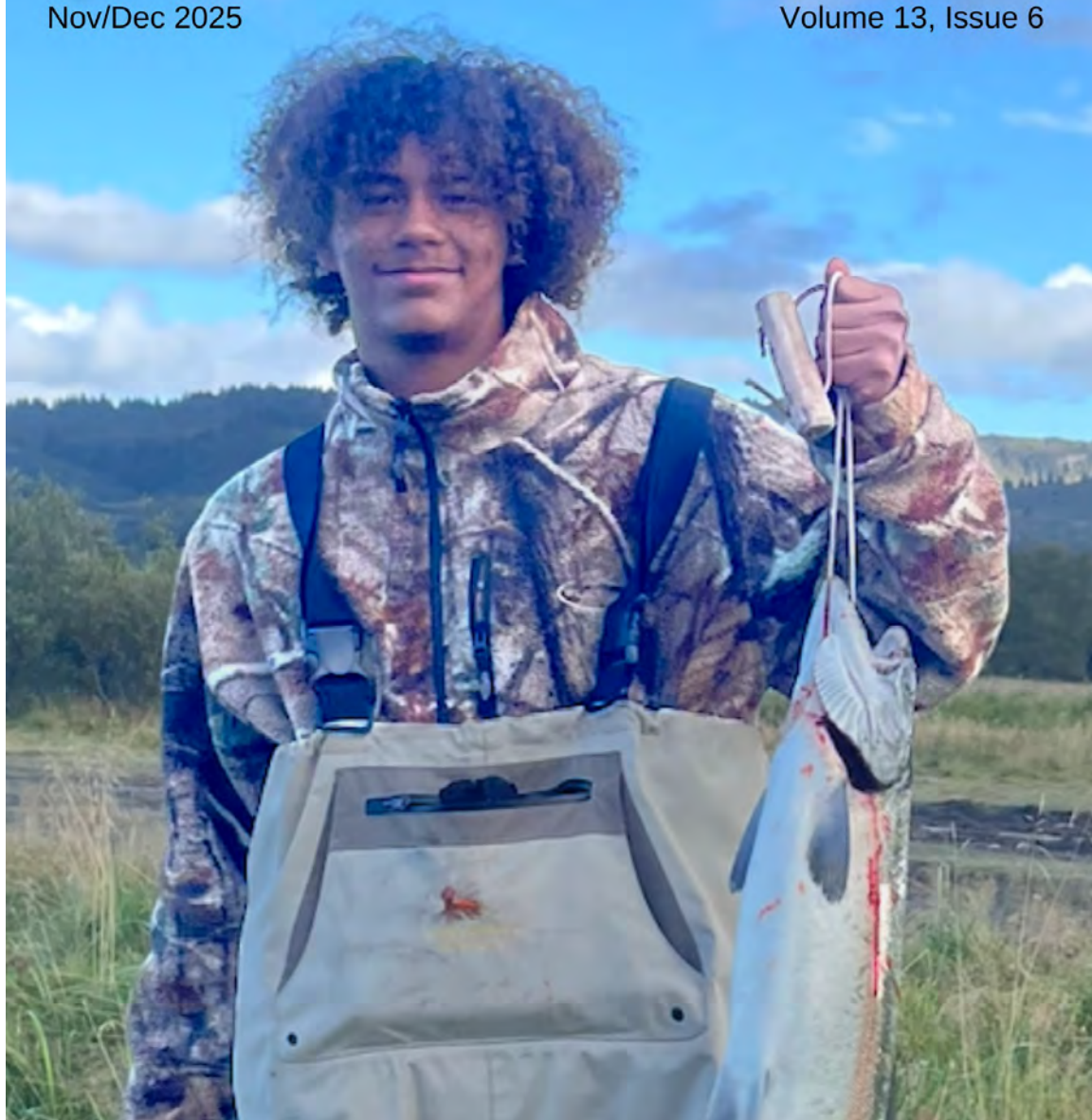




LIFE @ LINCOLN

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Volume 13, Issue 6



My Journey with Jesus - Chase Wroten

Hi my name is Chase Wroten. As a young 18 year old adult my journey with Jesus has definitely been a roller coaster with many ups and downs. My relationship with Christ truly started when I was a junior in high school. At that time I was stuck in the ways of the world, indulging in my sinful nature. I felt like I had no foundation, and my world was falling apart. I didn't know where to turn. Then I thought to myself, "Why do I have to go through this." I had many questions but had yet to receive any answers. I knew of God but I didn't truly know who He was or what He was about. Many times I was left alone with nobody to run to or talk with. So I did what many people who don't know God would do, I ran to worldly things to fill the void I had inside.

Little did I know, the more I looked to the world for healing, comfort, and security, the bigger the void became. This isn't what God wanted for me, so little by little God was

taking me out of this way of living. I didn't realize this then but I do now, God was calling me home.

One day as I was scrolling on my phone, video after video, God began to show himself to me. There was something about Jesus that felt different. I didn't just hear stories, I felt like he was speaking directly to me. Why was He so interested in me? Why did He die on a cross for me? Why was He calling out to me? Why did He want a relationship with me? As I was asking myself these questions, I started to watch more videos about Jesus.

Video after video I learned that he died on a cross for me and my sins, and that I don't have to live in and for the world that constantly tried to keep a stronghold on me. And most importantly that I wouldn't die because of my sins and be held down by the world. I wouldn't be eternally separated from God forever. He was offering me the gift of eternal life, in heaven. (**John 3:16**)

For God **Loved** the world, that he
John 3:16 **gave** his only begotten son,
that whosoever believeth
in him should not perish
but have **everlasting life.**

I soon learned that Jesus was the answer I was looking for, the answer that would give me freedom, peace, and security from the darkness I was in. I now know that His is a light that shines bright. Each day I would start to grow to know God and to build a relationship with him. Each day I began to realize that this Jesus guy truly is God. He truly did love me, die for me, and wanted the best for me.

Realizing that Jesus Christ was our Lord and Savior was the easy part. Though following Jesus is challenging and there are days I struggle, I know he is with me every step of the way. When temptation comes, I lean on His strength. When doubts creep in, I remember His promises. I've learned that trusting Jesus doesn't mean life will be easy, but it does mean I'll never face it alone.

I have found a peace that does not depend

on my circumstances, a peace in him that I couldn't find anywhere else, love that didn't change when I failed. I found answers to questions I thought were unanswerable. I found hope when everything else felt hopeless. In my loneliest moments, I remember that God promised to never leave or forsake me, and He hasn't.

Through every trial, every moment of healing and growth, even when I fall short, He has been right by my side. Faithful and unchanging. **(Deuteronomy 31:6)**

I am still on this journey, and I know it is not always going to be easy. But what I've learned is that Jesus is worth trusting, worth following, and that He is faithful through every high and low. I don't have all the answers, but I know this; that, with Him, I am never alone. And that's enough for me.

Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid or tremble at them..
for the Lord your God is the one
Who goes with you.
He will not fail you or forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31-6



Jon Hathorn - Pastor / Head of Staff



Some call it the busy season, some call it the fun season, and others call it the poor season. It's that time of year when holidays are coming and decorations are already for sale for the holidays that are not for a couple of months and not only that but there are other holidays that come before that one. Do you eat out because of all the work involved in making a meal for 13 people knowing someone will need to sit on the piano bench at a separate card table. Should everyone at the table say what they are thankful for? Do you try and make it to both sides of the family each holiday? Do you exchange gifts with people at work?

This time of the year can easily be confusing, overwhelming, and dictate to us what is important and even what to say and what to do. We are to center our focus on the Lord. During this season, let's be in awe and be thankful and generous.

GOD'S GENEROSITY

He loves us. He came and died giving us the great gift of presence, mercy, and grace.

"He who did not spare in his own son, how will he not also along with him graciously give us all things."

Hebrews 8:32

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who doesn't change like shifting shadows"
James 1:17

BEING THANKFUL

Take the time to be grateful and express love to him for his provisions

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
Colossians 3:17

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High."
Psalm 9:1-2

BEING GENEROUS

Take the time to imitate the Lord and be generous to the work of God.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops"

Proverbs 3:9

"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for in these sacrifices God is pleased."
Hebrews 13:16

Let's commit to dictating the season and its meaning and not allowing the season to dictate to us. Let's remember be as thankful and generous as He has been to us.

Jon



Sharing the Love of Christ This Season

As we enter the months of November & December, we have some wonderful opportunities to bless our community and share the love of Jesus in practical ways.

