




LIFE @ LINCOLN

Jan/Feb 2025

Volume 13, Issue 1



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A Marriage Redeemed

By: Joel Perez

I was 19 years old when I met my wife, Raquel, and she was 17 years old. We both grew up in dysfunctional homes and were haunted by broken childhood experiences. Neither of us knew what a healthy, thriving relationship or marriage should look like.

A year into our relationship we found ourselves with a child out of wedlock and stuck in a very rocky relationship. Eventually, we chose to get married. I think we had hoped that marriage would solve our problems. Unfortunately, it didn't. We struggled. We were two lost, broken, and sinful people attempting to live out marriage apart from God.

After five and half years and a second child, we found ourselves in a dark place. We had reached our breaking point. A marriage full of adultery, pornography, anger, resentment, selfishness, and hopelessness was all we had. We decided to call it quits, BUT God never quit on us!

After seven long, dark, and difficult months of separation and doing it our way; God intervened. My wife and I, at different moments, had powerful encounters with God. He softened our hardened hearts and we both surrendered our lives to Jesus. We reconciled overnight and entered the biggest

battle of our lives. The battle to save our marriage.

Dark secrets were exposed, arguments were had, tears were shed, and the temptation to walk away was constant. However, we were not fighting the battle alone. God was with us every step of the way. He gave us a new heart for each other and most importantly for Him.

By God's grace, we are celebrating 16 years of marriage next month and we now have four beautiful children. Our relationship with each other and with God is thriving. We still have our ups and downs, BUT we chose every day to have them with God rather than without Him.

If God never gave up on us, He would never give up on you.



Jon Hathorn - Pastor / Head of Staff



In December of every year, Bev and I take the time to have a little “Year In Review.” We didn’t call it by that name, but that’s really what we were doing. Let me tell you a little about it. After thanking God for many things from the previous year, we talk about the coming year. Some of which are: Summer Goals, Vacation ideas, Menu choices, Spiritual Goals, and financial priorities.

SUMMER GOALS

Basically, lets take advantage of the warm weather and create several memories as a couple and as a family. The beach, family nights, tours, garden plants, kayaking, college sporting events, and hikes. It was nice to have several things to look forward to and already have the next one planned. It even included a couple work projects.

VACATION IDEAS

This was usually a 3-4 year process. We saved a little every month to make sure we always had a bigger dream to look forward to and had the finances in place to accomplish this.

MENU PLANNING

We, actually more like myself, would think of all the special days on the calendar and put down things like,

Corned Beef on Mar. 17, Apple Pie on Washington’s birthday, going to Miguel’s on May 5th, and well—you get the idea. And then I put in many (and I mean many) deserts for various Saturday Nights during the year.

SPIRITUAL GOALS

Was I going to read through the Bible this year, memorize some key scriptures, read certain missionary stories, lead or simply participate in a small group, go as a couple to a Christian Couples Camp/family oriented retreat at a Church Camp.

BUDGETTING

All of these areas are so important to me. This planning helped us put in motion, an intentional effort to be forward thinking and making plans for success in these important areas of our lives: our relationship with God, our family, and our finances.

As I write this, it is almost Thanksgiving Day, and Bev and I have talked and settled on many of these for next year.

As the year gets going, I want to encourage you to set a few goals and put some priorities on your calendar even now. As it says in Proverbs 16:3 *“Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”*

Justin Linscheid - Assistant Pastor



As we approach a new year, we invite you to grow in your faith and deepen your connection with God and others at Lincoln. Whether through an online men's or women's group, a class, another kind of small group, or serving in some way, 2025 offers many opportunities to live more fully in Christ.

God created us to live in relationship—with Him and with one another. Embracing this life requires intention, aligning our hearts and priorities with His will. A vibrant relationship with God is not something that happens by chance but through a purposeful walk with Him. How will you cultivate your life this year to grow closer to God and the life He has for you?

Online Men's and Women's Groups

These flexible groups are a meaningful way to connect with others, build relationships, and grow spiritually no matter your schedule. Email Justin@lincolnpres.org to get started.

