



In the Spirit

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

April 2024
Volume 31 Issue 4

This is Good News

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Peter and the disciples had been through a lot with Jesus. Leaving everything to follow this Rabbi, becoming his Disciples, and then watching Him die, tortured to death by the very Romans He as Messiah was supposed to overthrow. But then came the Resurrection, and their worlds took on a whole new level of crazy. Jesus reminded them that His death paid the price for all of their sins, and for everyone else's. No more need for the sacrifices they had lived with their whole lives. No more need for temple, for Jesus was their temple now, the place where they met God, filled with His glory. Everything in their faith life had changed with His death, and then the rest changed with His resurrection. Now it wasn't just the sacrificial system and the temple that was obsolete – now DEATH ITSELF was obsolete. They would live forever with Jesus, after they died here on earth that is.



“So THAT happened.”

But now what? Jesus had stayed with them for a while, finishing up His teaching, reminding them – with this new perspective everything made a different kind of sense now – of all He had taught before. And then He left. He returned to heaven with a promise that He'd be back “soon”. So now what? Jesus had always been there to guide them before. He had always told them where to go and what to do. But now they were alone, left with nothing but memories and a mission – to make disciples of Jesus. And just how were they supposed to do that!?

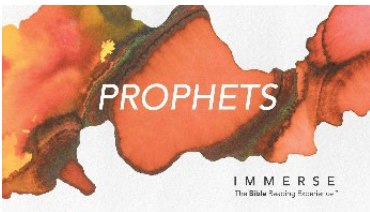
Jesus had an answer for them. And that answer was the Holy Spirit. Through God's Holy Spirit, given to the disciples on Pentecost and to all believers, some at their baptism, some before, but given to all of them, God would still guide them, empower them, and send them out in mission. And so they went, and the world was never the same.

And do you know what? You have been given the same gift as Peter, as John, as James, as Mary, as Cornelius, as all of those Christians who went before you. Jesus died to pay the price for YOUR sins, so you are free! Jesus rose again and YOU are in the midst of an eternal life with Jesus. YOU have been given the Holy Spirit, in your own unique way, but still the same Spirit. YOU have God's guidance through this Spirit. YOU are

empowered for ministry. And YOU have been sent out into this world by God to make disciples. This is more than Good News! This is God’s love poured out for YOU.

“So THAT happened.” For YOU. So now what?

April Worship



Having come through Lent, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, we will finish up our look at Peter’s journey with Jesus back fishing on the beach again. From there, we resume our study of the Prophets, looking at Obadiah and Ezekiel, and hearing what God has to say to us through His holy Word and his prophets. Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am in the sanctuary or on our [YouTube channel](#).

Apr. 7	Wandering Heart Wrap-up: “Here’s My Heart”	John 21:1-19
Apr. 14	The Fall	Obadiah
Apr. 21	Responsibility	Ezek. 33:7-12b
Apr. 28	Breath	Ezek. 37:1-14

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.

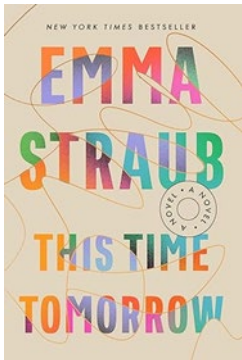


SEDER: Save the Date April 20th, Saturday

The Seder is the annual traditional Jewish ritual meal celebrating the Passover with song, food, teaching, and prayer. It was while celebrating the Seder with His disciples that Jesus instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion which is a redirection of the Seder supper itself. On Apr. 20, we will gather once again as a community to celebrate a Christian Seder supper. Dr. Boaz Johnson will lead us through the Seder, explaining and teaching the traditions and meanings, even as we take part in the meal together. As a family meal, all ages are welcome to join us. More information will follow soon, but please Save the Date on Apr. 20 from 5-8pm for our Seder Celebration at LCC.