In November, we'll be distributing 154 Thanksgiving Meal Kits, each designed to feed a family of five. Every kit will include a 5–6 lb. turkey breast along with side dishes for a full Thanksgiving meal. These meal kits are a tangible way to show our neighbors that we care and that they are warmly welcomed at Lincoln Presbyterian Church. Each bag will also include a Lincoln Gospel Tract and an invitation to join us for Sunday services.

Then in December, we'll once again host our Drive-In Christmas Light Show,

running eight nights, December 14–21, from 6–8 PM. These fun, free, and meaningful shows run every 20 minutes throughout the evening and draw hundreds of guests from our community. It's a special opportunity to be a light in the darkness—literally and spiritually—and to share the message of hope that Christ brings. We invite every car that visits to join us again for one of our Christmas Eve services at 4:30 or 6 PM.

If you'd like to help pack or distribute Thanksgiving Meal Kits, or serve during one or more nights of the Christmas Light Show, there will be opportunities to sign up or donate during Sunday services. You can also contact me directly to get involved.

This season, let's be inspired to put our faith into action for the sake of others coming to know Christ. There is no greater gift we can give than to share His love and extend the invitation to join His family.



Please join us for our
THANKSGIVING
MEAL-KIT GIVEAWAY
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21ST

Starts at 4PM while supplies last | Lincoln Presbyterian Church 6241 Gettysburg Place Stockton, CA

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD. HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER." PSALM 136:1

Josh Imboden - Director of Student Ministries



IGNITE Youth Sunday School

At **9:30 AM**, students can enjoy a relaxed time together with games, conversation, and a **cereal bar**, along with a short devotional to start the day centered on God's Word. During the **10:45 AM service**, students begin in worship with the congregation before being dismissed for Youth Sunday School, where they'll engage in teaching, discussion, and practical faith application.

We're excited to celebrate **baptisms on December 6**, when students will remain in the main service. The **last 9:30 AM class** will be **November 23**, and the **final 10:45 AM class** before Christmas break will be **December 21**.



MSM Christmas Party & Llama Buck Auction

Our Middle School Ministry will celebrate Christmas on **Thursday, December 5**, with a night full of fun, laughter, and festive cheer! Students can look forward to games, surprises, and the always-exciting **Llama Bucks Auction**, where they'll use the bucks they've earned this semester to bid on awesome prizes.



It's the perfect way to wrap up the year—celebrating friendships, memories, and the joy of Christmas together. Encourage your student to invite a friend and join the fun! Find more info at lincolnpres.org/msm.





HSM Christmas Party

The White Llama Gift Exchange

Grab your squad and come ready for the most unforgettable Christmas chaos you won't forget! We're talking **hilarious games, fun giveaways, an awesome photobooth**, and the legendary **White Llama Gift Exchange**—keep it under **\$14.92** (think White Elephant, but way cooler).



This isn't just another Christmas party—it's **THE** event of the season, packed with laughter, memories, and all the Christmas vibes. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 13**, and get ready for a night full of fun, friends, and festive madness! For more details, visit lincolnpres.org/hsm.



Night to Shine is a global prom night experience for people with special needs. The event celebrates each guest as a king or queen with a red carpet entrance, dancing, and special activities. We have the privilege of serving alongside as the Gospel is shared

that night. Spots are extremely limited. If under 16, contact Josh before registering. Event is in February, but we must sign up in the fall to reserve our spots. Information and registration is on lincolnpres.org/hsm.

Are you receiving our youth text updates?

To join our texting group, text your graduation year to (209) 528-5050 (i.e. text 2029 to (209) 528-5050. To join our parents texting group, text MSMPARENT to join our Middle School Parent group or HSMPARENT to join our High School group.





OPERATION *Christmas Child*

HOW CAN YOU HELP PACK A SHOEBOX?

1. PACK A SHOEBOX YOURSELF AND RETURN IT BY NOVEMBER 16TH.
2. DONATE ITEMS FOR OUR LPCKIDS FAMILY SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY.
3. MAKE A \$10 DONATION TO COVER SHIPPING COST.



SCAN HERE TO DONATE
ITEMS FOR OUR FAMILY
SHOEBOX PARTY!

GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

restoring lives since 1940

Christmas Gifts for Men's Program

- Providing a Christmas gifts for men at the Mission
- Get a ticket starting Nov 30th
- Please deliver to church by Dec 14th



DECEMBER 14-21 | 6-8PM

DRIVE-IN Christmas Lightshow

A FUN, FREE, AND MEANINGFUL SHOW EVERY 20 MINUTES
LINCOLN CHURCH | 6241 GETTYSBURG PLACE STOCKTON, CA



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

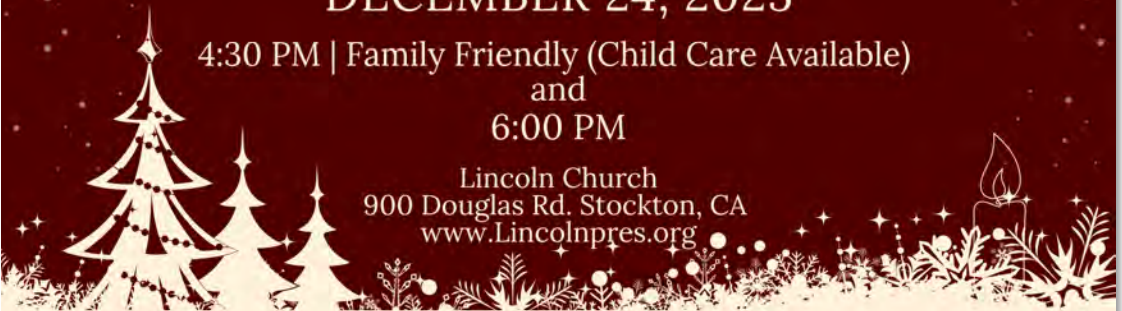
Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

DECEMBER 24, 2025

4:30 PM | Family Friendly (Child Care Available)
and
6:00 PM

Lincoln Church
900 Douglas Rd. Stockton, CA
www.Lincolnpres.org



Michelle Jones - Interim Director of Children's & Family Ministries



Hello Lincoln Family, I am so excited to be stepping into this new role of Interim Director of Children and Family Ministry. It's truly an honor and wonderful time to be joining the Lincoln staff in

this new role as the holiday season begins. The holiday season can feel so busy. With everyday life, plus the extra cleaning, decorating, and school events, it's easy to get caught up in all the hustle. But even with all of that; it's important to remember that this season is truly about honoring God.

In November, our focus will be to honor God by serving others as we participate in Operation Christmas Child. During *Serve Week* (October 15th & 19th), our children had the wonderful opportunity to build gift boxes to prep for our packing party happening November 19th. Through this activity, we are able to show our students and families the joy and importance of giving as we reflect on gratitude, remembering that *"every good and perfect gift comes from above"* (James 1:17) and that thanksgiving isn't just a day to count blessings — it's a time to worship the Giver of every blessing.

As December comes, we look forward to celebrating the gift of the birth of Jesus Christ. We have some exciting events planned, including a Christmas Movie Night on Wednesday, December 10th, and a Christmas Pajama Day on Sunday, December 21st. These moments are not only a time for families to remember what this season is about but to also have *"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control"* (Galatians 5:22-23) that points back to the love of Jesus. I can't wait to experience this season together as we honor God, celebrate His goodness, and continue helping our families grow in their faith together.



Visit our website to subscribe to our weekly LPC 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.





OPERATION *Christmas Child*



PACKING PARTY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH
6PM-7:15PM | IN AGAPE HALL

COME PACK SHOEBOXES AS A FAMILY, WHILE ENJOYING SOME HOT
CHOCOLATE & SUGAR COOKIES.



CHRISTMAS *Movie Night* & PAJAMA PARTY!



Wednesday
December 10th
6pm - 7:15pm



Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to enjoy the movie.



LPC Kids



CHRISTMAS PAJAMA DAY Sunday, December 21st

LPC KIDDOS ARE INVITED TO
WEAR THEIR FAVORITE
PAJAMAS TO CHURCH.



Deacon Message

“... Love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

— 1 Timothy 1:5

Paul’s instructions to Timothy still resound. Although given originally to one leading a church, they are as valuable to we deacons, who serve the church body.

