



Jan/Feb 2026

Volume 14, Issue 1

2026

A large, vibrant display of fireworks in red, orange, and yellow bursts against a dark night sky. The year "2026" is overlaid in large, white, semi-transparent numerals.

A Fresh Start

Jon Hathorn - Pastor / Head of Staff



A year from now, I hope you'll look back and say-

"I did much of what I hoped I would do."

And I hope those things revolve around *Knowing and Loving God and Knowing and Loving People*. I can't think of two more important things. I enjoy using my phone calendar to make sure these two priorities take place.

I want to encourage you in 2026 to take on a daily appointment with God. Here's what I do: each morning I have several "PLANNED APPOINTMENTS" – they start at 5:02am (just to be different), but often I wake up before that time a couple of days each week. I take some medication, I spend time reading Scripture and praying, sending some notes of encouragement, and go on a couple mile walk with my wife. I truly believe that if I don't put these into my morning schedule – they won't happen. And since I value them, they are in my calendar.

Please don't miss the opportunity to accomplish what you decide is most important. Luke 12:34 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." It's about what we treasure – I treasure the Lord Jesus Christ, his work in the family of God and in people who don't know him yet. And to be honest – If I can add a little zest to these experiences – I will.

Let' me explain; about a year ago, I searched

the internet looking for days of the year that had something special. You probably already know that there are hundreds of days dedicated to special things. May 4th – "May the forth be with you" was one I heard many times. The goal of this search was to celebrate with my wife, my family, and/or some other group. Just a creative way to enjoy community and have a little theme. I just thought it would help approach the year and add a little enthusiasm and fun periodically and have a little plan for being together and knowing that we had time to look forward to throughout the coming year. It was a great year with many memories. Without a doubt, as I was searching, I focused my attention on food days. Some of my favorites days to celebrate included: Chocolate Cake, Chili, Meatballs, Ravioli, Waffles, Burritos, Peach Cobbler, Shrimp Scampi, Rotisserie Chicken, Donuts, Onion Rings, Hot Dogs, Tacos, Rueben Sandwiches and brats.

Here's why I share this – without a plan, we often fail. When our calendar and days get crowded with everything everyone else expects – we never decided to take the time for what was important. Time with my wife, time with my family, time with the church, time with neighbors at a block party, and time of rest.

I hope you'll get a friend and share one of these days with someone.

Blessings,

Jon

Share One Of These Days With Someone

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2026				1	2 National Cream Puff Day	3 National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
4 National Spaghetti Day	5 National Whipped Cream Day	6	7 National Tempura Day	8 National English Toffee Day	9	10
11 National Milk Day	12	13	14 National Hot Pastrami Sandwich Day	15 National Bagel Day National Strawberry Ice Cream Day	16 National Fig Newton Day International Hot and Spicy Food Day	17
18	19 National Popcorn Day	20 National Cheese Lover's Day National Buttercrunch Day	21	22	23 National Pie Day	24 National Peanut Butter Day
25 National Irish Coffee Day	26 National Peanut Brittle Day	27 National Chocolate Cake Day	28 National Blueberry Pancake Day	29 National Corn Chip Day	30 National Croissant Day	31 National Hot Chocolate Day

Justin Linscheid - Assistant Pastor



Who Are You Following This Year?

One of the clearest things God impressed on my heart this past year is that every one of us is following something, and every day we are being shaped into someone. In other words, we are all disciples. We either follow the voices of culture, the people around us, and the patterns of this world, or we respond to God's invitation to follow Him and become who He created us to be.

Simply adopting the name of Christ does not automatically mean we are taking up our cross each day or surrendering to His loving leadership. As I continue to grow in Christ, I am realizing more and more that what God calls us to is not something to approach reluctantly, as if He were asking us to swallow a spoonful of cod liver oil. His direction leads to life. His ways bring joy. His presence satisfies our deepest longings. What He commands is meant to bless us, to free us, and to help us flourish. We can and should run toward Him with trust, joy, and gratitude.