Winter Sunday School Classes

Join us for our Winter Sunday School Classes, meeting **Sundays from 9:30–10:30 AM, January 12 through March 30**. These classes are a wonderful opportunity to explore God's Word, strengthen your faith, and connect with others in the Lincoln community:

- **Begin Again** (*Char Yurkovic, A4*): Reflect on God's promise to renew our lives and embrace hope.
- **Acts & the End Times** (*Lise Bachman-Karnes, A3*): Dive into the book of Acts and discover how Scripture guides us to live faithfully in uncertain times.
- **Grace Marriage** (*Bill & Merrilee Chapman, A2*): Build a stronger marriage with practical tools and a focus on grace and growth.
- **Big Questions** (*Jon Hathorn & Mike Panzer, Agape Hall*): Explore challenging faith questions in a welcoming and open environment.
- **Life Together** (*Tyler & Teri Solt, Fireside Room*): A conversational group for younger adults exploring faith, relationships, and life.

Serving and Outreach Opportunities

Serving others is not just about meeting needs—it's about embodying the love of Christ. From community events to supporting others in our everyday lives, God gives us daily opportunities to live out our faith and grow in our understanding of God's heart.

Let's embrace 2025 with hearts yearning for God, pursuing a deeper life of love with Him and one another. What a gift to be able to experience the joy and transformation that comes from walking closely with God.



Growing Together in 2025

SIGN UP FOR A FREE RIGHT NOW MEDIA ACCOUNT

rightnow MEDIA
Equipping people to live out their faith in Jesus at home, at work and around the world.



Additional Group Options



SIGN UP FOR LINCOLN'S DAILY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT



FIND ADDITIONAL HELPFUL
RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY


HOPE @ HOME

BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES



Josh Imboden - Director of Student Ministries



What's Coming Up:

This spring, we're thrilled to bring **Youth Alpha** to our middle and high school groups—a series designed to help teens explore faith, ask big questions, and connect with others in a safe and welcoming environment. Each session features engaging videos, open discussions, and meaningful conversations about life, faith, and purpose.

Whether your family has been part of the church for years or you're inviting someone new to join, Youth Alpha is a fantastic way for teens to deepen their understanding of God, build friendships, and grow spiritually. We encourage you to come along, and consider inviting a friend who might be curious about faith.

- **Middle School Youth Group kicks off January 8, 2025**
- **High School Youth Group kicks off January 12, 2025**

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events

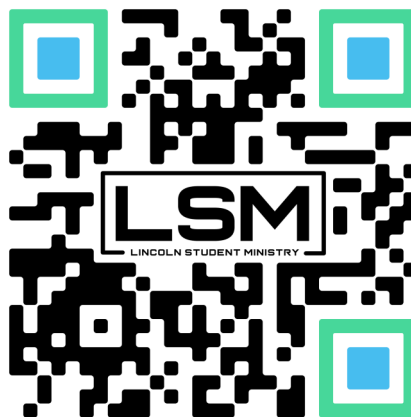
- **Winter Camp at Hume Lake (Jan 31 - Feb 2, 2025):** Don't miss this life-changing weekend of worship, powerful messages, and fun with friends in the beautiful Hume Lake setting.
- **Night to Shine (Feb 7, 2025):** Join us in hosting an unforgettable prom night for

people with special needs at Galt High School. Youth are encouraged to serve and make this night magical. Sign up online!

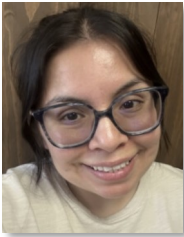
- **Broomball (Mar 15, 2025):** Team up for a fun night of broomball—no skates needed! Just \$5 for some friendly competition and a great time on the ice.
- **Sumer Camp at Hartland (Jan 31 - Feb 2, 2025):**

Middle School Neon Night

Our Middle School Black Light Night was an unforgettable evening filled with glowing fun and high-energy excitement! Students arrived decked out in neon colors, ready to compete in a variety of glowing games and challenges. The highlight of the night? Watching our incredible leaders get pied in the face by the winning team! We're so thankful for the amazing group of students and leaders who made this night a glowing success!



