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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

November 2021 Vol. 70 No. 11

A photograph of a church interior with a large, ornate stained glass window in the background. The text "Christmas Eve" is overlaid in a large, white, script font. The Lincoln Christian Church logo is in the top right corner.

Lincoln
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24
4:00 | 6:00 | 8:00 PM | Sanctuary

204 N McLean Street
lincolnchristianchurch.org

church office 217.732.7618 lcchurch@lincolnchristianchurch.org
website — www.lincolnchristianchurch.org



Ron Otto
Preaching Ministry

ron.otto@lincolinchristianchurch.org

Longing For Christmas

I spent the fall making pallet wood Christmas trees for yard decorations. Fake trees in other words; wife's idea of course. I have to admit I'm pretty proud of them though. A lot of work in breaking down old pallets, but the satisfaction of the project done was good for me. And then we decided to wrap some empty boxes to also use as home decorations. Now imagine two small grandkids coming over and already seeing Christmas trees and gifts. It was still pre-Thanksgiving on the calendar, but just one glimpse of trees and wrapped presents sent those little hearts a-swirling. "Is it Christmas time?" my grandson asked with twinkles in his eyes and ravenous desire to tear into those wrapped boxes. "No, not yet, but soon," I chuckled. But then a self-reflective pause. Where did that joy for Christmas go?

Christmas used to feel more innocent to me. Maybe it was my youthfulness. Maybe it was my life inexperience. Maybe it was that I just hadn't lived through enough pain and struggle and heartache yet. The world has a way of sucking the joy out of everything, especially holidays. But I remember I used to be more excited for Christmas. Are those days gone for good, now that I'm an adult? Am I too mature for the holiday now? Have I witnessed too much disappointment to be enamored by Christmas? I hope not!

Back to those empty Christmas presents; just decorations, right? Yes, and one powerful metaphor. We all know someone who is just like those boxes. People who are well-wrapped on the outside, but nothing inside. People who go through this world focused more on the wrapping than who they are inwardly. Any chance I allowed that to be me? Am I faking Christmas? Maybe!

Truth is, I'm longing for Christmas as it used to be. Or, I'm simply longing. First step to healing is admitting there is a problem. If you share my condition, there is hope!

I want to invite you to join us at Lincoln Christian Church this Christmas season as we find answers to our *Longing for Christmas* series. Remember, Christmas begins on the inside of us and then works its way out.

Current Sermon Series: *Longing for Christmas*



- Dec. 5 Longing for Family
- Dec. 12 Longing for Control
- Dec. 19 Longing for More
- Dec. 26 Longing for Just a Glimpse of God

Jolly Seniors

The Senior's monthly gathering will meet at LCC on Tuesday, December 14 @ 10 am. If you're not already signed up for the monthly Jolly Seniors newsletter, call the Church Office at 217.732.7618 to be added to the mailing list!

HELP WANTED!!!



The Jolly Seniors are looking for a new paid part-time coordinator/leader starting in the New Year! If you or someone you know would be interested in this LCC position in leading future programs, please

call the Church Office at 217.732.7618, thank you!



Brandon Boyd
Adult Ministry

brandon.boyd@lincolnchristianchurch.org

Interested in Membership? Ready for your Next Step?

Join our LifeStep 1: Discover Lincoln Christian Church. Explore your faith and the beliefs of Lincoln Christian Church in a relaxed setting with Minister Ron Otto and Adult Minister Brandon Boyd. You'll get to ask any questions you may have as well as meet others who are exploring the same journey. This class meets on Sunday, February 6 from 5:00-7:00 pm. It's free, it's casual, and we provide dinner (but not childcare). Sign-up at the Welcome Center or online at lincolnchristianchurch.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.

Sunday School

A great first place to connect with new friends and to learn the Bible is one of our five adult Sunday School Classes. We have classes for all adults. Stop by the Welcome Center or online at our website lincolnchristianchurch.org/next for more info.

Next Steps Information

To find more information about your next spiritual steps visit lincolnchristianchurch.org/next.

Welcome to the Family!

New Members by Baptism:

Mia Curry	11/09/21
Shelly Flowers	11/14/21



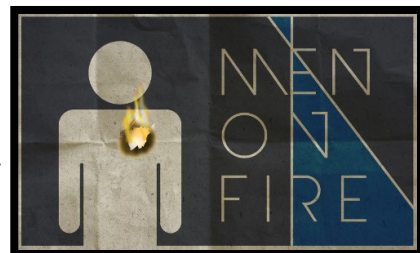
Marriage Enrichment Class

For Couples Who Have a Strong Marriage (& For Whose Marriage is Struggling a Bit)

Join us on Wednesdays starting January 12, 2022 from 6:30-7:30 pm for a five-week video-based class on growing in your marriage. There will be fun, laughter, thought-provoking questions, and an opportunity to grow in your marriage. A more vibrant marriage is possible when it's built on a foundation of active faith. Cost is \$15. Scholarships available. Register at lincolnchristianchurch.org/events.