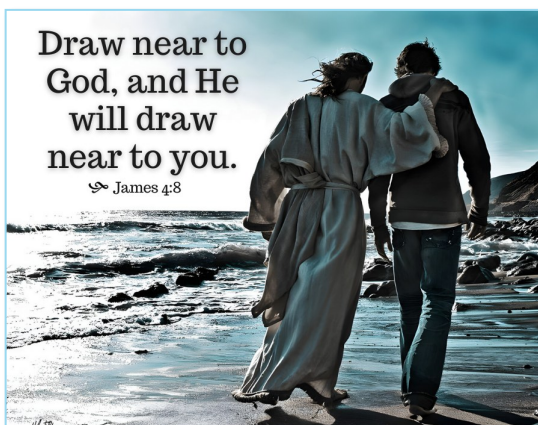
So as you look ahead to this year, how will you be intentional about who you are following each day? How will you take hold of the power of choice and respond to what Jesus is calling you to?

As a church, we want to support God's work in your life. Whether through a conversation,

a prayer request, a group setting, a class, or some other means, our desire is to walk with you and support you as fellow followers of Jesus.

Maybe this is the year you participate in Financial Peace University and bring your finances under godly principles. Maybe it is time to join a Sunday school class or small group where friendships and encouragement can renew your faith. Maybe a mission trip will broaden your perspective. Maybe you commit to a daily reading plan and set times of prayer to be intentional about listening to God. Maybe once a week you fast from food or from something that has captured too much of your attention to instead draw near to Jesus.

Whatever it looks like, God is inviting you to draw near to Him and allow His presence to be the one that shapes you. May this be a year of choosing Him, trusting Him, and finding life in Him.



Dave Ramsey's

Financial Peace UNIVERSITY

Lincoln Presbyterian Church

Meets for 9 Mondays Starting January 26th

6:00-7:30PM in our Fireside Room

Cost \$70 per person

Financial Wisdom for a Transformed Life

Scan Here
to Register



or visit Lincolnpres.org

THE DNA OF RELATIONSHIPS Marriage Weekend February 27 - March 1st, 2026

A Weekend of Laughter, Learning, & Renewed Connection

- Comedy Date Night (Fri)
- Practical Marriage Tools (Sat)
- Encouraging Teaching (Sun)
- \$30 per couple
- Hosted by Lincoln Presbyterian Church
900 Douglas Rd. Stockton, CA

Scan Here
to Register
by Feb 22



Or Visit Lincolnpres.org

with special guest
Michael Smalley, PhD





Youth Winter Camp 2026 *Light The Way*

Winter Camp 2026 is almost here! Lincoln Student Ministries is teaming up with Sun Grove Church for an unforgettable four-day weekend at Mt. Hope Bible Camp from January 16–19. Students in grades 6–12 will experience powerful worship, meaningful teaching, hilarious games, late-night hangouts, and the kind of life-changing moments that help them grow closer to Jesus and build deeper friendships. It's an incredible opportunity to step away from the everyday routine and encounter God in a fresh way.

Registration is \$275 now through Dec. 31 and \$325 throughout January. Scholarships are available because we never want finances to be a barrier—contact Josh to simply fill out the application or for more information. Invite friends, start getting excited, and don't miss this amazing weekend! If you have any questions, we'd love to help.

The **Parent–Teen Banquet** is a special evening created to help families slow down, reconnect, and build stronger relationships in a fun and meaningful way. Parents, guardians, and their middle and high school students are invited to share a meal, enjoy lighthearted activities, and spend intentional time together around the table. Families are also encouraged to invite other families with teenagers to join them.

We're excited to welcome **Josh Griffin, Jr High Pastor at Mariners Church**, who will bring an encouraging and practical message for families navigating the teen years. His heart is to equip and inspire both parents and students to grow closer to one another and closer to God.

This night is designed to be relaxed, welcoming, and impactful—whether you're new to youth ministry or have been involved for years. A suggested \$20 per-family contribution helps cover dinner and event expenses. Register online at lincolnpres.org or scan the QR code.



