
Total Income	44,216
Budgeted Giving	<u>46,054</u>
Giving Excess / (Shortfall)	(1,838)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Actual Income	44,216
Actual Expenses	<u>46,876</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$2,660)

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

Tech Coordinator: Noah James

Organist: Su-Yi Su

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Church Council Chair:

Caren Vollrath

Church Council Vice Chair:

Dave Anderson

Church Council Secretary:

Dennis Dieball

Treasurer:

Dave L. Anderson

LT Members at Large:

Suzy Nelson

Kevin Nikkel

Owen Youngman

Financial Secretary:

John Bethancourt

Christian Education and Discipleship (CED)

Angela Kocinski & Karin Lundstedt

Deacon Team:

David and Marie Oppedahl

Evangelism & Service Team:

Teresa Anderson

Worship Ministry Team:

Trevor James

Finance & Properties Team:

Kerry Monson

Connections Team:

Heather Larson

Christy James

March Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
3/3		Heather Larson	Donna Clark & Niki Papak	Bill (Marti) Anderson Jim Krueger
3/10		Lisa Kindstrom	Roger & Julie Clauson	Same
3/17	Susan Samuelson	Vicki Herrick	Dave & Darilyn Anderson	Same
3/24	Vicki Herrick & Maggie Johnson	Valerie Makkai	Carol & Dennis Dieball	Same
3/31		David Oppedahl	Pat & Joan Groody	Sane
Date	Sunday School			Worship Nursery
3/3	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3 rd : Jim Gillette, 4-5: Merileen Thorson			
3/10	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3 rd : Jim Gillette, 4-5: Merilee Thorson			Caren Vollrath
3/17	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3 rd : Jim Gillette, 4-5: Merileen Thorson			
3/24	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3 rd Paul and Karin Lundstedt, 4-5: Lee Vollrath			Kat Tranel
3/13	Easter Sunday: NO Sunday School			Kirsten Peterson & Karin Hildebrandt

March Birthdays/Anniversaries

March Birthdays		Anniversaries
3/3 Saly Lichter, Niki Papak	3/19 Clara Cederberg	3/2/1991 Caren and Lee Vollrath
3/6 Steve Larson	3/21 Scott Anderson	3/29/2003 Mark and Christine Cederberg
3/10 Angela Kocinski	3/23 Max Anderson, Kajsa Dalton	
3/13 Larissa Greenfield, Rachel Hickock, Kris Nikkel, Craig Splinter	3/28 Art Nikkel	
3/15 Julie Dahlberg, Michelle Pas 3/16 Kirk Johnson	3/31 Carol Nielson	
3/18 John Heintzelman, Kris Heintzelman, Pauline Raia, Tina Gillette		

Recurring Weekly Events

Sunday	9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Women's Small Group 9:00 Immerse VIA Zoom 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 7:00 p.m. Immerse VIA Zoom
Tuesday	6:30 p.m. 2 nd week Worship Ministry Team 7:00 p.m. 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 6:30 Immerse
Thursday	9:15 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)

March Events

- 3/1 Sensible Ladies Book Group, 7:00 p.m.
- 3/9 “No Talent” Talent Show, 6:30 p.m.
- 3/20 LAST Wednesday Night Together
Junior High PADS Night
- 3/24 Palm Sunday
- 3/24 Spring Break Begins
- 3/29 Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- 3/31 Easter Sunday

April 3rd begins Junior High Youth group at 6:00 p.m. and Immerse with Pastor Steve at 6:30 p.m.

[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



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.

Libertyville Covenant Church

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

March

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	2 8:00 Furniture Ministry
3 9:00 Sunday School Immerse (zoom) 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Choir Prac 5:00 SH Youth Gp	4 7 pm Small Group Immerse (Zoom)	5	6 5:30 WNT 6:30 Jr. High YG	7 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Ping Pong	8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Talent Show w/dessert
10 9:00 Sunday School Immerse (zoom) 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Choir Prac 5:00 SH Youth Gp	11 7 pm Small Group Immerse (Zoom)	12 6:30 pm WMT	13 5:30 WNT 6:30 Jr. High YG	14 9:30 Women's Bible Study	15 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	16
17 9:00 Sunday School Immerse (zoom) 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Choir Prac 5:00 SH Youth Gp	18 7 pm Small Group Immerse (Zoom)	19	20 5:30 WNT (last) 6:30 Jr. High YG (PADS)	21 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Leadership 7:00 Ping Pong	22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	23
24 9:00 Sunday School Immerse (zoom) 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Choir Prac 5:00 SH Youth Gp	25 7 pm Small Group Immerse (Zoom)	26 7 pm CED (zoom) 7 pm Deacons	27	28 9:30 Women's Bible Study	29 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Good Friday Service	30
31 10:30 Easter Worship Service						

NOTES: