



# 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 January 2025 Issue | Volume 74 | Number 01

# Spring Ministry Signups January 5 & 12!

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

- LifeGroups
- Sunday School
- Men on Fire
- Ladies Bible Study
- 30 Days to Understanding the Bible

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

- \*Good News (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- \*HeartSong (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)
- \*Kids Choirs (3yo-4<sup>th</sup> grades)
- Sanctuary Choir
- Fellowship Center Worship Band & Vocals
- Tech Team

Instrumentalists  
(Woodwinds, Brass, & Strings)

\*Open enrollment thru Jan 26

## STUDENT MINISTRY

- CIY MOVE (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- CIY SuperStart! (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- The Gathering (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- Fuel (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades)
- Sunday School (5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- High School Super Bowl Party
- StuMin Spring Trip
- Junior High Bash

## KIDS MINISTRY

- Kids Sunday Worship
- Kids Sunday School
- Kids Club
- Weekday Preschool
- Special Events



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## PREACHING MINISTRY

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### Radical . . . Stop Playing It Safe

In 2003, while hiking alone in a remote Utah canyon, Aron Ralston's arm became pinned by an 800-pound boulder that dislodged. Unfortunately, he had failed to let anyone know his plans. Ralston spent five days trapped. His arm slowly began to decompose due to the lack of circulation. Dehydrated and delirious, Ralston did something radical. He amputated his own arm with a pocket knife, tied a tourniquet on the stump, rappelled down a 65-foot cliff, and began hiking out of the canyon. He came upon a family that was camping. They called 911 and he was evacuated by helicopter. Today Ralston is a motivational speaker who continues to enjoy hiking—but now he lets people know where he will be! Did he do the right thing? I guess! Say what you want, this was a radical move.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said if your hand makes you sin, cut it off. Wait what? Pardon me, but that definitely falls under the heading of "radical."

Jesus is well known for making radical statements:

- Take up your cross and follow me
- If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out
- Go sell everything and give it to the poor
- Don't worry about anything
- To be great, you must become a servant
- Love your enemies

Yikes! Pretty radical! These are radical actions. This is a radical commitment. Jesus called for radical love. Being a Christian, a follower of Jesus, is living a radical lifestyle. Am I ready for this?

Why are we playing it safe? Are we not children of the King? Do we believe our faith is right or not? Where are all the brave ones like those of the past who stood up . . . who spoke up? We are told countless times in scripture to be brave, courageous, and fearless. God has a role for each of us to play and it's time to accept my role in this world.

We do not have the luxury of following Jesus only when it's convenient—we are called to follow him radically. Our January series, **Radical**, will explore what it looks like to stop playing it safe and become all that Jesus hoped we'd become.



### Upcoming Series

1/5	I'm a Kingdom Citizen
1/12	I'm a Warrior Against Evil
1/19	I'm a Fisher of Men
1/26	I'm a Finisher

## Jolly Seniors

take a break in January

Stay warm and safe  
and we'll see you in  
February!



Next meeting:  
**February 26, 2025**

### Welcome New Members

By Baptism:

Sat., 11/09/24—Addison Stonecipher  
Sun., 11/10/24—Jazzy Thomas  
Sun., 11/24/24—Grace Davis





## ADULT MINISTRY

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### Newcomers Reception

On Sunday, January 26, following each morning service, we will be holding a newcomers reception in the Fireside Room. If you are newer to Lincoln Christian Church, we would like to take about ten minutes of your time to introduce ourselves to you and give you some information about next steps. This will really help us put a name with a face. Please pick up your kids from the children's ministry before you come to the reception and bring them along. We have a small gift for you as a way of saying "thanks" for attending. No signups are necessary.

### Join the Team!

Ministry Teams serve our church family and our community. There is a place for everyone to serve: greeters, kitchen workers, handyman team, and many more. For more information visit: [lincolnchristianchurch.org/next](http://lincolnchristianchurch.org/next).

