



November/December 2021

Pastor Jon Hathorn

November and December - just 61 days but many things are involved. These two months are probably:

- *the most hectic
- *the most expensive
- *the most religious
- *the most tiring
- *the most exciting
- *the hardest without family
- *the most expressions of joy and thanks
- *the most difficult on our finances
- *the most memorable

I could go on and on about this, but the idea is the possibilities of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The heart and head balance of keeping perspective and not losing joy or gratitude for the meaning of the times that we celebrate.

I'd like to share something we have done the last couple of years that have been a blessing for us.

In preparation for Thanksgiving Day, I went to the store and purchased many gift cards to various places. I placed each one in an envelope and wrote something on the outside of the envelope. People chose an envelope based on what the statement was on the outside. It was a statement or prompt for sharing thanks:

- *something I used to not be thankful for but am now
- *Something that was hard to go through but is something

that has helped me learn gratitude

- *An elementary school teacher I am thankful for
- *Something that I am thankful for and hope other family members are thankful for as well
- *A Thanksgiving memory that I am thankful for
- *A family vacation that I am thankful for
- *Two foods that I am thankful for
- *A friend who I am thankful for

I think you get the idea. The more challenging and transparent the statement, the more the gift card was worth. Each person was asked to share for a minimum of 20 seconds (kids only needed 10 seconds). After sharing, the person got to open the envelope and reveal their gift card. This promoted some very creative and diverse sharing. We had a lot of fun with it.

In preparation for Christmas, we have always done two things - make sure it is about giving and not getting, and make sure it is about Jesus Christ. One of the things that we want to provide for you is an easy access to worship the Lord and make certain Christmas is about the Lord. Be and I have always found that setting some finances aside for God's work is very special, and



also giving to a couple of local Christian agencies is a blessing.

We have three Christmas Eve services to help with this:

- 4:30 is family friendly including a story for kids, a live band, a birthday cake for Jesus, as well as child care for the little ones. This service will also be live streamed and available to be viewed whenever you are available.
- 6:00 is another service that will be very similar to the 4:30 except there is no special story time, birthday cake or child care.
- 7:30 is our classic-reflective service which will involve less instruments during our music.

The joy of the Lord will be proclaimed, the Scriptures will be read, and we will point people to the Savior of the World, the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor, the Great I Am.

I am getting excited thinking about these things. Lastly, if you know someone who is going to be alone for either Thanksgiving or Christmas Day, please invite them to your home or pass the name on to me so we can connect them to a family for the day. Also, if you'd be interested in hosting a guest for either of these days, please let me know as well.

You guys are the best.

~ Jon

Important to Note:

- DST Ends
- Congregational Meeting
- Men's Breakfast
- Ladies' Christmas Luncheon
- Christmas Lightshow
- Christmas Eve Services

Justin Linscheid - Assistant Pastor



"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16



The Fall and Winter seasons provide great opportunities for our "light" to shine before others. Events like Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving outreach, Operation Christmas Child, and the Christmas Lightshow (in this case light is literally shining) are all great opportunities to serve our community with good deeds. Amazingly, our acts of service to God can lead others to glorify God.

Something about the way we might love another person, do a good deed for them, make them feel welcomed, can help another see God and give Him praise.

The enemy of God, Satan, knows that as followers of Jesus Christ, we have been given the great purpose of pointing others to God that they too might live a life of praise and service to Him. Because of this, we will face the temptation to hide our light. We will face thoughts and feelings that persuade us that it easier to not step out in faith. That our service doesn't matter or won't make a difference. Staying in the comfort of our own homes and within the predictable is safer. Yet, Jesus says to let our light shine. Let it be seen. He then clarifies that our light is good deeds that no doubt come as a result of following Him. God will use our good deeds to help others to see Him, come into eternal relationship with Him, and glorify Him with their lives.

In both this life and the next, we might find ourselves astounded that some of the simplest actions of love

and good deeds were instrumental in changing a person's eternity. We have the privilege of belonging in God's family and being part of His plan for rescuing others from sin and eternal separation from God. I pray that God would give us a fresh and increasing awareness of the importance of living for God and letting our light shine for others to see. Light is meant to shine and give direction so that people can see the right path to walk. May our motives be pure in the deeds we do, so that others will give praise not to us, but to God.

Would you be in prayer about how God wants to use you this season and how your good deeds might lead others to glorify God? Would you also be in prayer that your good deeds might illuminate God and cause others to see Him for the good and wonderful God He is? May your passion for God set others on fire for Him so that they too will become the light of the world.

