



February 2016

Words from Our Pastor– Bob Mitchell

Later this month we will be involved in an ExperiLent! One of the first things that this would involve is overriding my spell-check to tell it that I'm not making a spelling mistake. I am intentionally compressing two words together: experiment and Lent.

The annual season of Lent begins on February 10. The English word 'lent' is a shortened form of the Old English len(c)ten., which means spring. It is a 40-day period prior to Holy Week, which culminates with Easter. Historically, Lent provides those in the church with the opportunity to voluntarily change our typical rhythms and routines in the areas of diet or calendar. As the saying goes:

'If you always do what you've always done,

you'll always get what you've always got.'

So, following the lead of Jesus, who spent a 40 day season in the desert to seek His Father and



His calling, many have found it helpful in the area of their diet, to change what they typically eat in this season by excluding certain foods like chocolate, meat, alcohol, or desserts in general. Others limit or exclude watching TV for 40 days. The idea isn't simply to do without, but to intentionally alter your routine in order to focus on a relationship with God.

Last weekend I read an article that highlighted the benefits of 'schema violations'. A schema violation occurs when our personal world is altered in a signifi-

cant way. For example: for me, voluntarily staying away from In-N-Out for a month and a half would qualify as a schema violation. The article noted that creativity is actually enhanced when we are put in seasons where things are a bit off-kilter.

So why don't we experiment during this season of Lent by altering in some way an established pattern of life? Altering what we eat, perhaps? How about unplugging from social media for this season? OK, you addicts, how about only plugging in for 30 minutes a day? Or how about keeping the TV off? Or heaven forbid, forfeiting a Fine Dining Establishment? (Code: In-N-Out)

Let's together engage in an ExperiLent this season and see what God does!

Pastor Bob

Important to Note:

- One Service Sunday & Annual Congregational Meeting
- Valentine's Dinner
- Children's Ministry Mini-Retreat
- Welcome Class

Did you know Zak has a new role at Lincoln? Read all about it on page 3!

Pastor Matt Kirkland



How do you define success? In many ways, success's definition is dependent upon certain variables. If you ask an athlete, success might be contingent on wins. If you ask a school administrator, it might be how students score on standard-

ized testing. If you ask many in our culture, it is defined by size of house and size of bank account.

How about the church? How does the church define success? Many church leaders define success by noses and nickels – how many people come to worship and how much money goes in the plate. I have to tell you that

there are many within the western church that believe true success is when you reach "mega" status. If you are a mega-church (defined by having over 2000 in attendance), you have really made it! A few weeks ago a discussion came up in my small group regarding mega-churches, and one of the men gave me a new definition of

Did you know that 90% of the churches in America have less than 100 in attendance?

Pastor Matt Kirkland (continued)

mega-church: a true “mega-church” is one where lives are changed! I can’t tell you how much I love that definition. Did you know that 90% of the churches in America have less than 100 in attendance? Aren’t they still important?!

Lincoln is a larger than average congregation. Even being a bit larger than average, we don’t qualify for the “mega”

moniker by the normal definition, but we do qualify when we use the new definition. Lives are changed at Lincoln. People are choosing Jesus for the first time because of the ministries of LPC. We continue to see people making new connections in small groups, which leads to spiritual growth. The Spirit of God is here, our success is evidenced in life change, and

while it is not for our glory, but His, I can say with a smile that “yes, I do work at a mega-church!” Join the megamovement by getting involved in a small group, Sunday school class, or serving in one of our many ministries – I think you will be glad you did!

Grace and peace,
Matt

From Pastor Fred Jantz



The new year is upon us. It sounds so trite, but the pages of the calendar do move faster of late. Such it is

for all of us. Happy New Year and a meaningful and significant year of living for all of us. May God grant us the wisdom to live wisely in the midst of so much temporary foolishness.

Recently, I was given a book to read about Christians living in a part of the world where living the faith takes place in countries where it is not safe to believe. A. G. Lotz says that reading the book has put 'tears on her face, praises in her heart, fervency in her prayers, and a renewed vigor to her steps'.