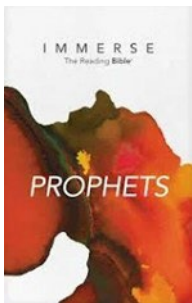


All Church Clean Up: April 27th from 9 am to noon!! Lots to do inside and out! Many hands make for light work.



Sensible Ladies Bookclub

Our spring reading selection will be This Time Tomorrow by Emma Straub. Alice awakens on her 40th birthday back in 1996 with the opportunity to see her ailing father when he was young, vital and charming. With a new perspective on her own life and his, what would she change given the chance? All are welcome for a friendly and fun discussion! April 19th 7:00 pm downstairs in the youth room. Questions? Contact Caren Vollrath carenvollrath@gmail.com



Immerse: Prophets

Small groups continue with our all church study of the prophets through the Immerse readings. The study will continue until May 24. This study is one you can join mid way through, so if your schedule has freed up after Easter and you would like to join an existing group, you are welcome at any time, books are available on line or through the office.

Please see the existing group schedule below:
Sunday Morning: 9:00AM via Zoom, Wes Lindahl
Monday Night: 7:00 PM in person, Pastor Steve
Monday Night: 7:00PM via Zoom, Jill Heath
Wednesday Night: 6:30 in person, Pastor Steve

Our 3 adult Sunday school classes continue every Sunday at 9am through May 19. These are an Immerse: Prophets study with Wes Lindahl, a women's bible study of Colossians with Michelle Pas, and Covenant Conversations with Paul Hawkinson. All are excellent ways for us to grow in our faith and encourage one another along the way.

Sunday School continues through May 19 for Pre-K-adults.

The children have been studying lessons from The Gospel Project in preK-5th grade. Our Jr High youth have been in Confirmation and the Sr High have been in a 4-week study in the New Testament on anger called Justified.

Membership

Church Membership Class – April 21 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! *David and Marie Oppedahl, deacon co-chairs*

Mission



PADS PROJECT

A big THANK YOU to all who contributed items for PADS. Thanks also to Kris Heintzelman and Donna Clark who helped sort and categorize all that was donated. A special thank-you to the youth and Pastor Paul who packed up the van (there wasn't a square inch of space left!) and unpacked everything when we reached the site where 200 homeless people were housed. We were graciously and thankfully received there. Praise God! our church family has once again fulfilled a need in feeding the poor.



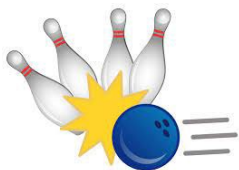


Jill's House The next campout weekend for Jill's House is April 12th – 14th at Covenant Harbor. If more information is needed contact Kansas Dave Anderson.



Thank you to Trevor James and all the people that supported him in upgrading our projection systems in the sanctuary.

Children's Ministries



Wednesday Night Together Wednesday Night Together is **wrapping up on April 3** at 5:00-6:30 with a *Bowling and Pizza party* at Bowlero in Vernon Hills. It has been a great Winter and Spring learning together with Veggie Tales and other fun. A big **Thank You** to Angela, Pauline, Jim and Nate for guiding our Pre-K - fifth graders this semester. **This is also the end of year party for the Junior High Youth Group.** The cost is \$10 per student and RSVP to the office or Pastor Paul to reserve your space.

Youth Ministries



GLOW: A 2-Week Series from The Gospels on **Easter**.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Easter Sunday is supposed to be a time of joy and celebration (cue the candy, pastel eggs, and sunshine). But before Easter Sunday could happen, Good Friday had to happen first. Before the joy, hope, and light of Jesus' resurrection could be experienced, Jesus and his followers first had to experience some deeply frightening, painful, hopeless, and dark moments. Maybe you've had moments like that before too. This Easter, whether you feel like you're living in the darkness of Good Friday or the light of Easter Sunday, there's something new Jesus wants to help you discover about his death and resurrection. In this two-week series from the Gospels, we'll discover Easter isn't just something that happened 2,000 years ago — it's something that's still happening today. We'll discover Jesus is with us in the darkness, and Jesus is the light in the darkness.

