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**Steve Allison,
Minister**

"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

*"The people who
walked in darkness
have seen a great light;*

*those who dwelt in
a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;*

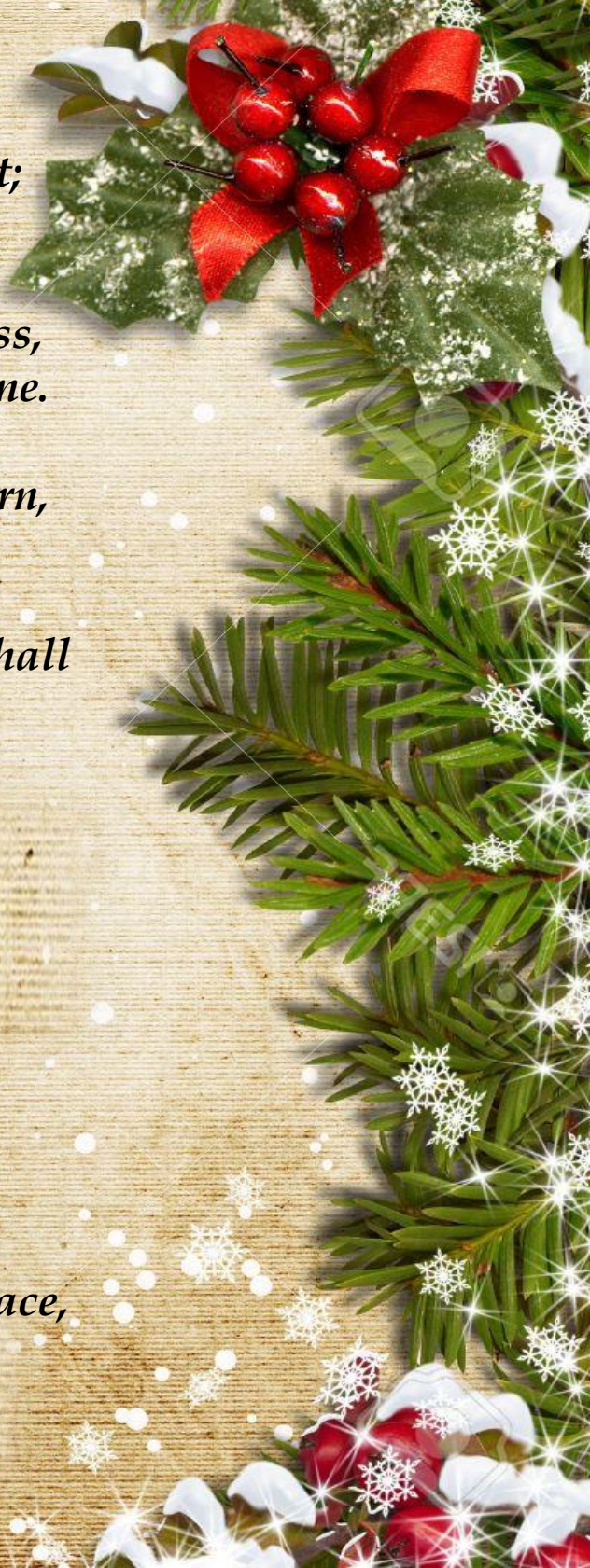
*and the government shall
be upon his shoulder,*

*and his name
shall be called:*

*Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

*Of the increase of his
government and of peace,
there will be no end."*

Isaiah 9



From Steve's Desk...

Christmas is the introduction of Jesus...

Luke 2:1-16

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

As a child, Christmas was all about getting the presents. I can remember not being able to sleep. Waking up sooo early in the morning and my parents wanting me to go back to bed, yet they saw my excitement and got up because they love me (and probably my sister too?). These are great memories of Christmas for me. Now I have to ask myself this question. Steve, if Christmas as a child was exciting because you knew you were getting presents... and now you know it's about Jesus... Is Christmas still exciting? Or another question...what about Jesus is as exciting as when you were looking forward to getting presents? I think my best answer to that came when my dad passed away in 2020. The peace and calm that came to me in knowing that my dad loved Jesus, and in an instant went from pain and suffering to the glory of the presence of God. From pain to the presence of Jesus.

The birth of Jesus marked his arrival on earth. My dad's passing marked his arrival in heaven. This truly brings me a joy that I do not fully understand, and it even kind of makes me excited for what he has experienced... and what one day I will experience... an introduction to Jesus.