January 27

Bingo gets wild fast at Extreme Bingo! Each round begins like a normal game of bingo—until the Boxes of Doom are introduced, adding unexpected twists, challenges, and surprise eliminations. As the night goes on, the intensity ramps up with louder reactions, higher energy, and nonstop fun. Come ready for chaos, laughter, and one of the most unforgettable youth group nights of the year! Check lincolnpres.org/hsm for more details.



March 14

Rev up for the ultimate Car Rally! Students will team up in groups of four (or be placed on a team) and use their phones to compete in a fast-paced, car-based scavenger hunt. Teams will race against the clock, solve clues, complete challenges, and earn points along the way. Check lincolnpres.org/hsm for more details.

LlamaBucks are BACK for 2026!

LlamaBucks are our Middle School “currency” and one of the most fun parts of the year. Students earn LlamaBucks all semester long by showing up, bringing their Bible, getting involved, inviting friends, serving others, winning games, and sometimes just for being totally awesome. They can save them, stack them, and spend them at the end of the semester during our LlamaBucks Auction, where we celebrate the semester and students cash in everything they’ve earned for prizes, experiences, and bragging rights.



To celebrate the Winter Olympics, every Wednesday Night in February is Winter Olympics themed night! Be prepared to defend your country’s glory! Check lincolnpres.org/msm for more details.



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



Hello LPC Families, what a cold winter it has been! December was especially precious as it invited us into a season of joy while we celebrated the moment the Lord revealed Himself to us through the birth of Jesus Christ. Throughout the month, our Sunday lessons focused on God at work all around the world and Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life—reminding our kids that God is with us and that Jesus came as the Light of the World. We were blessed to see families light candles and read Scripture as a symbol of God's light. As January ushers in the new year, it invites us to reflect on how God continues to guide us with His light and how we can follow Him daily through kindness, prayer, and faith. We look forward to this new beginning with energy, renewal, and opportunities for families to connect after the holiday season. Our January lessons will center on Esther and how God prepared her "for such a time as this." The kids will learn to trust in God's plan, just as she did. In January, we will be offering an indoor toddler playtime and hosting a Church Family Ice Skating Night - special moments for our church family to

gather in fellowship and remember how God's love shapes the way we live and love others.

February will be a reminder of God's everlasting love and how He strengthens us through the power of the Armor of God. Sunday School will explore what the Armor of God is and what it means to be covered by it. We will again be holding an indoor toddler playtime as well as a TeamKid Family Pizza Night.

I'm truly excited for all that God has planned for us in the months ahead. Thank you for allowing me to partner with you as we help our children grow in their faith, experience the joy of community, and learn what it means to walk with Jesus "in such a time as this".



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: michelle@lincolnpres.org. God Bless you and yours.



Children's Ministries Sunday School Theme This Winter



Church Ice Skating Night

Join us for a fun night at Oak Park Ice Rink!
Come enjoy ice skating, food, and team games

January 25th 2026
5:00pm - 7:00pm

3531 Alvarado Ave,
Stockton, CA 95204



Scan to Register



Bible

READING
PLAN

SCAN HERE TO
DOWNLOAD



READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE OR
JUST THE NEW TESTAMENT IN A YEAR

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, February 7th at 8am
Agape Hall | Lincoln Church

A graphic for an Ash Wednesday Service. On the left, a close-up of a hand with a cross-shaped ash mark on the palm, set against a light wood-grain background. On the right, the text 'ASH' is in large, bold, purple capital letters. Below it, 'Wednesday' and 'Service' are written in a black, elegant script font. Further down, the date and time 'February 18th 7:15-8:00 pm' and the location '900 Douglas Rd' are printed in a black serif font.

ASH
Wednesday
Service

February 18th
7:15-8:00 pm
900 Douglas Rd

A graphic for 'His Little Feet'. The top half features a collage of children's feet in various colorful, patterned shoes. A large, white, stylized footprint is overlaid on the left. The text 'His little feet' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'His' in a thin white font and 'little feet' in a bold white font, all within a purple rectangular background. Below this, the tagline 'Reaching children, one step at a time' is written in a smaller white font.