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 in Room 300 Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Find more information at menonfire.org.

A Word of Thanks

I want to take the opportunity to thank all our ministry team leaders and members, our teachers, LifeGroup 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!

End-of-Year Giving

If you would like to give for the 2021 tax year, all giving needs to be post-marked by December 31, 2021, dropped off at the church office by noon on December 30, or completed online by midnight on December 31.



Zach Ramsey
Student Ministry

zach.ramsey@lincolinchristianchurch.org

Website—lccstudents.com

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

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

Stay informed with 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>.



Post – High School

We will have Post from 8-9 pm after the Gathering on Sunday, Dec. 5 in the Gym.

We will play some games, hang out, and have a few surprises! Freshmen bring drinks/snacks.



Jr. High Christmas Caroling Party

Hey 5th-8th Graders, join us Wednesday, Dec. 8 from 6-8 pm for our Christmas Caroling Party! **We will be back in time for HeartSong's dress rehearsal.** Please bring a plate of cookies to pass. **NO PEANUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS!**

High School Christmas Party

Join us Sunday, Dec. 12 from 6-9 pm for our Christmas Party! We are going to serve our community by buying gifts for those in need. Please bring \$5 toward the gift! Please bring a plate of cookies to pass. **NO PEANUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS!**

Mark Your Calendar – CIY Trips

5th Grade *SuperStart*

February 25-26

Approximately \$75 + meals



8th-12th Grade *Move*

July 11-16

Approximately \$390 + meals



8th Grade students can still apply for a scholarship for \$100 for *Move*. Scholarship details will be available in the spring!



Hey Juniors & Seniors, Check out LCU's LEAP Program!

Lincoln Christian University's Early Achievement Program (LEAP) is a great opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to get a practical and affordable jump on their college education. Through the LEAP dual enrollment program, students have the opportunity to enroll and receive credit for college courses while still in high school at a discounted rate. Go to <https://lincolinchristian.edu/academics/programs/dual-enrollment/>!

Help the Student Ministry by buying Cracker Barrel, Sorrento's and Walmart Gift Cards!!

You can buy gift cards in the office or at the Student Info Desk in the Family Room to help students take part in discipleship events. You pay for the value of the gift card and a percentage of that money goes to the Youth Fund to help students who are in need of financial aid!

ShopWithScrip®

Download our mobile app RaiseRight.



Use Walmart Gifts for Online Grocery Pickup!

Walmart has recently updated their payment options, so gift cards can now be used to pay for online grocery orders. Earn 2.5% on all your Walmart purchases, including groceries. Whether you shop in-store or online; for pickup or delivery! Simply select "gift card" as your payment method and enter your Walmart gift card details to pay for your order. It's so easy to earn rebates!!



Marcia Wells
Children's Ministry



marcia.wells@lincolnchristianchurch.org

KIDS CLUB

Wednesdays 6:30-7:45 pm

Kids Club this semester has been on a journey called Treasure Seekers. We will finish up for the semester on December 1. If you haven't joined us yet, you still can at any time! We will restart Kids Club on January 12. During the spring semester we will begin a new series called Journey with Jesus. In this series we will visit towns where Jesus taught and performed miracles! Plan to join us; we'd love to journey together with you!



FOLLOWING JESUS!

We are rejoicing in two recent decisions of accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Mia Curry & Ella Roemer both stepped forward and were baptized. Both were joyful occasions! We are so happy for their decision and the witness they will be for Jesus. Check out these smiling faces!



FOLLOW



John 3:16

COME



JESUS!



M.O.M.s GROUP at LCC meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45 pm. This is a time for moms to encourage one another and enjoy time hearing each other's stories as they study together! Kids can either participate in Kids Club (3 y.o.-4th Grade) or Fuel (kids in 5th-8th Grade). And there's always room for more! If you would like more information about M.O.M.s just contact marcia.wells@lincolnchristianchurch.org.

DISCOVERING JESUS!



Parents, in December, we will be sending each family home with a nativity set and weekly devotions. Each week there will be a different part of the Christmas story for kids to discover. You

will hide the pieces around your home for your kids to discover and lead them in reading the corresponding parts of the Christmas story. Make sure to pick one up for your family when you check your kiddos out. We'd love to hear about it and see pictures of your family learning together!



Laurin Hill
Worship Ministry

laurin.hill@lincolnchristianchurch.org

**GOOD NEWS
PUBLISHING
COMPANY**
SINCE 1971

**CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
OF
STUDENT
CHOIR
MINISTRY**
MAY 28-29, 2022

50 Year Reunion Concert for Good News
is May 28-29, 2022! All former Good News students, sponsors, directors, and youth ministers, please go to lincolnchristianchurch.org/GN50 to update your contact info, tell us when you were in GN, share memories, and photos, and keep up to date with all of the Reunion details!