Steve

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



This month in Children's Church we are going to be working some on the Christmas program along with the fun curriculum we normally use! We are thankful for the volunteers who make this happen each week! Our kids' programs have continued to grow this past year and it's exciting to see new faces as well as see evidence of a growing love for Jesus and knowledge of the Bible. **We are especially thankful for you, Sarah Denekas, as you plan the year, organize lessons, and schedule volunteers.**

2022 is right around the corner and with it...a NEW CALENDAR that needs to be filled with volunteers for Children's Church and Nursery Workers!!

Please prayerfully consider taking a few weeks this next year. The lessons for Children's Church are already planned and two people share the 20-30 minute time with the kids during the sermon time. Thank you!!



December
19, 2021

10:45am

Countryside
Christian
Church

*Come hear the
Christmas Story
from the children at
CCC.*

ANGEL TREE

An Angel Tree is being set up in the church foyer to support IAG (Individual Advocacy Group), a nonprofit organization that helps those with special needs.

Please consider taking an angel from the tree and purchasing some Christmas gifts for those in need. This is also a wonderful family activity to do with your children and demonstrate how we can help show the love of God this Christmas season.

All donations will be due to the church on **December 12th**. It is your choice whether you wrap them or not. Any questions, please see Amber Ramos or Georgia Cullison.

Thank you!



thank
you

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving food baskets. With your help, we were able to bless seven families!

Don Vickroy
Evangelism Dept. Head



"I don't know if they had infrared imaging equipment. I just know they were watching their flocks by night."



Be A Blessing
Adopt An Angel

"Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts: the gift of God to man—his Son; and the gift of God to man – when we first give ourselves to God." – Vance Havner

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

BLOOD DRIVE



1 PINT
can save
3 LIVES
GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE

GIVE BLOOD

DATE/TIME:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022 7:30AM – 11:30AM

LOCATION:

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (IN THE GYM)
3817 230TH ST N, PORT BYRON, IL 61275

Impact Life (formerly Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center) is holding a blood drive at Countryside. The annual blood drive is scheduled for Saturday January 15, 2022. The hours are 7:30-11:30 A.M. To be eligible to donate, you must not have given a blood donation since **November 20, 2021**.

Some blood facts: 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, but less than 10% actually donate. An adult has approximately 10-12 pints of blood, about 1 in 7 patients require a blood transfusion, more than 4.5 million people need blood transfusions each year, all donated blood is tested for various viruses and diseases before being transfused, including Hepatitis B&C, HIV, HCV, HTLV, Syphilis, West Nile virus and Chagas' disease. Blood donations are used 17% for cancer patients, 11% for General surgery, 8% for heart disease and 8% for trauma.

Donation appointments will be given starting in early December. If you would like an appointment or have questions, please see Connie Curry: 309-523-2504

KIDS CLUB CHRISTMAS



WHAT WE ARE DOING IN CLUB THIS MONTH...

We are working hard on the Christmas program that will be presented on **December 19th** during the **Worship Service at church (10:45am)**. We also have some fun Christmas activities and crafts planned for the month.

NOTE: There is NO Kids Club or Impact on the last two Wednesday's of this month: December 22nd and 29th. We will resume on January 5th.



Christmas Party

Our Kid Club Christmas Party will be during our last Wednesday (December 15th) from 3-5pm. Lots of fun planned for this day!

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

KIDS CLUB HIGHLIGHT

IMPACT CHRISTMAS

IMPACT HIGHLIGHT



This month in Impact, Steve has been working through an apologetics series: how can we know that God exists and what does that mean for us? Tackling important topics such as creation and God's sovereignty is challenging at times when it contradicts what the world teaches them about the origin and meaning of life. We pray that a foundation is being laid in these teens' hearts and minds. We are thankful for a group who is not afraid to share ideas and enjoys spending time together.

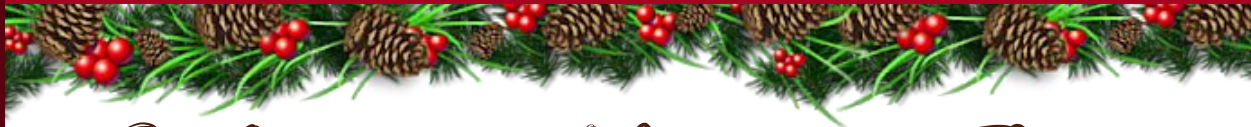


Impact Christmas Party will be December 15th from 4-5pm during our last Wednesday meeting this year!