Raquel Perez - Director of Children's & Family Ministries



Happy New Year! I hope and pray that you brought in the new year with Christ and family. We ended 2024 with a bang. Our LPC family packed 150 boxes

for Samaritans Purse. Praise God for every box packed and the lives impacted by those boxes. LPC kiddos had the opportunity to partner with our Visitation Ministry and Showered with Love during the Christmas season. It was a beautiful way to develop hearts of service in our LPC kiddos.

Join us in kicking off 2025 with Christ and the

church family by joining a Sunday School class and our Wednesday Night programs. Adults and Kids Sunday school classes kick-off Sunday, January 12th and Wednesday Night programs start back up on Wednesday, January 8th.

There are so many awesome events and activities coming up. Visit our website to subscribe to our weekly kids newsletter. It is the best way to get up-to-date information about what's happening with the kids and families of LPC. If you have any questions, contact me at raquel@lincolnpres.org. God Bless you and yours in 2025 and beyond!



Daily Word of Encouragement

Holes In The Darkness

A story is told of a young Robert Lewis Stevenson who spent much of his childhood in poor health. One night his nurse found him with his nose pressed against the frosty pane of his bedroom window. "Child, come away from there. You'll catch your death of cold," she fussed. But young Robert wouldn't budge. He sat, mesmerized, as he watched an old lamplighter slowly working his way through the black night, lighting each streetlamp along his route. Pointing, Robert exclaimed, "See; look there; there's a man poking holes in the darkness." At times it seems we live in a very dark world filled with pain and suffering. We ask; "Why is this so?"

Ever since the fall in Genesis 3, when Adam and Eve decided to take matters into their own hands and make decisions apart from their Creator God, things in this world began spiraling out of control poisoning God's good creation. The word we have for this is sin.

We see sin's effects in three ways;

- When we attempt to "run our own show"; "do what seems right in our own eyes" without any thought of the Creator of all things.
- When others are running their show and it happens to collide with ours.

- When the world system we live in is constantly "squeezing us into its mold." We are being bombarded daily with messages that are directed at our own selfish desires.

"For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world." 1 John 2:16 NLT

Well, that's enough of the bad news.

Here's the Good News. Life with God is available to anyone who will choose it. Thank You Jesus!



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:1-5 ESV

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief

comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:7-10 ESV

To His followers/disciples/apprentices Jesus says...

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:14-16 NLT

Lincoln's "Daily Word of Encouragement" is written by members of the Lincoln Family and shared each day as a source of inspiration and spiritual nourishment. These reflections are crafted to help us draw closer to God, deepen our faith, and encourage us to walk with Him in every moment of life. If you long to be strengthened in your journey and inspired by God's truth each day, we invite you to sign up and receive these daily messages via email—join us as we grow together in Christ.

Interested in becoming a contributor?

Scan this QR code to sign-up

**SIGN UP FOR LINCOLN'S
DAILY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT**



Men's Bible Study
Wednesday Nights 6:00 - 7:15
Meet in Pastor Justin's Office
Starting January 8th



Video - Discussion - Prayer



Facilitator - Jon Hathorn

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE CHAPTER BY CHAPTER

Facilitated by Caroline Richie - Wednesday Nights 6:00 - 7:15
Meets in the Fireside Room



This class reads through the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and discusses the text, looking into the historical and cultural context to know its meaning.

Wednesday Nights - 6:00 - 7:15
Meet in the GREEN ROOM
Starting January 8th



Facilitator - Bev Hathorn

Video - Discussion - Prayer

DINNERS for EIGHT



Dinners for Eight provides a relaxing environment in which to get to know other members & visitors of Lincoln Presbyterian Church. For more information, contact Wethera Duncan (209) 471-1405 or email: wethera1@sbcglobal.net To sign up.



Adult Sunday School

January 12- March 30 | 9:30AM

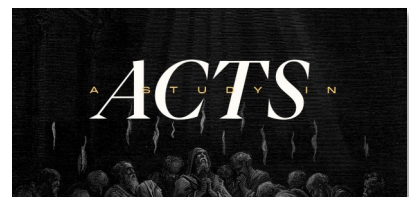
BEGIN AGAIN



In this inspiring class, we will explore God's unwavering promise to restore and renew our lives. Guided by the teachings of Max Lucado, we will learn to believe in a trustworthy God, enjoy His good gifts, ground ourselves in His promises, and influence the world around us. With a focus on nurturing an eternal perspective, this class empowers you to embrace new possibilities, no matter where you are in life. Take the next step toward hope—it's never too late to Begin Again.