His little feet
Reaching children, one step at a time

March 11th - 6:00 - 7:15 pm | 900 Douglas Road

Daily Word of Encouragement

GOOD GRIEF

"...after the fire came a gentle whisper"

I Kings 19:12

Being the optimist that I am, I originally thought the title was going to be unique to this devotional, but I soon discovered that at least one other author has used it before. Granger E. Westberg, a Lutheran clergyman and professor, wrote a still popular book of this title in 1962 as he studied the grief process. He observed that in going through a significant grief experience we come out of it as different people: "Depending on the way we respond to this event, we are either stronger people than we were before, or weaker; either healthier in spirit or sicker." Those of us who are Christians know that religious faith developed when times are good, matures and assures us that we are not alone now or in the future, for God is with us and God is good.

In light of a number of death notices recently, I have been thinking of the "upside" of grief in the life of believers. First, different types of grief occur in life. To become part of the family of God requires confessing and repenting of personal sin with godly sorrow. But being a follower of Jesus Christ does not



spare us from also grieving the loss of health, or independence due to aging, family relationships, jobs and friends. With God's help, we can face loss, endure suffering, find healing, gain insight, develop spiritual maturity, grow in strength, and finally help ourselves and others move forward. Many examples of this appear in the Bible, such as Job ultimately concluding, "I know that my Redeemer lives...in my flesh I shall see God...I myself..." (Job 19:25-27). The fiery testing of his faith had not destroyed Job's trust in God. Another example is David grieving the death of his son in 2 Samuel 12:15-23 and showing acceptance: "Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put

on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped..."How could he "get up"? Because he found comfort in this assurance: *"I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me "* (v.22).

The key is to grieve with God, Who grieves with us (Lam. 19-25). I am reminded of the funeral of my nephew, Michael, a Marine vet. The military portion of the service was held outside in front of the church. At its conclusion, the family and guests followed the casket into the sanctuary for continuation of the service, with the pastor leading the procession and quoting one scripture after another from both Old and New Testaments in a resonating, authoritative voice: Ps. 23, 90, 91, 121; I Cor.15; Rom.8; John 14; Rev.21, 22 — so deeply moving! God's Word seemed to be charging the air! The message clearly was that through faith, hope overcomes despair and light overcomes darkness.

The Apostle's Creed expresses the reality that life is not ended but transformed in death. In November we celebrated All Saints Day on the 1st, celebrating saints of the Church, known and unknown, followed the next day by All Souls Day, in remembrance of all those no longer living. A hymn by William W. How reminds us that we are as believers in Jesus Christ all saints, standing clothed in

His righteousness. Hebrews 11 is the "Hall of Faith" chapter listing past saints who are commended for their faith and Hebrews 12 follows with the charge for those still living to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us" for we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." How's hymn was originally 11 stanza's long. Here are three:

*For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesu, be forever blessed.*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

*O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

*O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Good grief? Yes, because we grieve not as those who have no hope!