Celebrate!

CHRISTMAS

Part 1 | Sunday, Dec. 12 @ 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 am | Fellowship Center
featuring Adult Choir, Student Choirs, String Quartet & Worship Band

Part 2 | Sunday, Dec. 19 @ 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 am | Sanctuary
featuring Kids Choir, Handbells & Carols of the Season

Lincoln Christian Church
204 N McLean St | lincolnchristianchurch.org



Send us your Nativity Selfies!

Christmas@lincolnchristianchurch.org



Please take a Nativity selfie of your family with your favorite nativity scene and share it with us to use in December. Send your Nativity selfie to Christmas@lincolnchristianchurch.org!

GLOBAL IMPACT

James Mollette

Jim reports that 2021 has been a very difficult year for him. After a series of health challenges he had to move to a senior care facility in Claremore, OK. He continues to suffer with multiple health issues. Jim attends Central Christian Church when he can and relates that he still sends support to the two churches he ministered with in Hong Kong and the Philippines, saying, "My 30 years teaching there turned out to be the highlight of my life. The Lord had it all planned out for me in advance, but first I had to step out in faith." Jim's life remains a true testimony to what God can do in and through us when we trust His leading in our lives. Please take a moment to pray for Jim and send him a card of encouragement and appreciation for his Kingdom service. James Mollette, 454131 E. 319 Rd., Afton, OK 74331.

~Barb Messner, Global Impact Team Member



LOCAL IMPACT

Habitat for Humanity of

Logan County is an affiliate of the HFH International founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller. The local affiliate was formed on 11/19/1992. In those 29 years HFHLC has built 16 new homes in Lincoln, three homes in Mt. Pulaski and one each in Atlanta, Elkhart, and Emden. They've also rehabbed three homes in Lincoln for a total of 26 families having partnered for a better home. Eleven board members represent five communities in Logan County. HFHLC is a humanitarian based organization founded on the words of Christ: "Go into all the world..." Words without works is dead—today our hands are Christs' hands as we lift up those who are living in substandard conditions. Working for the vision of "No More Shacks" we also tithe, which results in for every home built in USA there are three built elsewhere in the world. Our tithe's have benefited the Dominican Republic and Philippines. Not a hand out but a HANDS UP program, we welcome other hands to share their talents. Jesus said, "go," and we do.



~Tonita Reifsteck

Center for Youth & Family Solutions



THE CENTER FOR
YOUTH & FAMILY
SOLUTIONS
cyfsolutions.org

Here at CYFS, our biggest goal is the reunification of healthy and safe families. We work with Foster Care cases on behalf of DCFS (Department of Children & Family Services), but what makes us different is our commitment to safe reunification. We serve families in Logan County, Sangamon County, and across central Illinois and help families reunify when possible. When reunification is not possible, we work with foster parents to get to the place where adoption is possible. We have a team of foster care family workers, licensing workers, and support staff who make sure every day that families and children in our area are in a place where they are safe and secure, and connected to community resources. This Christmas we are making sure EVERY kid we work with in foster care at a home away from their biological parents gets at least a couple presents from the loving folks in our community.

~Adam Pemberton



GLOBAL IMPACT

Chaplaincy Endorsement Commission

Dr. Kal McAlexander, Executive Director of the Chaplaincy Endorsement Commission, has had a busy fall traveling for the CEC visiting several college and seminary campuses, attending the SPIRE conference, the International Conference on Missions, and connecting with many chaplains, chaplain candidates, and several commissioners. He highlights the opportunity he had to accompany Chaplain Matt Shaw in delivering several hundred leftover cookies from one of the ministry booths at SPIRE to troops at Fort Campbell who deployed two days after the conference. Matt was able to address and pray for the soldiers prior to their loading up on buses. The CEC offers much encouragement and support to our Christian Church/Church of Christ chaplains. Please continue to pray for our chaplains and for Kal.

~Barb Messner, Global Impact Team Member



lincolnchristianchurch

204 N. McLean St.
Lincoln, IL 62656

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We are partnering with Center for Youth and Family Solutions this year to serve 50 children in foster care in our area with Christmas presents.

Angel Tree Tag Distribution is Sunday, Dec. 5, between services by the Welcome Center.

All wrapped gifts are due Sunday, December 12.



Cookies at the Canopy

Saturday, December 11

8am - Noon, while supplies last

Drive through, main entrance canopy at Door C

\$8 per one-pound box of assorted holiday cookies

All proceeds for Harvest of Talents to feed hungry people all over the world

**(Bakers bring cookies to main entrance, door C
on Friday, December 10, 8am - Noon)**



LCC Newsletter Recipient

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