Impact will not meet December 22nd or 29th. We will resume on January 5th.

IMPACT MIDDLE SCHOOL

"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



Wreath Making Day



cookie swap



Saturday, December 4th

1:00-3:00pm



Come create some beautiful Christmas decorations with evergreen boughs. Criss Evans will be teaching us how to make wreaths or mailbox covers with fresh evergreens. We also will be having a cookie exchange. Bring 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies and trade with others to take home a delicious assortment of Christmas cookies. RSVP (309.523.2834) so we can plan for supplies!

Christmas Caroling



*"The best way to spread
Christmas cheer,
is singing loud for all to hear!"*

Join us on **Saturday, December 11th**
at **4:00pm** for Christmas Caroling!
Sign-up in Church Lobby

"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."

—Martin Luther

SERVING OTHERS IN LOVE



The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Countryside Church is made up of two very hard-working and kind women: Nancy Dufur and Joanne Wiklund (although I'm sure they would welcome anyone who would like to join them!) This month alone, they have given out many prayer shawls, lap quilts, crocheted hats and mittens, and dishcloths.

They don't call attention to their work, but, rather give them out quietly. They delivered well over 200 items to sick people in our congregation and to area shelters for battered women, foster children, veterans, and homeless. God sees your efforts, ladies, and you should be honored for the work you are doing for others. God bless you!



HANDMADE
WITH
love

*"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."
—Martin Luther*

FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Lincoln Christian University



"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."

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.



The Covid virus has impacted the financial situation of LCU in a very dramatic way. Students were being taught virtually and the enrollment declined. They ask for prayers for the finances to improve as the situation returns to more normal this fall of 2021. Classes are being held in person on campus and enrollment is increasing.



In January of 2022 a partnership is being launched with Merold Institute of Harvester Christian Church. Months in the planning and design, this partnership will form a regional training center for church leaders that enhances that work already being done by the Merold Institute by expanding those offerings with fully accredited educational courses and access to Lincoln's placement and church development services. The partnership will be based at Harvester's St. Charles campus. New things continue to be happening at LCU.

Countryside Christian Church offers scholarships to students attending full time at LCU or other Christian Universities. LCU provided interim ministers for us during our time of our preacher search. We are so grateful for this assistance. If you want more information about LCU check the booklet on the mission shelf by the office.

"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always." 1 Chronicles 16:11

CELEBRATING HIS BIRTH



Christmas
Eve

CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE
5 PM

Please join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate our Savior's birth with traditional Christmas carols and a candlelight service.



*"Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind."
—Helen Steiner Rice*

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHT

OUR GIVING



Everyone is familiar with "Christmas gifts." But there is a much richer history of the church manifesting and exemplifying generosity for and to the world.

The church has always practiced "almsgiving." The word "alm" meaning "mercy," indicating a free, no-strings-attached, charitable gift to those in need.

We respond with gratitude, this Christmas season, to the same God who has provided mercifully for his people throughout history. God's own generosity to the world in Christ, through the gospel, prompts a response toward those without hope, so that "Your heart shall not be grieved when you give" (Deut. 15:10).

Our Giving

YTD Offering Budget: \$22,308
*as of 10/1/21

YTD Offering Actual: \$18,964
*as of 10/1/21

YTD Faith Promises: \$13,342
CURRENT

We sincerely appreciate your generosity in support of our church. Together, we will continue to do God's amazing work!

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.



Point your smartphone camera at the QR code to the right to be taken to the online giving site. From here you can choose to give online or via text



FINANCE HIGHLIGHT

DECEMBER *events*

12/4

CRAFT & COOKIE DAY

1:00-3:00pm



12/6

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

Evangelism/Missions (6:30pm)

All Departments (7pm)



12/9

ELDER MEETING

9:00am



12/11

WOMEN'S COFFEE

9:30am



12/11

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Meet at the church at 4:00pm



12/12

ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE

Last day to bring gifts for the Angel Tree



12/15

KIDS CLUB & IMPACT PARTIES

Christmas Party! Last day of Wednesday activities this month: Kids Club (3-5pm) and Impact (4-5pm)



12/19

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

10:45am during Worship Service



12/24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Candlelight Service at 5:00pm



12/25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!



