



lincoln**christian**church.org
discover.connect.impact

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 December 2023 / January 2024 Issue | Volume 72 | Number 12

Spring Ministry Signups January 7 & 14!

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

LifeGroups
Sunday School
Men on Fire
Ladies Bible Study
Financial Peace University

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
High School 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 28

KIDS MINISTRY

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



PREACHING MINISTRY

ron.otto@lincolncatholicchurch.org

217.732.7618 x.104

Light in Darkness

There is an inspiring moment in the movie *Lord of the Rings* where the City of Gondor is under attack and the enemy at the gate. The soldier's courage is weakening. Then Gandalf arrives on horseback saying, "You are soldiers of Gondor. No matter what comes through that gate, you will stand your ground." It was just a movie, but even I could feel my courage growing.

Look at what has come through the gates of America lately. I don't know about you, but sometimes this world feels more like the dark than the light. Darkness has always been a picture of despair, doom, and death.

I don't apologize for calling it darkness. Jesus wasn't afraid to call it darkness. John 3:19-21 says, "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God." (NIV)

How are Christians supposed to fight off the growing darkness? It's easy to fall into the trap where we'd rather be kind than truthful. But truth is kind. Truth is loving. Truth requires courage. Backbone. Clear moral compass. When truth disappears, darkness marches on without challenge.

It's curious to me that Jesus calls us out of the darkness and into the light. But once saved and transformed, we are then sent back into the darkness to rescue those trapped by it. We are the last force against the darkness of our day.

Yes, the world can be dark. However, light has always been more powerful than darkness.

Isaiah 9:1-2 reads, "The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and those who were sitting in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has dawned." (NASB)

Our January series will unpack the truth versus lies of our times and show us how we as children of the light can impact the darkness. Please join us.



01/07 Why not call darkness what it is? Jesus did!

01/14 What's the answer to our growing darkness?

01/21 When is the perfect time? Now!

JOLLY SENIORS are taking a bus trip!

Lancaster Show, Pennsylvania Dutch Country including Philadelphia & Hershey | April 14 - 20



\$965* (*double occupancy) includes motorcoach, lodging, 10 meals & admission to attractions

Reserve your spot & pay \$75 deposit by ~~Dec 1~~ Jan 21!
Contact Judy Kukuck

JOLLY SENIORS MEETING

DATE: **January's meeting is CANCELLED!**
(but watch your mail for February 21's details!)

PLACE:

Fellowship Center @
Lincoln Christian Church
204 N. McLean St.
Lincoln, IL 62656

PROGRAM:

TBA!

DEVOTION:

TBA!

LUNCH ENTRÉE:

TBA from Guzzardo's!

*Remember: bring treats to share & To-Go containers!

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February *21, 2024
(NOTE: *3rd Wed./mo. for that round!)

Welcome New Members!

By Baptism:

11/12/2023—Sophia Goodman



***SPECIAL END-OF-YEAR OFFERING: \$90,087.69!**

Thanks to our congregation!



ADULT MINISTRY

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Newcomers Reception

On Sunday, January 21, 2024, following each morning service, we will be holding a Newcomers Reception in the Fireside Room. If you are newer with us, we would like to take about ten minutes of your time. We would like 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. We have a small gift for you as a way of saying "thanks" for attending!



How We Got the Bible Seminar

Saturday, January 27 from 8:30 am—1:00 pm. Led by Dr. Jim Estep of Lincoln Christian Institute. Jim talks about how we got our Bible, why we have the books that we have, and other important questions. Doors open at 8 am. Donuts, coffee, and snacks provided. No cost, but please pre-register at:

lincolinchristianchurch.org/events

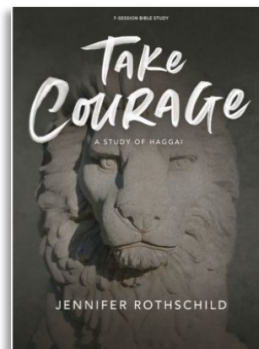


Men's Retreat & Cornhole Tourney

Presented by
Men on Fire

Join us for a morning of study of God's Word and an afternoon of a (semi-competitive :-)) cornhole tournament on Saturday, February 3. There will be compelling messages from leading pastors and teachers, testimonies of how others have lived Godly lives, and seminars on the topics of most interest to men. Beginning January 1, sign up at:

