

the MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2019

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

What's Inside:

- Annual Meeting
- Evangelism Highlight
Trunk or Treat
- Education Highlight
Mission Highlight
Lincoln Christian
University
- Worship Highlight
- Fellowship Highlight
- Finance Highlight
- Upcoming Events
- Birthdays and
Anniversaries
- Kids' Corner
- Calendar

From the Church Office...

Recently in our adult Sunday School class as we worked our way through the book of 1 Corinthians and the struggles of the early church, a member of our congregation offered this illustration which I thought was especially profound and poignant.

As he looked outside the window at the trees, he said that a tree doesn't grow strong without the wind. It needs the push and pull of the wind in order to form deep roots. If there never was any struggle, it would topple over when it grew taller. Likewise, as Christians we gain our strength through the struggles He brings us through.

I did a little research when I got home because the illustration stayed with me. "There was a great experiment done in the early 1980s in the desert called the biodome. It was an exercise to create the perfect living environment for human beings, plant, and animal life. A huge glass dome was constructed and an artificial, controlled environment was created with purified air and water, filtered light, and so on, offering the perfect growing conditions for trees, fruits and vegetables... and humans. People lived in the biodome for many months at a time, and it was wonderful because everything seemed to do well, with one exception. When the trees that were planted grew to be a certain height, they would simply topple over. It baffled scientists for the longest time, until one day they realized the one natural element they forgot to recreate in the biodome: wind! Trees need wind to blow against them, which in turn causes their root systems to grow deeper into the soil, which in turn supports the tree as it grows taller.

We can learn a great deal from the nature of a tree if we are open to the lesson. Watch how a tree bends and sways gracefully when the wind blows against it. It does not stand rigid, resisting the flow of energy. It does not push back. The tree accepts the strong wind as a blessing that helps it grow. Like a tree, we too need the contrast of the winds of life pushing against us. In those times, we need to remember that infinite intelligence is the soil, the essential foundation upon which we grow our lives. Then we can view the challenges in our lives as blessings. It is that contrast that develops our character and deepens our spiritual roots in the rich soil of being. Be flexible... bend and sway with the wind. Grow deep and you will stand tall."
(Dennis Merritt Jones, "The Art of Being -- 101 Ways to Practice Purpose in Your Life")



*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."
1 Cor. 15:58*



ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

ANNUAL MEETING

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11



COUNTRYSIDE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

At 1pm following the
Worship Service and Fall
Potluck Lunch

October 20, 2019

Another year has flown by already and it's that time for our Annual Meeting and Fall Potluck Lunch.

Join us on Sunday, October 20th after the Worship Service for fellowship and plenty of delicious food at our Fall Potluck Lunch. Then stay for our Annual Meeting at 1pm to help plan and prepare for the upcoming year.

There will be a sign-up sheet by the bulletin board. Please let us know what yummy dish you plan to share with everyone!!

SEE YOU THERE!



Department
Reports due
October 13th

FALL FESTIVAL & TRUNK OR TREAT

EVANGELISM HIGHLIGHT

FALL HARVEST and INDOOR TRUNK OR TREAT

Family Fun Event!

October 27

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Indoor Trunk or Treat

Games for Kids

Free Food!

Chili

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches

Desserts



Dress up those little spooks and join us for a great time! No scary costumes please.

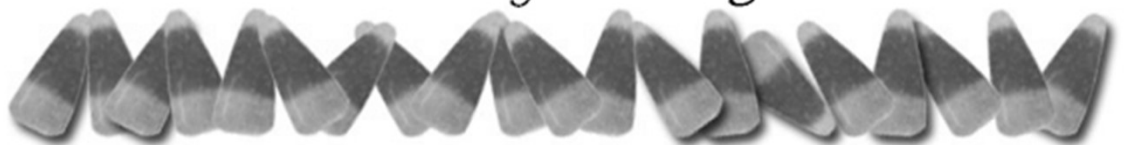
Countryside Christian Church

3817 - 230th Street N.

Port Byron, IL

309-523-2834

countrysidecc.org



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sunday School starts at 9:30am – for ALL ages!! Hope to see you there!

Two Exciting New Studies for Adult Sunday School!



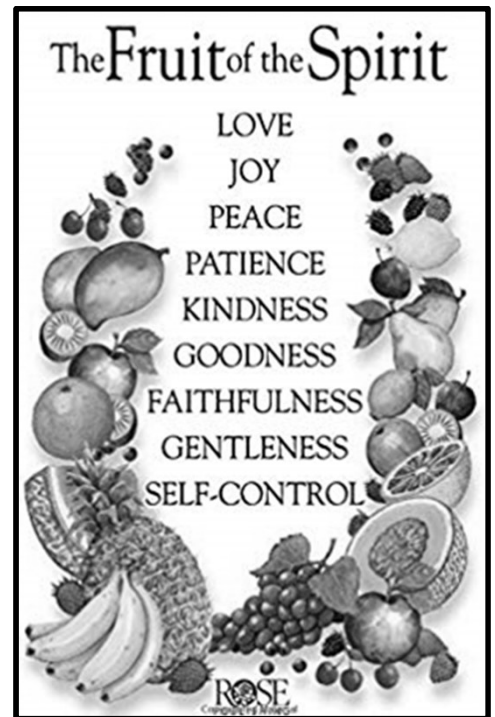
Don Vickroy is starting a study in 2 Corinthians this month for the Adult Sunday School at 9:30am

This letter from Paul calms us into settled assurance that it is in the adversities of life in this fallen world, not by avoiding adversity, that life with God blossoms. Ease of life results in frothiness of life. The most substantial, radiant men and women we meet are those who bear scars, who have endured dark valleys. And they walked with Christ instead of growing cynical.

Wayne Lotz is starting a study on the Fruit of the Spirit on October 13th for the Adult Sunday School at 9:30am

You may not know it, but when you gave your life to Jesus, all the fruits of the Spirit were planted inside you in seed form. Through the Spirit you can experience joy and peace in every circumstance, no matter how difficult or painful.

On your own, it would be impossible. But when you operate in the Spirit, you have a supernatural ability to overcome. What a precious gift! And the more you draw near to God, praying and reflecting on His Word, the more you will experience the fruit of the Spirit in your life.



*“Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.”
Psalm 55:22*

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Lincoln Christian University

Countryside Christian Church offers scholarships to students attending full time at LCU or other Christian Universities. Currently LCU is providing interim ministers to us during our time of our preacher search. We are so grateful for this assistance.

“Lincoln Bible Institute, ‘LBI’ was born in the mind and heart of Earl C. Hargrove in 1944 as the result of a God-given vision. From the very beginning unto this very day, countless people have sacrificially provided the resources to carry out this God-given vision of supplying dedicated and well-trained workers for the Kingdom.” *(Sept. newsletter)*



Lincoln Christian University (initially Lincoln Bible Institute, then Lincoln Christian College and Seminary, now Lincoln Christian University) was launched on May 4, 1944, to help prepare people to carry out God’s effort through the church.

For decades, LCU has trained servant leaders to serve the church and world. Mr. Hargrove, LCU’s founding president, stated: “We need Kingdom workers.” In addition to supplying churches with preachers, LCU has trained worship ministers, youth ministers, church secretaries, Christian education directors, small group leaders, elders, Sunday school teachers, mission committee members and a host of other roles in the church. We are thrilled that God has used so many who took classes at LCU to help build His Church.



For nearly 75 years, LCU has been educating Kingdom-minded leaders to serve in the church and the world. More than 16,000 have studied there. Hundreds of men and women are currently studying at Lincoln Christian University, learning how best to communicate the Word of God to this generation and the next.

“On May 4, 2019, 175 graduates joined those who have gone before in leaving this campus to follow God’s leading and to do the work for which their time here has prepared them. And because of your generosity, a part of you will be going with them.

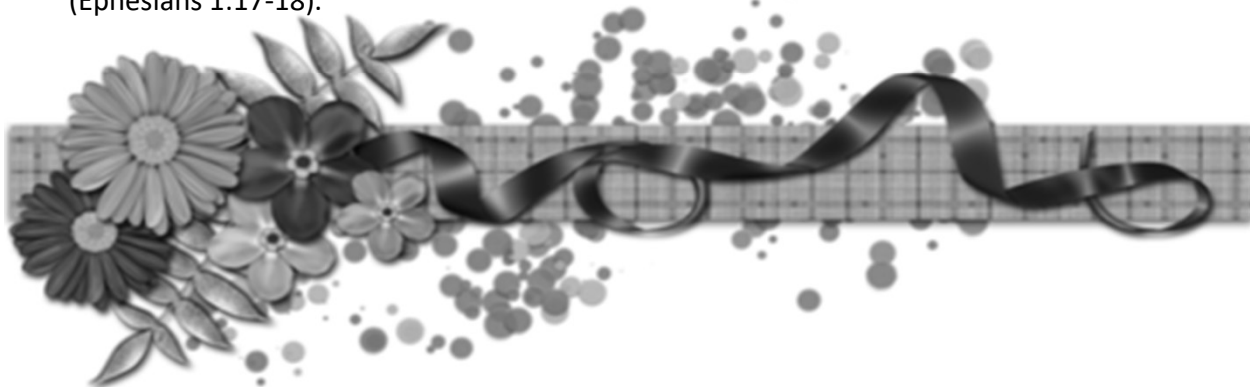
Thank you again for the important role you have played in sending out new workers for the harvest!” *(Newsletter May 8, 2019)*

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Who am I in Christ? This is far from an exhaustive list and it's lengthy! When the world tells you you're a nobody and Satan whispers "you're not enough", listen to what the King of Kings says about you! Who the Son sets free is free indeed! And it's a victorious life He gives us! Worship Him in Spirit AND in Truth – the truth of God's word says you are more than enough and worth dying for!

- I am **COMPLETE** in Him Who is the head over all rule and authority—of every angelic and earthly power (Colossians 2:10).
- I am **ALIVE** with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).
- I am **FREE** from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).
- I am far from oppression, and **WILL NOT LIVE IN FEAR** (Isaiah 54:14).
- I am **BORN OF GOD**, and the evil one does not touch me (1 John 5:18).
- I am **HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME** before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:16).
- I have the **MIND** of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5).
- I have the **PEACE** of God that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).
- The Spirit of God, who is greater than the enemy in the world, **LIVES IN ME** (1 John 4:4).
- I have received **ABUNDANT GRACE** and the gift of righteousness and reign in life through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17).
- I have received the Spirit of **WISDOM** and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus, the eyes of my heart enlightened, so that I know the **HOPE** of having life in Christ (Ephesians 1:17-18).



- I have received the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit and He can do miraculous things through me. I have authority and power over the enemy in this world (Mark 16:17-18; Luke 10:17-19).
- I am **RENEWED** in the knowledge of God and no longer want to live in my old ways or nature before I accepted Christ (Colossians 3:9-10).
- I am **MERCIFUL**, I do not judge others, and I forgive quickly. As I do this by God's grace, He blesses my life (Luke 6:36-38).
- God supplies **ALL** of my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).
- In all circumstances I **LIVE BY FAITH** in God and extinguish all the flaming darts (attacks) of the enemy (Ephesians 6:16).
- I can do whatever I need to do in life through Christ Jesus who gives me **STRENGTH** (Philippians 4:13).
- I am **CHOSEN BY GOD** who called me out of the darkness of sin and into the light and life of Christ so I can proclaim the excellence and greatness of who He is (1 Peter 2:9).
- I am **BORN AGAIN**—spiritually transformed, renewed and set apart for God's purpose—through the living and everlasting word of God (1 Peter 1:23).
- I am **GOD'S WORKMANSHIP**, created in Christ to do good works that He has prepared for me to do (Ephesians 2:10).
- I am a **NEW CREATION** in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- In Christ, I am **DEAD TO SIN**—my relationship to it is broken—and **ALIVE TO GOD**—living in unbroken fellowship with Him (Romans 6:11).

GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH

The way a church grows is through fellowship and developing deeper relationships. We live in an extremely isolated world today. Our culture feeds individualism and lifts it up as a value...but the result is massive loneliness. One of God's purposes for our lives is to learn to love people in our spiritual family – the church.

Who can use your encouragement today?

College Students?
Military?
Shut-In's?

As we approach the holidays, this can be a lonely time for some in our congregation. Please pray or send an encouraging note to let them know someone loves them!

Check out the website for more info on our small groups!

4 Simple Ways to Get Deeper Relationships out of Small Groups

- 1. Make small group a priority.** You can't develop meaningful relationships unless you do it consistently.
- 2. Respect the ideas of others.** If small groups are going to teach people how to love—and help the church grow warmer—we need to listen and value one another's opinions. In today's culture, social media has conditioned us to push back hard on whatever we disagree with. But that's why I love how Eugene Peterson paraphrases Romans 14:1: *"Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even*

when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently" (The Message). That's a great model for the relationships within our small groups.

- 3. Strive for vulnerability and transparency.** This will really take a small group to the next level. When people can talk openly about their faults, stresses, pressures and troubles of life, small groups will grow. Most people don't get that opportunity anywhere else. They can't be open and share their problems at work. They can't do it at school. Frankly, they often can't do it at home. People spend lots of time pretending their lives are perfect. But for us to grow, we should be able to be open and honest about their pain.

4. Encourage one another with accountability. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 10:24 how important this is: *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"* (NIV). Every person needs to have someone who can spur them on to reach their goals—whether those goals are spiritual, health, career, family, etc. Accountable relationships are rare, but we need them.

OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

"In all of my years of service to my Lord, I have discovered a truth that has never failed and has never been compromised. That truth is that it is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave."

– Charles Spurgeon



YTD Offering Income

Budget: \$150,000

Actual: \$132,916.27

YTD Faith Promises

\$14,531.00

MY FAITH PROMISE TO WORLD MISSIONS

After a period of much prayer and discernment, I/WE promise to support the worldwide missionary program of the Countryside Christian Church over the next year. In total dependence upon God for HIS provision, it is our promise that "As God Gives, So Shall We Give." By faith, I/We promise the following amount of money:

\$ _____ **Annual Total**

Note: This is a faith promise, a covenant between myself and God. It is my voluntary offering for the evangelization of the world.



"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer. Another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want." Proverbs 11:24

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Upcoming Events

10/7

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

Evangelism/Missions (6:30pm)
All Departments (7pm)



10/20

ANNUAL MEETING

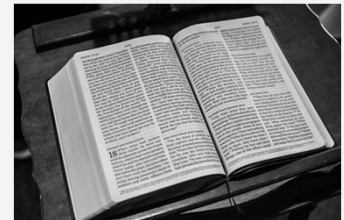
Join us on Sunday, October 20th after the Worship Service for fellowship and plenty of delicious food at our Fall Potluck Lunch. Then stay for our Annual Meeting at 1pm to help plan and prepare for the upcoming year.



10/20

ELDER/DEACON BIBLE STUDY

Monthly Bible Study at the church at 8am



10/20

FAMILY SUNDAY/POTLUCK FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Immediately following the Worship Service



10/27

FALL FESTIVAL & TRUNK OR TREAT

Dress up those little spooks and join us for a great time! Games for kids, free food, and indoor trunk or treat! 3:00-6:00pm





- 1 – Caroline Joann Green
- 3 – Chris Gillman
- 4 – Seth Johnson
- 8 – Ethel Knight
- 9 – Noah Christensen
- 11 – Deron Boyer
- 13 – Alissa Heydeman
- 17 – Logan Heydeman
- 14 – Josh Larimer-older child
- 16 – Garrett Chance
- 23 – Lisa Hoffman
- 24 – Joshua Wheeler
- 28 – Mike Winger

Autumn Humor

- What did the tree say to autumn? “Leaf me alone!”
- What did one autumn leaf say to another? “I’m falling for you.”
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch.
- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the fall they “let it go” and in the spring they “turn over a new leaf.”
- How do leaves get from place to place? With autumn-mobiles.
- What’s the ratio of a pumpkin’s circumference to its diameter? Pumpkin pi.



- 4 – Donna & Don Vickroy
- 21 – Kathy & Harry Kohrt

Have you checked out our church website recently

- Sermons are available online if you have missed a Sunday.
- Calendar and special events
- Videos and pictures of our congregation
 - Music playlists

Can you help??

Sign-Up Sheet in the Church Foyer

Communion Prep –
Scripture Reader –
Greeter –
Donut Dandy -



Children's Church:

1st – Connie Curry & Jane Noyd
8th – Connie Curry
15th – Connie Curry & Kathy Kohrt

Sunday School Nursery Workers:

6th – Cathy Lotz
13th – Jane Noyd
20th – Nancy Dufur
27th – Kathy Kohrt

Worship Nursery Workers:

6th – Kati Jo Chasek
13th – Nancy Dufur
20th – Mary Green
27th – Cathy Lotz



Worship Servers:

October 6th

Roger Curry (Meditation)
Doug Hoffman (Communion Prayer)
Teresa Garcia (Offering Prayer)

October 13th

Don Vickroy (Meditation)
Teresa Garcia (Communion Prayer)
Wayne Lotz (Offering Prayer)

October 20th

Doug Hoffman (Meditation)
Don Vickroy (Communion Prayer)
Jim Kaecker (Offering Prayer)

October 27th

Wayne Lotz (Meditation)
Jim Kaecker (Communion Prayer)
Roger Curry (Offering Prayer)

Building Cleaners

Jerry & Nancy Dufur
Kathy Kohrt & Lisa Jones
Mike & Becki Winger



"Charlotte is always willing to substitute on very short notice."



JUST FOR KIDS

"How abundant are the good things that You have stored up for those who fear You, that You bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in You." Psalm 31:19

HARVEST *Trail Mix*

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.

What you need:

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.

PUZZLE

Harvest hunt

Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.

caepe

reway

delfis

Galatians
6:9

James 3:18

John
4:35

Peacemakers who sow in _____ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become _____ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the _____!
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV



Answer: peace, weary, fields

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.
Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies." Psalm 119:97-98

2019

October



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		01 Men's Study 9am Pastor Search Meeting 6:30pm	02 Small Group Studies	03 Worship Team 5:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Budget Meeting 7pm	04	05
06	07 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm	08 Men's Study 9am Pastor Search Meeting 6:30pm	09 Small Group Studies	10 Worship Team 5:00pm Elder Mtg 6pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	11	12
13 ALL DEPARTMENT REPORTS DUE	14 COLUMBUS DAY 	15 Men's Study 9am Pastor Search Meeting 6:30pm	16 Small Group Studies	17 Worship Team 5:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	18	19
20 Elder/Deacon Study 8am Annual Meeting & Potluck (following the service)	21	22 Men's Study 9am Pastor Search Meeting 6:30pm	23 Small Group Studies	24 Worship Team 5:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	25	26
27 Harvest Festival & Trunk or Treat 3-6pm  Food Pantry Collection	28	29	30	31		



**“You said dress up as a Bible character ...
and my character is Leviathan.”**