



lincolnchristianchurch.org

GOD FAMILY OTHERS

The Christian Call

Worship Services

8:15 am | Sanctuary

8:15 am | Fellowship Center

9:30 am | Fellowship Center

10:45 am | Fellowship Center

January 2026 | Volume 75 | Number 1

Spring Ministry Signups January 4 & 11!

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

LifeGroups
Sunday School
Men on Fire
Ladies Bible Study
Helping Others Grow In Faith

STUDENT MINISTRY

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

WORSHIP MINISTRY

*Good News (9th-12th grades)
*HeartSong (5th-8th grades)
*Kids Choirs (3yo-4th grades)
Sanctuary Choir
Fellowship Center Worship Band
& Vocals
Tech Team
Instrumentalists
(Woodwinds, Brass, & Strings)
*Open enrollment thru Jan 25

KIDS MINISTRY

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



217.732.7618



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lincolnchristianchurch.org



PREACHING MINISTRY

ron.otto@lincolncruchianchurch.org

217.732.7618 x104

Workers earn it, spendthrifts burn it, bankers lend it, children spend it, forgers fake it, taxes take it, dying leave it, heirs receive it, thrifty save it, misers crave it, robbers seize it, rich increase it, gamblers lose it . . . I could use it. What are we talking about? MONEY!

Why talk about finances? Because money problems can be a monster. There is always someone who needs or wants our money. As one comedian said, "After looking at the bill for my surgery, I understand why doctors wear masks in the operating room."

With people struggling to pay student loans, child care, mortgages, groceries, utilities—couldn't we all use some extra training in biblical money management and financial wisdom? Dave Ramsey coined the phrase "financial peace." Let those words sink in for a moment. Wouldn't financial peace be wonderful?

So much of life is about money. Countless time is spent earning it, budgeting it, spending it, saving it, and giving it. From a young age we know the power money can hold in our lives. We can't afford not to hear what God has to say about money.

"Where your money is, there your heart will be also." Second only to the Kingdom of God, Jesus talked about money more than anything else. Why? It's not because Jesus wanted people's money. Jesus wants people's hearts. He knows that what we do with our money often blesses or plagues us and our families. Money reveals what we truly love.

God has much to say about finances and the stewardship of money. I think it's because He knows what a trap it can be for people. It's still the number one issue married couples fight over. Mismanage money, and it will cause sleepless nights. Of course God wants to help us in this area.

In our new sermon series, we will explore the powerful, life-changing principles of stewardship and generosity that can shape and change our lives for the better. God wants us to be money-wise and He has much to say about how we use, spend, and treat money. It turns out the secret to financial security isn't a secret.



TURN'S OUT THE SECRET ISN'T A SECRET

new series begins Jan 4



Upcoming Series

- 1/4 Less is More—God's Attitude Toward Money
- 1/11 Stress is Bad—Debt Adds Stress
- 1/18 Sharing Is Good—The Blessing of Giving
- 1/25 Tomorrow Matters—The Power of Saving



Welcome New Members By Baptism



12/20 Ashley Stierwalt, Wyatt Stierwalt

12/21 Emily Bakken, Steve Goodman,
Dawson Potratz

By Transfer

12/14 Andrea Mercier, Michael Mercier

i ♥ my church

end-of-year offering

\$142,420.34!





ADULT MINISTRY

brandon.boyd@
lincolnchristianchurch.org

217.732.7618 x103



Newcomers Reception

On Sunday, January 25, 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 help us get to know you and put a name with a face. We have a small gift for you as a way of saying "thanks" for attending. No signups necessary.

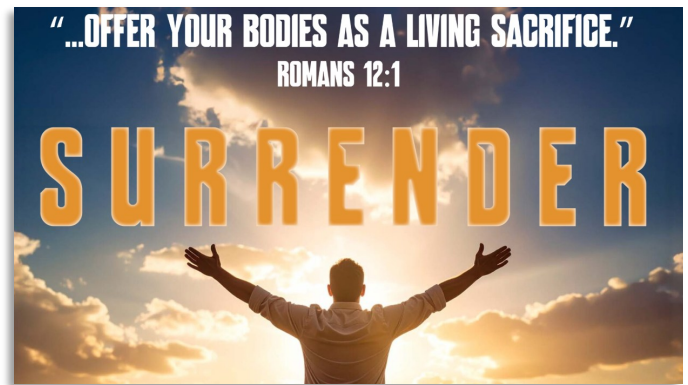


Join us for the Next Steps Experience

Join us for a one-hour experience where we walk you through the 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, or for those who have spiritual questions. Hosted by Brandon Boyd, Minister of Adult Discipleship.

