



lincolnchristianchurch.org
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The Christian Call

Worship Services

8:15 am | Sanctuary
8:15 am | Fellowship Center
9:30 am | Fellowship Center
10:45 am | Fellowship Center

The November/December 2024 Issue | Volume 73 | Number 11

Christmas Countdown



We are partnering with
Center for Youth and Family
Solutions in Lincoln to serve 100
children with Christmas presents.

Giving Tree Tag Distribution
is Sunday, Dec. 8, between
services by the Welcome Center.

All gifts are due Sunday, Dec. 15
in the gift bag provided.



THE CENTER FOR
YOUTH & FAMILY
SOLUTIONS
cysolutions.org

Church Office 217.732.7618 lcchurch@lincolnchristianchurch.org
Church Website www.lincolnchristianchurch.org



PREACHING MINISTRY

[ron.otto@
lincolncatholicchurch.org](mailto:ron.otto@lincolncatholicchurch.org)

217.732.7618 x 104

The Work of Christmas

What comes to mind when you read, "The Work of Christmas?" For most, I suspect, it's things like shopping, wrapping presents, decorating, cleaning the house, buying groceries, baking sweets, and cooking Christmas dinner. It's getting ready for all the guests. It's making sure the gifts are ready and everyone is receiving something they wished for. It's going to church on Christmas Eve and taking family pictures and just working through this list already has my head hurting. That's a lot of work.

For some, it's even more challenging. Because of illness or recent loss, Christmastime can be some of our hardest days, full of grief, sadness, and depression. For some, the work of Christmas includes dealing with emotions of hurt, loneliness, and disappointment. This would make any holiday "work."

I wouldn't be a bit surprised if on Christmas Day, after the gift giving, after the meals, after the dishes have been done, and the guests leave, there's a collective sigh of relief that our Christmas work is done. But what if it's really not?

In Luke 4, Jesus has returned to his hometown of Nazareth—His birth place. There he is asked to read from the scroll in the synagogue service. Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah. It's a section regarding what the Messiah would come to do. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, set captives free, restore sight to the blind, rescue the oppressed, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* (Luke 4:18-19)

This is a beautiful prophecy regarding the work the coming Messiah would accomplish for mankind. This is the work of Christmas. This is what Jesus was coming to do. Once Jesus read this, he closed the scroll and announced, "Today, this scripture is fulfilled."

This Christmas, our sermon series will be greatly different than the old telling of shepherds and wisemen, of angels and inn keepers, of Joseph and Mary. We're going to unpack how amazing this announcement was, not only for Ancient Israel, but also for us today. This is the good news of Jesus' birth. This is the Work of Christmas.



Upcoming Series

- 12/8 To Find the Lost
- 12/15 To Heal the Broken
- 12/22 To Free the Captives
- 12/29 To Proclaim the Year of the Lord's Favor

Jolly Seniors

Wednesday, December 11

10 am - 12:30 pm

**Lincoln Christian Church
Fellowship Center**

Program: Tim Searby & Friends

Devotions: Michael Mallick

Lunch: Roast Pork from Guzzardo's

Next meeting: *No January meeting*

Please bring cookies or sweet treats to share!

We also need big "to-go" containers
for yourself and others to take leftovers.



**Welcome New Members
By Baptism:**

Sun., 10/20/24—Sienna Pollock
Sutton Pollock
Nickolas Walker





ADULT MINISTRY

brandon.boyd@lincolinchristianchurch.org

217.732.7618 x 103



Join us for the Next Steps Experience

Join us for December's one-hour experience where we walk you through next steps on your spiritual journey—faith, friends, making an impact. **It's a "road trip" that you won't want to miss.**

This is designed to be your **very first step** beyond attending a worship service and is great for people new to Christianity, new to Lincoln Christian Church, or those who have spiritual questions. Hosted by Brandon Boyd, Minister of Adult Discipleship.

You can register for the Starting Point Experience at lincolinchristianchurch.org/events.

Spring sign-ups

In January, you will have the opportunity to take some important next steps in faith. There will be opportunities to sign up for LifeGroups, Sunday School Classes, and Bible Studies. We will also be having sign-ups for ministry teams where you can join with others in making an impact in our church and in our world.

End-of-year giving

If you would like to give for the 2024 tax year, all giving needs to be post-marked by December 31, 2024, dropped off at the church office by noon on December 31, or completed online by midnight on December 31.