We gather regularly to ensure we are meeting the needs of the church. We have the privilege of serving in many roles, from

providing meals to those in need to serving at memorial service receptions so family and friends can remember the recently departed.

And we are, at least in spirit, on our knees, uplifting you before the Lord as the Spirit directs us. Of course, if you have specific prayer requests, please reach out to your deacon. But know that we are advancing the kingdom, kneecap step by kneecap step, loving you from hearts that Jesus has made pure through His dying work on the cross.



November Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. Lavon Van Selow | Michael Heer | 25. Connie Baxter |
| 3. Savannah Nalls | Sharon Norbutas | 26. Bill Bambas |
| 5. Nancy Oberholtzer | 21. Char Yurkovic | Lorna Crooks |
| 7. Darrell Johnson | 22. Bob Gibson | 27. Crystal Bates |
| Kedric Nalls | Raquel Perez | 28. Jake Erickson |
| 9. Dick Ennis | 23. Christi Journagan | 29. Jane Carson |
| 14. Bob Norbutas | Doug Wary | 30. Cheryl Pannazbecker |
| 15. Emalie Lamie | Tara Silva | |
| 18. Jenny Creamer | 24. Casey Journagan | |
| 19. Debra May | Patrick Fedor | |
| Jan Cambra | | |
| 20. Juanita Fain | | |



December Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. John Kluve | 13. Bill Conley | 26. Irma St John |
| 2. John Schulz | Dave Auchard | John Montalvo |
| 3. Amanda Stogner | Julie Senegor | 27. Jed Asis |
| Wendy Bell | 14. Holly Meyers | Tyler Graham |
| 4. Cori Reynolds | 16. Joyce Korock | 28. Heidi Fedor |
| 5. Donna Villagomez | Rachel Peña | 29. Maureen Gibson |
| 7. Dorothy Wilkins | 18. Gabe Laguna | 30. Bob Yamaguchi |
| Jennifer Gutierrez | Scott McGregor | |
| Jim Gutierrez | 19. Alyson White | |
| 11. Jim Dunn | 21. Sandy Parker | |
| Richie Senegor | 22. Carroll Johnston | |
| Valerie Ehrlich | 23. Karen Gantt | |
| 12. Susan Blythe | 25. Ron Allen | |



Daily Word of Encouragement

Oak or Tumbleweed?

*"He is like a tree planted by
streams of water..." Psalm.1:3*

What kind of tree might be the one the psalmist had in mind when comparing the blessed man to a fruitful tree? Perhaps it was an oak. A little research found that oaks are described as the "foundation of our ecosystem" by DuPage County Forest Preserve. The website goes on to say, "They're dramatic and beautiful, but they also provide food and shelter for birds, insects, and other wildlife year-round.." As a keystone species, the oak sounds like a perfect description of a strong Christian, one who not only has faith deeply rooted in Christ, but who also is a source of comfort and support for fellow believers. This is the kind of Christian who provides shelter for those weary travelers needing relief from the heat of the day. "Oaks" like these are a welcoming rest stop because, fed by living water, "their leaf does not wither."

By contrast, the tumbleweed is an invasive annual herb which when mature is a round, prickly, bushy plant with spine-tipped leaves. It thrives in loose, eroded, or plowed soil, like along roadsides or on farms. It can grow in environments with little moisture and alkaline or saline soils. It has a short life cycle and dries out by fall. Words like hallow,



thorny, short-lived, unstable, and dry describe a plant that may grow as tall as six feet but would never be a source of comfort or shelter to anyone. In fact, drivers may find themselves dodging these plants as the wind carries them across highways, posing a threat to safety.

As both the oak tree and tumbleweed parallel opposing personality types, I can't help but ask which one do people see in me? The Bible emphasizes the importance of interpersonal relationships by including admonitions such as *love one another (Jn. 13:34)*, *bear one another's burdens (Gal.6:2)*, *forgive one another (Eph.4:32)*, *serve one another (Gal.5:13)*, *encourage one another (1 Thess. 5:11)*, and *submit to one another (Eph.5:21)*. These verses highlight characteristics of love, unity, humility, and mutual support within the church.

Holy Spirit help me to delight in the law of the Lord so that I represent your Church at its best.

AMEN

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.

Scan this QR code to sign-up



Prayer

It's always time to pray.



Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Lincoln Presbyterian Church

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