Register at lincolnchristianchurch.org/events.



Men's Retreat & Cornhole Tourney Presented by Men on Fire

Join us for a morning of study of God's word and an afternoon (semi-competitive 😊) cornhole tournament on Saturday, February 7.

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.



Learn to Help Others Grow in Faith

Brandon Boyd will be leading a six-week class on helping others grow in faith. This class is designed to be a very basic introduction (or refresher) for anyone who wants to be a positive spiritual influence in the lives of others. No level of background knowledge is expected. There will be time for questions in each class, and no question is too basic to be asked! The cost is \$10 for the *Real Life Discipleship Training Manual* (a discounted price for an excellent study book). Must be willing to attend five of the seven weeks. Class meets Wednesdays starting January 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Register at lincolnchristianchurch.org/events.



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STUDENT MINISTRY

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217.732.7618 x111



Student Ministry Website

lccstudents.com

Text Updates from the Student Ministry

Jr. High—text **jhfuel** to **97000**

High School—text **thegathering** to **97000**

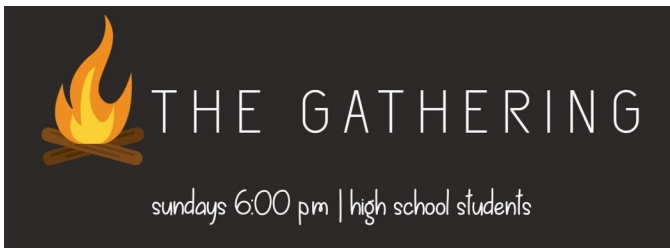


You will receive text messages from Lincoln Christian Church. No purchase necessary. Message & data rates may apply. Reply STOP to stop. HELP for help. Terms: <http://97000.co/t>. Privacy Policy: <http://97000.co/p>.



WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8:00 | 5TH-8TH GRADERS

FUEL (5th-8th grade youth group) resumes Wednesday, January 14, 6:30-8:00 pm with doors open at 6:15 pm.



The Gathering (9th-12th grade youth group) resumes Sunday January 11, 6:00-8:00 pm. Meal is at 6:00 pm. Optional Open Gym is every Sunday until 8:30 pm. The Gathering officially ends at 8:00 pm.



Jr. High Bash – 6th-8th Grade Students

The Jr. High Bash will be on Friday, January 23, 6:00-9:00 pm. The cost is \$10. We will have pizza, pop, and tons of games. Join us for this super fun event! It is going to be awesome!

Current 8th-12th Grade Students

If you're in grades 8-12, you're going to want to go with us to **move** CIY Move, July 6-11 in Wheaton, IL. The cost is \$470 plus 3 extra meals. The **non-refundable deposit of \$160** is due Sunday, February 22.

Scholarships for Move

8th grade students can apply for a scholarship for \$100 toward 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 books from the Student Ministry Bookshelf and writing a 1-page reflection for each book. You can receive \$15 per book and you can read up to four books. That's \$60 off the price of Move. The Student Ministry Bookshelf is at Fuel and The Gathering.

Spring Calendar

Head to lccstudents.com/events to see the Student Ministry Calendar. Pick up a hard copy at the Student Info Desk.



Need Money for Trips?

Buy Gift Cards, Earn Cash Back!