These are real life accounts of twenty-first century believers whose lives are literally at stake for their beliefs. They come from the front lines of a battle-

field that we can hardly identify with. The oppression, the torturing, and the martyrdom is hard to imagine for most of us in the West. It is an everyday reality for those who choose faith over survival in Syria, Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, and other countries hostile to the Gospel of Christ.

I was hard pressed to stay calm as I got a glimpse into the secret meetings of worship and encouragement that took place at midnight and 2 am. Scheduling took place for greater safety, not our convenience. Then there were the torture rooms, the grim prisons and the executions that openly awaited these Muslims-turned-Christians. Their only crime was being a follower of Jesus.

Just this past year, 40 churches were burned to the ground in Egypt; church leaders were sent to the infamous Evin prison in Iran; 80 Christians were mur-

dered in North Korea because they owned a Bible; crucifixion has returned to Syria for those who are followers of Jesus.

What this has done for me is to put my present life in proper perspective. The stuff I face is so trivial. Small misunderstandings, a dip in the retirement account, price of gasoline, the score of a game, a small traffic jam, a forgotten birthday...all this stuff is small compared to what my brothers and sisters in Christ experience on a daily basis. I have renewed myself to seek those things which are above....and to live with eternity's values in view. Fresh joy and peace come to me as I live above the 'temporariness'. Jesus was right to tell us to "seek first the kingdom of God".

Onward and forward for the Lord,

Pastor Fred

The Monthly Newsletter of Lincoln Presbyterian Church

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Dr. Bob Mitchell, Pastor
Mathew Kirkland, Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Fred Jantz, Senior Executive Pastor
Dr. Al Van Selow, Administrative Pastor
John French, Special Projects Administrator

Jonathan Knapp, Minister to Students
Zak Kear, Assistant Minister to Students and Media Director
Andrea Shakespeare, Director of Music Ministries/Pianist
Jessica Klinker, Director of Children's Ministries
Cheryl Pannabecker, Office Manager

Kid's News for February

January has truly blessed us with a lot of rain and time to spend being cozy with our families indoors. But the great thing about having many ministries here at LPC is that when we want to get out we can have fun with our Church Family.

Our Awana Group had two fun evenings in January. We had Flashlight night with fun games and a story in the dark! Then we had BARF night. Now don't worry, the

kid's didn't throw up. BARF night is Bring a Real Friend Night. We got to know some new friends and had fun with the name BARF.

This month we will be having our first ever training with Jessica at the Children's Ministry Mini Retreat. We will have a brunch together along with trainings in classroom management and why Children's Ministries is so important. Of course we are hoping all who serve in the

ministry will come, but anyone is invited. Please RSVP by February 13.

Lastly please put on your calendar March 5th for our All Church Family Game night. This is for all ages! We will play games, have \$1 pizza meal and spend time having fun and getting to know our church family. Please sign up or RSVP by February 27.



Upcoming Events

- **Children's Ministry Mini Retreat**
- **All Church Family Game Night**

Student Ministries

Time really does fly by, doesn't? I can't believe it is already February! Wow. One month down, 11 to go.

This month I wanted to take a step back and make sure our church knew some exciting news in the Youth Ministry. Back in August of 2015, Pastor Bob and I discussed the numerical growth of our Jr. High and High School ministries and began a conversation about adding leadership to help keep the Youth Ministry sustainable. We thought the absolute best decision was to figure out how we could bring Zak, who was a part-time employee, up to full-time status to fill our growing need. After a lot of prayer and seeing God do some great things in the Youth Ministry, it be-

came evident that God was leading us in that direction. Toward the end of 2015 we drew up a new job description, giving Zak greater leadership opportunities in the Jr. High ministry, assisting me in the High School ministry, and a few tasks involving our website and video ministry. Believing God was leading us in this direction, we submitted our request to the Personal, Budget, and Stewardship Commission, who agreed. It was voted on and approved by Session in December of 2015, and here we are.

Zak's new title is Assistant Minister to Students and Media Director. We are excited and thankful to have somebody as talented and genuine as Zak to lead our Jr.