lincolinchristianchurch.org/events



Ladies Bible Study

Learn from Jennifer Rothschild about "How to Walk Confidently, Stay Motivated, and Courageously Invest Your Life" through the Old Testament Prophet Haggai. Sign up in the Family Room on January 7 or 14. Cost \$20 (scholarship available).

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. Visit the Family Room Sundays, January 7 and 14!

Financial Peace University!

FPU returns to Lincoln Christian Church on Wednesdays evenings this spring! Learn how to take control of your money and find greater fulfillment in life by following God's principles for money management. For more information and to sign up, please visit:

lincolinchristianchurch.org/fpu

Offering Envelopes

If you requested boxes of offering envelopes for next year's giving, they're now available at the Welcome Center in the Family Room. If you're unable to pick them up, please let us know and we can hold on to them for you until you can come in. If they're not picked up, or we don't hear from you after February, they'll be recycled. If you'd like to sign up, please email 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)

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>



Spring Calendar

To see the Student Ministry Calendar, either pick up a hard copy at the Student Info Desk or head to: lccstudents.com/events

The Gathering

(9th-12th Grade Youth Group) resumes Sunday, January 7, from 6-8 pm. Meal is at 6-6:30 pm. The Gathering still officially ends at 8 pm but optional Open Gym every Sunday until 8:30 pm!



FUEL

(5th-8th Grade Youth Group) resumes Wednesday, January 10. Fuel is from 6:30-8:00 pm. Doors open at 6:15 pm!



5th Graders Only!

Hey 5th Graders, SuperStart is Friday and Saturday, January 26-27 in Bloomington, IL. Cost is \$85 plus money for two fast food meals. **Sign up by paying \$85 by Sunday, January 7.** Scan code for more info!



Jr. High Bash – 6th-8th Grade

Hey 6th-8th Graders, the Jr. High Bash will be Friday February 2, from 6-9 pm, costs \$10. Join us for this super fun event! We will have pizza, pop, and tons of games. It is going to be awesome!



Current 8th-12th Grade Students

Hey 8th-12th Graders, Move is Monday through Saturday, July 8-13, 2024, in Wheaton, IL. \$460 plus 3 meals. **Non-Refundable deposit of \$130** due Sunday, February 18.

Scholarships for CIY Move

8th Grade Students who attended *On Mission* this fall can apply for a scholarship for \$100 for Move. That means that what you paid for *OnMission* is taken off the cost for Move. How sweet is that?

Every High School Student can raise money for Move by reading a book from the Student Ministry Bookshelf and writing a 1-page reflection. \$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.

Back from Sabbatical

Thank you for praying for my 8-week sabbatical. It was a filling time of rest and spiritual growth. I'm glad I also had the chance to visit other youth ministries. God is doing amazing things in the lives of teens around Illinois. I can't wait to see how God continues to shape the students of LCC.!

Blessings, Zach



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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On Wednesday, November 15, we had our **Thankful** party! We had so much fun while talking about what we were thankful for and all the things that God has blessed us with. Here just a few of the pictures from that event:

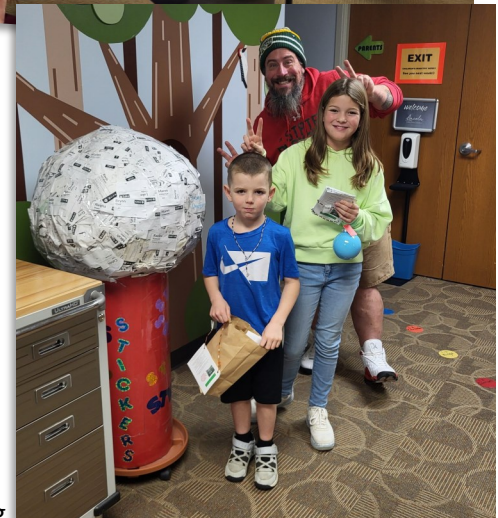


We followed up all that fun with a December **Kids Club** event on Wednesday, December 6 where we worshipped, had small groups, played games, and made Christmas ornaments. We talked about how to help unthaw frozen hearts, and that God sent Jesus to earth like He promised because He loves us. That is what will help unthaw frozen hearts! Thank God for Jesus at this Christmas time. It was a great evening, and here are a few more pictures!



KIDS CLUB REMINDER:

For 4-year-olds through 4th Graders, **Kids Club** is coming back full-time! We will be kicking off the Spring Semester on Wednesday, January 10 from 6:30 to 7:45 pm. We are excited and cannot wait to see you on Wednesdays in KidMin!!



Question of the month:

**Chuck's
corner**

I prevent myself from going deaf when I make my loud noise by tilting my head backwards. This completely covers my ear canals, like a built-in headphone. What am I?

Answer from last month: GREAT PANDA!





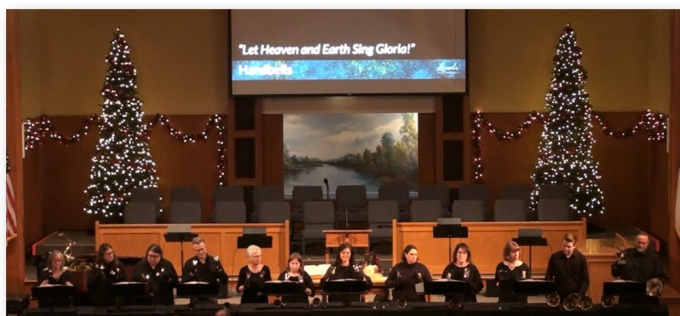
WORSHIP MINISTRY

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thank you to more than 135 of our musicians who provided beautiful Christmas worship this season!



Handbells and Sanctuary Choir were featured in the 8:15 am Sanctuary service on Sunday, Dec 3!



Celebrate! Christmas 2023 "Hope Awakes in Bethlehem" was wonderful on Dec 10 featuring HeartSong, Good News, and then combined multi-generational Worship Choir, accompanied by the Worship Band and Auxiliary Percussion in all three services in the Fellowship Center.



Sunday, Dec 17 featured the Kids Choirs in all four services. Merry Christmas everyone!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Good News and HeartSong meet again January 7! Open enrollment thru January 28!

Good News, our high school choir for 9th-12th grade students, and HeartSong, for 5th – 8th grade students, will be taking a break for the holidays and resume rehearsing on Sunday, January 7. There is open enrollment until the end of January (Sundays – January 7, 14, 21, 28) to make a commitment to the tours. If you would like more info on either group check out lincolncatholicchurch.org/worship, or contact me!

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 19-21, with our home concert Sunday, April 21, at 4:00 pm.

Good News' home concert is Monday, June 3, at 7:00 pm with tour from June 4-11, touring to Orlando, Florida and back with concerts in SC, FL, GA, TN, and IL! Our close-ish-to-home concert is Tue, June 11, at 7:00 pm. Stay tuned for more details as plans solidify.

Kids Choirs resume January 7!

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 5 at 6:00 pm. The Kids Choirs are split into two choirs - Cherubs (3 to 5 year olds, age 3 by Sep 1, 2023) and 1st-4th graders. We'll be working hard and having a ton of fun in the coming months! Open enrollment thru January 28. See you Sunday nights!

Sanctuary Choir open for more voices!

The Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsing Wednesday, January 10, 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 every-other-Sunday in the 8:15 am Sanctuary. Please be join me in prayer if you might be being called to lift your voice with us. Jump in anytime!