The Family Fundraising program helps you raise funds through physical Walmart gift cards or other online gift cards that earn cash back rebates for you to use for trips. You pay for the value of the card and a percentage of that money goes into your account at the Church. You can buy gift cards at the Student Info Desk in the Family Room or online. For more info, please visit the Student Info Desk or go to lccstudents.com/parents.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

[chuck.mcfadden@
lincolinchristianchurch.org](mailto:chuck.mcfadden@lincolinchristianchurch.org)

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YAY!!! IT IS 2026!!! Last month we gathered together with loved ones to celebrate Christmas. Our hearts were filled with joy, gratitude, and wonder. The story of Christmas is a reminder of God's incredible love for us. I enjoy reading Luke 2 with my family every Christmas season. It is one of our family traditions every year. This part stuck out to me this year: Angels proclaim, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior is born to you; he is the Messiah the Lord." Luke 2:10-11. This message is for every family, every heart. It reminds us that no matter our circumstances, God's love reaches us. I hope you took some time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. I also hope you all were able to participate in every one of your favorite family traditions this past season. What are your favorite Christmas traditions? Come and tell me what your favorite ones are. I would love to hear about them.

As we get a new year on the way, it's natural to look back and look forward. The New Year offers a fresh start for new goals and new opportunities. I also enjoy the New Year celebrations. It is such an exciting time, especially for kiddos. We get to stay up late saying goodbye to an old year and hello to a new year. We wait for a clock to strike midnight, and then we make fun resolutions with our family. God loves new beginnings. The Bible tells us that when we follow Jesus, He will make us a new creation. He forgives us. He helps us grow, and He is with us. Maybe last year there

were things that made us sad, or there were mistakes that you made. We can start anew this year if we ask God for a new start. I pray that in this new year, you think about how you can be more like Jesus. Maybe you want to be kinder to your friends, help at home, or spend more time talking to God. Most of all, remember, you don't have to do it alone. God is always with you, cheering you on!!

Some things to think about as we start the New Year:

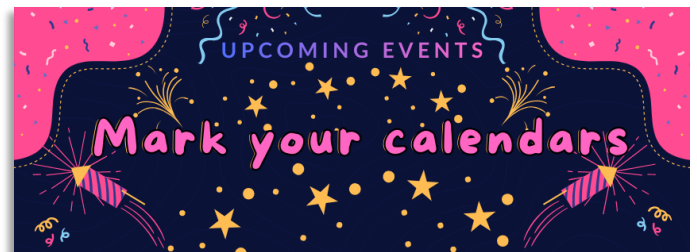
1. What is something new you want to try this year?
2. Is there something you want to ask God to help you with?

There's so much to look forward to in the New Year. I pray that this will be an amazing year for you!

Favorites of 2025

Looking back on last year, we remember so many super fun things that we did! Here is a list of some of my favorites in no particular order:

The Daddy Daughter Dance
Slime Night
Star Wars Night
Comedy Night with Jaren Myers
VBS
Foam Party
Glow Party
Adult Youth Group
Christmas Parade
Hometown Christmas



I am excited for all the fun events that are on the schedule for 2026. Here are a couple of dates for you to mark on your calendar:

January 14—Kids club resumes.

February 27—Daddy Daughter Dance

Be on the lookout for more information about the 5th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance.



WORSHIP MINISTRY

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Thank you to the 135 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 and Handbells lead us in worship in all four services on December 7!



Celebrate! Christmas 2025 took place December 14 with all services meeting in the Fellowship Center 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 & Orchestra! What a glorious time of worship as we celebrate Jesus! Merry Christmas everyone!



Good News and HeartSong resume January 11! Open enrollment thru January 25!

Good News, our high school choir for 9th-12th grade students, and HeartSong, for 5th-8th grade students, will take a break for the holidays and resume rehearsing on Sunday, January 11. There is open enrollment until the end of January (Sundays: January 11, 18, 25) to make a commitment to the tours. If you would like more info on either group contact me or check out and register at lincolinchristianchurch.org/worship.

Good News meets each Sunday from 5:00-6:00 pm and HeartSong meets from 6:00-7:00 pm. Now is the time to invite your friends to join us for our upcoming tours!

HeartSong tour is April 17-19, with our home concert Sunday, April 19, at 4:00 pm.

Good News' home concert is Monday, June 8, at 7:00 pm with tour from June 9-16, heading to the northeastern US and NYC! Our close-ish-to-home concert is Tuesday, June 16, at 7:00 pm. Stay tuned for more details as plans come together.