Help with disaster response?

Our Harvest of Talents for World Hunger primary partner is the International Disaster Emergency Service (I.D.E.S.). One of the services they offer in the United States is disaster response training. This training would help us partner with I.D.E.S. to serve areas hit by disasters (think Florida, North Carolina, etc.). If this training is something that would interest you, please let me know. I think this could be a real ministry opportunity for our church, but we need a group of about 10-12 to make the training worthwhile. — Brandon

Men on Fire

Join with other men as they study ways to apply the powerful truths of the Bible to daily life. Men on Fire meets Wednesday evenings this fall at 6:30 pm. The current study is *Person of Interest Investigator's Guide: Why Jesus Still Matters in a World that Rejects the Bible*.



MEN ON FIRE

A word of thanks

I want to take the opportunity to thank all our ministry team leaders and members, our teachers, Life-Group leaders, coaches, and Bible study leaders. Your ministry is very important to the work of Lincoln Christian Church and our mission to influence Lincoln, Logan County, the United States and the world for Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!



If you use designated offering envelopes, the 2025 envelopes will be available at the Welcome Center starting December 22. If you haven't used envelopes and would like to do so, please contact our Financial Secretary at: linda.mourning@lincolinchristianchurch.org.





STUDENT MINISTRY

zach.ramsey@lincolinchristianchurch.org

217.732.7618 x 111

Website—lccstudents.com

Instagram—[@lcc_stumin](https://www.instagram.com/lcc_stumin)

Facebook—[/lccsm](https://www.facebook.com/lccsm)



Text updates from the Student Ministry



For Jr. High, text **jhfuel** to 97000.
For High School, text **thegathering** to 97000.

You will receive text messages from Lincoln Christian Church. No purchase necessary. Message & data rates may apply. Message

frequency varies. Reply **STOP** to stop, **HELP** for help. Terms: <http://97000.co/t>. Privacy policy: <http://97000.co/p>.

Mark Your Calendar—Discipleship Trips



5th Grade — January 24-25
\$90, plus meals



8th-12th Grade — July 7-12
\$470, plus meals

8th Grade Students can apply for a scholarship for \$100 for Move. Scholarship details coming soon!

Jr. High Christmas Caroling Party

Hey 5th- 8th Graders, join us December 11, 6-8 pm for our Christmas Caroling Party! We are going to play some Christmas games, watch Charlie Brown, and eat yummy cookies. Please bring a plate of cookies to share (no peanuts or nut products).



High School Christmas Party

Join us on December 15, 6-9 pm for our Christmas Party. We are going to serve our community by buying gifts for those in need. Please bring \$10 toward the gift and a dish to pass for our potluck.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



chuck.mcfadden@lincolnchristianchurch.org

217.732.7618 x 114

I'm really looking forward to Thanksgiving! My family's holiday is full of so many fun dishes to pass. What is your favorite dish on Thanksgiving? Mine is homemade noodles. Someone every year makes noodles from scratch for all of us to enjoy. It is a real labor of love. I am so thankful for them.

We all have so many things to be thankful for. In Kids worship we have been talking about gratitude and thankful hearts. Some of the things that we have discussed being thankful for are our family, friends, and church. We have also talked about thanking God for all the wonderful things that HE has given us and done for us. One of our favorite lessons was about Daniel and the lions' den. We discussed how God will always be with us, just like HE was with Daniel. We can thank HIM for his presence and his protection.

Here are a few pictures of the students with their craft:

We also had an awesome time at the Harvest of Talents Lego® day. We spent the morning building Lego creations and raising money for I.D.E.S. It was phenomenal! A big thank you to everyone who donated Legos for the event and for all the volunteers who made it a success. We would also like to thank an amazing group of children from Myanmar who received food from I.D.E.S. and wanted to say thank you. They made a wonderful craft for us. Here is one of our friends who is grateful for their gift:



UPCOMING EVENTS for kids and families

December 4—Final Kids Club of the semester

December 6—Hometown Christmas, 5-7 pm

December 29—Family Skating at Nelson Center
(details on Student Ministry page)

January 8—Kids Club resumes

Chuck's
corner

I can live up to 60 years, and if I'm male, I can weigh up to 200 pounds. My species is the largest of the tree dwelling

mammals. I can be as tall as five feet but my wingspan can be as long as seven feet. I have very strong bond with my mother and I can be extremely loud if I want to be. If I holler to scare predators, I can be heard from miles away. What am I?