God is clearly involved in **LCC's Local Impact Ministry**! I could write several pages of things happening in this ministry that are not just coincidences. I will give you just one example. On a Thursday morning we received a call from a woman who left an abusive relationship and moved into an apartment. She did not have a bed and we had to tell her we're sorry, but we didn't have anything for her. In less than 24 hours we received a call from someone else asking if we could use a bed that they no longer needed! My faith keeps being strengthened as I see things like this happen over and over. How does this ministry work? People donate furniture to our church, and we give it away to people in need. In the last 12 months we have given away 92 pieces of furniture to 47 families! Many are blessed through this ministry. The people who donate the furniture are so thankful that another family can use it, and this solves their problem of not knowing what to do with the furniture they are replacing. The families who receive the furniture are, of course, blessed. Last, but not least, and maybe the most blessed are the folks from our church who help load and deliver the furniture. They get to see the joy on the faces of the people who receive the furniture! Also it is their opportunity to witness to these people by telling them why we do this. ~Larry Simonson, Leader



W.o.W. (Widows of Wisdom) meets the first Friday of every month so mark your calendars! Join us at 11:30 am Friday, January 5 at LCC in Rm. 15 by

Doors E (grEen canopy:)! Bring your own sack lunch. Our guest speaker will be Kevin McFadden about his recent trip to Israel! Questions and/or RSVP ASAP to Reva ([217.828.0924](tel:217.828.0924)) or Sharon ([217.737.9834](tel:217.737.9834)), thanks!

LCC's Global Impact Ministry supports the church in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa, which continues to grow and expand by God's grace and blessing. Guinea-Bissau is the 15th poorest country in the world with hunger and malnutrition being huge concerns. The work in Guinea-Bissau is currently led by Adriana Lopez and Ana Paula both from Brazil.



Their work has several different emphases. Bethel Christian School offers Christ-centered classes for Pre-K through grade 9 and adds another grade each year.

Adriana and Ana are especially thankful for their new child sponsorship program which provides tuition, uniforms, textbooks, school supplies, and nutritious lunches for the students. Evangelism, discipleship, and training of leaders remain a priority. Adriana and Ana are meeting with

small groups of Muslim children near their home. Adriana reports a student's grandfather asked for a Bible and is reading it. She asks us to pray for opportunities to share Christ with him. In November over 300 women and girls gathered at their third Congress for Women and Girls. The women of the country planned the entire event and spoke on the theme "The woman who fears the Lord will be honored." Hisportic Christian Mission director Tim Shields is leading two mission trips to Guinea-Bissau in February. The first team is leading a VBS and the second team is completing a side wall on the campus. If you are interested in the 2025 trip, contact a Global Impact Team Member. In conclusion, enjoy this greeting from Adriana: "Greetings Dear Friends and Ministry Partners. We come to the end of another year and this December we celebrate a very important date for Christians: Christmas. We know Jesus was not born this month, but the truth is He was born and we should celebrate. It is time to seize the opportunity to declare to the world the great good news: our Savior is born. I'm here in Guinea-Bissau because of it--To make Christ known and worshipped. Thank you for joining me in this task until all peoples love Christ. We celebrate the good news with great joy, the Emmanuel God is among us! I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year fulfilling God's plan for us and making His name known among the nations." ~Leslie Starasta, GI Ministry Team Member



HarvestOfTalents.org

After Harvest's first 20 years, Pat Snyder, founder, stepped aside as Chairperson of the team, and I was selected as successor. It's been such a rich and precious part of my life, and I



have loved it so much! I'm very proud of the team's service, decisions, and development. Having now served as Chairperson for 20 years myself, I have stepped aside from that position, but I will remain an active member of the team. At the recent Reflection & Praise meeting for our record 40th Anniversary year, team members Natalie Morris and Bethany Henry stepped up to be Co-Chairpersons for the 41st Harvest Ministry Team! So I join you in prayer for their successful leadership in the year ahead. And I continue to pray for YOU, a Friend of the Harvest, that you may know rich and unexpected blessings as you partner in any way with the Harvest ministry for hunger relief in Jesus' name. ~Carolyn Neal, John 1:16



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2024

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