### Men's Retreat & Cornhole Tourney

#### Presented by Men on Fire

Join us for a morning of study of God's word and an afternoon of (semi-competitive ☺) cornhole tournament on Saturday, February 1. There will be compelling messages from leading pastors and teachers, testimonies of how other men have done it, and seminars on the topics of most interest to you. Sign up at [lincolnchristianchurch.org/events](http://lincolnchristianchurch.org/events).



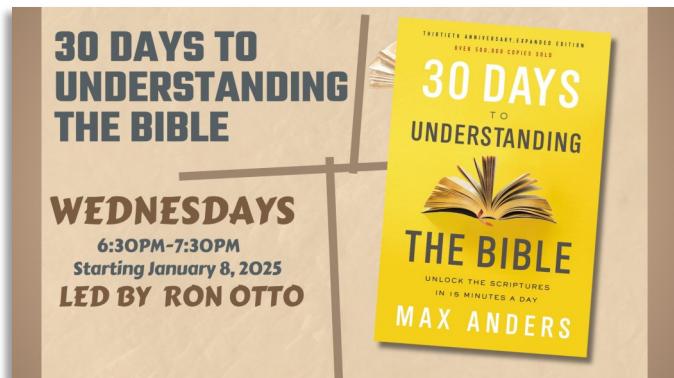
### Join us for the Next Steps Experience

Join us for a 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 experience 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. Register at:

[lincolnchristianchurch.org/events](http://lincolnchristianchurch.org/events).

### Ladies Bible Study

Learn from Kelly Minter about "Daring Faith for Such a Time as This" based on the life of Esther. Sign up in the Family Room on January 5 and 12. The cost for the book is \$20 (scholarships available).



### Intro to the Bible for Adults

Join Pastor Ron Otto for a six-week class designed to be a very basic introduction (or refresher) for everyone who wants to learn more about God's word. No level of background knowledge is necessary. If you are new to the Bible, this is the class for you! There will be time for questions during each class (and no question is too basic to be asked!). The cost is \$10 (a discounted price for an excellent study book). Intro to the Bible will meet on Wednesdays starting January 8, at 6:30 pm. Register at [lincolnchristianchurch.org/events](http://lincolnchristianchurch.org/events).



## STUDENT MINISTRY

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**Student Ministry Website**

[lccstudents.com](http://lccstudents.com)



**Text Updates from the Student Ministry**

Jr. High—text **jhfuel** to 97000

High School—text **thegathering** to 97000

You will receive text messages from Lincoln Christian Church. No purchase necessary. Message & data rates may apply. Reply STOP to stop. HELP for help. Terms: <http://97000.co/t>. Privacy Policy: <http://97000.co/p>.



### Spring Calendar

Head to [lccstudents.com/events](http://lccstudents.com/events) to see the Student Ministry Calendar. Pick up a hard copy at the Student Info Desk.

### Fuel

(5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group)

resumes Wednesday, January 8, 6:30-8 pm.

Doors open at 6:15 pm.



### The Gathering

(9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group) resumes Sunday, January 12, 6-8 pm. The meal is at 6 pm. Optional Open Gym is every Sunday until 8:30 pm. The Gathering still officially ends at 8 pm.



### SuperStart!

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Only!

Hey 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, SuperStart is January 24-25 in Bloomington, IL. Cost is \$90 plus money for two fast food meals. **Sign up by paying \$90 by January 2**. Scan the code for more info.



### Jr. High Bash for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Hey 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders, the Jr. High Bash will be Friday, February 7, 6-9 pm, for \$10. Join us for this super fun event! We will have pizza, pop, and tons of games. It is going to be awesome!



### Current 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Hey 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders, Move is July 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in Wheaton, IL. The cost is \$470 plus 3 meals. Your **non-refundable deposit of \$130** is due Sunday, February 23. Scan the code for more info.



### Scholarships for Move

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students can apply for a scholarship for \$100 off the cost for Move. Applications can be picked up at the Student Info Desk in the Family Room.

Every High School Student can raise money for Move by reading a book from the Student Ministry Bookshelf and writing a 1-page reflection. You can earn \$15 per book and you can read up to 4 books. That's \$60 off the price of Move. The Student Ministry Bookshelf is at Fuel and the Gathering.





## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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I hope everyone had a great Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year! It is crazy that it is already 2025! A new year brings so much excitement and so many things to look forward. A new year reminds me of when I was younger and my Mom would get us new coloring books. A brand new coloring book all fresh and clean, ready to be filled with exciting new colors. We all make plans for fun things to do and we want to try to do things better than last year. What new things are you looking forward to doing this year? I am excited to fill my new year with kindness, love, and new memories. I am also looking forward to a few new events this year and I am excited to bring back a few of the old ones.



### Chuck's corner

There are 300 different species of me. The smallest version is no bigger than an inch and I could weigh no more than a raisin. The largest version of me could be taller than 30 feet and weigh more than 600 pounds. Most of us are venomous and we have 3 hearts. What am I?

Answer from last month was orangutan.



We'll send out reminders when the events get closer, but go ahead and add these to your 2025 calendar so you can plan ahead!



**January 8**—Kids club starts back up. This semester we will be talking about some "sidekicks of the Bible"

**February 22**—We're having a special Family Event! Keep an eye out for more details! Here's a hint: there could be slime involved.



**March 21**—Our fourth annual Daddy/Daughter dance will be from 6-8 pm. More details to come.

### Preschool Pretzels

The preschool is about to hold their annual pretzel fundraiser. Donated supplies would be extremely helpful. If you are willing to help, I would love to chat about what materials are needed.





## WORSHIP MINISTRY

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# Merry Christmas!



**Thank you** to almost 130 kids, students, and adults who shared beautiful music to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us during the Christmas season! We had the Kids Choirs lead us in worship in all four services on Dec. 8!



**Celebrate! Christmas 2024** took place Dec. 15 with all services meeting in the Sanctuary at 8:15, 9:30 and 10:45 am! Featuring *HeartSong*, *Good News*, the Combined Worship Choir with the students and adults as well as the Worship Band, Handbells, and Tim on Organ! What a glorious time of worship as we celebrate Jesus! Merry Christmas everyone!



**Good News and HeartSong meet again January 12!**  
**Open enrollment thru January 26!**

Good News, our high school choir for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, and HeartSong, for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, will take a break for the holidays and resume rehearsing on Sunday, January 12. There is open enrollment until the end of January (Sundays—January 12, 19, 26) to make a commitment to the tours. If you would like more info on either group contact me or check out and register at

[lincolnchristianchurch.org/worship](http://lincolnchristianchurch.org/worship).

Good News meets each Sunday from 5-6 pm and HeartSong meets from 6-7 pm. Now is the time to invite your friends to join us for our upcoming tours!

HeartSong tour is April 4-6, with our home concert Sunday, April 6, at 4 pm.

Good News' home concert is Monday, June 2, at 7 pm with tour from June 3-10, touring in a Midwest circle to Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. Our close-ish-to-home concert is Tuesday, June 10, at 7 pm. Stay tuned for more details as plans come together.

**Kids Choirs resume January 12!**

Kids Choirs (3 years old through 4<sup>th</sup> grade) rehearse from 6-7 pm each Sunday in preparation for our spring musical coming up on Sunday, May 4, at 6 pm. The Kids Choirs are split into two choirs — Cherubs (3 to 5 year olds, age 3 by September 1, 2024) and 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders. We'll be working hard and having a ton of fun in the coming months! Open enrollment thru January 26. See you Sunday nights! Register at

[lincolnchristianchurch.org/worship](http://lincolnchristianchurch.org/worship).

**Sanctuary Choir open for more voices!**

The Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsing Wednesday, January 8, from 6:30-7:45 pm. We need some additional voices to join us! Open to high school students and adults of all ages, we rehearse each Wednesday evening and sing feature music in the 8:15 am Sanctuary service. Please join me in prayer if you might be being called to lift your voice with us. Jump in anytime!

## GLOBAL IMPACT

Dr. Kal McAlexander serves as the Executive Director of the

Chaplaincy Endorsement Commission (CEC). This commission endorses and provides pastoral care to Christian Church/Church of Christ chaplains in the U.S. military, hospitals, prisons, and corporations.