~ Justin

Deacon Message

"Well done, good and faithful servant!..." (Matt.25:21)

The deacons of LPC offer a number of supporting ministries such as preparing and serving communion on the first Sunday of each month and on other special occasions. Deacons have blessed the sick with meals and visits; shut-ins

with assistance such as grocery shopping and transportation to doctor appointments; families with financial assistance, and students with scholarship aid for college and church camp. Memorial receptions are another very important ministry providing comfort for grieving families. Thank you for your continued generous support, not only by your

donations of money, but of time you are willing to offer in helping serve alongside members of the Deacon Board in any of the aforementioned areas of service. Just ask your deacon how you can help.



The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Lincoln Presbyterian Church

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Student Ministries - Harry Ulep



As the year comes to a close, it is always exciting to look back and see how God has been working within the youth ministry. It

was such a great time seeing the youth come together for a guys' pizza and hockey night, and a girls' movie and painting party. Also seeing our leaders' commitment to supporting the students both inside and outside the youth group by attending their extracurricular activities, like the students' sporting events. God is working in the relationships with one another and drawing us closer to Him.

Over these last two months of the year, we are continuing through the series "The Thread", helping students see the gospel story taking place throughout the entirety of Scripture. As we transition into the New Testament, it is a great time of seeing students openly discussing their faith, acknowledgement of what God has done for us, and finding ways to live it out and share the gospel message with others. We are also looking forward towards celebrating a season of thanks together, expressing our gratitude and praising God for who He is by having an evening of worship, and a



Christmas party to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

One of the events coming soon is Winter Camp 2022! We are so excited to be taking students up to Hume Lake for their Youth Winter Camp on March 4-6th. We would love for your teens to join us for a weekend of high energy, awesome activities, great worship, and a chance to grow closer to God through His Word. If you would like more information about winter camp, contact me at

Harry@lincolnpres.org



Children's Ministries - Heidi Verheyden



Over the past month, there have been many people helping out to do some upgrades in the kid ministry rooms.

Thank you so much to all who painted, moved furniture, organized, assembled furniture and more! It definitely was a team effort! I hope you will come check out the new paint in the KidZone and the new check-in area in the nursery!

As the end of the year is filled with a variety of events, the kid's ministry is no different! So, get your calendar out and mark down these dates so you don't miss them!

Operation Christmas Child boxes will be passed out November 3rd

and 7th. It is our hope that each family will take home a box and fill it up as a service project. Inside there will be some activities to do as a family, talking about gratitude and directions for what to fill the box with. The boxes should be returned by November 14th.

A new event called Lego Legends is coming November 12 from 6-7 pm! Use the Legos at the church or bring your own and build some creative creations with Legos. At the end we will enjoy a Bible story told with Legos and parents will have a time to be prayed for by other couples in the church.

To kick off the Christmas season, the LPC kids will have a Christmas party Wednesday December 1 from 6-7:15pm! The kids on Sundays and



Wednesdays have been busy working on their Christmas songs to sing December 12 during both services. It has been wonderful to have some musically gifted people help by teaching the songs, and the kids are looking forward to singing for everyone!

Starting in 2022, there will be a semi-annual kids clothing swap. The second Saturday of January and July, families are welcome to bring their lightly used clothes and trade with other families. Parents, start saving those clothes that no longer fit your kids and get ready to trade them out soon. If you have any questions, let me know.

Treasurer's Report - Carol Bedell - August 2021/ September 2021

August/September

Operating Fund:	<u>August</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>% of Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$78,968	\$548,263	70%
Expense	\$57,354	\$400,076	51%
Net	\$21,614	\$148,187	

Financial Report



At the end of August we were \$148,187 in the black. We received \$15,835 toward the Building Fund. Our mortgage payment was revised to \$6,946 per month from \$12,623. We also received the second quarter Employee Retention Credit in the amount of \$30,111.60 which was applied to the mortgage. We were able to pay a total of \$45,946.60 toward our mortgage. This leaves a balance on the loan of \$1,000,332.88. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Operating Fund:	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>% of Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$56,925	\$605,173	77%
Expense	\$61,201	\$460,754	59%
Net	(\$4,276)	\$144,419	

Through September of 2021, the Operating Fund ended \$144,419 in the black. At 75% of the year our income is at 77% and our expenditures are at 59%.

The Building Fund received \$25,833 in September and we paid the \$6,943 mortgage payment and an excess of \$18,890. Now that the mortgage payment is less, we reduced the amount held in reserve at LPC from \$40,000 to \$25,000, or approximately three months of mortgage payments. That excess reserve was also paid toward the mortgage. At the end of September we owe \$963,344 on our loan. It's exciting that it's less than \$1 million! Thank you for your continued commitment and support of LPC through your giving and your talents.

Congregational Meeting Called



Session has called a Congregational meeting for Sunday, November 14th after the 1st service for the purpose of nominating and voting on Elders, Deacons, and Trustees for the classes of 2023 (Deacons) and 2024 (Elders & Trustees).