The retelling of the Easter Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdn1R90kX9A>

Junior High April Programming

(Confirmation) Sunday School Dates and Times: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Youth Group Dates: 4/3 (4:00), the rest are from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.

Confirmation is on the home stretch. Students are working on their end-of-year projects, learning the last few lessons, and then preparing for Confirmation Sunday coming up on May 5. This is always an important and deeply meaningful Sunday, filled with testimonies, scripture, music, and Communion shared together. Please

plan to come and support our 8th graders (Lars Palmberg, Kelly Sawyer, Carson Hawkinson) on this important day. **Pastor Steve**

April kicks off with a bowling and pizza party taking place at Bowlero in Vernon Hills, IL. Meeting from 5:00-7:00p.m., we will bowl as much as is possible for an hour and a half followed by a pizza party . The cost for the event will be \$10 for students. This event is for the whole family and I hope that parents might join in the fun as well. Please RSVP for the event so that we can have the fitting amount of lanes reserved and food provided. Please RSVP as soon as possible to let Debbie know we can plan on you for the fun.

Thank you to all of those that participate in the PADs service event that took place on March 30th. We packed the church van full of supplies that were needed for our neighbors in Waukegan. Thank you Maggie Johnson for helping our church steward varied gifts to those in need in such tangible ways.

As we finish our year together let us now stop short of the finish line my friend. We are encouraged by 1 Cor 9:23-25 "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." Weekly we listen to God at work in each other's lives, encourage each other, and fan the faith while having all sorts of fun. We will not grow weary of doing so as we encourage youth to pursue the crown that is eternal. We will meet every week in April and finish our year on May 1st. Please notice we will meet from 6:00-7:30p.m. in the month of April & May 1st. Looking forward to seeing you there!! **Pastor Paul**

Senior High April Programming

Sunday School Dates and Times: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Youth Group Dates: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28 at 5:00 p.m.

Thank you to all the people that supported our firewood fundraising efforts. We raised over \$2,000 for our Unite 2024 trip. Special thanks to Mike Collins for the use of his truck and organization!! We have one more cord of wood to sell, so let's finish strong. Every dollar counts.

And down the stretch they come!! This familiar phrase is often heard by the announcer as participants round the last turn of a race with the finish line now insight. Hopeful filled eyes now propelled to muster up all that is within them to finish the race well hearing the crowd cheering them on is quite the experience to behold. We hope to encourage all of you to end the year together with great convictions, commitment, and hopes for a faithful finish. The Apostle Paul frames faithful running of a race in 1 Cor 9:23-25 point out the reason we run, how we run, and the prize ahead that we pursue. Cheering each other in faith seeing that we finish well is a hope for all to share.

We will finish out our year together with meaningful bible studies Sunday mornings engaging students with statements and claims that circulate the world today. Inviting them to see how scripture engages with what is named and how God's word might inform one's understanding. The conversations and study are inspired and led by the questions and answers our senior high students provide. Please continue to come with your questions and let's seek the answers together.

Sunday evenings during youth group we will focus on how the earliest followers of Jesus created a new community as God's family. Through their example, we'll learn that there is enough when we share what we have--and when it seems there isn't enough, God provides. To close out our month together we will need to pay

attention to our actions and how they might speak when words simply aren't enough. With Christ we are made whole and enough is provided for our needs. We look forward to cheering on our students when they grow weary and are running out of hope by filling them up again with the good news of Jesus.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the end of year party that will take place on April 28th. More details for this party will be shared in the coming weeks. **Pastor Paul**



Finance

Giving through February 2024

EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses	94,360
Actual Expenses	<u>92,030</u>
Cost Savings / (Overrun)	2,330