12/26

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Items for the month are due this Sunday and will be delivered to the Food Pantry this week



12/31

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2022


UPCOMING EVENTS

December BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Curt Knapp
- 5 – Mary Green
- 10 – Dorothy Newton
- 14 – Brandon Simms
- 23 – Kathy Kohrt
- 23 – Grant Rutledge
- 31 – Brock Coverdill

December ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 – Arlys & Curt Koepping
- 26 – Bill & JoAnn Courter

CONGRATULATIONS!!! If you kept up with the Bible bookmarks all year, you just finished reading through the Bible in a year!! 



“The teacher said this will be a true test of my acting ability. What did she mean by that?”

December

- 1. Galatians 1-3
- 2. Galatians 4-6
- 3. Ephesians 1-3
- 4. Ephesians 4-6
- 5. Philippians 1-4
- 6. Colossians 1-4
- 7. 1 Thessalonians 1-5
- 8. 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- 9. 1 Timothy 1-3
- 10. 1 Timothy 4-6
- 11. 2 Timothy 1-4
- 12. Titus Philemon
- 13. Hebrews 1-4
- 14. Hebrews 5-7
- 15. Hebrews 8-10
- 16. Hebrews 11-13
- 17. James 1-2
- 18. James 3-5
- 19. 1 Peter 1-2
- 20. 1 Peter 3-5
- 21. 2 Peter 1-3
- 22. 1 John 1-2
- 23. 1 John 3-5
- 24. 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- 25. Revelation 1-3
- 25. Revelation 4-5
- 27. Revelation 6-9
- 28. Revelation 10-13
- 29. Revelation 14-16
- 30. Revelation 17-18
- 31. Revelation 19-22



THANK YOU FOR HELPING!

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH



NURSERY WORKERS

	During Sunday School	During Worship Service
Dec 5	Cathy Lotz	Cathy Lotz
Dec 12	Becki Winger	Kathy Kohrt
Dec 19	Mary Green	Becki Winger
Dec 26	Kathy Kohrt	Mary Green

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

	Teacher	Helper
Dec 5	Connie Curry	Cheryl Gipson
Dec 12	Connie Curry	Sarah Denekas
Dec 19	Connie Curry	Karen Allison
Dec 26	Connie Curry	TBD



Wayne & Cathy Lotz
 Kathy Kohrt & Lisa Jones
 Don & Donna Vickroy and Georgia Cullison



COMMUNION
 MEDITATION

Dec 5 – Wayne Lotz
 Dec 12 – Ryan Schmidt
 Dec 19 – Teresa Garcia
 Dec 26 – Don Vickroy



Dec 5 – Gail Horst & Remi

New Sign-Up Sheets are in the Lobby. Please sign up for a Sunday that works for your family! Welcome people, direct them to the sanctuary, nursery, or rest rooms if needed, and hand out bulletins.



Dec 5 – Rhonda Stahl

New sign-up sheets are in the lobby. Please sign up for a Sunday that works best for you! Provide breakfast treats and help serve coffee and clean-up between Sunday School and Worship.

"Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38

2021

December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			01 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups: Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm Basketball-6-8pm	02	03 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	04 Wreath Making & Cookie Exchange 1-3pm 
05 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	06 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm Cub Scouts 6-7pm	07 Men's Study 9am Cub Scouts 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6-8pm Worship Team - 7pm	08 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups: Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm Basketball-6-8pm	09 Elder Meeting 9am Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm	10	11 Women's Coffee 9:30am  Gym reserved - 11am-5pm Caroling-4pm 
12 Angel Tree Gifts DUE TODAY  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	13 Church in use Zuma Township Meeting	14 Men's Study 9am Girl Scouts 6-8pm Worship Team - 7pm	15 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Christmas Party!!  Small Groups Port Byron -6pm Geneseo - 6pm Basketball-6-8pm	16	17	
19 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM Kids Christmas Program 	20	21 Men's Study 9am Cub Scouts 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6-8pm Worship Team - 7pm	22 <i>No Wednesday activities</i>	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm 	25 Christmas Day 
26 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM 	27	28 Men's Study 9am Girl Scouts 6-8pm Worship Team - 7pm	29 <i>No Wednesday activities</i>	30	31 Happy New Year! 	



Website. The sermon will be available in video or audio form on the church's website page (<http://countrysidecc.org>)



If you are not able to access the internet on your computer or mobile device, we will be able to download it to a DVD for you. Just contact the church office to obtain a copy.



Youtube: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOR735qh3zkpFluJtP-A>)



Facebook: (www.facebook.com/countrysidecc.org) at 10:45am.

info

LIVESTREAMING



Countryside
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3817-230th Street North, Port Byron, IL 61275