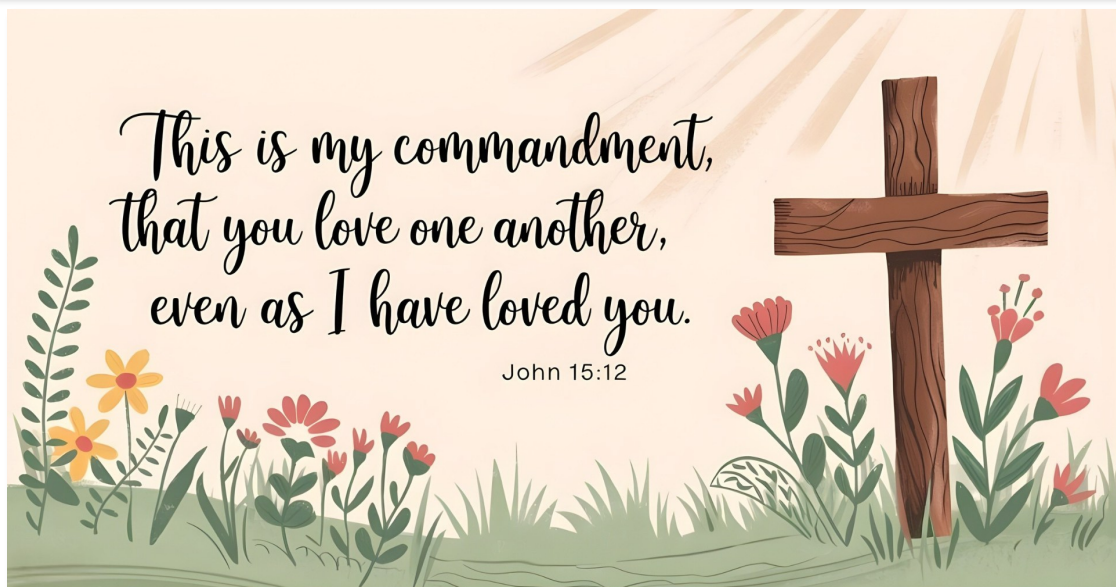
Good grief? Yes, because we grieve not as those who have no hope!

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 to sign-up

Deacon Message



At Lincoln, your deacons are called to live out this commandment, and we do it in many ways. We pray for you. We set up and help serve communion. We help with memorial services and, when needed, with providing meals to those facing duress. We meet once a month to hold ourselves accountable to each other to provide the loving service necessary to the life of the church. And we are most grateful for each

and every dollar given for the Deacons' Fund in those special envelopes. Without the loving support of the congregation, the deacons would not have the resources to fulfill this commandment. As we begin a new year of serving, we want to thank you for your support, and remind you that we are here for you. If you need something, do reach out. We truly love you.



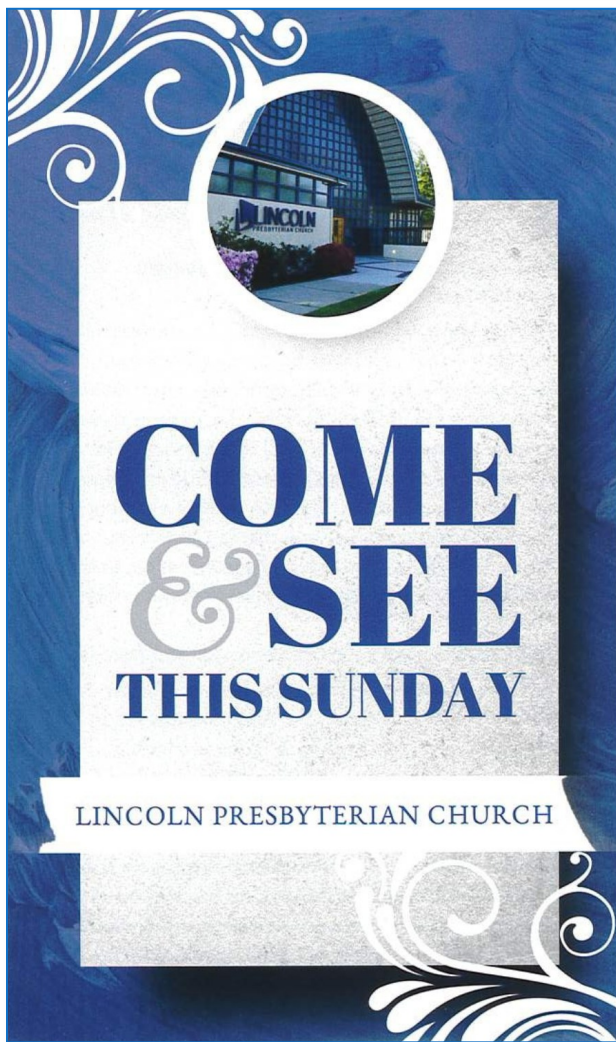
January Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Barbara Head. | Jonathen Bacaylan | 26. Jason Hill |
| 3. Victor French | Marie Cottman | 27. Rachel Kudla |
| 5. Barbara George | 15. Margaret Chau | 28. Cassie Spalding |
| 7. Craig Barker | 16. Howard Jones | 30. Bill Hill |
| Robbie Richardson | 20. John Sharp | Ingrid Best |
| 8. Kirk Reynolds | Michael Gotschall | John French |
| 9. Mary Kaye Moore | 24. Bill Costanza | 31. Jody Graham |
| 10. John Doisy | Julie Colyer | |
| 11. Amy Bailey | 24. Michelle Jones | |