High students and serve Lincoln as a full-time staffer.

So where does this leave me? I'm still here, providing leadership and vision for the entire Youth Ministry, which averages about 80 students each week. However now, with Zak leading on Wednesday nights, I will be able to focus more of my time on the growing High School and College Ministry. You might also see me a little more up-front on Sunday mornings preaching from time to time.

This is a great move for us in so many ways and I am more than thankful that Lincoln values and supports teenagers and young adults so much. Have a great February! I'll see you at church.

Jon



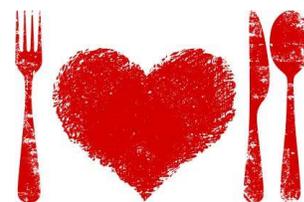
Valentine's Dinner

This dinner is for everyone, not just couples!

Saturday, February 13th
Agape Hall
6-8:30 pm

Childcare will be provided. Tickets are \$12/person and \$24/couple and available for purchase in the foyer.

Guest speakers: Rick & Annie Weber. Hosted by the Women's and Men's Ministries.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS-9:00am Service

February 7

Greeters: Lillian Harris, Patty Roek
Ushers: Betty Crecelius, Charito Lopez, Jane Carson,
Maria Montalvo
Sound Tech: Paul Johnson
Security: Bill Chapman

February 14

Greeters: Ro & Tambi Loyd
Ushers: Barbara George, Ron & Joyce Korock, Craig Potter
Sound Tech: Paul Johnson
Security: Jim Duncan

February 21

Greeters: Sandy Harmon, Ed Gray
Ushers: Tim Sass, Howard Stokes, Dave Hungerford,
George Grismore, Leroy Alford
Sound Tech: Dan Drullard
Security: Jerry Crooks

February 28

Greeters: Dick Ennis, Judy Flaig
Ushers: John & Carol Sharpe, Dottie Edaburn,
Lavon Van Selow
Sound Tech: Paul Johnson
Security: Gerry Moore

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS-10:45am Service

February 7

Greeters: Bill & Merrilee Chapman
Ushers: Holly Meyers, Dave & Sharon Olney
Sound Tech: Patrick Fedor
Video Tech: Sam Kirkland
Security: Mark Gantt

February 14

Greeters: Patrick & Heidi Fedor, Keith Evans
Ushers: Tom & Janet Beck, Bill & Carroll Johnston
Sound Tech: Patrick Fedor
Video Tech: Kaylee Webb
Security: Bill Wagner

February 21

Ushers: Dave & Sharon Olney
Sound Tech: Patrick Fedor
Video Tech: Carolyn Ritchie
Security: Donald Friis

February 28

Greeters: Brant & Sandra Fetters
Ushers: Dave & Sara Blicharz, George & Vicky Alavazo
Sound Tech: Patrick Fedor
Video Tech: Keith Evans
Security: Bob Ramirez

Pew Supply

February 3 Kathy Vermillion
February 10 Lisa Richers
February 17 Fe Asis
February 24 Lorna Zink

Flowers

February

21 Jennifer Gutierrez
28 Cynthia & Leroy Alford

Charter Way Florist
5620 N. Pershing Ave
956-9087

March

13 Charito Lopez
20 John Frey



Directory Updates

Nathan & Nicole Hunter
311 Friar Rd
Chattanooga TN 37421
Betty Damon
311 Friar Rd
Chattanooga TN 37421

Craig & Shannon Barker
5560 Vintage Circle
95219

Thanks to the
Assembly Crew of the
February Life @ Lincoln!



Coming in February!

Church History: a college level class on 2000 years of Church History with Pastor Al Van Selow, in the [Fireside Room](#). You can make reser-

vations by calling the church office (477-2783) so we can have a study guide for you.