Kal and his wife Cindy spend a lot of time traveling to visit and encourage chaplains throughout the country and to recruit new chaplains. Kal also has opportunities to engage and interact with military leaders as a member of the Executive Committee of Chaplain Alliance for Religious Freedom. In 2024, he spoke at the National Roundtable for Religious Freedom in Washington D.C. Kal also reports that chaplains endorsed by the CEC have been involved in many notable projects including the film documentary "Fighting Spirit: A Combat Chaplain's Journey" and a revision of an Air Force curriculum.

Reports from chaplains demonstrate that God is moving mightily through these men and women of God. Kal and Cindy frequently share about baptisms, Bible studies, and worship services held on military bases around the world.

- Pray for Kal and Cindy McAlexander for safety in travels and wisdom as they meet with and encourage chaplains throughout the country and with military and political leaders.
- Pray for those who are considering becoming chaplains.
- Pray for those you know who are in the military that they will be encouraged and ministered to by a chaplain.

Leslie Starasta, GI Team Member



## LOCAL IMPACT

### Blanket drive for Inner City Mission



The recent blanket drive for Inner City mission was a huge success. Thank you to the Widows of Wisdom for originating the project and to the Elders for approving it. You donated over 200 blankets. Thank you, Church! You are amazing!



### Giving Tree

Thanks also to those who participated in the Giving Tree project. We partnered with the Center for Youth and



Family Solutions again, and we were able to provide gifts for 114 children this year!

### Widows of Wisdom

The Widows of Wisdom group will meet at Deep Roots Bakery & Café in downtown Lincoln on January 3, at 11:30 a.m. Order your food and come to the back room. Invite your friends! Call Reva at 217.828.0294 or Sharon at 217.737.9834 if you have any questions.



### Offering Envelopes

If you use offering envelopes, your new box is now available at the Welcome Center in the Family Room. Please pick them up before February. Any that are left will be recycled. If you haven't used envelopes in the past and would like a box, you can sign up at the Welcome Center or email our Finance Admin at:

[linda.mourning@lincolchristianchurch.org](mailto:linda.mourning@lincolchristianchurch.org)

## Fuel for Prayer Newsletter

Are you just beginning or rebooting your commitment to the personal disciplines of prayer and Bible reading? Do the needs of the world seem so big that you want to pray but aren't sure where to get started or what to pray about? Or are you already committed to prayer but want to expand your focus. Lincoln Christian Church has you covered! Subscribe to our weekly prayer newsletter, LCC Fuel for Prayer, at <https://bit.ly/3HW89jS>.





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204 N. McLean St.  
Lincoln, IL 62656

The *Christian Call* newsletter is published monthly by:  
Lincoln Christian Church 204 N. McLean St., Lincoln, IL 62656-2847.  
U. S. P. S. 559620 periodical postage paid at Lincoln, IL 62656-9998.  
Post-master: Send change of address to:  
Lincoln Christian Church 204 N. McLean St., Lincoln, IL 62656-2847

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

# 2025

13. Publication Title <b>LCC's THE CHRISTIAN CALL</b>	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below <b>10/31/2024</b>
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	
(1) Paid and/or Requested Circulation	
(2) Form 3541 (Includes paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	
(3) Paid Distribution Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	
(1) Paid and/or Requested Circulation	
(2) Form 3541 (Includes paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	
(3) Paid Distribution Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15. (1), (2), (3), and (4))	
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	
(2) Free or Nominal In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carrier or other means)	
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d. (1), (2), (3) and (4))	
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c. and 15e.)	
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	
h. Total (Sum of 15f. and g.)	
i. Percent Paid (15c. Divided by 15f. Times 100)	
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.	
16. Electronic copy Circulation	
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c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	
d. Percentage Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies (16b divided by 16c x 100))	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distribution copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.	
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the <b>12/30/2024</b> issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required	
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <b>Jennifer Ramsey</b>	
Title <b>Office Administrator</b>	
Date <b>10/31/2024</b>	

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