ACTS & WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

This is a special two-part class. In the first part, we'll explore key teachings from the book of Acts, with insights from global church leaders on spreading the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the second part, we'll address the question: Are we living in the end times? With a focus on preparation over fear, this accessible study reveals what the Bible says about the end times, reminding us that the end of our story is filled with hope—and centered on Jesus.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



GRACE MARRIAGE

Grace Marriage Ministry is a proactive approach to strengthening marriages by focusing on God's grace, not just crisis management. Through intentional time together, Biblical principles, and practical tools, couples are equipped to nurture their relationship, deepen their connection, and build a Christ-centered marriage that thrives.



KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Join us for an engaging class that delves into the essential questions of faith and the foundational truths that shape our lives. Bring your questions and doubts as we explore what you believe and why it matters. This is a unique opportunity to deepen your faith and participate in meaningful discussions that inspire growth and understanding.

LIFE TOGETHER GROUP

What does God think of me? How am I thinking about God? Real life. Real questions. Real discussions. This is an opportunity to connect with God and also connect with others who are still learning about life – ie. a group a little on the younger side. This group will engage in discussions through a facilitator.



Deacon Message

As we transition into a new year we want to welcome our new Deacons and thank our outgoing Deacons for their service.

Our Deacon ministry loves being able to care, encourage, serve, and pray for our cluster members. Please let your Deacon know how they can. As the tree is taken down, the ornaments and decorations packed away, the goodies long gone, and the memories fade, may the powerful truth of Christmas remain.

Isaiah 9:6 says, *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Jesus is the world’s Savior and servant King. He was born unto us because He came to save us. May we live in peace and love throughout the coming year.



Treasurer Report

At the end of October, which is 83% of the year, we have received 85% of the projected income and expended 82%. We have \$41,454 in Future Capital Projects and \$5,679 in Special Gifts. The Children’s Playground will be paid off in November and the Agape Kitchen upgrade is paid. God has been so good to us.

<u>Op. Fund:</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>% of Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$69,143	\$770,415	85%
Expense	\$74,273	\$742,890	82%
Net	(\$5,130)	\$27,525	



Birthdays

January

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|-------------|
| 1 | Barbara Head | 15 | Margaret Chau | 28 | Ingrid Best |
| 5 | Barbara George | 20 | Michael Gotschall | 31 | Jody Graham |
| 7 | Craig Barker | | John Sharpe | | |
| | Robbie Richardson | 24 | Julie Colyer | | |
| 8 | Kirk Reynolds | | Bill Costanza | | |
| 9 | Mary Kaye Moore | 26 | Jason Hill | | |
| 10 | John Doisy | 27 | Rachel Kudla | | |
| 11 | Jonathen Bacaylan | 28 | Cassie Spalding | | |
| 11 | Marie Cottman | | John French | | |
| | Amy Bailey | | Bill Hill | | |



February



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Kris Stewart | | Marge Ramirez |
| 4 | Pam Dunn | 13 | Sherrie Kudla |
| 5 | Mark Gantt | 16 | Harry Ulep |
| 6 | Beth Doe | 18 | Sharon Olney |
| 7 | Dave Hey | 20 | Irene Jackson |
| 8 | Jon Hathorn | | Dale Hill |
| 9 | Prilla McGregor | 25 | Gary Vermillion |
| | Daniel Bates | 26 | Allison Fedor |
| 10 | James Lavender | | Grace Ferguson |
| 11 | Blake Lamie | | |



YouVersion[®]
The Bible App[™]



Men's Group:

This year we will be exploring various Spiritual Practices (or Disciplines) that help us to deepen our walk with God and more fully reflect His love and surrender. If you have been in our study this past year I will automatically invite you to each study, if you wish to join us, please contact Justin and he will get your

Women's Group:

Starting January 1, 2025, the Women's *YouVersion* study will consist of a series of 7 to 14 day plans covering living the spiritual life and increasing the depth of our walks with Jesus. We will cover subjects like the following: Spiritual Practices, Spiritual Gifting, the Armor of God, The Fruit of the Spirit, Spiritual warfare, the Attributes of God, core NT theology books like Romans and Hebrews, women's roles and spiritual challenges, family issues, culture clash/ Christian worldview and seasonal focus. Depending on the style of the plan, we may have two plans going at the same time. All those currently active in the The Bible Recap group plan will be invited to the initial New

Year's kickoff plan in late December.

