

# Evangelical Covenant Church

## April 21, 2024

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**Life at ECC**

Meghan McClellan  
Director of Worship and Music

**Worship in Song**

“Open Up the Heavens”  
“This Is Our God”  
“King of Kings”

**Morning Prayer**

Chuck Potts  
Pastor of Young Adults

**Children’s Message and Blessing**

**Scripture Reading**

Courtney FitzSimons  
[Matthew 11:28-30 \(msg\)](#)

**Sermon**

Reverend Lisa Orris  
**Trying Harder Doesn’t Work**

**Worship in Song**

“Run to the Father”

**Benediction**

**Next Week’s Scripture**

[Revelation 19:11-20:15](#)

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**To Know God, Follow Jesus, and Pursue God's Purposes in the World**

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## **THIS WEEK AT ECC**

<b>Today</b>	9:00am	Adult Christian Formation, Great Room
	10:30am	Worship, Sanctuary and Online Toddler Nursery (Birth-3 years old) <b>Kids Out Loud</b> (3yrs - Kindergarten), Room 5
		<i>mid-service</i> , <b>Kids Out Loud</b> (1st-5th Grade), Life Center
	12:00pm	Newcomer's Lunch, Great Room
<b>Monday</b>	9:00am	ECC Pickleball, Life Center Gym
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:30am	MOPS/MOMSnext, Life Center
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30am	Men's Bible Study, Zoom
	6:30pm	Men's Group, Room 10
	6:30pm	Youth Group, Life Center
<b>Thursday</b>	3:00pm	Miller Afterschool JAM, Life Center
	5:30pm	Bauer Family Meal, Bauer Community Center
	5:30pm	Pervasive Prayer, Prayer Room
<b>Friday</b>	9:00am	ECC Pickleball, Life Center Gym
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00am	ECC Pickleball, Life Center Gym

## **Save the Date**

May 19	Congregational Meal and Meeting
June 4-6	Summer XP

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Please help us in welcoming **Reverend Lisa Orris**. Lisa is the founder of Grief Guide and Silver Lake Retreat, who's mission statement is to guide people, organizations, companies and communities through grief. She has experienced deep grief herself after her oldest son, Billy, was killed in a motorcycle accident in 2015. Prior to starting Grief Guide, Lisa received her Masters of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary and is an ordained Pastor in the Covenant Church. She served as Lead Pastor at Hope Church in Crystal Lake, IL until 2021, and as interim Lead Pastor at Valley Covenant Church alongside Pastor Chuck Potts before he joined us at ECC in 2022. You can learn more about Grief Guide and about Reverend Lisa [here](#).

**Newcomers' Lunch:** Are you new to ECC? Are you looking for a way to get connected? If you said yes to either or both of these questions, we invite you to our Newcomers' Lunch TODAY following the service.

**Intro to ECC:** We are holding our Introduction to ECC class, next week, April 28 at noon. The class includes lunch and will last 2 and a half to three hours. If you're interested in learning more about ECC, we would love to have you join us. This class is required for those who wish to join ECC, but taking part in the class does not obligate you to do so. Sign up [here](#).

**Landscape Area Adoption:** If you enjoy making outdoor areas look beautiful including our Rain Garden and Biblical Herb Garden, we would love your help. ECC has several landscaped areas that are maintained by ECC attenders, and we are looking for more volunteers. It is roughly a twice-a-month commitment to weed and maintain an adopted landscaped area. If you are interested in adopting one or more of these landscape areas, please [email Pastor Kurt](#) for more information.

**Serving Opportunities:** So many people faithfully serve up front and behind the scenes every week here at ECC—and we are thankful! Finding a place to serve is an important way to support and engage our mission.

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**Summer XP:** It's time for Summer XP at Miller Elementary! This year, we're planning to share the best of Summer XP with students for three evenings: June 4-6. Each night we'll serve dinner, sing songs, focus on a Bible story, play games, and participate in science experiments together. We're looking for adults and teens who are excited to serve, and we're looking for students entering Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade who are excited to participate. Registration opens next week. Contact [Pastor Kristin](#) with any questions.

**Book Club:** Join us for our first ever men's and women's book club! We will meet on Thursday, May 9 at 7:00pm, in the ECC Great Room, to discuss *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann. *The Wager* is a grand tale of human behavior at the extremes told by one of our greatest nonfiction writers. We hope you can join us for this thrilling book. Find out more at [here](#) and get reading today!

**Adult Christian Formation:** Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Great Room. This adult class is doing a series entitled *Old Testament Survey*.

### Men's Ministry

- **Wednesday Morning Men's Fellowship:** Join us each week at 6:30am. The Wednesday Morning Men's group is studying a commentary by NT Wright on Romans 1-8. This group is currently meeting via Zoom. For an invite, please email [Ken Ritchey](#). We'd love to see you there!
- **Wednesday Evening Study:** Pastor Kurt's weekly study meets Wednesdays in Room 10 at 6:30pm. They will do a one hour inductive bible study that tracks with our sermon series. We hope you can join them.

### Women's Ministry:

- **Women's Breakfast:** On May 18 at 9:30am, we will be gathering for breakfast at Christo's (3291 Teal Rd). We will have breakfast and conversation and connection with other women. The only cost is what you pay for your own meal. We hope to see you there! [RSVP is appreciated](#).