Answer from last month: Reindeer





WORSHIP MINISTRY

[laurin.hill@
lincolncchristianchurch.org](mailto:laurin.hill@lincolncchristianchurch.org)

217.732.7618 x 107

Thank you for supporting Good News with the Carry-out Pork Chops. We served almost 300 dinners! Mark your calendars for The Ultimate All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Fundraiser coming up Saturday, March 1, from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm benefitting both Good News and HeartSong choirs. Thank you for helping our students go on choir tours as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Celebrate! CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 15
8:15, 9:30 & 10:45 am | Sanctuary

featuring
our Student Choirs: *Good News & HeartSong*
Combined Worship Choir
Handbells
& Worship Band

204 N McLean St
lincolncchristianchurch.org



GLOBAL IMPACT

In May, Hisportic Global Christian Mission celebrated 40 years of ministry to Portuguese speaking people worldwide. LCC supports HGCM and their work in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa. The work in Guinea-Bissau is currently led by Adriana Lopez and Ana Paula, both from Brazil. They work with Bethel Christian School which offers Christ-centered classes for Pre-K through grade 10 and adds another grade each year. This fall, the addition of 10th grade brought their first high school class. Adriana worked hard to get their high school curriculum approved by the government prior to the first day of classes. In February 2025, HGCM director, Tim Shields, is leading another team to Guinea-Bissau. They plan to finish work on the wall that spans the perimeter of the campus for the school, the Institute, the clinic, and the missionary house.



Ana Paula has also been working with the youth group at the Sao Paulo Christian Church and challenged them to read through the New Testament in 90 days. She was able to give Bibles in Creole to 19 teenagers who responded to the challenge. She has also been teaching in two different universities in Bissau. She views this as a God-given opportunity to be a witness to the good news of God's grace.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Guinea-Bissau. This summer, during the monsoon season, there was major flooding and Ntuss Christian School suffered damage to its adobe structure. Poverty, the rise of Islam, and the influence of traditional religions continue to be issues for Christians in Guinea-Bissau. Pray for them also as they continue to reach out to previously unreached people groups. Preaching points and churches continue to be established due to their fervor and dedication.

Barb Messner, Global Impact Team Leader

LOCAL IMPACT

What your 2023 Christmas Eve offering helped accomplish in 2024

Your gifts have made a positive impact in our community! LCC's Local Impact ministry has helped in the following ways:

- *Gave food to 81 families
- *Helped 53 families financially
- *Provided food for people being housed by the Salvation Army on several occasions



At this year's Christmas Eve services, we will once again be collecting an offering to fund the crisis intervention portion of our Local Impact ministry. Please consider not only attending this special service, but also giving to help families in need. When we help people, we always tell them this is part of our ministry at Lincoln Christian Church, and that God's Word says we are to help those who are in need.

Larry Simonson, Local Impact Team Leader

Widows of Wisdom

You won't want to miss this month's WOW meeting.

Great surprises are planned! We will meet at Reva McFadden's house at 11:30 am on Friday, December 6. A light lunch will be served. Remember to bring cookies for the Tiny House residents. Also, we will still be collecting used blankets for Inner City Mission. Please RSVP to Reva at 217.828.0924 or Sharon at 217.737.9834.



Questions? For more information or further details about any of Lincoln Christian Church's ministries or missionaries, please contact us:

e: lcchurch@lincolnchristianchurch.org

a: 204 N. McLean St. Lincoln, IL 62656

w: lincolnchristianchurch.org

t: 217.732.7618 | h: Mon.- Fri. 8 am - 4:30 pm



lincolnchristianchurch

204 N. McLean St.
Lincoln, IL 62656

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Harvest of Talents

G.A.P. Meals 2024	15,552
G.A.P. Meals 3-year Total	45,816
2024 Harvest Proceeds Feed	274,973
2024 Total	\$109,988.83
41-Year Total	\$3,000,679.99



Harvest of Talents Cookie Walk

Bakers Needed! Please bring cookies to
Main Entrance, Door C on Friday, Dec 13, 8am – Noon

Saturday, Dec 14, 8 – 11am

Family Room, Main Entrance, Door C



Lincoln Christian Church | 204 N McLean St

\$10 per pound

Funds raised by this Harvest of Talents event provide global hunger relief

LCC Newsletter Recipient

Address Label 1" x 2.625 (5/8)"

HERE @9.25"