February Birthdays

2 Kris Stewart	11 Blake Lamie	22 Georgia Conner
5 Mark Gantt	Marge Ramirez	Bill Head
6 Beth Doe	13 Sherrie Kudla	25 Gary Vermillion
Jody Sampley	17 Ernie Shropshire	Sheila Magladry
7 David Hey	18 Alissa Doolan	26 Allison Fedor
9 Prilla McGregor	Sharon Olney	Gracie Ferguson
10 James Lavender	20 Irene Jackson	

***FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS***

Welcome Class

Offered Saturday, February 27th, 8:30-11:30am. For an in-depth look at the life and ministry of Lincoln Presbyterian Church, this is an open

look with lots of Q and A's, and sharing with fellow seekers. Fulfills membership requirement, if one is led to join with us. You may indi-

cate your interest in attending by calling the church office (477-2783).



Deacon Message

One of the ministries of the deacons is to provide meals to members of Lincoln who are recovering from an illness or injury or have experienced a death or other tragedy in the family. Please

contact your deacon if you need meals or other assistance.

Conversely, the deacons are looking for volunteers to provide an occasional meal

(either home-cooked or purchased) as the need arises. Please contact Sherrie Kudla, Maria Montalvo or Bob Ramirez to volunteer. Thank you, in advance, for your service.

***"...for He satisfies
the thirsty and fills
the hungry with
good things."***

Psalm 107: 9

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 31st. **We will have one**

combined service that Sunday at 10am, followed immediately by the meeting.

News of Session-January Recap

The January Session meeting was held on January 19, 2016. The Session plans to meet for its annual planning retreat on January 30, 2016.

Report of Statistics: Communion: January 3, 2016 – 300

Please refer to the 2015 Annual Report for complete statistics and financial information.

Elders and staff representing the various areas of ministry provided information regarding programs and events:

Adult Discipleship: (Matt Kirkland)
Sunday morning classes are continuing with great leadership.

The **Buildings & Grounds Commission (Chair, Bob Verhines and Gerry Moore)** is kept busy.

Children's Ministry: Wednesday night Awana is attracting many children which results in space problems. Upcoming events were highlighted.



Elder Ed Gray representing Community reported that *Rick and Annie Weber* will be speaking at the first annual Valentine's Dinner on February 13 and ticket sales are going well. This event is open to everyone in the LPC family, not just couples. Some of the proceeds from ticket sales will go towards the Youth Mexico Mission trip.

Growth Groups, represented by *Merrilee Chapman and Matt Kirkland*, reported that there are 25 growth groups and January is the "fill" month.

Patrick Fedor represents the **Youth Commission**.

Outreach –*Pastor Fred Jantz* reported on interaction with various missionary groups supported by

Lincoln Presbyterian.

Personnel/Budget/Stewardship/ Trustees: *Ann Wunsch* and Session Chairman, *Keith Evans* covered discussion of staff retirement issues being considered by PBS.

Elder Rhonda Messerer joins *Elder Tim Sass* on the **Worship Commission**.

The Session approved the ECO Pastor Ordination of Fred Jantz as Assistant Pastor at Lincoln Presbyterian Church.

The Building Committee, headed by Special Projects Staff member, *John French*, is still in the very early stages of planning. The acquisition of the property at 6245 Gettysburg is still in the negotiation stage.

**Respectfully reported,
Connie Andersen, Clerk of Session**

Adult Discipleship

Sunday Mornings

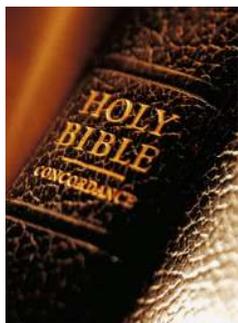
7:30am: Christianity, Cults & Religions. Learn about the most common world religions and cults. Know what you believe and why these are different. Learn what to say to a friend, neighbor, co-worker, family member or door knocker of another belief. Study Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age and more. Join us in the Fireside Room and share a light breakfast. Bring your Bible. Led by Patrice Verhines and Carol Bedell.

9am: "Good to Great in God's Eyes" Do you dream of making an eternal impact in the Kingdom of God? Do you long for a spiritual breakthrough? If you're looking to go to the next level or get a fresh infusion of faith & spiritual passion, then look no further than this group study. Led by Linda Thomas in the Library.