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Kris Stewart | Prilla McGregor | 18. Sharon Olney |
| 4. Pam Dunn | 10. James Lavender | 20. Irene Jackson |
| 5. Mark Gantt | Kathryn Oberholtzer | 25. Gary Vermillion |
| 6. Doe Kilburn | 11. Blake Lanie | 26. Allison Thompson |
| 7. David Hey | Marge Ramirez | Gracie Ferguson |
| 8. Jon Hathorn | 13. Sherrie Kudla | 27. John Bertilacchi |
| 9. Dan Bates | 16. Harry Ulep | |





Maybe you've heard about God. Maybe you wonder if He is real Maybe you wonder if He knows about you or if He cares about you. We believe that God has given us answers to these important questions in His word. We would love to help you enter a personal relationship with God. You were made for this personal relationship with God. Receive God's invitation to come and see.

1 Truth Number One - God knows who you are and loves you.

Did you know that God loves you? Take a moment to really think about that statement- God loves you. Regardless of your age, background, race, past failures, or any other aspect of your life, He deeply cares about you and is personally aware of all that is going on in your life. In short, God has an incredible love for you and wants more than anything else to have a genuine, personal relationship with you that can last forever. Romans 5:8 "But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

2 Truth Number Two - Sin has separated you from God.

You have a problem; in fact, we all have it. We have broken God's commands. The Bible calls this sin. In Romans 3:23, it specifically says "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Have you ever lied, stolen, or thought a wrong thought? Each of these actions break a command of God. Looking honestly into our own hearts reveals the truth - we have all committed sin. And sin has devastating Consequences - eternal separation from God, which the Bible refers to as spiritual death. Isaiah 59:2, "It's your sins that have cut you off from God ... "

3 Truth Number Three - You cannot earn or repair your relationship with God by your own effort.

No quality of morality or good deeds can bridge the gap to God. Most people think if they do enough good things in their life it will eventually earn them a home in heaven with God. But the Bible says in Proverbs 14:12 "There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death."


4 Truth Number Four - Jesus Christ is the only way to know God.

Jesus Christ is just as much God as God the Father is, yet He came to earth and lived a human life. Jesus faced all the trials and temptations that we face but never sinned. He voluntarily died on the cross, having nothing wrong, there He finished His greatest work. He paid for your sin. Then three days later, He would rise from the dead, proving to all that He truly was God. John.14:6, "Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No One can come to God except through me."


5 Truth Number Five - You must place your faith & trust in Jesus Christ.

God wants to have a relationship with you through His Son, Jesus Christ. He wants to take your sinful heart and transform it permanently. Today, will you choose to believe in Christ? Right now you can pray and ask God to forgive you of your sin. All you need to do is put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, believing He alone can save you. John 3:16, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life."





LINCOLN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Ben. Holt Dr.


Douglas Rd.

Gettysburg Pl.

Pacific Ave.

Safeway


N



**SERVICE
TIMES**

Sunday Morning:
8:15am & 10:45am

Sunday School:
9:30am



**LET'S
CONNECT**

900 Douglas Rd.
Stockton, CA 95207
(209) 477-2783
Office@Lincolnpres.org

For more information, please visit
LINCOLNPRES.ORG



Sunday Worship: 8:15am & 10:45am

Sunday School: 9:30am

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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.**

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