Lincoln has a wonderful tradition of family members honoring and remembering others at both Christmas and Easter time. Families donate money in the name of a loved one and the money has been used for poinsettias and Easter lilies. These celebrations have been a blessing, but it has also been a challenge because of the strong fragrance for many. Honoring and remembering is a wonderful tradition. All donations go towards purchasing plants for the redesigned planter area outside the office. It will take on a very similar look to the planters near the Activity Center. This will be a great long lasting blessing. If you'd be interested in participating, all the names of those being honored and remembered will be publicized in conjunction with Christmas and Easter as usual. Thank you to the people who thought of this idea. Please complete the form & return it with your donation by December 5th to be included in the Donor list to be published December 19th.

Given in memory of: _____

Given in honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Phone #: _____



Missions Report

Reaching Kids, Reaching Families

The Center - Peniel Mission

Bob Margaron pulled up in front of the Peniel Center, just as a guy walking his dog rounded the corner. “Do you remember me?” he asked. It was Memo, who had come to the Bible clubs and activities at Peniel when he was 12. It was definitely a God ordained moment. Twenty-three years later Memo needed help. He had gotten caught up in the addiction cycle, and ended up on the wrong side of the law. “I shared my testimony and how much Christ loves him,” Bob said, “we prayed and he accepted Christ into his life.” Since Memo had two warrants for driving with a suspended license, Bob counseled him to get rid of the temptation to drive. Memo listened. A few days later he sold his car. He was coming to the Center daily, doing Bible study, getting disciplined, talking and praying with Bob.

Bob challenged Memo to take care of the legal problems he had. In the meantime, Bob contacted Teen



Challenge and found an opening. God worked it out so Memo was allowed to attend the program at Teen Challenge instead of going to jail. He has now been at Teen Challenge for 6 months, and some



of you know him because you're writing him letters to encour-

age him!

It's through just this kind of personal discipleship and one-on-one intervention that God has used Bob and Lisa Margaron to bring His transforming love to kids in south Stockton at Peniel Mission for over 25 years. Even “kids” like Memo, who come back 23 years later seeking help.

About five years ago, a middle school girl who came to the center told Lisa that her family's power had been out for numerous days. The young girl's parent suffered mental health issues and was “self-medicating” with street drugs. The Margarons were able to connect the parent with some mental health intervention. The parent has been clean and sober now for almost 4 yrs. and this once broken family has been completely restored.

The girl who confided in Lisa is now a high achieving high school student, and her older brother just graduated with honors from college. All because one child set foot in Peniel, and the Margarons reached out to her and her family with Christ's love and some streetwise intervention.

Through our partnership with the Margarons and Peniel Mission, we at LPC have been able to participate in God's mission right here in our own hometown, by helping to pass out food to the community monthly as

well as through our prayers and financial gifts.

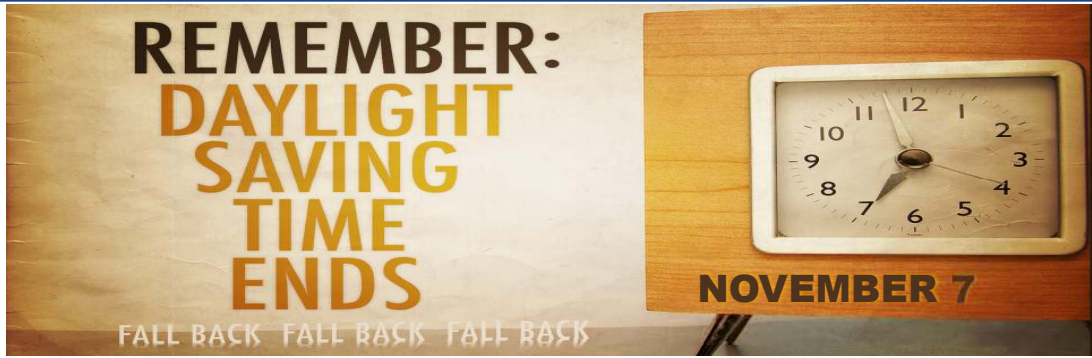
Please pray that God will give Bob and Lisa wisdom as they re-evaluate at this stage of ministry what all they are doing (and how) and what changes, if any, He may want them to make. Pray too that God would provide more missionaries to join them. And pray for the future of this center that cares deeply for children, youth, and their families with the love of Christ—one

life, one family at a time. If you are interested in finding out about other ways to be involved, contact

bob.margaron@wgf.org

or call 209-942-0228.





Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway

A donation of 100 turkey breasts was made to LPC and many of you donated funds towards making complete meal kits-thank you! We will be distributing these meal kits on November 19th. If you would

like to help with the distribution, please contact Pastor Justin for details at

639-1682 or
justin@lincolnpres.org



Christmas Soup & Salad Luncheon
December 4th, 10:30-12:30

Free Event-be sure to reserve your seat!