**MOPS/MOMSNext:** Whether expecting your first or sending your last off to college, MOPS/MOMSNext has a place for you! MOPS/MOMSNext exists to nurture a community that allows each mom to grow as an individual and in relationships with her family, other moms, and Jesus. Our next meeting is April 23 from 9:30-11:30am. [MOPS/MOMSNext](#) is open to any mom in the community, so we encourage you to invite neighbors and friends who might be looking for a place to connect!

## Youth:

- **Gatherings:** Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings throughout the semester for a time of snacks, getting to know other students, Bible study, and small group. We meet from 6:30-8:00pm each Wednesday in the Life Center. Doors open at 6pm each week for those who would like to arrive early. Contact [Pastor Kristin](#) or [Pastor Chuck](#) with questions.
- **Youth Group Plus:** All Middle and High School students are invited to join us on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month, from 6:30-8:00pm, for a night of community together. We recognize that not every student is available on Wednesday nights consistently, so these gatherings will be another great opportunity to come and have fun together and meet new friends.

## Children's Ministry:

- Our nursery, preschool, and kindergarten children meet in the main building, down the hall from our worship space. You can check in for these classes at the west entrance table. Our 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students begin in worship with their families. Midway through our worship service, they are invited to a class in the Life Center building.

**Central Conference Celebration:** Mark your calendars to celebrate the things God is doing in the Central Conference! The Central Conference Celebration will take place on May 2-4. The Central Conference Ministerial Association gathers from May 2-3, and delegates from the Central Conference churches gather for the Central Conference (CCECC) annual meeting, May 3-4. Delegates will meet at Batavia Covenant Church in Batavia, IL. ECC can send up to 4 delegates. If you would like to attend [contact Pastor Kristin](#). You may find more details on the [Central Conference Celebration website](#).

**Pickle Ball at ECC:** Pickle ball is now available at ECC!! If you've never played, now's the time to get involved! We'll teach you how to play. We have 3 courts and plenty of spare paddles and game balls. Just be sure to wear tennis shoes. We're open to all levels of play and especially looking forward to making new friends. We'll limit play to members and attenders of ECC and their invited guest. If you would like to get an email with schedule updates let us know [here](#).

**Name Change Update:** For the past year, a few of us have been prayerfully considering a name change at ECC. We believe that if God is leading us to change our name, we will discern these things as a community together, so your prayer and input are invaluable. Please join us in prayer over the next week or two by downloading and praying through this [prayer guide](#). As you pray and seek to listen to God, please email us with any thoughts you may have, anything that stands out to you, at [namechange@ecclife.net](mailto:namechange@ecclife.net).

## Please Pray For:

**Upcoming Surgery:** Matthias Hatke

**Recovery from Surgery:** Nancy Crum, Marilyn Ziemer, Allen Busenitz

## Health Concerns

ECC Attenders: Terri Clark, Matt Helmerick, Westyn Antonian, Marilyn Grenat, Destiny Hatke, Esau Hatke, Maxine Balkema, Freda Brock, John Brock, Bonnie Brockman, Marge Elliott, Tammy Faulkinbury, Shelly Fishback, Vickie Henry, River Lail, Margaret Maitlen, Judi Stanfield, Jill Taul, Jane Warner, Dawn Witter

ECC Attenders' Family: John and Andrea Barrett's niece (Jenn Edwards), Deb Burrow's parents (Chuck and Rosemary Vendl), Reba Kinder's sister (Trudi Morgan), Kim Gibson's mom (Kay Brady), Kyra McIntosh's dad (Mike), John Barrett's sister (Pat Sheahan), Lynette Hamer's mom (Caroline Wiatt), Pam Gellenbeck's brother (Mike Swindle), Bill Senesac's brother (Don Senesac), April Wiley's dad and stepmom (David and Mary Holscher), Linda Jones' husband (Roy Jones) and father (Don Nelson), Sandy Waninger's father (Jim Siegfried), Matt Waninger's sister (Lisa Reynolds) and brother (Brian Waninger), Lisa Kohl's brother (Tony Kohl), Kari Ekenstedt's father (Bob Ekenstedt) and mother (Sheila), Linda Shute's mother (Judy Shute)

**Mission of the Week:** Allen and Marabeth Busenitz, The Navigators, Purdue

**Service Person of the Week:** Caleb Crum, Air Force, Todd and Pam Crum's son

**Prayer Focus:** Sunday Services: Worship and Audio/Visual Teams (Director Meghan McClellan), Website Sermons, Live Streams, Greeters and Ushers

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**Care Team:** As Care Team members, our hope is to care for and support those who are hurting during challenging times. We will listen, be present with you, and pray for you. Please respond [here](#) to have one of our referrals coordinators contact you.

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## Stewardship at a Glance

April Budget (4 wks)	\$65,283	Fiscal Year Budget 7.1.23-3.31.23	\$652,830
Weekly Amount Needed	\$16,321	Fiscal Year Giving 7.1.23-3.31.23	\$626,576
Last Week's Offering	\$17,359	Fiscal Year Expenses 7.1.23-3.31.23	\$671,773
April Amnt Received (2 wks)	\$29,227		
April Amnt Needed (2 wks)	\$36,056		

Go to [ecclife.net/connect](https://ecclife.net/connect) to find out ways you can connect with others in the ECC community.



To give online, follow this [link](#) or follow the link in the Bible App.

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