This is the place where you get to hear the heart of our pastors and leadership for our church.
THINGS THAT ARE EXCITING TO PASTOR LARS

“There are a lot of things that excite me as we jump into fall at Hinsdale Covenant Church. Rather than write a letter outlining my excitement, I thought I’d give you a sense of where my mind is - moving in many directions with lots of joy, energy and thanksgiving. Enjoy and thanks for reading”

JOY HAS A NEW TITLE
Joy has officially accepted a new job title and job description. Joy’s new title is ‘Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation’. It is a 20 hour a week job that encompasses Alpha, Adult Education, Preaching and other various pastoral responsibilities. I’m so thankful for how God had led Joy and Justin to us. Feel free to offer your congratulations when you next see Joy.

A NEW LIBRARY AND LIBRARIAN
You may have noticed some new shelves up on our second level directly above the Garden Court. That is the location of our new Library space. Justin Lawrence will be serving us as our new librarian. We will have all our books set up in the next couple of weeks, and Justin will be around on Sunday mornings with recommendations for you!

MINISTRY FAIR
We had an excellent Rally Sunday and one of the highlights for me was our ‘Bearing Fruit’ Ministry Fair. I loved seeing our council leadership offering opportunities to serve. If you’re looking for a place to bear fruit and get involved, don’t hesitate to ask me.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE
I’m excited to continue our two service model, with Traditional Worship at 9:00am and Contemporary Worship at 10:30am. We’ll offer Children’s Church during the 9:00am service and our BLAST Children’s program during 10:30. Nursery care will be available all morning long.

A NEW WAYS OF COMMUNICATING
Our office staff has been working really hard on some new communication vehicles. You should visit our updated website - www.hinsdalecovenant.com - and take a look at our new display wall in the first floor hallway which includes some ways for you to deepen roots and learn more about our ministry partners.

CANOPY COURSE UPDATE
We’re in the second half of our Adult Discipleship Course called the Canopy Course. The participants are Doug Morey, Kathy Brush, Doug Peckenpaugh, Kathryn Band, and Adam Dalton. We’ve been meeting monthly since March and can’t wait to take a pilgrimage to Scotland in November.

MISSION INDIA UPDATE
I’m excited about our mission trip to India on January 4-18 to serve at Agape and the Hindustani Covenant Church and visit Delhi and the Taj Mahal. We are able to accommodate folks that may still want to join us but have some conflict with the dates. Yogi will be staying in India and is willing to help with alternate dates and overlapping schedules as well. If you are interested, let us know. Please continue to hold our mission partners in your prayers.
FOCUS ON NEW AND GROWING AREAS OF MINISTRY

This Fall, we want to highlight some ministries that are either new or have been updated. Get involved, join the flourishing!

**ALPHA**

Alpha is a worldwide program that explores the basics of Christian faith. Each session focuses on a different question about faith and is designed to create conversation. The Alpha course provides an open, informal space to sit down and discuss what really matters in life. Consider inviting a friend who is exploring faith. Weekly Wednesday sessions at 6:30p, 9/20 - 11/29. To get involved or ask questions, contact Pastor Joy.

**ROOTED GROUPS**

We had a very successful launch of our new Rooted Groups program last fall. We desire that everyone who calls this church home would be involved in a rooted group. To join an in-home or at-church rooted group, visit www.hinsdalecovenant.com/rootedgroups. Start deepening roots today by joining one of these excellent groups!

**ADULT EDUCATION**

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 or 10:15 for a time of studying God’s Word with others. Our faithful teachers will be facilitating each week as we walk through the Gospel of Mark. This is a great opportunity to walk through a gospel and dig more deeply into God’s word. Both hours of adult education will be the same content.

**REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**

We had a very successful three week initiative in August as we look at the realities of the worldwide Refugee crisis and what we as a church might do to be a part of the solution. We are in the process of forming a Refugee Resettlement team to continue to partner with World Relief DuPage to meet the needs of recently placed refugees in our area. For more info, contact Alana Klimkowski.

UPDATE FROM PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR FRANK PEARD

The Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet on a regular basis as we prepare for the future of our pastoral staff. We have spent the last couple of months assessing the parameters of our search and the needs that we currently have as well as anticipated needs after Pastor Paul’s retirement in May of 2018. We are anticipate officially opening a search for a full time Associate Pastor sometime in October. We are currently filling out a church profile for the Covenant denomination, writing an official job description, and communicating with our budget committee to plan for next year, with the hope of hiring our new Associate Pastor in early 2018. Our hope is that this new pastor would have some overlap with Pastor Paul. When we have completed the job description for this position, we will make that available to the congregation. We are also in the process of commissioning a special committee to help us think through what it looks like for our church to faithfully celebration Pastor Paul for his ministry with us and 40 years of full time ministry. You will be hearing much more about that going forward. We would invite you to join us for our monthly prayer gatherings as we seek God’s will for our Pastoral search. Our next gathering will be October, 17th at 7pm. Thank you for your prayers. We are excited about how God is leading our committee. Please let me know if you have any questions about our process.
BLESS is a six week sermon series beginning 9/10. God’s way of reaching and restoring the world has always been through blessing. These five missional practices make up the acronym BLESS and are a way to participate in the strategy God gave Abraham to reach the world. "And I will bless you...and you will be a blessing.” As we engage these practices daily, we partner with God’s Spirit to bless those who do not know him.

BLESS IS AN ACRONYM THAT STANDS FOR

Begin with Prayer
Listen with Care
Eat Together
Serve with Love
Share Your Story

MISS A SUNDAY THIS FALL?
Listen to our sermon podcasts all fall long. Search “Hinsdale Covenant” on iTunes and Soundcloud.