Kids Choirs resume January 11!

Kids Choirs (3 years old through 4th grade) rehearse from 6:00-7:00 pm each Sunday in preparation for our spring musical coming up on Sunday, May 3, at 6:00 pm. The Kids Choirs are split into two choirs—Cherubs (3 to 5 year olds, age 3 by September 1, 2025) and 1st-4th graders. We'll be working hard and having a ton of fun in the coming months! Open enrollment thru January 25. See you Sunday nights! Register at lincolnrchristiachurch.org/worship.

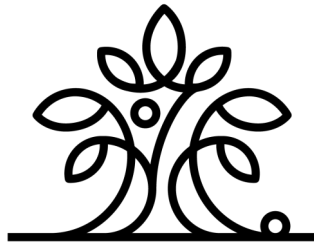
Sanctuary Choir open for more voices!

The Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsing Wednesday, January 7, from 6:30-7:45 pm. 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. Jump in anytime!

GLOBAL IMPACT

Orchard Group

Tanner Green serves with the Orchard Group as the New England General Director. His main role is the recruitment, training and support of church planters in New England. New England is considered the least-churched area of the United States and we are excited to partner with Tanner and the church planters he supports to change this region with the Gospel. Tanner and his wife Bethany have three children and live near Boston.



Tanner reports that Beacon Church, located in Derry, New Hampshire, turned four years old this fall. In December 2024, Beacon Church moved to their own 24/7 facility. Since that time, their congregation has grown from 140 to

over 220 people. This group of 220 people was able to help 100 families by partnering with five organizations in their community during the recent Christmas holidays.

Throughout the past year, we've been praying for the Iron Coast Church which launched in Brunswick, Maine in March 2025. They've already baptized 82 people and are averaging over 250 people each week! Iron Coast Church currently meets at New Brunswick High School.

Continue to pray that the light of Christ will flood the New England region!



Leslie Starasta
Global Impact Team Leader

UPCOMING VOTE

An Elder vote of affirmation will take place on Sunday, January 4 at the end of each service.



LOCAL IMPACT

LCC's Furniture Ministry

In case you haven't heard, Local Impact has a furniture ministry! Here's how it works: people donate furniture to the church, and the Local Impact Team gives it away to people in need. During 2025, we gave away 59 pieces of furniture to 20 families. The people who donate the furniture are thankful that others can use their items and that they do not have to worry about what to do with the furniture they are replacing. And, of course, those who receive the furniture are blessed. Surprisingly, often those who feel the most blessed are the folks from our church who help load and deliver the furniture. They get a front row seat to see the joy on the faces of the people who receive the furniture! Above all, this ministry is another way that we can witness to others when we tell them why we do this ministry—to share the love of Jesus!

If you have furniture you'd like to donate, please contact the church office and they will help you make contact with the Local Impact team. Thank you for your donations!

Larry Simonson
Local Impact Team Leader



Widows of Wisdom

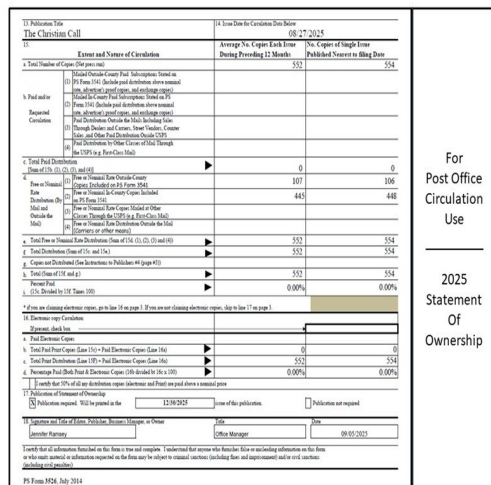
WOW will meet Friday, January 2, at 11:30 am in room 15 at the church building. Please bring a tray of your favorite finger food to share with the group and a wrapped Christmas ornament out of your stash for a "White Elephant" gift exchange. We will also be playing a fun Christmas trivia game. RSVP to Reva (217-828-0924) by January 1.



Thank you to all who participated in the Giving Tree project this year! We were able to provide gifts for 135 children!



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