10:20am: "Ask It" with Andy Stanley. Join us for this series, in the Library. Led by Lise Karnes.

10:20am: Church History: a college level class on 2000 years of Church History with Pastor Al Van Selow, in the Fireside Room. You can make reservations by calling the church office (477-2783) so we can have a study guide for you.

Wednesday Evenings:
6pm: A continuing book by book journey through the Bible. Led by Ed and Denise Miller, Fireside Room.



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm Hula for Health	2 10:00 am Growth Group 12:00 pm Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Commission Mtgs.	3 9:30 am Moms' Study Retired Guys' Study 5:45 pm Jr. High 6 pm: Ensemble Awana Club CR Bible Study Awana Moms' Study	4 6:30 pm FPU	5 10 am Growth Group 8 pm College	6
7 Communion 7:30 am Adult Ed 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Adult Ed 10:45 am Worship	8 6:30 pm Hula for Health	9 10:00 am Growth Group 12:00 pm Staff Lunch 12:00 pm Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Mtg. 7:00 pm P/B/S	10 9:30 am Moms' Study Retired Guys' Study 5:45 pm Jr. High 6 pm: Ensemble Awana Club CR Bible Study Awana Moms' Study Ash Wednesday	11 6:30 pm FPU	12 10 am Growth Group	13 <i>Valentine's dinner</i> 6-8:30pm Valentine Dinner
14 7:30 am Adult Ed 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Adult Ed 10:45 am Worship 6:00 pm Sr. High  Valentine's Day	15 6:30 pm Hula for Health Office Closed President's Day 63rd Anniversary of LPC L@L Deadline	16 10:00 am Growth Group 12:00 pm Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Mtg. 7:00 pm Session	17 9:30 am Moms' Study Retired Guys' Study 5:45 pm Jr. High 6 pm: Ensemble Awana Club CR Bible Study Awana Moms' Study	18 6:30 pm FPU	19 10 am Growth Group 8 pm College	20 Children's Ministry Training (All Campus) 8am-3pm
21 7:30 am Adult Ed 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Adult Ed 10:45 am Worship 6:00 pm Sr. High	22 6:30 pm Hula for Health	23 10:00 am Growth Group 12:00 pm Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Mtg. 7:00 pm Deacons	24 9:30 am Moms' Study Retired Guys' Study 5:45 pm Jr. High 6 pm: Ensemble Awana Club CR Bible Study Awana Moms' Study	25 Rotary Read-In 6:30 pm FPU	26 10 am Growth Group	27 8:30 am Welcome Class
28 7:30 am Adult Ed 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Adult Ed 10:45 am Worship 6:00 pm Sr. High	29 6:30 pm Hula for Health					

Lincoln Presbyterian Church

900 Douglas Road
Stockton, California 95207

Address Service Requested

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

February 2016

Office Schedule:

Monday - Friday 8:30 -12 noon & 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

**LIFE @ LINCOLN DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 15**

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Weekly Schedule

Sunday

7:25am-Adult Sunday School
9:00am-Worship & Children's Sunday School
9:00am-Adult Sunday School
10:20am-Adult Sunday School
10:45am-Worship & Children's Sunday School
6:00pm-Sr. High Group

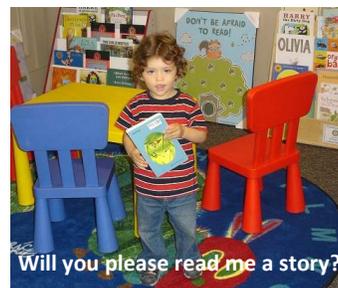
Wednesday

5:45pm-Jr. High Group
6:00pm-Awana
 Adult Bible Study
 Celebrate Recovery
 Awana Moms' Study

Various Growth Groups meet in homes & at the church during the week. Please call the office for details.

Rotary Read-In

Once again, Lincoln will be participating in the Rotary Read-In at Manlio Silva Elementary School in Spanos Park West. The date is February 25th, and we would love to have you come down and read to the kids. Contact Pastor Matt for more details.



Lincoln's Mission:

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