INCOME VS. BUDGET

Regular Giving	77,316
Special Income	<u>4,491</u>
Total Income	81,807
Budgeted Giving	<u>94,360</u>
Giving Excess / (Shortfall)	(12,553)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Actual Income	81,807
Actual Expenses	<u>92,030</u>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$10,223)

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

April Volunteer Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Lay Reader	Greeters	Ushers
4/7	Kristy Miller	Caren Vollrath	Wylie and Ardyth Douglass	Bob Hartnett & Al Nielson
4/14	Kelly Sawyer and Angela Kocinski	Dan Frost	Dan and Ann Frost	Same
4/21	Beth Hjelm and Carol Dieball	Tom Borkman	Jenna and Bill Glader	Same
4/28		Thor Papak	Dan Doherty	Same
Date	Sunday School			Worship Nursery
4/7	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3 rd : Jim Gillette, 4-5: Sarah Palmberg and Lee Vollrath			
4/14	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3 rd : Jim Gillette, 4-5: Sarah Palmberg and Lee Vollrath			Caren Vollrath
4/21	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3 rd : Jim Gillette, 4-5: Sarah Palmberg and Lee Vollrath			
4/28	Pre-School: Angela Kocinski, K-3 rd Paul and Karin Lundstedt, 4-5: Jim Gillette and Lee Vollrath			Kirsten Peterson & Karin Hildebrandt

April Birthdays/Anniversaries

April Birthdays		Anniversaries
4/2 Karin Hildebrandt, John Nelson	4/18 Caitlain Bethancourt	4/4/1987 Brian and Cindy Johnson
4/4 Joan Groody	4/19 Kris Heintzelman	4/5/1980 Steve and Ellen Hall
4/6 Sarah Larson	4/20 Rachel Couleur	4/12/1975 Bob and Martha Peterson
4/7 Ben Beckstrom	4/23 Jill Heath	4/14/2007 Dennis and Carol Dieball
4/9 Ann Frost	4/24 Kristen Bethancourt, Owen Youngman	
4/12 Jim Gillette, Jackie Splinter	4/25 Dave L. Anderson, Christy Beckstrom	
4/15 Bennett Albers, Craig Sparks	4/27 Al Nielson	
4/17 Grace James, John McLinden	4/28 Tim Albers, Brenda Monson	

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	6:00 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)

UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

May 5 **Confirmation**
May 19 **Last Sunday School and Church Picnic**



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: 847-362-3308
www.libcov.org

April

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:45 Immerse Zoom 7:00 Monday SG	2 6:00 Jr Hi YG	3 6:00 Jr Hi YG	4 9:15 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Ping Pong	5 7:00 Men's Bible Study	6 8:00 Furniture Ministry
7 9:00 Immerse Zoom 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5 pm Senior YG	8 6:45 Immerse Zoom 7:00 Monday SG	9 6:30 WMT mtg	10 6:00 Jr Hi YG	11 9:15 Women's Bible Study	12 7:00 Men's Bible Study	13 10 Outside Wedding
14 9:00 Immerse Zoom 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5 pm Senior YG	15 6:45 Immerse Zoom 7:00 Monday SG	16	17 6:00 Jr Hi YG	18 9:15 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Leadership Mtg. 7:00 Ping Pong	19 7:00 Men's Bible Study	20 9:00 All Church Clean-Up 5:00 Seder
21 9:00 Immerse Zoom 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5 pm Senior YG	22 6:45 Immerse Zoom 7:00 Monday SG	23 7:00 Deacon mtg 7:00 CED (zoom)	24 6:00 Jr Hi YG	25 9:15 Women's Bible Study	26 7:00 Men's Bible Study	27 9:00 All Church Work Day 3:30 Piano Recital
28 9:00 Immerse Zoom 9:00 Sun School 10:30 Worship 12 Choir Practice 5 pm Senior YG (last one)	29 6:45 Immerse Zoom 7:00 Monday SG	30				