Sign up in the lobby
November 7th through November 28th



You won't want to miss the Christmas Lightshow Experience with the new additions this year. This will be a walk-in event with fun activities for kids of all ages! Be sure to invite your friends & neighbors to this special event.

December 3rd & 4th,
10th & 11th, 17th & 18th
If you would like to help with the event, contact Pastor Justin:
639-1682 or
justin@lincolnpres.org

Directory Updates



Rob & Duffy Ruffin
2192 Tiffany Walk
Manteca 95336

Jaime Peña
1910 Hacienda Dr
95209

Dan & Crystal Bates
Discontinued landline

Flowers



If you have signed up for flowers, you will need to call the florist on Monday to place your order using a debit or credit card, or you may go to the florist to pay by cash or check.

Charter Way Florist
5620 N. Pershing Ave
956-9087

The 2022 Flower Chart will be available for sign ups at the end of November.

November Flowers

- 7 Jesse Morones / Debra Shull
- 14 Susan Thomas
- 21 Betty Crecelius
- 28 Cynthia Alford



December Flowers

- 5 Jesse Morones / Debra Shull
- 26 Cynthia Alford

November/December Calendar

Sundays:

Sunday Worship @ 8:30am & 10am
Live-stream service on YouTube @ 8:30am
Adult Sunday School Class @ 10am
• RightNow Study Group - Office classroom

Tuesdays:

Prayer Time @ 6:30am
Women's Bible Study @ 9:30am
Quilting @ 12pm
Young Adults @ 6:30pm
Men's Basketball @ 8pm (break in December)

Wednesdays:

Retired Guys Bible Study @ 9:30am
Kids & Youth @ 6-7:15pm
Mom's Bible Study @ 6-7:15pm
Adult Bible Study @ 6pm-7:15pm

Thursdays:

Pickleball @ 6:30pm (break in December)

Dates to Remember:

November 7 Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 14 Congregational Meeting
November 14 Gospel Center Rescue Mission
graduation at Lincoln 2:00pm
November 18 Food for You
November 21 Christmas Decorating
November 25-26 Office Closed
December 4 Men's Breakfast
December 4 Ladies' Christmas Luncheon
December 16 Food for You
December 24 Christmas Eve Services 4:30, 6:00, and 7:30
December 26 "Un"decorating
December 27 Office Closed

Scan here to subscribe to any of our emails:



November Birthdays

1 Beverly Fertig	19 Jan Cambra	24 Bob Gibson
2 Lavon Van Selow	Debra May	25 Connie Baxter
3 Savannah Nalls	20 Juanita Fain	26 Bill Bambas
4 Vaughn Pipes	Michael Heer	Lorna Crooks
5 Nancy Oberholtzer	Sharon Norbutas	27 Crystal Bates
7 Kedric Nalls	22 Jim Woodward	28 Jake Erickson
9 Dick Ennis	23 Doug Wary	29 Jane Carson
14 Bob Norbutas	Christi Journagan	Lorna Zink
15 Emalie Lamie	24 Patrick Fedor	30 Cheryl Pannabecker
18 Jenny Creamer	Casey Journagan	

December Birthdays

1 John Kluve	12 Susan Blythe	25 Ron Allen
2 Patty Roek	13 Julie Senegor	26 Irma St. John
John Schulz	14 Cynie Downs	John Montalvo
3 Wendy Bell	Holly Meyers	27 Jed Asis
Amanda Stogner	16 Rachel Peña	27 Tyler Graham
4 Cori Reynolds	Joyce Korock	28 Heidi Fedor
7 Jen Gutierrez	18 Gabe Laguna	29 Joy Greenlee
Dorothy Wilkins	18 Scott McGregor	Bill Wagner
9 Leonard Tacla	19 Barbara Morefield	Maureen Gibson
11 Richie Senegor	Alyson White	30 Bob Yamaguchi
Valerie Ehrlich	21 Sandy Parker	31 Ray Johnson
Pam Dunn	22 Carroll Johnston	Loren Tacla
	23 Karen Gantt	Chris Balgemann



Lincoln Presbyterian Church

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Stockton, California 95207

Address Service Requested

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

Nov/Dec 2021

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

LIFE @ LINCOLN DEADLINE
December 15

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Lincoln Presbyterian Church



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LincolnPresbyterianChurch

Lincoln's Mission:

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

Route 66 - The History Books



Continuing our "Route 66" Sermon Series, now in The History Books. There are 66 books in the Bible and we are going to gain a little overview of each book, it's basic message, key points and memorable thoughts. There will be some incredible visuals and other helpful reminders each week engaging us in a better understanding and appreciation of each book.