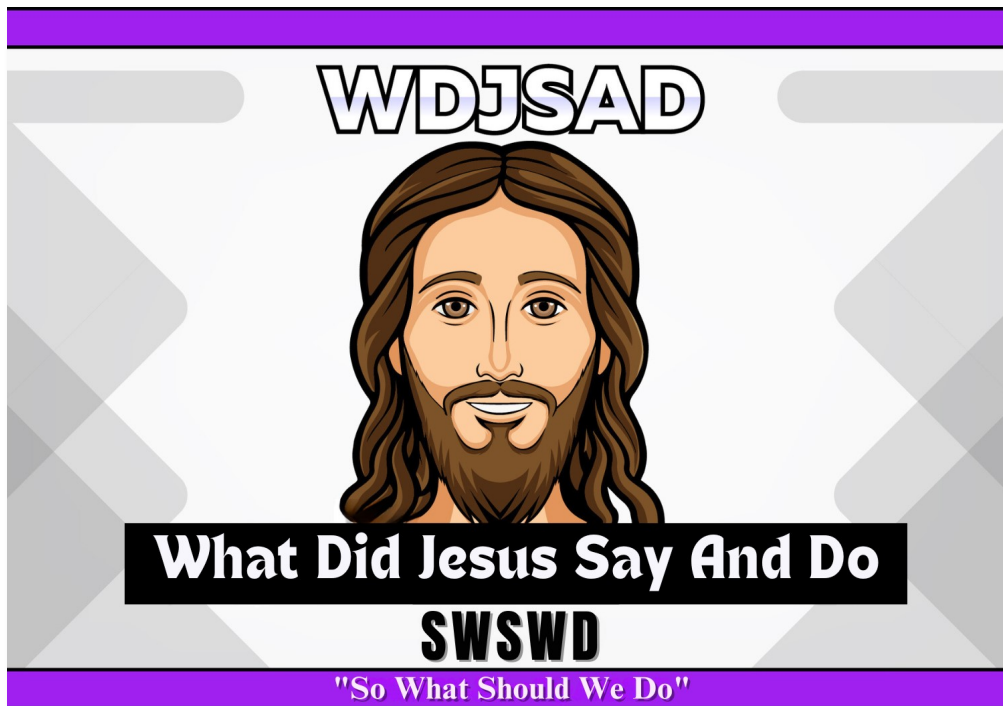
If you would like to join us, please email peghelland@me.com. Make sure to have the *YouVersion Bible App* downloaded onto your phone or tablet and be signed in to your account.

Looking forward to a adventurous 2025.



Sermon Series - 2025 THEME - WDJ SAD

What Did Jesus Say And Do! That's a great place to start for all of us. This year we will be looking into several themes about what Jesus said and did. What He said about Stewardship. This will be followed by several series "HOW HE...: Trained, and Used Power. We'll then cover HIS GREATEST: Sermon, Stories, and Conversations. And possibly the most important BEING WITH JESUS



The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Lincoln Presbyterian Church

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Josh Imboden, Director of Student Ministries

Tom BetGeorge, Director of Music/Worship Leader

Megan Worth, Office Manager

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Address Service Requested

We're on the Web at:
www.lincolnpres.org

January/February 2025

Sunday Worship: 8:15am & 10:45am | Sunday School: 9:30am

Follow us:



Lincoln Presbyterian Church



@lincolnpresbyterian



LincolnPresbyterianChurch

Lincoln's Mission:

**To know and love God, to know and love people,
and bring the two together through Jesus Christ.**

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm | closed 12-1pm | Friday 8:30am-Noon